

# 4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

## PHAPTAWAN SUWANNAKUDT CATCHING THE MOMENT EACH STEP IS THE PAST

Exhibition Dates 21 May - 3 July 2010



Opening: 6-8pm Thursday 27 May 2010

To be opened by Tony Bond OAM Assistant Director, Curatorial and Head Curator International Art, Art Gallery of NSW

Venue: 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art  
181-187 Hay St Sydney

4A presents *Catching the Moment; Each Step is the Past*, an exhibition of major new work by Thai-Australian artist Phaptawan Suwannakudt.

*Catching the Moment; Each Step is the Past* is an ephemeral and poignant installation using silk and hand-woven fabric, layered with delicate drawings and Thai texts. This exhibition includes a major new interactive work, *Conversation room*. Two people are invited to sit at a table and work with lengths of shredded silk. The participants are connected through their actions with the silk but obscured by a veiled curtain. Working with the material in silence, participants are able to observe the implications of the other on their attempts to create their own space.

The softness of Suwannakudt's work is underpinned by a serious meditation on communication. Her work is imbued with allegorical and everyday references, resonating with personal memory and experiences. Suwannakudt migrated to Australia in 1996. She describes her entry into Australian culture as both shocking and disorientating – "All of a sudden I did not know where to begin, where my life in Thailand ended and where my new life was to begin," says the artist. Her works evoke a shared need to connect and allows a space to contemplate the dual existence of living both here and elsewhere.

Phaptawan Suwannakudt trained as a temple painter in Thailand. After rising to a respected status within a traditionally rigid, patriarchal tradition, Suwannakudt continued to challenge her practice by migrating to Australia. She has exhibited widely internationally in Paris, Bangkok, Tokyo, Melbourne, Manila, and recently completed a residency with *Womanifesto* in Thailand.

For media enquiries, high res images or to arrange an interview please contact Yu Ye Wu 02 9212 0380, 0432 810 388  
media@4a.com.au

#### IMAGE:

Phaptawan Suwannakudt  
from *Catching the Moment; Each Step is the Past* (detail) (2010)  
ink on silk  
Courtesy of the artist



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Open 11am-6pm, Tuesday - Saturday, closed public holidays

The Asian Australian Artists Association is supported by



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