

CHIANG MAI

My town

Born and based in Chiang Mai, visual artist Sutthirat Supaparinya has been a witness to considerable change over the years. She guides us to her favourite spots in this art-centric city



EAT+DRINK: During the day I look for green spots to chill out in with good food and delicious cakes. With this in mind, **Café de Oasis** (202/9 Moo 1, Route 4307) is my current favourite. After sunset, if I have friends in town I always take them to the less touristy, authentic Thai restaurants for proper northern-style dishes. **Khum Vieng Yong** (99/9, Baan Suan Natakwang, Khlong Chonprattan Road) is my top pick. It serves seasonal dishes like *kau hed tob* (roasted black mushrooms) and *gang pak waan*, a sweet and spicy fish soup. The place is charming, decorated like a little culinary museum! In the buzzy

area between Warorot Market and the famous Night Bazaar, I often head to the rustic **Street Pizza** (86-88 Thapae Rd) for thin crust, Naples-style pizza. For drinks with a view, I hit the fifth-floor rooftop bar at **Hotel Yayee** (fb.com/hotelyayee).

SHOP: I live close to the trendy **Nimmanhemin**, or “Nimman”, neighbourhood, which is the art-and-design area. Soi 1 is a good place to start as there are a host of design shops to check out. I love the high-quality Lanna and Laotian ikats, cottons and silks at **Adorn with Studio Naenna** (studio-naenna.com).

DO: **Nimman** is also a good place for cafés, bars, restaurants and little art galleries. One of my little-known favourites is **Home Made** ice creamery on Soi 5: ring the bell at the gate of a private villa and you'll soon be greeted by a seller who'll scoop out various tropical flavours like durian and coconut. To check out what artsy events are on in town, visit fb.com/smartconversation. **Gallery Seesacpe**, **C.A.P Studio** and **Lyla Gallery** usually

have excellent work on show. It's also worth biking out of town to **Huey Tung Tao** (bueytuengtao.com). It's one of the most relaxing spots in the city – stretch out inside a bamboo hut within sight of a large lake and mountains and enjoy papaya salads, grilled chicken and sticky rice with a cold drink. Swimming is allowed in some sections of the lake – for me, it's the perfect place to lollygag in the summer months. atelierorange.info



Shopbop: EmQuartier

The much-hyped, glittery EmQuartier finally opened in late March in Sukhumvit's business district. It's Bangkok's newest shopping mall and the second of a clutch of malls that are set to make up the multi-million baht “EM district”. By the end of May, over 400 fashion labels – including Thai favourites like Fly Now, Greyhound, Kloset and Soda – had been put on display in its swish boutiques. Our favourite “zone” is the Helix Quarter, which opened in May and sports a striking spiral staircase, lagoons and a cascading “rainforest chandelier”. Here you'll find stores like **ANOTHER STORY**, which offers a curated selection of indie products. There's stationery, tech accessories, teas, aromatherapy products, leather shoes and fashion – from Bangkok brands (Studio Hole, Bsab Thailand) and international names (Ancient Greek Sandals, Luckies of London) as well as a gallery, hipster café and a florist. theemdistrict.com

Did you know?

LAMPANG

Wat Pong Sanuk is an outstanding example of Lanna-Burmese art in the northern province of Lampang. Recent renovations to the temple have earned the site a UNESCO “Award of Merit” for heritage conservation.