

BK

Burn
your credit
card

BK MAGAZINE NO. 641 FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016. www.bkmagazine.com

it's free!



IN FASHION

Bangkok's best womenswear boutiques
merging online and offline shopping





06
cover story
Style Guide



04
upfront
Burn the Books

12
shopping
Beware the Hound



14
fashion
Summer of Love

18
blends
Chit Lom Drinks



20
Bites
Italian Revival

24
BK Now
Hit the Night

Who's in charge?

Managing Director Andrew Hiransomboon	Production Assistant Saranya Chawanrattanasakul Content Designer Saranya Laowtrakul	Administrator Yaovaluck Srisermsri Accountant Manita Bangmoung
Editor in Chief / Product Director Grégoire Glachant Managing Editor Oliver Irvine Deputy Editor Carl Dixon Features Associate Monruedee Jansuttipan Senior Staff Writers Vasachol Quadri , Lily Kittisrikangwan Staff Writers Natcha Sanguankiattichai , Bonnie Sananwatananont Branded Content Associate Sureepak Janyapat Content Coordinator Nontaya Kumyat Junior Writers Kankanid Mitrpakdee , Theerada Moonsiri	Advertising Director Wanida Akeapichai Sales Managers Tipkritta Chiraporncharas , Orajira Sukkasem Senior Sales Associates Tassanee Mahamad , Onwara Sittirug , Waranuch Thaneerat , Nattaya Bovornsettanon , Orakarn Loahakanjanasiri , Amarit Jinaya Marketing Executive Plaifon Chienvichai IT Manager Takrit Jitjaroen	Contributor Kathy MacLeod Interns Joseph Lam , Thaksaporn Thiengthamcharoen , Nicha Patradhilok , Wannakarn Opassattien Cover by Dith Chang Photo by A pale petal , Papers , Anaman , Allure The Leatherworks , Pomelo
Production Supervisor Komkrit Klinkaeo Art Director Dith Chang Deputy Art Director Panita Thiraphapong Senior Graphic Designer Chantich Kongchanmitkul Graphic Designers Peeraya Sirathanisa Junior Graphic Designers Wariya Whangwaewklang , Parida Ritthiron	Account Manager Suda Angsuputiphant Finance Manager Supaporn Bangmoung Assistant Finance Manager Anchalee Limkhamduang Senior Accountant Maneeya Kanthongdang	Group Directors Chief Executive Officer Gretchen Worth gworth@asia-city.co.th Group Digital Director Greg Duncan gduncan@asia-city.com.sg



Where to find us!
The Asia City Media Group

Bangkok Asia City Publishing (Thailand) Ltd. 9/F, Sathorn Nakorn Tower 100 North Sathorn Rd., Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Tel: 02-624-9696 Fax: 02-237-5656 Email: bkmagazine@asia-city.co.th	Singapore Asia City Publishing Pte. Ltd. Block 211 Henderson Rd. #07-02 Henderson Industrial Park Singapore 159552 Tel: 65-6323-2512 Fax: 65-6323-2779 Email: contact@asia-city.com.sg
---	--



What We've Learned

Top restaurants are sprouting their own cafes

Now that Iron Chef Table has branched out with Iron Chef Cafe at Central Eastville and Osha has opened Osha Cafe at Asiatique, it's Robuchon's turn to unveil Le Salon de L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon, which is coming very soon at Central Embassy. If that's not enough, Muteki, the already-cafe-like sister of Mugendai, just launched Muteki Cafe at Eastville.

Phra Khanong might actually be cool. Finally.

We've been saying it for years, but now we're just about sure of it. With arrivals like Craftsman Barber Shop, low-key Japanese sake-sochu bar Koryoriya-te and countless condo developments, Pridi Banomyong Soi 3 is finally coming alive. Even expat central, W Market, has welcomed some exciting new faces, led by Vietnamese sandwich specialist Banh Mi Crispy.

Whipping up pasta in giant wheels of Parmesan is the new bingsu

If it's not already showing in your Facebook feed, be prepared. Genshiyaki's (Sukhumvit Soi 26) ooey, gooey cheese and bacon pasta is tossed together in a full round of Parmigiano-Reggiano that's partially hollowed out into a bowl. Sathorn's Sorrento is also getting in on the action (see page 20)—and not only is it a spectacle, it's also delicious.

Drinking can do good

Launched in 2013, Negroni Week has grown from 100 participating outlets in the US for its inaugural edition to 3,500 establishments worldwide last year. Taking place from Jun 6-12, the 2016 edition will involve at least 28 bars and restaurants in Bangkok (1881 by Water Library, Salt Aree, Vesper, Bunker and more heavy-hitters), with a portion of every negroni you buy going to charity. The launch party happens at House on Sathorn (see page 22). www.negroniweek.com

Rock and roll's not dead

Last weekend Silom bar Whiteline packed in three nights featuring Bangkok's finest indie-rock acts. New gig series Come On is Such a Joy is bringing live music to Charoenkrung's galleries, while new bar Speakerbox is doing something similar at Ratchada Night Market. What's more, this weekend (Mar 28-29) is Fatty's Fest, Fatty's Bar and Diner's (598/66 Asoke Din Daeng Rd.) annual celebration of all things live and loud.

BK "Asia City Living" Magazine is edited by Andrew Hiransomboon and published 51 times a year, every Friday of each month by Asia City Publishing (Thailand) Ltd. Copyright ©2016 Asia City Publishing (Thailand) Ltd. The titles "BK Magazine," "BK "Asia City Living" Magazine" and their associated logos or devices, and the content of BK "Asia City Living" Magazine are the property of Asia City Publishing (Thailand) Ltd. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is strictly prohibited. Article reprints are available for B50 each. The magazine may not be distributed without the express written consent of Asia City Publishing (Thailand) Ltd. Contact the Advertising Department for ad rates and specifications. All advertising must comply with the Publisher's terms of business, copies of which are available upon request. Printed by Comform Co.,Ltd. 212 Moo 13 Krungthepkreeha Rd., Saphansong, Bangkok 10250

HOT OR NOT



Hot: Banned Books

We don't like having to agree with the Ministry of Culture's Deputy Permanent Secretary, but Mrs. (yes, Mrs., not Miss) Universe Thailand's costume was genuinely horrendous. That bizarre bell-shaped goop of gold meant to evoke Wat Pra Kaew's Golden Stupa is fully deserving of some attitude adjustment. But to show we haven't turned into full fascists just yet, we'll be supporting the Sleepover project on banned books at The Reading Room instead (see right).



Not: Banned National Costumes



Hot: Online shopping

Last month, Central Group bought Zalora Thailand (and Vietnam) while Alibaba took a controlling stake in Lazada. This was seen as signs that online shopping in Thailand is growing much more slowly than expected. But maybe it's just that Thai consumers are so fragmented in their web shopping habits. See our cover story for a multitude of online multi-label stores, and IG-focused stand-alones, that will spare you having to set foot in mall for a very long time.

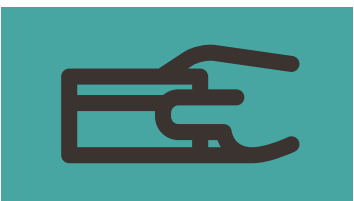


Not: Malls



Hot: Siam Discovery

Can we take that back? Of course, you still want to go to a mall. With its reopening, Siam Discovery brings a Virgin Fitness and one of the best Thai fashion selections in the city. And people are actually excited about the Hubba co-working space because, surely, what you need is more places where you can work. Add to that the new Greyhound multi-label store at Paragon and it's going to be a rough weekend for your credit card. See page 12.



Not: Your credit card



Hot: Nepotism

What if someone came up with an app to make motorcycle prices transparent, allowing credit card payments and forcing drivers to supply a clean helmet to their passengers? Well, the government would ban it, of course. That's exactly what happened to UberMoto and GrabBike, who clearly were cutting into the revenue stream of our boys in brown. What's more, the junta now says it will develop its very own app for motorcycle taxis.



Not: UberMoto



INTERVIEW

Earlier this month, Chiang Mai-based artist **Sutthirat "Som" Supaparinya**, 42, launched *Paradise of the Blind*, an art exhibition made from books that have been banned around the world. Running through May 29, the project is the first installment of Silom library-slash-gallery The Reading Room's "Sleepover" art project, which has invited six artists to take over the space with cultural projects. Som explains her motives behind the artwork, which has already attracted the attention of plainclothes police and soldiers.

What inspired you to create the exhibition?

It started when I undertook an artist residency program in Taiwan back in 2013. My Taiwanese friend told me her country no longer banned any books. This stuck with me until I did another artist-in-residence program in Wellington, New Zealand, last October. I spent most of my time there in the public library searching for books that were banned in Oceania before expanding to other continents. My research finally became "Steal This Book," an art exhibition about books that were banned. I took the name from a book by 60s' American political activist Abbie Hoffman, which was banned in Canada and the US. When I was asked to join Reading Room's Sleepover project, I decided to polish it up with more books that were banned around ASEAN, including *Paradise of the Blind*, a novel that was banned in Vietnam. I also used this book as the name of the exhibition as I feel it suits our country's situation where people try to ignore crucial situations in order to stay happy.

How do you feel about police and soldiers showing up to your event?

I'm not so worried, as I only picked books that aren't banned in Thailand. But they were really curious about one particular book that I exhibit, *Chom Na Sakdina Thai [The Face of Thai Feudalism]*, which was written by the late democracy leader Chit Phumisak in 1957 and banned for a time in 1977. It seems they didn't do their homework, though, as they kept asking me to explain the story of this book. I told them I don't need to, because it's sold everywhere. It's even in the government's list of 100 good books that Thais should read.

Everything went smooth after that?

Yes, they stopped bothering me after that. Actually, I faced some issues even before the exhibition took place. I tried to buy used shotgun cartridges to put in the exhibition but no one would sell to me in large numbers, even the shooting ranges. I tried to hire metalsmiths to make them for me, but they all rejected. Luckily, I finally found out you can buy them from the Royal Thai Army Ordnance Department. That was such a surprise for me.

It seems that more and more art exhibitions are coming under government surveillance. How do you feel about this?

Before now, the government may have not thought that art can really impact society. But we are seeing artists collaborate with more people in different professions, such as activists and musicians. As the art circles grow wider and wider, we might see the government become even more concerned. Still, our situation is much better than in neighboring countries like Myanmar and Laos, where all artists need to propose their work one month in advance in order to get permission. This might be the first time we get a taste of what our neighbors have become accustomed to.

What's next for you?

As I'm working with Chiang Mai Art Conversation [CAC] group, we're now teaming up with The Japan Foundation Asia Center to found the Asian Culture Station in Chiang Mai within a few months. You can get updates at CAC's Facebook page [www.fb.com/cmartconversation].

Interview by Monrueedee Jansuttipan

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

TYPES of LAUGHTER



by Kathy MacLeod kathymacleod.blogspot.com

PLAN AHEAD

Upcoming Pop Concerts



SELENA GOMEZ
The ex-Disney star turned pop singer, aka Justin Bieber's ex-girlfriend, will be making her way to the Bangkok stage for the first time this summer.

This Jul 29, the singer will perform pop hits like "Hands to Myself" and "Love You Like a Love Song" at Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani.

Fans can expect performances of her brand new hits from her latest album *Revival*, such as "Good for You" and "Same Old Love" as well as many of her other guilty-pleasure songs from previous albums.

Tickets are B2,000-5,000 from [Thaiticketmajor](#).



CHARLIE PUTH
After dropping hints on his Younow clips, it has been confirmed that Charlie Puth will be coming to Bangkok this Mother's Day, Aug 12.

He'll make his Bangkok debut at the Soundbox event, joined by opening acts Ozmo and Room 39 at Muangthai GMM Livehouse, CentralWorld.

The American singer and songwriter, who made a name for himself through his viral Youtube videos, is known for his hits "Marvin Gaye" and "See You Again," which won a Critic's Choice award this year.

Tickets are B2,000, available from May 28 onwards at [Thaiticketmajor](#).

ART EXHIBITIONS



A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
Associated Press photographer David Longstreath hosts a showcase of his works from the past 45 years capturing historic events including the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the death of Pol Pot and Mother Teresa's funeral. **May 27 onwards. Cho Why**, 17 Soi Nana, Charoenkrung Rd..



CULTURES FROM 10 COUNTRIES
A collection of watercolor paintings capturing daily life and cultures from various Asian countries by artist Weerapan Phiwhoom. **Jun 3-30. Chomp**, 63-65 Samsen Soi 1, 02-629-2026.



NOITE
Portuguese artist Bruno Silva presents a collection of mixed media works, including video, sculptures, drawings and paintings, to explore the ideas of motion and travel. **May 28-Jul 22. Tars Gallery**, Sukhumvit Soi 67, 099-736-8672.



SPLIT
A collection of digital collages by artist Peng Janthasorn that explore the complexities of the human body using inspiration from late Renaissance paintings. **May 28-Jun 26. Jam**, 41 Charoen Rat Soi 1, 083-5451-833.

ART HIGHLIGHT



Bangkok may be home to more art galleries and cool exhibitions than ever before, but not too many really push into controversial territory. That's what makes the current exhibition at The Reading Room, dubbed **Paradise for the Blind**, that much more interesting.

Running **through May 29**, the exhibition presents a collection of artworks made from shredded (and whole) censored books that artist Sutthirat Supaparinya (see our interview, page 4) has gathered and studied. All the books used have either been censored or banned in various countries around Asia, including Chit Phumisak's *The Real Face of Thai Feudalism*, Pramodya Ananta Toer's *All That Is Gone* and Noam Chomsky's *Year 501: The Conquest Continues*. The project is the first installment of The Reading Room's "Sleepover" art project, which has invited six artists to take over the space of the library with cultural projects. The next installment, taking place throughout the month of June, will welcome Southeast of Now, a group of Southeast Asian art historians who have launched a journal discussing the directions of contemporary and modern art.

Through May 29. The Reading Room, 2 Silom Soi 19, 02-635-3674. [BTS Surasak](#)

SALES & MARKETS



MAP WEEKDAY POPUP
The activity-filled festival returns, this time giving shopaholics a destination to go shopping after work on the weekdays. Expect plenty of food and clothing brands including Koo's, Lemon Me Farm, Mayumi Kani, Three and many more to take over the grounds. **Through May 27**, 10am. **United Center Building**, 323 Silom Rd., 02-231-1003.

BOOK SALE
The Neilson Hays Library holds a used-book fundraiser promising thousands of high-quality English and Thai books from just B20. Away from the books, expect plenty of food from Hot Wheels Pizza Truck and the Garden Cafe, as well as a children's craft activity area. **May 28**, 9:30am. **Neilson Hays Library**, 195 Surawong Rd., 02-233-1731. Free.

KNACK MARKET
The retro riverside market that takes place every last weekend of the month returns promising crafts, design, vintage items, books, art and music, plus lots of street food. **May 28-29**, 4pm. **The Jam Factory**, 41/1-41/2 Charoen Nakorn Rd., 02-861-0950. Free.

THE GLASS BY ART BOX
Bangkok's biggest container market promises hundres of stalls selling clothes, food, drinks and hand-made items. **Through Jun 19**, 5pm. **The EmDistrict**, The Emquartier and The Emporium, Sukhumvit Rd., 02-269-1000. [BTS Phrom Phong](#)

NEON FEST
This new container market promises a massive 931 booths that combine eating, drinking and shopping in one place. Special events like concerts from Tattoo Colour, Singto Namchok and Lipta are also scheduled. Open every Thu-Sun until Jul 1. **Through Jul 1**, 5pm. **Lumphini Park**, Rama 4 Rd.