

THE GUIDE

Thailand

Bangkok's newest night markets; the café culture of Chiang Mai; Samui dream job; art in Phuket

BANGKOK

Caught on film: Photo Bangkok 2015



A huge number of the capital's art spaces and galleries have joined the much-hyped citywide photo festival Photo Bangkok, which kicked off in July and runs until the start of October. A diverse range of local and international photo events and educational programs are popping up all around the city, as well as 17 satellite shows by gallery partners, but the central exhibition is held at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) and the Bangkok University Gallery (BUG). Acclaimed visual artist **Sutthirat Supaparinya** (left) selects her three highlights of the event. photobangkokfestival.com

REDISCOVERING FORGOTTEN THAI MASTERS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

"Curated by renowned Thai photographer Manit Sriwanichpoom of the popular Kathmandu Photo Gallery, this show will be held at **Bangkok University Gallery** from September 29 until 31 October. The work of seven local photography greats was selected by Sriwanichpoom, who is quite a colourful character. It's an intriguing show – there's the work of a Buddhist monk (Buddhadasa Bhikkhu), a novelist (Rong Wongsawan) and a journalist (M.L. Toy Chumsai), but what I'm particularly interested in are the photography trends of the 1960s and '70s that it uncovers." facebook.com/bangkokuniversitygallery

TEXT: SUTTHIRAT SUPAPARINYA; NICK MEASURES; CHARMAINE VAN; SIMON OSTHEIMER; ROMI GROSSBERG; AMY ARMAN

THROUGH PLACE AND IMAGE

"This exhibition also marks the 20th anniversary of the **Chulalongkorn University Art Center**, and what I like is that the photography selected entices us to ponder the role of art galleries and the identity of a certain space. You'll come away thinking: For what or whom does an art gallery exist? As an artist myself, I find this really fascinating. Two previous gallery assistants engage with the audience, discussing the idea of 'image' without showing photographs. This is a two-month show running through to mid-October." car.chula.ac.th

CONTOUR AT CLOUD

"This September show displays the beautiful colour images of Tawatchai Pattanaporn, who traditionally works in monochrome and still uses a dark room for developing and printing, so this is something new for the him. The exhibit reflects his journey to the town of Rikuzentakata in Japan which was essentially wiped off the map by the tsunami following the Tohoku earthquake. The landscapes here are melancholic and almost devoid of any life or movement. It's really lovely work." facebook.com/cloudprojectspace

BANGKOK

Second time around

Bangkok is a treasure trove of pre-loved goods. Here are three vintage boutiques to put on your list

TOKYO JOE BKK

This Japanese-run "recycle boutique" is a must-see for label-conscious bargain hunters and it's the European heritage labels that steal the scene. Gucci, Prada, LV, Versace, Hermès – you name it. The best pieces are typically window merchandise, but it's worth rifling through a few jam-packed racks to find a THB4,000 authentic Burberry satchel. A small outlet at Asoke Intersection gives you a taste, but the real motherlode is at the Sukhumvit 31 store. fb.com/TOKYOJOEBKK

AGAIN & AGAIN

It can be difficult finding quality vintage clothes – that is, items in good condition – that have obviously been well looked after. Again & Again in Thonglor sorts the wheat from the chaff. There's no digging through musty piles of clothing here – everything is neatly displayed on racks and tables, in mint condition. You'll find gorgeous lace dresses, glitzy '70s jumpsuits, embroidered muu mus, imported ethnic pieces, hats and lots more. facebook.com/againandagingshop

(UN) FASHION VINTAGE COLLECTION

Walking past the window of this Ekkamai boutique, you would never guess all those shiny leather shoes were second-hand. The inventory here spans men's and women's leather shoes and bags with names such as Céline, MCM, Bally and Ferragamo. It's delightfully affordable, with prices of up to THB3,000 for a Made in Italy brand and other premium labels considerably less. facebook.com/unFASHIONVINTAGE



SHOOTING STARS (Clockwise from left) Pattanaporn shot of Japan; Wongsawan work; "Pause" at the main BACC event





EXPERIENCE

DISPLAY ITEMS
 Cwise from above:
 Siriphol's vivid
 work; Art Bridge;
 art at Home Town



Creation nation

Three art exhibitions that you shouldn't miss

BANGKOK

BEHIND THE PAINTING

In this solo show at the Silapakorn University Art Centre by up-and-coming videographer Chulayarnnon Siriphol, the artist exhibits work produced during a residency in Japan. Inspired by *Behind the Painting* by Sri Burapha, one of Thailand's biggest literary figures of the 20th century – a novel about the tragic relationship of a Thai student and the wife of a governor – the artist adapts the story for modern times using a mix of cinema, performance and painting. Curated by Hiroyuki Hattori and the Japan Foundation, Bangkok. art-centre.su.ac.th

CHIANG MAI

HOME TOWN

G Gallery is the new Nimmanhamin art space that opened this August. It's now holding a show of two sculptors who call Chiang Mai home, Tawatjai Puntusawasdi and Surajate Tongchua. The artwork covers the theme of migration from other parts of Thailand to Chiang Mai – perhaps symbolic of the northern city's growing status as the creative hub of the country. There are detailed wooden sculptures made from old windows, doors and pillars found around Chiang Mai, as well as paintings and other objects. Nimmanhaemin soi 11

CHIANG RAI

THE SPLENDOUR OF NATURE

The artist-run collective space Khua Silapa (Art Bridge) should not be missed if you are in Chiang Rai. A number of exhibitions are usually held simultaneously but even better are the conversations you may find yourself in if you stop by – you'll almost always find a group of local artists gathered around the attached café on the banks of the river. *The Splendour of Nature* features work by master impressionist-landscape painter, Charoon Boonsuan, and runs until mid-September – a highlight is an 8m-long painting. artbridgechiangrai.org

Chinese traditions

PHUKET

In the 19th century, Chinese immigrants arrived to work in the island's tin mining industry. Today their descendants still proudly celebrate traditional festivals

POR TOR FESTIVAL: 1-7 SEPTEMBER

Known in many countries as the Hungry Ghost Festival, this annual event sees ethnic Chinese around the world prepare for the visit of the deceased as the gates of heaven and hell open. A variety of offerings are made to assuage these restless spirits, including loading shrines high with food and lighting incense. In Phuket, the festivities include a parade through the Old Town in which children in traditional dress carefully carry large red turtle-shaped cakes known locally as *ang ku*. For local Thai-Chinese, the turtle symbolises strength and longevity, while red is the luckiest colour in the Chinese tradition.

VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL: 12-22 OCTOBER

According to the legend, a Chinese opera troupe from Fujian was visiting Phuket, when all of the cast members were struck down by a mysterious, incurable disease. Desperate for help, they prayed to the gods and went on a strict vegetarian diet. Miraculously, they were all cured, and the festival has been a tradition with the island's Chinese community ever since. The celebration conjures up nibbling on a spartan diet of vegetables and tofu. While that is true, what the name doesn't tell you about is the riot of firecrackers and self-mutilation that accompanies the change in diet.





CHIANG MAI

Café culture

Five of the best city cafés to try – and what you can get for under THB300

SEDUCTIVE SPACES
(C'wise) Magnolia;
Rustic & Blue
bagel; Kalapela;
Woo; inside Indy



INDY'S CAFÉ

One of the joys of Thailand is that those with tight budgets can still enjoy five-star cuisine. Here's a case in point: take a 15-minute ride out of the city centre to Hangdong and you'll find this tiny, cutesy diner. Indy's has just four tables, yet the chef honed his skills for years at a high-end Chiang Mai hotel. You'll find cheap and delicious pastas, steaks, salads and home-made ice-cream. [facebook.com/pages/Indys-Cafe](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indys-Cafe)

What we ate: Grilled pork chop with a cheesy mash (THB198) + green "Indy" salad (THB79) = THB277

RUSTIC & BLUE

This place began as an outdoor, pop-up restaurant outside the city, but Rustic & Blue is now finding its feet in the very hip Nimmanhaemin area. With a farm-to-table concept, you'll find classic Western recipes cooked up with local ingredients sourced from nearby farmers. Highlights are the home-made breads, preserves and charcuterie items, as well as their

30 blends of tea: a favourite is the Chocolate Almond Black Tea. [fb.com/rusticandbluechiangmai](https://www.facebook.com/rusticandbluechiangmai)
What we ate: BBQ pulled pork slider (THB195) + Hazelnut Yerba Mate tea (THB90) = THB285

WOO

This elegant café-cum-gallery-cum-lifestyle shop is the perfect place to wile away an entire Sunday afternoon with a book or someone special. Designed around a leafy garden, Woo offers a wide selection of delicious Thai dishes and treats, but what we love most is the boutique next door where visitors can peruse design-driven knick-knacks – ceramic elephants, cotton dresses and blouses. On the second floor is an art gallery. [facebook.com/Woochiangmai](https://www.facebook.com/Woochiangmai)
What we ate: Grilled pork neck with lemongrass salad (THB190) + steamed rice (THB20) + iced caramel macchiato (THB90) = THB300

MAGNOLIA CAFÉ

The best time to visit this Rattanakosin Road café is when it's serving one of

its monthly "buffets". These events, organised by the Pinn Food Society, involve guest chefs (Ian Kittichai recently appeared) and sommeliers, an open kitchen and chef's table, as well as stalls selling gourmet food products. Even if you miss the monthly shindig, Magnolia is a great spot to unwind with a glass of wine and a big bowl of pasta or *khao soi* on any given day. [facebook.com/pinnfood](https://www.facebook.com/pinnfood)
What we ate: Spaghetti carbonara (THB185) + banana ice cream (THB45) = THB230

KALAPELA

Housed inside a striking building is this glorious little curiosity shop full of Japanese antiques and oddities. Kalapela is at heart a teahouse with a huge selection of fine, imported and local teas, but you can also slake your thirst with good wine, sake and craft beers. It's the perfect escape from the city, but be warned – it's pricey. [facebook.com/pages/Kalapela](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kalapela)
What we drank: Pot of Sakura Green Tea = THB275

PHUKET

Juiced up

Three places to get your fruit and veggie fix

JUICE RAW

With a new location in the Laguna area, this brightly decorated café serves not only a range of its own juices, but also a full food menu including home-made wholewheat bread. Our favourite drink is the Coconut Water with Chia Seed. [fb.com/juicerawphuket](https://www.facebook.com/juicerawphuket)

SUN BEACH

Raised in a family of coffee roasters, islander Jutamas Tanpatcharapisuit has branched out on her own by launching Sun Beach cold-pressed juices, embracing the cold-pressed method to produce excellent juices that focus on cleansing, skin, digestion or detox. [facebook.com/phuketcoldpressed](https://www.facebook.com/phuketcoldpressed)

RAW JUICE

Not to be confused with the above-mentioned Juice Raw, this home-delivery service sends an astonishing array of fruit- and vegetable-based juices to all corners of Phuket, and can even have them delivered to your hotel room, ensuring you wake up to the freshest tastes. [fb.com/rawjuicephuket](https://www.facebook.com/rawjuicephuket)