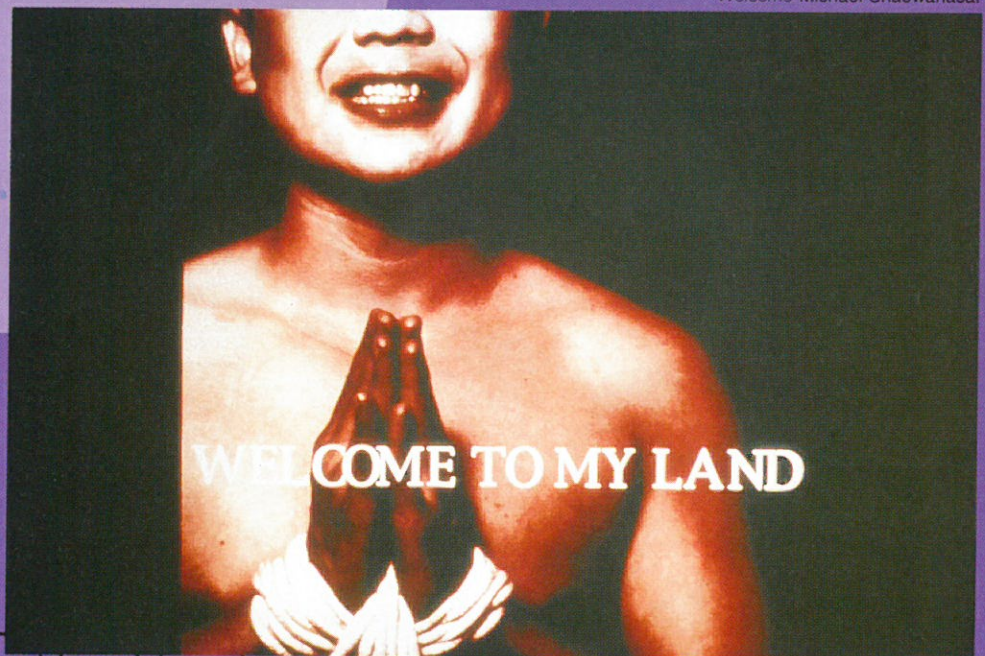


Welcome Michael Shaowanasai



# PERSUASION

Thai male prostitutes and the rituals of Chinese marriage feature in this exhibition by Thai/American **Michael Shaowanasai** and Vietnamese/Australian **Toby Huynh**.

Michael Shaowanasai focuses on sex for sale. His works at alternative galleries and public sites in Bangkok explore the male sex worker in one of the most infamous destinations for sex tourism within our region. Shaowanasai's installation and performances for the Festival critically evaluate the sex industry in Thailand by re-creating a Go-Go bar, complete with instructional video.

Shaowanasai is best known for confronting these social issues and others relating to sexuality. He said: "For a while I used to tell journalists that I was the only gay artist in the country. The journalists would say that wasn't true, so I would challenge them to name the others." He has shown his work in London, San Francisco, Ottawa, Chicago and Berlin.

**Toby Huynh's** digital images explore the rituals associated with Chinese marriages. Huynh's work proposes an alternative set of rituals that Buddhist same-sex couples could perform. Would couples, for instance, kneel down in front of their ancestors and offer them tea? These images subtly evoke the tension between traditional cultural and religious values and contemporary gay and lesbian life. Huynh was born in Vietnam and currently resides in Singapore. She has participated in exhibitions at Casula Powerhouse and Raw Nerve. Gallery 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association.

*Persuasion* is curated by Melissa Chiu **WHEN FEBRUARY 16  
- MARCH 18**

**TIME WEDNESDAY TO  
SATURDAY NOON - 6PM**

**WHERE GALLERY 4A  
LEVEL 3  
53-55 LIVERPOOL STREET  
SYDNEY**

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