

Kamin Lertchaiprasert: Beyond... (sculpture)

Based in the city of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, Kamin Lertchaiprasert considers art as a process for a better understanding of life and nature, and takes a course of creative activity that emphasizes process, aiming to integrate art and life. His works are often based on real-life experience such as events of daily life and conversations he had with people. After re-apprehending those experiences objectively through his daily practice of meditation, the artist transforms them into his works as diary-like sculptures and drawings. Many of his works depict human figures sitting in meditation which can be interpreted as quotidian portrayals of the artist or the people around him, rather than as representations of Buddha.

A sequel to his Bangkok solo show of the same title last year is a series of 24 bronze sculptures presented in *Beyond...* which alludes to natural providence beyond vision and hearing, beyond all human perception. In the drawings exhibited in the Bangkok exhibition, a symbol-like motif was drawn on the front side of a paper, and a meditating human figure on the back. When mounted as a hanging scroll, only the front side with a mysterious symbol was visible. In contrast, in Tokyo, the symbol is hidden, incised onto the bottom of a seated figure. The bronze sculptures were made by craftsmen in Chiang Mai through a traditional casting method handed down from old times. A seemingly unsophisticated coarse finish is left intentionally, an indication that art is not just a pursuit of technical excellence and decorative beauty. For Kamin, art is to question how we can discover an unostentatious essential life.

With his unique methodology and practice, Kamin Lertchaiprasert strongly leads the Thai contemporary art scene. Art U-room cordially invites you to experience his second solo show with us, the first in four years.

■ Kamin Lertchaiprasert: biography

Born in 1964 in Lop Buri Province, Thailand, he graduated from the Silpakorn University in 1987 where he studied print-making, then moved to the United States. Returning to Thailand in 1992, he developed his interest in Buddhist philosophy and meditation, and established a distinctive creative style of completing a single series by creating an art work a day for as long as one to several years. In addition to seventeen solo exhibitions in and out of Thailand, he participated in international exhibitions including Biennale of Sydney (1993), Venice Biennale (2003), Busan Biennale (2008) among others. Along with his own artistic practice, Lertchaiprasert actively deals with activities rooted in his relationships with others and society, by co-founding an experimental community *The Land* in Chiang Mai with Rirkrit Tiravanija, and by initiating a collaborative project with a community upon *Kanazawa Art Platform 2008*.



Above images from *Beyond... (sculpture)* 2007-2009, a series of 24 bronze sculptures, Ed.7 +AP1, Edition: Art-U room

Exhibition details:

Kamin Lertchaiprasert: Beyond... (sculpture)

April 11 - May 3, 2009

Tue.-Sat. 12:00-19:00. Sun.12:00-17:00. closed Mon.

Reception with the artist: April 24th, 18:00 - 20:00.

Support: Royal Thai Embassy in Tokyo

Art-U room

5-51-3 Galeria 3F, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan #150-0001

Tel. 03-5467-3938 / Mail artuinfo@abox23.so-net.ne.jp

URL www.art-u-room.com



Sitting 2004-2006, installation of 366 drawings on handmade paper and 366 wood sculptures (exhibition view at Busan Biennale 2008)

For further information and images, please inquire by phone or e-mail



ART FAIR TOKYO 2009 April 3-5 @ TOKYO BLDG. TOKIA. GALLERIA / Booth T07

*Art-U room presents a preview exhibition of Kamin Lertchaiprasert's *Beyond... (sculpture)*