

MIGRANTS TO INSPIRE SCULPTURES

Kye Mackey

THAI-BORN artist Vipoo Srivilasa said he expected to hear the unexpected when he asks Australian immigrants what they miss most about their home countries.

The one-on-one discussions will inspire sculptures for Srivilasa's participatory art project, Thai-na-town Little Oz, hosted by 4A Centre for Con-

THE SCHEDULE

June 14, 2-6pm: @Bangkok Restaurant, Capitol Theatre Arcade
June 15, 12-5pm: Chon Siam, 38 Campbell St
June 16, 17, 12-5pm: House Restaurant, 202 Elizabeth St

temporary Asian Art.

"The project addresses migration and the experience of cultural shifts that occur when one moves," Srivilasa said. "I plan to talk with each

participant about what they miss most about their home, and then help them to recreate that object, person or food in quick-drying clay." The project will take place

from Thursday to Sunday in a series of Thai restaurants on Campbell St, affectionately known as Thainatown.

Srivilasa will be hosting a talk about his project at 12.30pm on June 15 at Chon Siam restaurant.

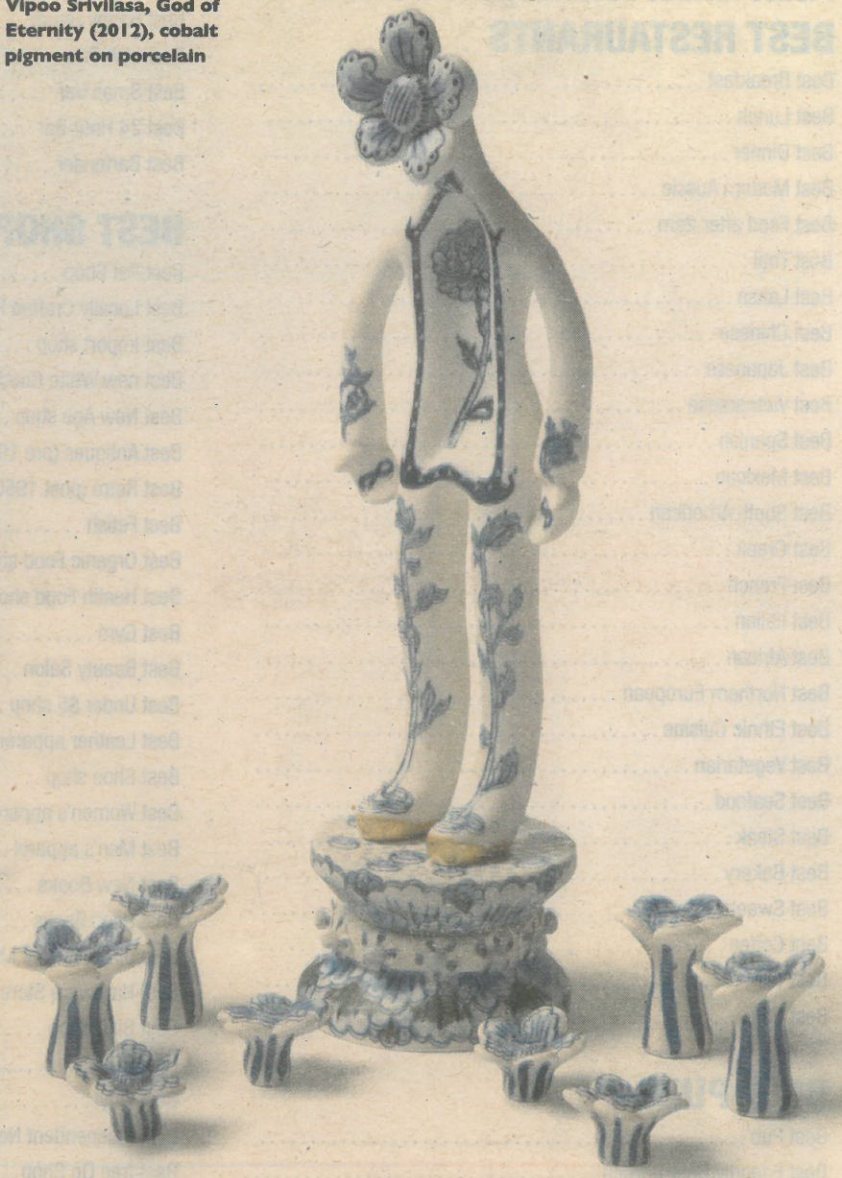
To participate in a 15-20 minute workshop contact toby.chapman@4a.com.au or phone 02 9212 0380



Vipoo Srivilasa. CENTRAL, Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Image courtesy and copyright the artist

Vipoo Srivilasa, God of Eternity (2012), cobalt pigment on porcelain



THAI NA TOWN - LITTLE OZ

When migrants make the long journey away from home to settle in a new country they often leave a lot behind, but they always retain a little something special that is transported to new communities - communities that begin to flourish with culture. Sydney is awash with multicultural centres, some of which have only recently become popular, but none so much as Chinatown in the heart of the city. And nestled in between all the Yum Cha and Peking duck huts is the affectionately termed 'Thainatown.' This strip of restaurants on Campbell Street is the focus of Thai-born artist Vipoo Srivilasa's latest work *Thai Na Town - Little Oz*. The work, hosted in association with 4A community projects, will attempt to open up communication between Sydney and

Bangkok by asking migrants to share their journeys in a series of 'pop up' studios in Campbell Street. With the help of Srivilasa these stories will be transformed into sculptures which will be sent back home to family and friends - a memento that will represent the nature of longing for home. The workshop will then move on to a little area of Bangkok known to expats as Little Oz where Srivilasa hopes to repeat the process with an entirely different group of migrants. If you have a story you want to share then head along to the pop-up studios at the Bangkok Restaurant, Thursday June 14 (2-6pm); Chon Siam, Friday June 15 (12-5pm); House Restaurant, Saturday June 16 (12-5pm) and June 17 (12-5pm). Head to 4a.com.au for more information. (NH)