

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Berlin, 15th May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

we are pleased to invite you to the opening of the following exhibition:

ORAWAN ARUNRAK Exit – Entrance

Opening: WEDNESDAY, 24TH MAY 2017, 7 – 10 PM
Showroom at Kottbusser Straße 10

Exhibition: 25TH MAY – 18TH JUNE 2017
Tuesday – Sunday, 2 – 7 pm

ATELIERS UND BÜROS: Kohlfurter Straße 41-43 · 10999 Berlin · SCHAURAUM: Kottbusser Straße 10

TEL: +49 (0)30 616 903 0 · FAX: +49 (0)30 616 903 30 · info@bethanien.de · www.bethanien.de

RECHTSFORM: Künstlerhaus Bethanien GmbH · SITZ: Berlin · AG Charlottenburg

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: Christoph Tannert · Andrea Boche · HANDELSREGISTER: HRG 8089

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

ORAWAN ARUNRAK's work is largely inspired by her everyday life. Using tools like pencils, pens, paper, but also photography and the internet, she creates works that take the forms of drawing, painting and installation. Her practice is aimed at engaging in dialogue with specific local communities in an attempt to merge the spaces of art and non-art. Drawn to dialogues shared throughout Southeast Asia, the artist has spent several years travelling between her native Thailand and neighboring countries, repeatedly crossing national, cultural and spiritual borders. In recent years Arunrak's work has examined likeness and difference within and between cultures, luring her into subjects of history, and Southeast Asia's socio-political landscapes.

Arunrak's most recent series of works communicate through conversations that focus on elements and mixtures of Thailand, Germany, Vietnam, and elsewhere, encompassing religion, otherness and gender, as defined by customs, contexts, and environments. Presented as an installation titled *Exit – Entrance*, these works explore the juxtaposition of different states of being in the 'real' and in the spiritual world, with the ideas of nationhood and nationality. The artworks featured in *Exit – Entrance* combine visual and sound elements drawn from conversations held in Thai, German, English and Vietnamese. The audio component of the project is presented within an immersive installation of hand-drawn images printed as wallpaper. The conversations include ten people, whose voices we hear: a Thai monk, a Thai nun, a Thai anthropologist, a Thai woman, a German woman, a German anthropologist, a German man who ordained in a Thai temple in Berlin, a Vietnamese nun, and a Vietnamese woman, all of whom live between Asia and Europe.

Arunrak sees her work as an experiment for the viewer, to try to hear, listen and see in ways that might develop mutual understanding for different ways of living.

A **catalogue** of the exhibition is available: edited by Nicola Müllerschön and Christoph Tannert, *Orawan Arunrak: Exit – Entrance* includes an essay by Roger Nelson and an interview by Yvette Mutumba. Published by Verlag Kettler (Dortmund), 2017.

ORAWAN ARUNRAK *1985 in Bangkok, Thailand, lives and works in Bangkok.

Her work has been exhibited regionally and internationally, including at CCA Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, Poland (2017), Saigon Domaine, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2015), Sa Sa Bassac, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2015), Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Thailand (2014), Kanagawa Arts Theatre, Yokohama, Japan (2013) and Frac Île-de-France, Le plateau, Paris, France (2012).

Orawan Arunrak is currently receiving a grant from the **KfW Stiftung**, Frankfurt / Main, and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in the context of our International Studio Programme. Grant-holders of the KfW Stiftung in Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2017 also include Ahmed Ghoneimy (Egypt) and Vartan Avakian (Lebanon).

The non-profit, independent foundation **KfW Stiftung** was founded in October 2012. One particular emphasis of the KfW Stiftung is a consolidation of cultural diversity. Aiming to advance intercultural dialogue, it enables artists from Latin America, Africa and Asia to spend twelve months working in Berlin by participating in the International Studio Programme of Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

Contact:

Dr. Nicola Müllerschön, Programme Manager Arts & Culture, KfW Stiftung, Frankfurt /Main:

Nicola.Muellerschoen@kfw-stiftung.de

KFW STIFTUNG