

{CCA} Ujazdowski Castle

Public Spirits



Sutthirat Supaparinya

Move! Without a Name (2016)

Collage of many former prime ministers' portraits, shredded photocopies of 19 versions of Thailand's constitutions, video projection, radio

No, David! Banned Children's Books (2016)

Installation (children's picture books banned in Asia, Oceania and the US, shredded photocopies of the banned books, handwritten index cards and a wooden box), dimensions variable



Move! Without a Name (2016), detail. Image courtesy of the artist.

Sutthirat Supaparinya often questions the interpretation of images, text and sound in the media using simple everyday images. Works of this visual artist, who works across a range of media including video, installation, photography and sculpture, often include playful criticism on political, social, and personal issues, while also offering insights into the larger topics these issues entail.

Move! Without a Name (2016) is an installation consisting of two framed collages made from many former prime ministers' portraits leaning against a wall filled with photocopies of 19 versions of Thailand's constitution torn by the artist. A projection is screened on the wall while in the background one can hear sounds coming from a vintage radio. The title of the work refers to a famous Vietnamese book entitled *Move! Without a Name*, written in 1995 by Duong Thu Huong. The novel portrays the intimate life story of a Vietnamese boy, a soldier during the War Against the Americans (Called Vietnam War by the Americans). However, neither the war nor the Americans are the author's primary concern. Instead, this is a novel that describes the Vietnamese from

their own point of view, disclosing their reality, everyday life and dreams. "After the war, our country would become humanity's paradise" – says Quan, the main character. What remains of these dreams in Thailand becomes an insight to explore in Sutthirat's installation.

The installation *No, David! – Banned Children's Books* (2016) involves a selection of children's books written in different languages that were banned, challenged or restricted in the Asia Pacific region or the US. The artist has been addressing the issue of banned books in her practice since October 2015. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, once banned in China, and *Tango Makes Three*, a book about same sex penguin parents temporarily restricted in Singapore, are among the banned books on display. Having acquired all the books legally, the artist then produces handwritten index cards for each one.

Responding to limitations on the freedom of expression in Thailand following a military takeover in 2014, Sutthirat Supaparinya seeks to encourage debate through art. Although several of the banned and restricted books are not permitted in many countries around the world, when they are removed from their original setting and placed within an art space context, the once absurdly "dangerous" process of reading these publications becomes permissible.

Another focus of the artist's practice is the impact of industrialisation and globalization on people's lives and the landscape. By living in Chiang Mai, the artist is aware of the importance and role of emerging artistic communities situated outside the centres of Southeast Asian countries, such as Penang in Malaysia, Hue in Vietnam, Yogyakarta and Bandung in Indonesia. Sutthirat Supaparinya believes that artists are able to construct alternative solutions, build connections between communities and contribute to the development of practices within peripheral cities without being financially dependent on the centre.

Sutthirat Supaparinya was born in 1973 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she lives and works.

Text
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