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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2016 + 30 BAHT



Long queues of passengers are seen waiting at check-in counters of three foreign airlines at Suvarnabhumi airport during a 20-minute systems failure yesterday. STEPHEN RICHES

Check-in systems go down at airport

The check-in systems of three foreign airlines at Suvarnabhumi airport went down yesterday but caused no flight delays or cancellations, the airport's director said.

Despite long queues at the airport amid a 20-minute systems failure that affected passengers waiting to board 15 flights, director Sirote Duangratana said flights still departed on time, with no cancellations.

Mr Sarote said he was told of the fault about 3.20pm, and all systems were corrected and working again at 3.40pm. The airlines were Malaysia Airlines, Royal Jordanian Airlines and Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Mr Sirote insisted the systems failure was not the fault of the airport's management company, Airports of Thailand Plc. He added the airlines were affected because they use a similar check-in system. A software problem was thought to be behind the failure. Angry passengers vented their frustration at the queues.

PM's political era different to Prem's

A complex political scenario will await Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha if he chooses to stay on as a post-election unelected prime minister and steer the government in the manner of Privy Council president and former prime minister Gen Prem Tinsulanonda.

While Gen Prayut has brushed aside calls for him to remain in power through the so-called "Prem Model", there is no knowing whether Gen Prayut will eventu-

ANALYSIS: Prayut faces no easy ride if he chooses to remain in power as an unelected prime minister after the next general election, writes **Nattaya Chetchotiros**

of the new charter. The new charter does not stipulate for the NCPO to become a government," Mr Sujit said.

He also noted that the political strategy of Gen Prayut differs from Gen Prem's, who was also a former army chief yet never ran in a general election before his premiership.

Gen Prem, who also concurrently served as defence minister, had a group of young military officers dubbed the "Young Turks" working as his strategists.

They included Maj Gen Manoo-

In light of this, a power-sharing system called "musical chairs" was adopted to share power with political parties. With this approach, Gen Prem was successful in dealing with coalition parties and steered three administrations over eight years.

Unlike Gen Prem, Gen Prayut has his hands full with several opponents, particularly Pheu Thai and the red-shirt United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, not to mention several civil groups that are more diverse than in Gen Prem's era.

Apart from juggling between retaining the government's stability and respecting the public's rights, Gen Prayut must also work with political parties to ensure an even power distribution, Mr Sujit said.

Following the 1979 general election, the Social Action Party came out top with most House seats, followed by the Chart Thai Party and the Democrat Party.

These parties urged Gen Prem to take the post of prime minister, even though he did not run in the election. He agreed

ART MATTERS

■ KAONA PONGPIPAT

It's a whitewash!

Art Matters this month begins with words of congratulations to Speedy Grandma which just celebrated its fourth anniversary this past weekend. After closing down for several months because, according to co-founder Lee Anantawat, "we were just bored and tired", the gallery in Charoen Krung 28 is now back and it's just, well, as fun and slightly dingy as before.

Lee said that visitors will get to see pretty much the same stuff as before. She's not so sure how much the space can contribute to the art scene in general but just hopes that it can survive as long as 10 years.

Who else is going to last as long as 10 years? It's still early days for Bangkok CityCity Gallery which turned one earlier this month, but things are looking good. After great success with director Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit's show, the whitewashed space continues to surprise us with its range of projects, the latest being "Chat Room", Grisnana Eimeakamol's project that invites the public to send in their thoughts and criticisms on the current state of the Thai design scene. He

then printed all these comments and plastered them all over the walls.

Admittedly, the initiative is no novelty but it's refreshing to at least see "dialogue" put into concrete form in a society where criticism is, rather than rewarding and constructive, almost always thought of as bad etiquette. While this project in particular concerns the design industry, the visual art scene could do with one as well. Wouldn't it be nice, for instance, if we had such "walls" on which we could post whatever we honestly think.

"Soichiro Shimizu's latest set of paintings at YenakArt Villa is kind of boring, they look pretty much like the old ones," someone might write. Or: "The exhibition Kern by Surat Osathanugrah at Bangkok University Gallery was heartwarming and all but I didn't quite understand the buzz around it."

Only a few months old is N22, a commune of galleries — Cartel Artspace, Gallery VER, Tentacles — in Narathiwat Ratchanakharin 22, yet it is going as strong as ever. Time and time again we

have covered shows in these spaces, so often that readers may wonder if we have been bribed in one way or another. It's very unlikely, mostly for financial reasons. Tentacles is the best example, the collective's members are doing everything they can — from cleaning the toilet to drip brewing (after washing their hands) — to keeping the business going.

Further proof is the fact that there's still no air-con upstairs in the space for current exhibition "Three-Cornered World" by Pam Virada, and seeing art has never been this sweaty. The artist herself, while giving visitors a private tour, seems in a constant flux between enthusiasm for her work and impatience to get it over with and rush downstairs for some coolness.

However, this is fitting in a way for what Pam is trying to do. The space is like an attic of one's mind and Pam's site-specific installation is to archive her memories. Using some 400 images taken during her time in South Korea a few years ago, the artist tries to store her time there by making collages of images and often cutting

out main objects in the photos. In one section, in an attempt to archive, systematise even, her memories, she would assign a group of images to a certain keyword and put them in an index box for viewers to browse.

The beauty in this show is by no means the aesthetic side of it, but a sad sense of nostalgia in the artist's insistence to do something she's already aware of is an impossible task. Photography that's generally considered "instant reality" and "concrete evidence" is just as fleeting as anything else.

Next door at Gallery VER, it's Sutthirat Supapinya's solo exhibition "10 Places In Tokyo". The title is self-explanatory; the 10 video channels present 10 bustling locations in Tokyo. During a residency in Japan in 2012, Sutthirat, who's been creating video works related to the damage caused by dam-building in Thailand, got interested in the issue of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. The 10 places Sutthirat picked up are, according to a study in 2011, the locations which used the amount of electricity which came from

the nuclear power plant in Fukushima the most. Struck by the fact that while Japan was the victim in the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 2011 disaster also was to do with nuclear power, but this time it was from within the country, Sutthirat's videos here create a dialogue between the two major incidents. As visitors stand enveloped by the glow of reddish orange light in the space that feels somewhat disorientating, all 10 video channels start by being smothered by white flashes before the scenes return to normalcy just so that they are slowly eaten up all over again, this time by spreading grainy spray.

- "Chat Room" is on view until Sept 11 at Bangkok CityCity Gallery, Sathon 1.
- "Three-Cornered World" is on view until Sept 4 at Tentacles, Narathiwat Ratchanakharin 22.
- "10 Places In Tokyo" is on view until Sept 24 at Gallery VER, Narathiwat Ratchanakharin 22.

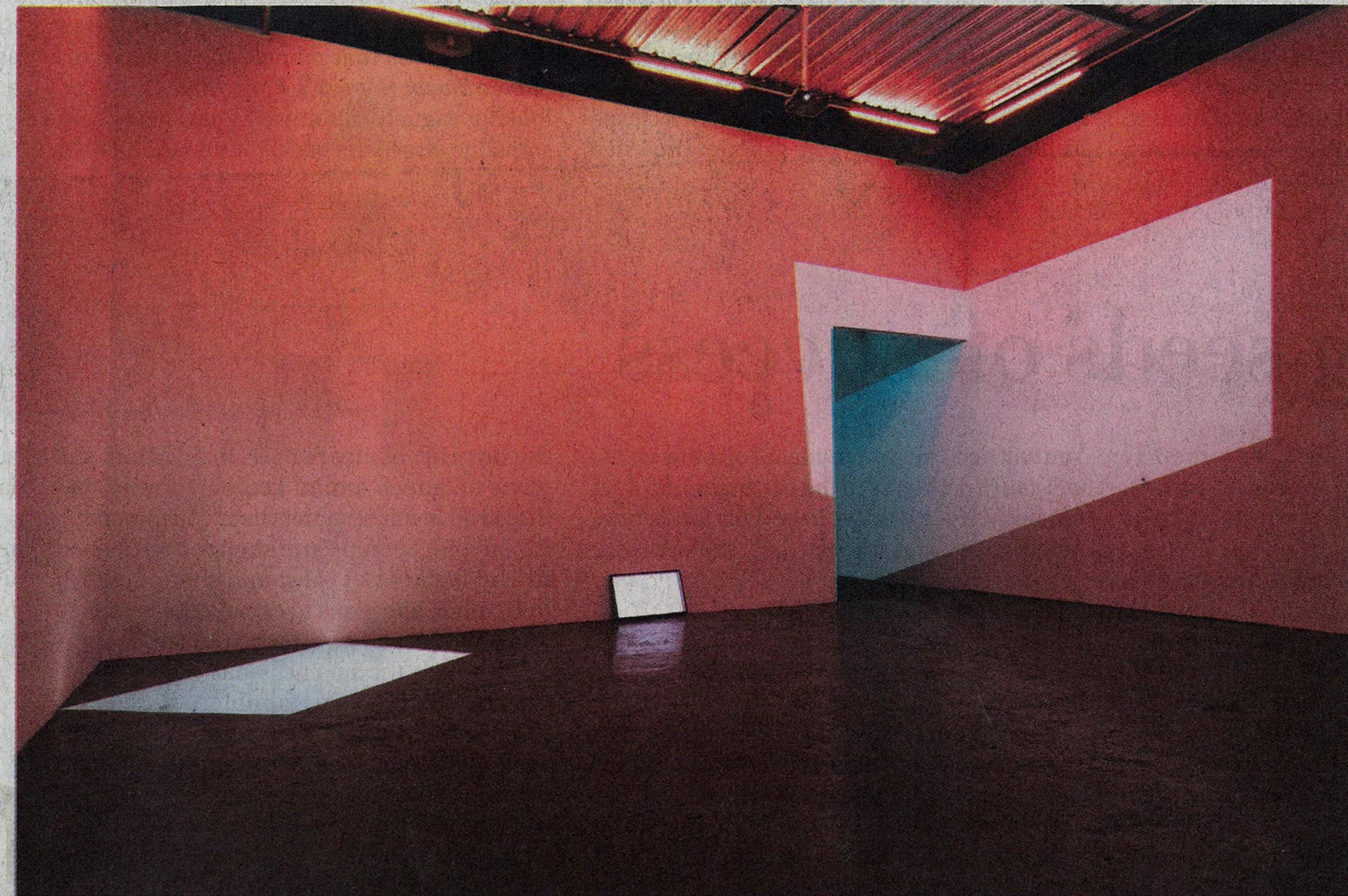


PHOTO: NIT SAWASDEE

'10 Places In Tokyo'.

2

absence



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM VIRADA

Image from
'Three-Cornered World'.