

2025

ARTIST

PORT FOLIO

WATHIT SEMBUT

2025

ARTIST STATEMENT

My artistic practice reflects an ongoing dialogue between Eastern philosophical thought and the surrounding environment, both physical and spiritual. At its core, my work explores the nature of existence itself on how things, both tangible and intangible, manifest, transform, and persist across various states of being.

I am drawn to the elemental forces that animate life and awareness, the raw instincts, the intricate desires, and the inner momentum that drives all living things to move, change, and endure. Through my work, I seek not only to observe what exists, but to inquire into why and how it comes to be.

Themes of nature, spirituality, awakening, and cultural identity frequently emerge throughout my process. I work across diverse media, continuously experimenting and evolving my approach in response to each idea. This constant transformation is both method and meaning, reflecting the impermanence at the heart of being.

I hope my work serves as a quiet space for contemplation and conversation, offering viewers an opportunity to engage with the questions of selfhood and presence. With sincerity, I aim to integrate knowledge and innovation to spark deeper understanding of the world, and of ourselves.



WATHIT SEMBUT

GOLDEN METAMORPHOSIS

2025

Suspended Sculpture (Folded brass sheet, Nylon wire, Light)

240 x 250 x 250 cm.

“Golden Metamorphosis” is a suspended installation sculpture that explores the process of healing and the reintegration of fragmented souls back into a state of “Oneness.” This artwork questions the concepts of fragmentation and rebirth as fundamental conditions of human existence, utilizing an artistic language that merges hand-folded brass sheets with the philosophy and profound wisdom of the Lanna culture.

The core inspiration for this piece stems from the artist’s personal experience with Panic Disorder. This psychological state is likened to the scattering and shattering of “Khwan”—the vital life force or fragments of the soul in Lanna belief. The artist translates the concept of the “Body as Archive” through 320 hand-folded brass butterflies, metaphorically representing the 32 Khwan of a human being scattered across 10 directions (the eight cardinal and ordinal directions, the heavens above, and the earth below). Each butterfly serves as a vessel for the memories and emotions deeply embedded within muscles and the nervous system. This aligns with the theory of Embodied Cognition, which posits that memory resides not only in the brain but is inscribed throughout every cell of the body. Each butterfly thus represents a once-shattered fragment of experience that, when woven back together by barely visible threads, forms a new structure that is simultaneously fragile and resilient.

The “butterfly” is chosen as the central symbol of the artwork. In the beliefs of the Tai ethnic groups, butterflies represent the lingering traces of spirits or ancestral souls. The artist employs this symbol as a metaphor for transition and a dual rebirth from a caterpillar bound to the earth and the limitations of the material world, through its dissolution in the chrysalis, to its emergence as a butterfly soaring into the sky. The butterfly thus acts as a bridge between the earth and the heavens, much like the shimmering light on the water’s surface that simultaneously reflects the celestial heights above and the profound depths below.



“This suspended cluster of brass butterflies captures the precise moment of transition (Metamorphosis) from darkness to a radiant path. The interplay of light creates dimensions of shadow and a rhythm of movement that feels inherently alive. It acts as a “Su Khwan” (soul-calling) ritual, guiding the scattered energy back to its center. This is not purely a literal summoning of the spirit, but rather the reweaving of severed connections between oneself, the community, and the surrounding environment. This phenomenon elegantly parallels the concept of Quantum Entanglement, which suggests that particles once connected remain inextricably linked, regardless of the vast distances between them.

Ultimately, the artist hopes Golden Metamorphosis will transcend boundaries of aesthetic expression to become an “artistic ritual” aimed at mending the rift between body and mind. The piece invites viewers to contemplate their relationship with the invisible network of their own memories, recognizing that true healing is not a flawless return to an original state, but rather the reconstruction of the self from the traces of experience. The reclaimed Khwan may not be identical in every dimension, but that is the true essence of transition—a rebirth into a state even more complete and profound, in a world where particles and spirit are once again reunited into Oneness.



MATRIX

2025

Multimedia (Black - Dyed Cotton Fiber Yarn, Crystals, Metal Pipe)

220 x 250 cm



“Matrix” is a meditation on the human condition, weaving together threads of shared ancestry, inner awareness, and conscious action. The piece use black- dyed yarn in multiple shades to represent the diversity of humanity across race, belief, and culture, while affirming our common origin. Each thread begins from the same root, just as humans trace back to a shared ancestor in Africa.

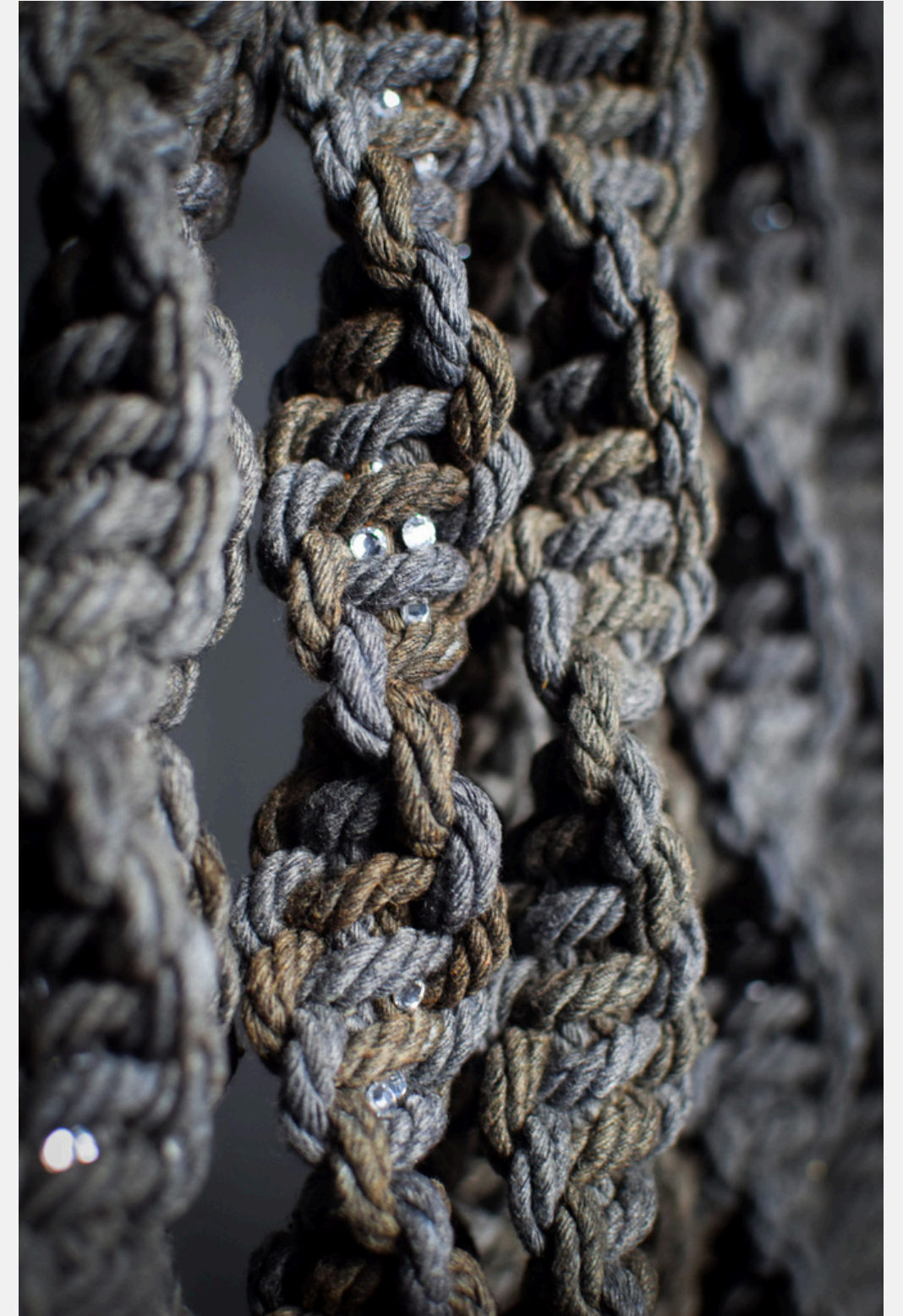
The work is intricately woven into spiring DNA patterns and undulating waves, symbolizing the constant movement of existence: rise and fall, prosperity and decline, yet always progressing. The embedded crystals mark moments of grace and wonder, representing the miracles of life, the spiritual legacy we inherit, and the intangible beauty we leave behind.

Inspired by scientific discoveries like the 233,000 year – old Omo fossils in Ethiopia, which support the theory of a common human ancestor, Matrix also draws from philosophical perspectives. Heidegger’s view of humans as being capable of questioning their own existence, and Carl Jung’s idea of the ‘Collective Unconscious’ that unites humanity beneath the surface, are key influences in this work.

More than a visual object, Matrix is an invitation to reflect on the traces we leave behind: on ourselves, on others, on the world. If all of us are woven into the same fabric, our action ripple outward. We are each responsible for the kind of mark we make. Will we leave behind damage, or a legacy of compassion, wisdom, and care?

To live fully as human being is to make choices rooted in mindfulness, to act with awareness and intention, and to minimize harm. It is through this quiet, conscious acts that we grow, not just as individuals, but as a species. In doing so, we leave behind a legacy of goodness, insight, and humanity that woven beautifully into the ongoing pattern of evolution.





MATRIX (2025)

NIRVANA

2025

Acrylic and Gold Leaf on Canvas

300 x 800 cm

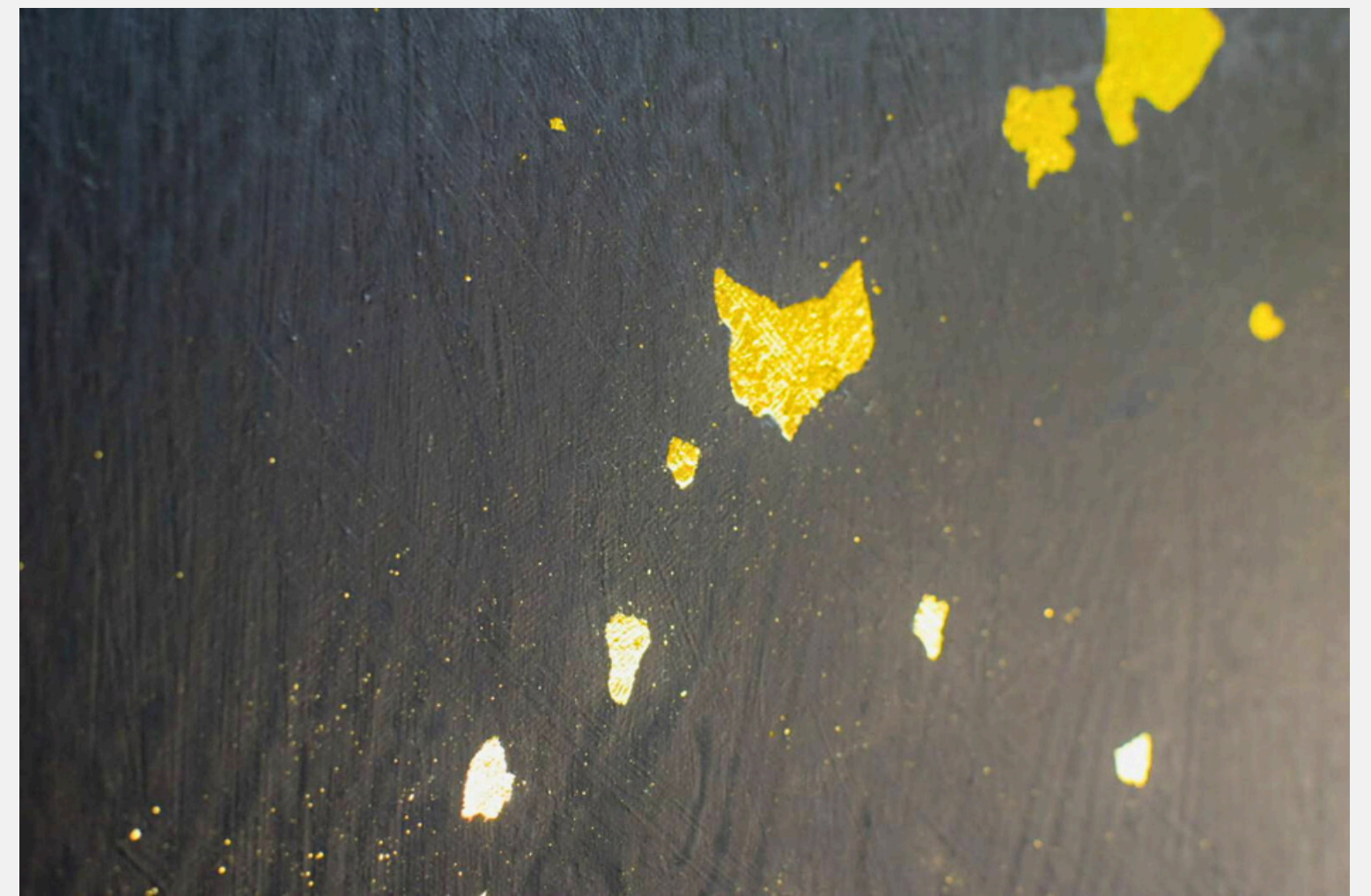


This abstract artwork reveals the intangible beauty of the profound interplay between light and shadow. The artist has created an image of gold leaf gleaming on a black canvas to convey concepts of mindfulness and self awareness.

The free flowing form of gold leaf stretching across the canvas draws inspiration from lightning bolt in nature, symbolizing wisdom, sharpness of mind, and enlightenment. The dispersed pattern and expansion of the golden shapes, transitioning from density to subtlety, represents the light of clarity that emerges suddenly amidst the darkness of ignorance. The contrast between the radiant areas of gold leaf and the darkness of the background creates a sense of opposing polarities between knowledge and ignorance, between awakening and forgetfulness, and between what is visible and what remains hidden.

The black background of the canvas carries deep meaning in Buddhist philosophy, representing ignorance (Avijja), fear, and unknowing that dominate the human mind. The contrast between the brilliant gold leaf and darkness creates reflections and dimensions of awareness and encounter with one's true self, emphasizing movement and transformation, as if recording moments of authentic self discovery.

The artist intends for viewers to contemplate their own existence through seeing light amidst darkness, comparable to discovering true mindfulness and wisdom during moment of confusion. This piece invites viewers to consider their existence in the vast universe, the discovery of inner light, the journey from ignorance to radiant wisdom, and the importance of awakening to the present moment.





NIRVANA (2025)

REFLECTIONS

2023

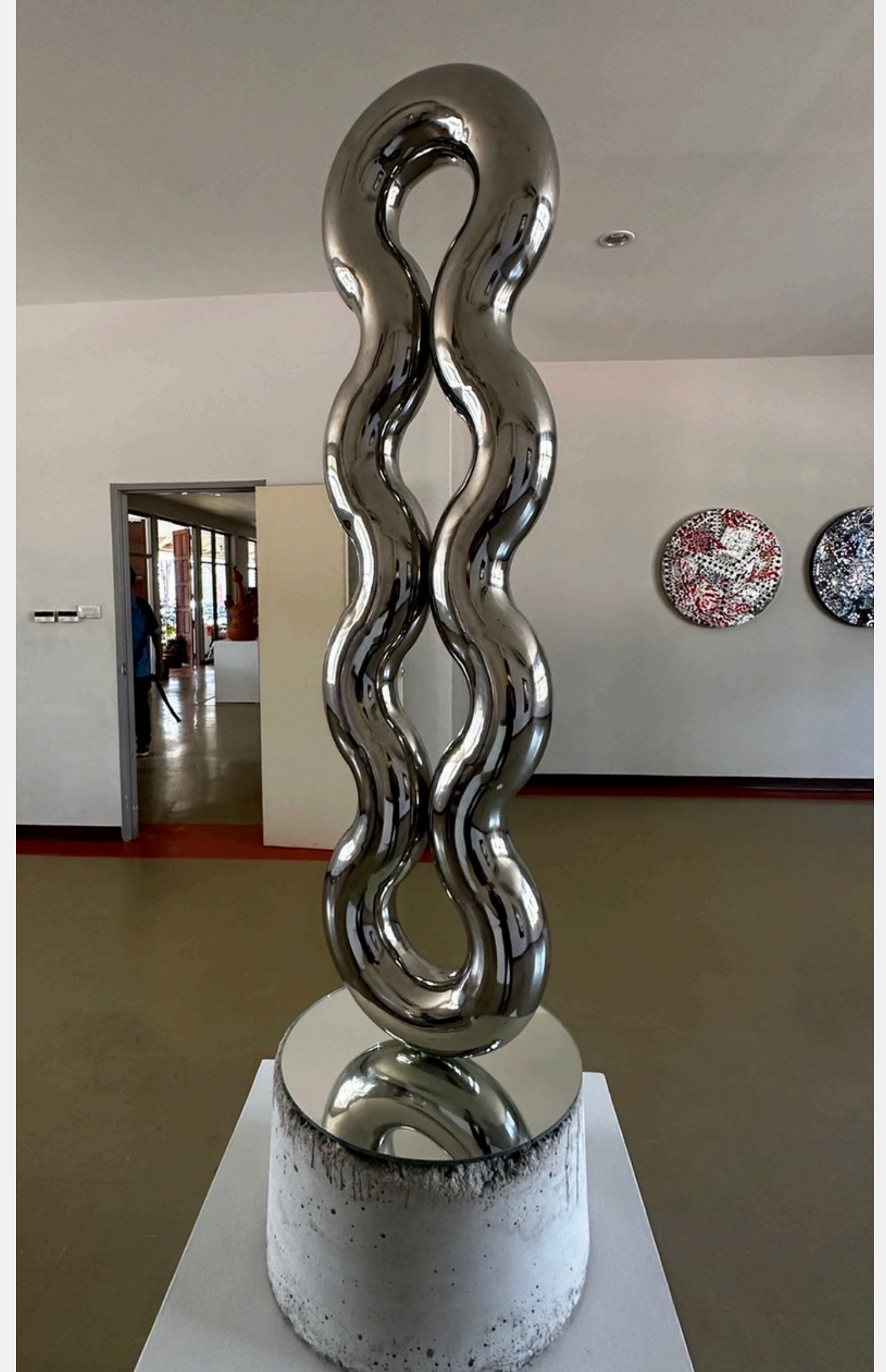
Multimedia Sculpture (Aluminum, Mirror, Cement)

60 x 60 x 120 cm

Rooted in Buddhist teachings, this artwork highlights the profound importance of the present moment. Through its design, it seeks to awaken a heightened awareness of time and space, inviting audiences to engage deeply with their surroundings and perceptions.

The installation employs luminous and reflective materials to manipulate light and space, encouraging visitors to interact with their environment in thoughtful and intentional ways. By immersing themselves in the artwork, viewers are subtly reminded of the beauty and significance of living fully in the present.

The dynamic interplay of reflections and shadows creates a sense of timelessness, offering a captivating and meditative experience for those who take the time to observe and reflect. Through its thoughtful composition, the piece transforms a fleeting moment into a profound encounter with the here and now.

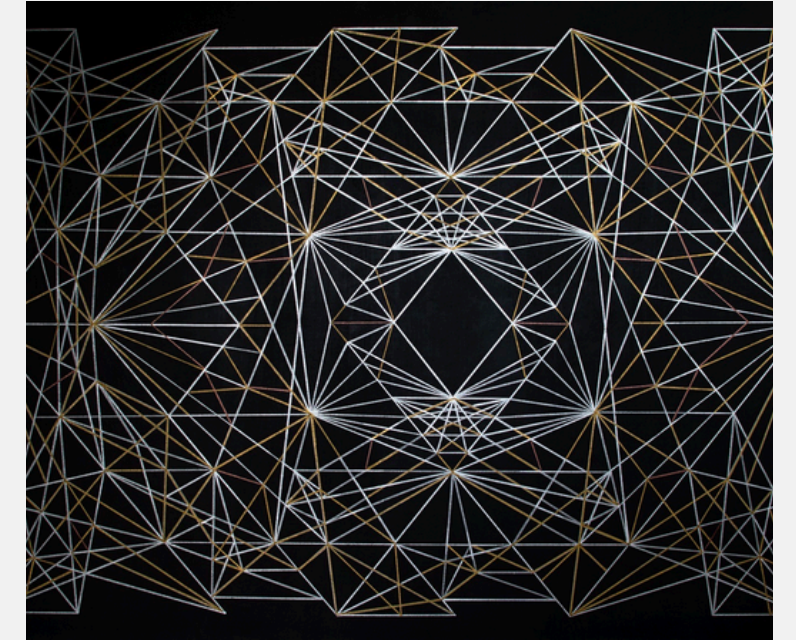
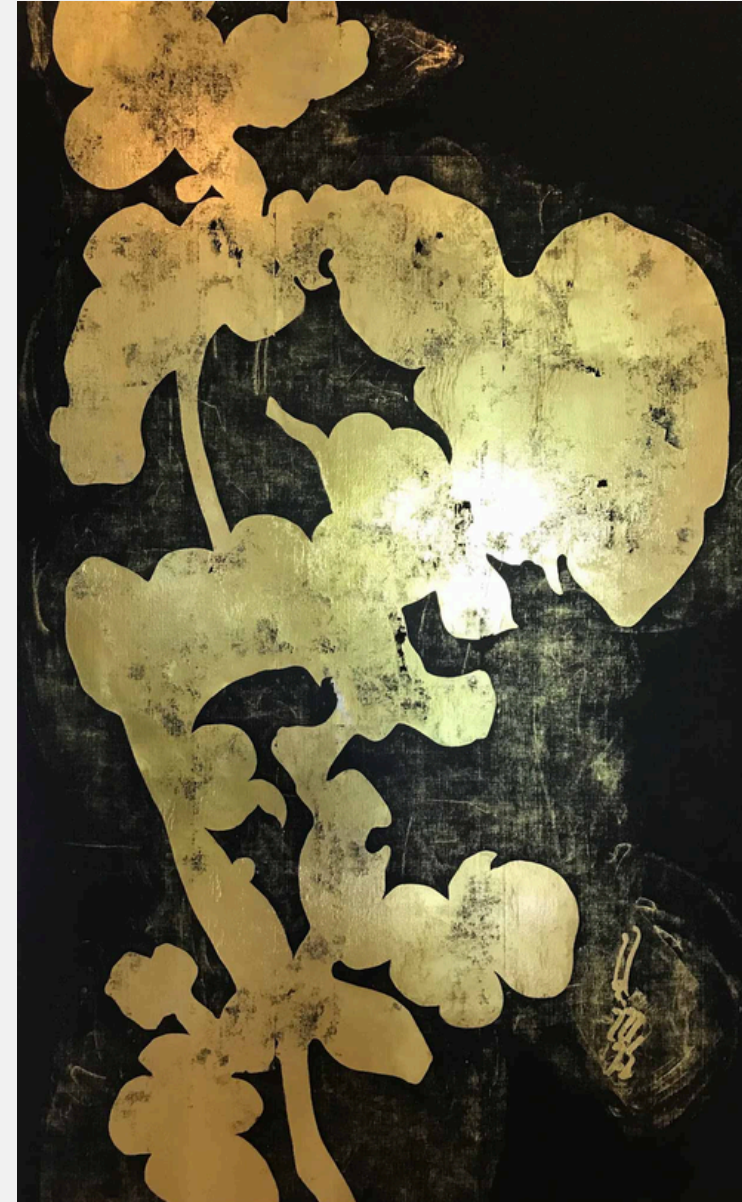


THE INTELLECTUAL

ART SERIES (2017 - 2024)



This series is an experimental collection by the artist, featuring works that explore various artistic techniques, narratives, and intention. It's reflects the artist's journey to uncover intellectual insights and identify the most effective approaches to creating pieces that embody and serve the core concept and vision.



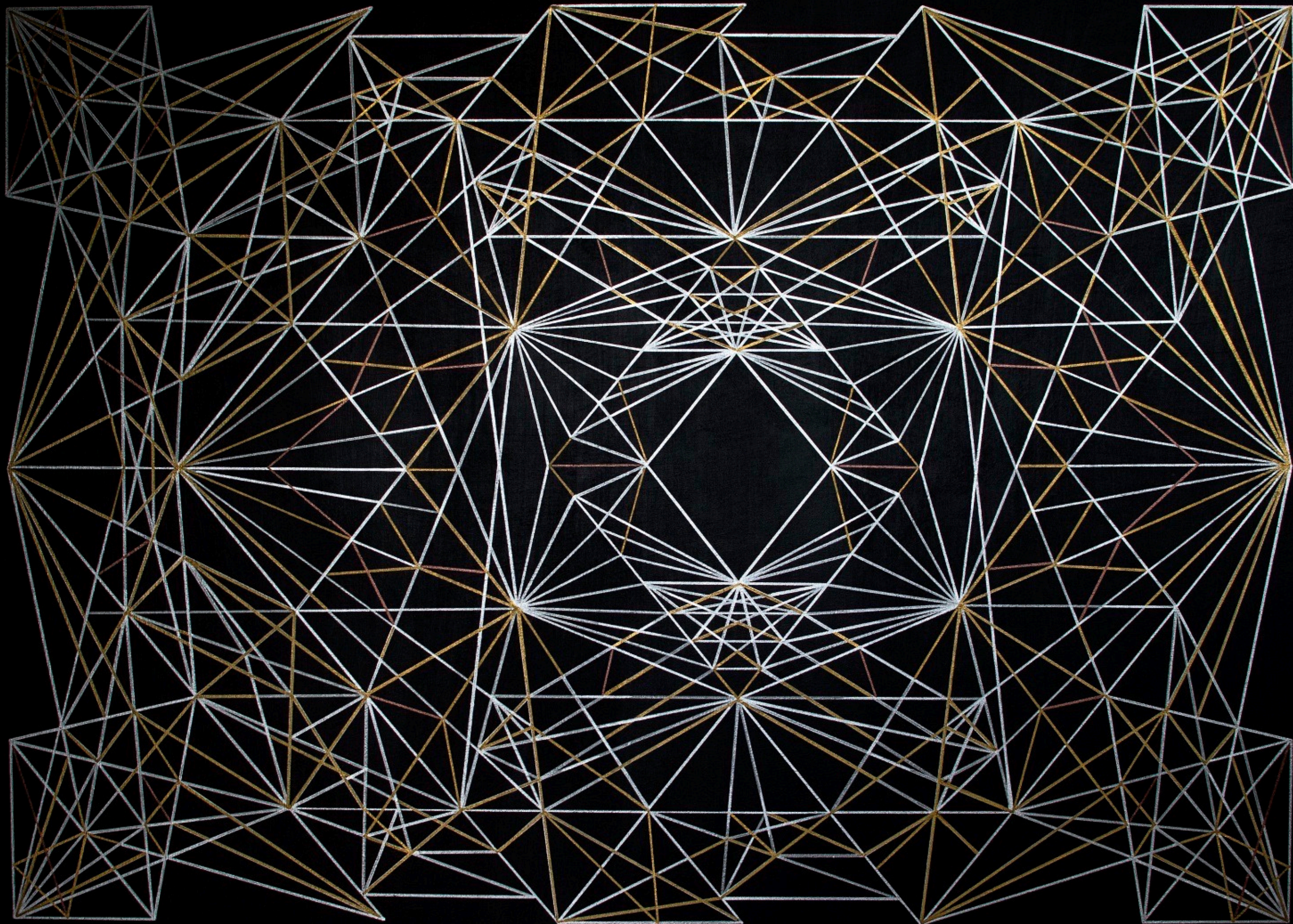
RYTHM

2024
Gold foil on canvas
80 x 60 cm.



THIRD EYE

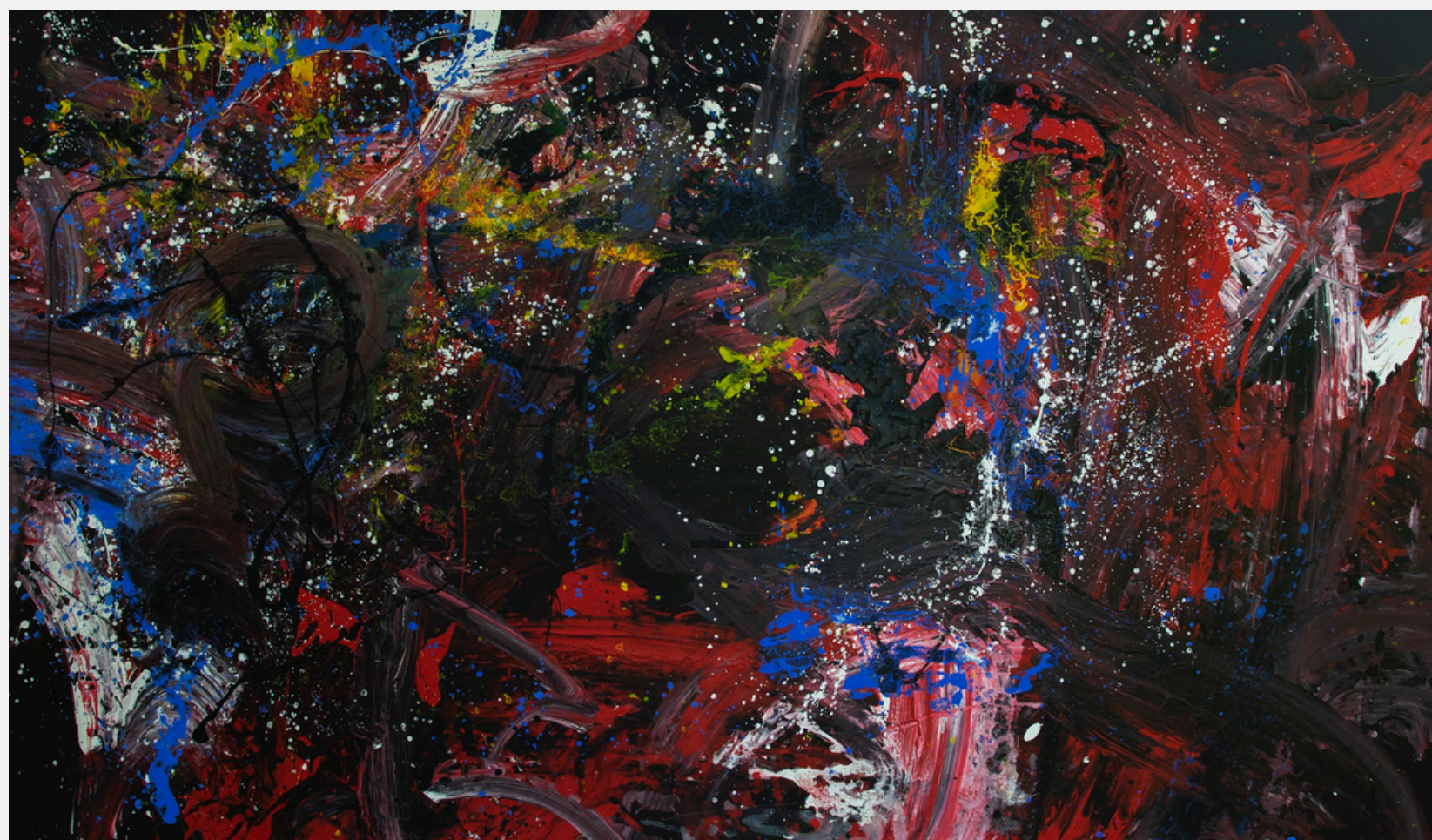
2020
Acrylic and glitter pen on canvas
120 x 150 cm.



TIME NO.12

2018
Ink on paper
80 x 60 cm.





THE PHENOMENAL

ART SERIES (2012 - 2016)



This evocative abstract series masterfully captures the awe-inspiring power of natural phenomena through a sophisticated artistic lens. With meticulous brushwork and precise line work, the artist translates the raw beauty of the natural world into a collection of splendid paintings. Each piece serves as a testament to the delicate balance between controlled technique and the unbridled essence of nature, resulting in a harmonious fusion of form and subject matter

FLASH

2016
Acrylic on canvas
190 x 230 cm



STORM OF
EMOTIONS NO.1

2012
Acrylic on canvas
240 x 280 cm.



STORM OF
EMOTIONS NO.3

2012
Acrylic on canvas
240 x 280 cm.



Current Project Status (DUE 2028)



BEETLE KING : THE PROJECT ENTAILS THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGHWAY NO. 1 AND RURAL ROAD NO. 1418, WHICH SERVES AS THE ENTRANCE TO CHIANG RAI AIRPORT.

BEETLE KING



FIGHTER OF CHIANG RAI

The artist derived inspiration for the sculptures from the rhinoceros beetle, a symbol of resilience in nature, and crafted the paintings in a style characterized by natural lines that are aesthetically pleasing.

• TOP



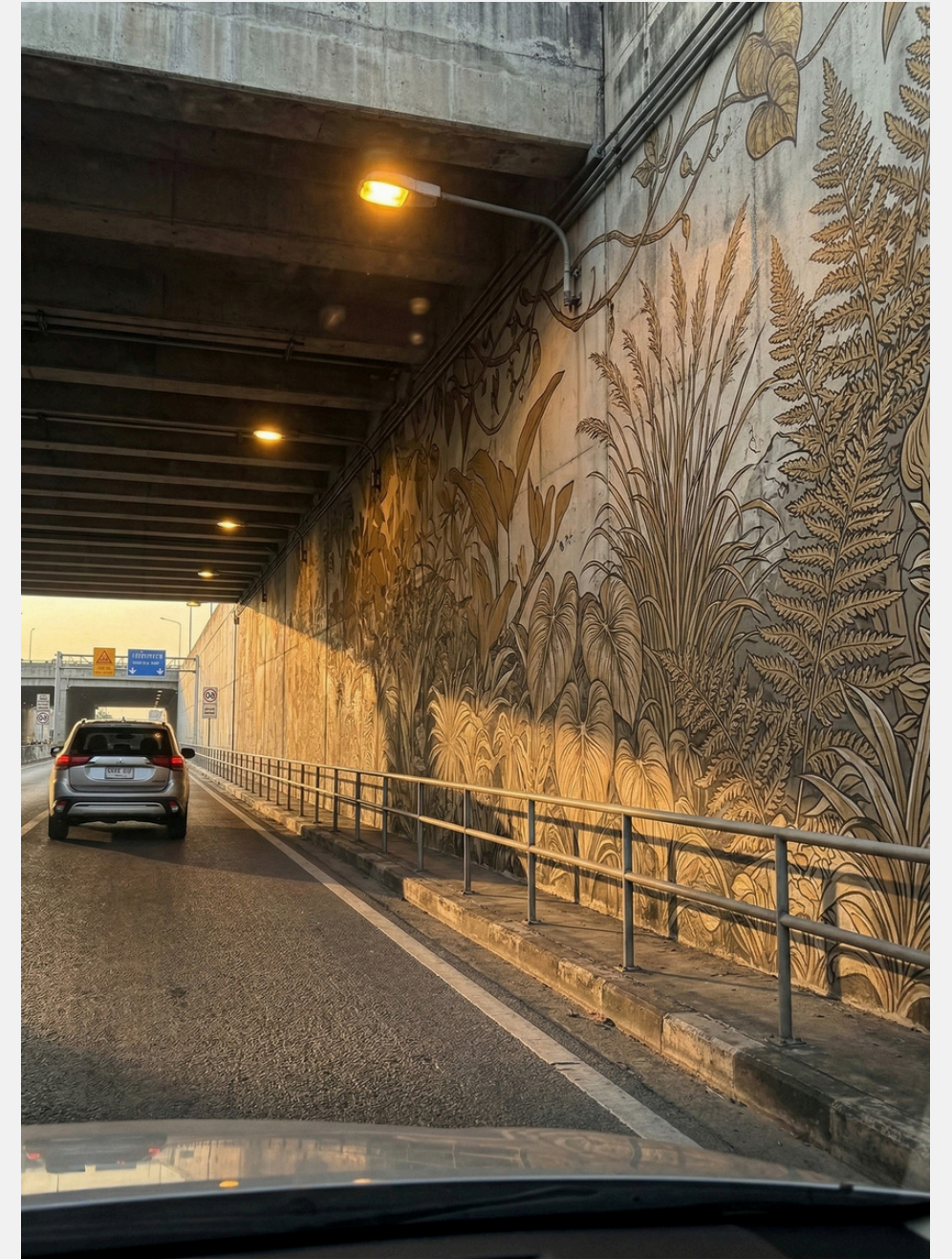
• SIDE

- Paintings embellishing the walls of the underpass tunnel.



THE DESIGN

Replica images of sculptures and murals embellishing the walls of the underpass.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Wathit Sembut (b.1986, Chiang Rai, Thailand) cultivated his artistic sensibilities amidst the tranquil rice fields of Nanglae, which continue to influence his creative vision.

He pursued formal training in Thai Arts at Silpakorn University's Faculty of Painting, Sculpture, and Graphic Arts in Bangkok, earning both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. This education provided him with a strong foundation in traditional Thai art and aesthetics.

After completing his studies, Wathit returned to Chiang Rai to contribute to the cultural and academic landscape. He began teaching in the Buddhist Art Department at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University before joining Mae Fah Luang University, where he has worked with diverse groups of students, including monks and local communities. The teaching emphasizes the preservation and promotion of Thai artistic heritage while nurturing innovation and individual expression.

Alongside his academic career, he continues to develop his artistic practice. Wathit's art reflects the harmony of his surroundings and the philosophical interplay of Eastern traditions. Rooted in the serene environment of his hometown, his work explores themes of nature, spirituality, and cultural identity. He employs a variety of media to articulate his evolving creative vision, demonstrating a refined aesthetic and conceptual depth.

Through his art, Wathit seeks to inspire dialogue and reflection, fostering a deeper understanding of the human experience across cultural boundaries. His artistic journey is marked by a commitment to authenticity and innovation, offering viewers a contemplative space to engage with his work and the values it represents.



Born 1986
Lives and works in Chiang Rai, Thailand

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EDUCATION

2013 SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY
M.A. (Thai Art), Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts (GPA 3.22)
2010 SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY
B.F.A. (Art Theory), Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts (GPA 3.50)

RESEARCH PUBLICATION

2018 CRRU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ART WORKSHOP (2018)
"Lines and Color: Contemporary Art Through Studying the Value and Emotion for the Sake of Society's Education", Research Paper

AWARDS & HONORS

2024 Official Representative of UNESCO Creative City, Chiang Rai, Thailand to The Viljandi Heritage Festival in Viljandi, Estonia
2023 Art Director of Thailand Biennale: Chiang Rai 2023 MFU Buddhist Art Pavilion
2013 Selected Art to exhibit at ARTrium@MICA, Singapore
Selected Art to exhibit at The 59th National Exhibition of the Art, BACC, Bangkok, Thailand
Selected Art to exhibit at The 35th Bua Luang Painting Exhibition, The Queen's Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
2009 Metinee Fellowship Art Scholarship
2004 Thawan Duchanee Art Scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCES (2020 - NOW)

2024 THE VILJANDI HERITAGE FESTIVAL, VILJANDI, ESTONIA
(REPRESENTATIVE)
Official representative of UNESCO creative city, Chiang Rai, Thailand. Manages "Lai Kham: The Northern Thai" heritage art and design workshop, plans and instructs the workshop at the festival.

2023 BUDDHIST ART PAVILION, THAILAND BIENNALE, CHIANGRAI 2023
(ART DIRECTOR)
Art Director of the project, manages and oversees the theme and construction process of the MFU Buddhist Art Pavilion.

2022 CHIANG RAI AIRPORT INTERSECTION LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (ENTIC), CHIANG RAI
(ART DIRECTOR & DESIGNER)
Creates and designs the overall artistic aesthetic of the project's landscaping, including sculptures, tunnel's walls, and more.

2021 MFU WELLNESS CENTER, CHIANG RAI
(INSTRUCTOR)
Creates and instructs the Therapeutic Art Course together with the therapists and psychologists for the university's staffs and students.

2020 WAT MAE KHAO TOM THA SUD TEMPLE, CHIANG RAI
(ART DIRECTOR)
Designs and creates the Buddhist Art mural in Lanna Thai style for the Buddha hall of the temple.

2020 WAT PHRA SINGH TEMPLE, CHIANG RAI
(HEAD OF PAINTING SECTION)
Creates and conducts the Buddhist Art mural in Lanna Thai style for the Buddha hall of the temple.

2020 - NOW MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY, CHIANG RAI
(BUDDHIST ART DEPARTMENT LECTURER)
Co - Founder of the curriculum, develops and manages lesson plans for students in three levels: Beginner, Advanced, and Intermediate. Informs students about art competitions and offer suggestions.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 “Before Thought” – Central Plaza Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “SAÑÑĀDHAMMA” – Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Bangkok
- 2025 “The 1st Asian Association for Buddhist Studies Conference” – Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
 “The Human Everest” – La Luna Gallery, Chiang Mai
 “Present / Absent” – Chiang Mai Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai
 “The 3rd Buddhist Art MFU Exhibition” – Chiang Rai Contemporary Art Museum(CCAM), Chiang Rai
 “Asian Art Century: Asia 2.0 Transforming Identities” – Weave Artisan Society, Chiang Mai
 “The 13th Abstract International Juried Art Exhibition” – Teravana Fine Art Gallery, USA (Digital)
- 2024 “Buddhist Art of MFU” – Central Plaza Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
- 2023 “12th Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “MFU 2nd Buddhist Art Exhibition” – ICONSIAM, Bangkok
 “The Universe of Buddhist Art” Pavilion, Thailand Biennale Chiang Rai: 2023 –MFU, Chiang Rai
 “Silpa Bhirasri's Day” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
- 2022 “MFU 1st Buddhist Art Exhibition” – ICONSIAM, Bangkok
 “Silpa Bhirasri's Day” – 9 Art Gallery, Chiang Rai
- 2019 “Same Difference” – Sanfran Burger & Beer, Chiang Rai
 “Open House – Buddhist Art Exhibition” – Mekong Basin Civilization Museum, Chiang Rai
- 2018 “From Buddhist Heart to Buddhist Art: 4th Buddhist Art Exhibition” – Wat Rong Khun Temple, Chiang Rai
 “Hi ! Summer Art Exhibition” – 9 Art Gallery, Chiang Rai
- 2017 “From Buddhist Heart to Buddhist Art: 3rd Buddhist Art Exhibition” – Wat Suthiwanaram Temple, Bangkok
 “99 Artists for King RAMA IX” – Cherntawan International Meditation Center, Chiang Rai
 “Chiang Rai Artists ART Auction by Maelao Artists Group” – Maelaowitthayakhom Provincial School, Chiang Rai
- 2016 “Out of Bridge ABCR Exhibition Chiang Mai Design Week 2016” – TCDC Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai
 “From Buddhist Heart to Buddhist Art: 2nd Buddhist Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “5th Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “Buddhist Art Department Art Exhibition” – Wat Phrathat Chaehang, Nan
 “International Mekong River Region Artists Exhibition” – CRRU Museum, Chiang Rai
- 2015 “Vision – Thai Art Exhibition”– Chamchuri Art Gallery, Bangkok
 “Art from The Dhamma: 1st Buddhist Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “4th Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “Small Works by 200 Art Bridge Artists” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
- 2014 “3rd Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
- 2013 “2nd Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition” – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
 “35th Bua Luang Paintings Exhibition” – The Queen’s Gallery, Bangkok
 “The 59th National Exhibition of Art” – Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok
 “SPOT ART 2013” – ARTrium@MICA, Singapore, SINGAPORE

EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 "1st Art Bridge Chiang Rai Art Exhibition" – Art Bridge Chiang Rai, Chiang Rai
"Generation's Evolution" – PSG Art Gallery, Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok
- 2011 "Way of Tangibles – Intangibles" – 9 Art Gallery, Chiang Rai
"100 Youth Artists Workshop for 750 Years of Chiang Rai The City of Arts" – Rimkok Resort Hotel, Chiang Rai
"Youth Contemporary Artists Workshop" – Ban Dam Nanglae, Chiang Rai
- 2010 "Imagination in Thai Art Contemporary Exhibition" – Thai Bank Museum, Bangkok
"Art Thesis Exhibition 2010" – PSG Art Gallery, Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok
- 2009 "Reflection of Voice" – Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok

THANK YOU



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