



Since 1990

AKKO ART GALLERY · アコ画廊

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SOMBOON PHOUNGDORKMAI

Artist Profile

Somboon Phoungdorkmai was Born in 1959 to a humble Thai family in Prachinburi, a province between Bangkok and the Cambodian border. She was a stubborn teenager who had to fight against the will of her mother to attend the course at Thavichisilp and Poh-Chang Arts and Crafts Colleges in Bangkok. On graduation, Somboon worked as an art teacher but later left teaching and turned to freelance work.

Very eclectic, Somboon has a profound liking for watercolour, a media that allows her to stand in-situ and paint spontaneously. In this way, flowers, nature and landscapes become some of her favourite topics through which she cultivates a sharp sense of observation with a highly developed concentration to record faithfully either the light and/or the colour of the weather.

This skill came into its own when she encountered the magnificent site of Angkor in Cambodia and spent several months there to produce a huge record of watercolour paintings finally published in a book that resulted in a wide recognition of her talent in Thailand and abroad. Similarly work in another famous place of South-East Asia, Luang Prabang in Laos, brought to her even more credit due to her ability to render genuinely the atmosphere of the location with paintings standing halfway between figurative and impressionist styles. Following a similar process during 1997 and 1998 Somboon Phoungdorkmai engaged herself in a detailed work about the celebrated town of Luang Prabang, which belongs now to the World Heritage. The results of the works were notably inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn during the exhibition at the Rajanakarn Building. Later a third massive book was sponsored which includes many of her works up until 2005.

Exhibitions

Somboon has held numerous exhibitions since 1978. Other than Thailand, she has also held exhibitions in Ostbirk, Denmark; Aarhus, Denmark; Tokyo, Japan; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Kookelaere, Belgium; Luang Prabang, Laos; New York, USA; Washington DC, USA and Hanoi, Vietnam.

Especially Notable Exhibitions include:

1978 1st Vane Croup Exhibition. Rajburi, Thailand

1987 Exhibition of Aesthetics in Honour of the King, Bangkok, Thailand

1992 *Asian Young Artists' Exhibition*, Tokyo, Japan

1995 *Exhibition: An Artist at Angkor* – organised by Akko Art Gallery

-May: The Royal Cambodian Embassy. Bangkok, Thailand

-Sep: The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

-Oct: Akko Collectors' House, Bangkok, Thailand

1995-6 31st and 32nd *Asia Modern Art Exhibition*, Japan

1998 *Amazing Blossoms*, Siam City Hotel, Thailand – organized by Akko

1998 *An Artist in Luang Prabang*, Rajanakarn Building, Bangkok

Inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn

2000 *Where have all the Flowers gone?* Akko Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2004 *An Evening With Thai Artists*, Royal Thai Consulate, New York, USA

2004 *An Evening With Thai Artists*, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington DC, USA

2008 Exhibition at the Vietnam Fine Art Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam

2008 *Letter from Hanoi* at Akko Art Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2010 "20/20 – Twenty Years, Twenty Artists"

Akko Art Gallery's 20 Year Anniversary Exhibition at Bangkok Art & Culture Centre.

