

VIPOO SRIVILASA ROOP-ROTE-RUANG (TASTE-TOUCH-TELL)



Melbourne-based artist Vipoo Srivilasa works mostly in ceramics, exploring similarities between the cultures of his native Thailand and Australia, his adoptive home. Using blue and white porcelain, he creates complex narratives through highly decorated images applied to the surfaces of ceramic forms. His work requires an intimacy in which the key elements of the drama are often found in unusual places within the forms themselves.

Vipoo Srivilasa's project **Roop – Rote – Ruang (Taste - Touch - Tell)** takes the form of both an exhibition at Gallery 4A and a series of dinner parties, hosted by the artist, at various private residences in Sydney. The exhibition here in the gallery focuses on environmental issues such as coral reef damage. This includes a series of blue and white, intricately decorated ceramic hands. Visitors can participate in the creation process by building their own pieces of coral from clay provided in the gallery. Those coral pieces will gradually come together to form a coral reef, growing larger as more people participate in the project.

At the dinner parties, Srivilasa's work unfolds as the meal is consumed. Images gradually become exposed on bowls or plates and the full narrative reveals itself as the dinners

reach conclusion. To view images and read Srivilasa's account of the dinner parties, log on to his website at www.vipoo.org or for more information visit www.4a.com.au.

Through each element of **Roop- Rote – Ruang**, Srivilasa allows his audience to experience his work on many levels. He embraces the Buddhist concept of 'ayatana', or the six channels of awareness. This means that sight (eyes), taste (tongue), smell (nose), hearing (ears), touch (hand) and mindfulness are all engaged. The artist is interested in creating opportunities for sharing between complete strangers and creating different, social ways of exploring complex ideas of his cross-cultural experience.

Vipoo Srivilasa was born in Bangkok, Thailand and arrived in Australia in 1997. Since arriving in Australia he has developed a practice that is ceramics-based but with a strong social context, which can be seen in the many workshops he has developed with children.

Come listen to Vipoo Srivilasa discuss some of the ideas behind **Roop-Rote-Ruang**: SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 2PM



Image captions: Vipoo Srivilasa, *Car* from the Fortune Teller series, 2007, Cool Ice porcelain fire to 1200degrees, hand forming and hand painted with Cobalt pigment, ceramic colour pigment

CLAYWORKS

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