

Manit Sriwanichpoom's "Shocking Pink Story" at Tyler Rollins Fine Art

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"Horror in Pink #2," 2001, Manit Sriwanichpoom, Lambda print on Kodak Endura paper
(Tyler Rollins Fine Art)

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Photographer Manit Sriwanichpoom from Thailand is showing his works at an exhibition titled "Shocking Pink Story" at Tyler Rollins Fine Art. The exhibition, the artist's first solo in the United States, is on view through October 27, 2018.

Manit Sriwanichpoom (born 1961, Bangkok) is one of the most notable and internationally recognized photo artists of his generation from Thailand. He is known for his works themed on the lines of socio-political issues, underlined with formal elegance and ironic humor. “Shocking Pink Story” is a 20-year survey exhibition of the artist’s ongoing ‘Pink Man’ series, which contains some of the most recognizable and dramatic contemporary photographs from Southeast Asia.

“Shocking Pink Story” features photographs beginning from the year 1997, the first year of the series, through images from 2018, some of which have never been exhibited before. Alongside is shown video and installation works by the artist.

“Always with an artist’s sensitivity to the interplay between the sensuousness of surface aesthetics and the emotional and ideological contents they embody, he sought to develop a deeper critique that could convey what he calls ‘emotional truth’ while giving free rein to his urge toward visual exuberance,” writes Tyler Rollins Fine Art on Manit Sriwanichpoom. “These various currents coalesced in the mid-1990s with the ‘Pink Man’ series in which a portly man, embodied by Thai poet Sompong Thawee, dressed in a hot pink suit and pushing a similarly colored shopping cart, inserts himself into various aspects of Thai life, mutely lampooning consumer culture. The catastrophic financial crisis that hit Thailand in 1998 brought greater urgency, and a more pointed critique, to the series, which has continued to the present day, chronicling an increasingly jarring sequence of social tensions, political unrest, and coups d’etat.”

“I found that the character took on a life of its own — one of the reasons being the audience response to it,” Sriwanichpoom explains. “And, as an art piece, it can continue because it is still making social commentary. It’s like a cartoon character, like Batman or something. When some trouble crops up, he comes to the rescue. In the case of ‘Pink Man,’ he has become a reflection of current events in our society. I see the character as reflecting an entire era.”

Sriwanichpoom graduated from Bangkok's Srinakharinwirot University in 1984 with a degree in visual art. His commitment to social activism developed during his years as a student, and in the 1980s, he established himself as a photojournalist. He came onto the international art scene two decades back, when he participated in the 1998 Bienal de São Paulo. His works are being shown regularly around the world ever since. He has produced multifarious bodies of work ranging from intimate portraits of his neighbors to morbid images of the effigies of Buddhist monks, scenes of urban riots and street demonstrations — all conveyed with what has been called a unique “combination of technical virtuosity, ambivalence, and depth of feeling with a strange, childlike directness.”

The exhibition runs through October 27, 2018, at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, 529 W 20th St # 10W, New York, NY 10011, USA.

For details, visit <http://hk.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/tyler-rollins-fine-art/overview>

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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