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PRESS RELEASE

***A Minor History* | ประวัติศาสตร์กระช้อยร้อย**

Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Date: 19 August 2021 – 27 February 2022

Venue: At 100 Tonson Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand

**Note*

Part One

19 August – 14 November 2021

Part Two

25 November 2021 – 27 February 2022

100 Tonson Foundation proudly presents *A Minor History*, the latest project by **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**, whose non-linear works often revolve around light, time, dreams, personal and social memories.

A Minor History comprises a two-part exhibition in Apichatpong's ongoing cinematic portrayal of Isan - Thailand's northeastern region. The first installment is a three-channel video installation resulting from the artist's journey along the Mekong River during Thailand's recent pandemic lockdowns. He accumulated interviews and photographs that reflect the country's shifting political climate.

The piece focuses on two encounters, beginning with a Mukdahan local who recovered the wrapped bodies of political activists found in the river, and followed by the discovery of an old cinema theatre in Kalasin province. The skeletal remains of the cinema, infested with pigeons, are juxtaposed with images of the nocturnal flow of the Mekong. Behind lurks a *Morlam* (Isan folk performance) theater backdrop that depicts an empty palace. Majestic colors are dimmed in darkness and at times illuminated by the flickering film.

For the work's audio component, Apichatpong collaborates with **Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr**, his longtime sound designer, and for the first time with a young Isan poet, **Mek Krung Fah** (the half-cloudy sky). The poet composes a fictional story and impersonates a man and his lover as they stroll along the riverbank. The narration mimics an old cinema and radio drama dubbing style from a bygone era.

With its hybrid form of storytelling, the installation hovers in the realms of reality and dreams. It reflects on the decay of memories and representations, on the disintegration of social narrative and truth. To Apichatpong, these lights from the road are a memorial to childhood innocence, and an awakening to the unspeakable violence in Thai society. The show is a tribute to the political dissidents whose forced disappearance lingers like a myth.

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Video installation by Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Sound Designer: Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr

Narrator (voice-dubbing): Mek Krung Fah

Project Director/Curator: Manuporn Luengaram



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A Minor History is scheduled to be on view from August 2021 through February 2022. As the COVID-19 situation in Thailand continues to unfold, we will be paying close attention to guidance and restrictions as we reopen our space to the public.

Special thanks: Bangkok CityCity Gallery and MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum

About the Artist

Recognized as one of the most original voices in contemporary cinema, Apichatpong's works have won him widespread international recognition and numerous awards, including the Cannes Palme d'Or for *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (2010), the Cannes Competition Jury Prize for *Tropical Malady* (2004), and the Cannes Un Certain Regard Prize for *Blissfully Yours* (2002).

He has participated in numerous biennials, including the Sharjah Biennial, (receiving the Sharjah Biennial Prize, 2013); dOCUMENTA13, Kassel (2012); Singapore Biennale (2008). He was the Principal Laureate of the 2016 Prince Claus Awards, the Netherlands and held a retrospective of his film at Tate Modern on the same year. In 2019, Apichatpong was awarded the Artes Mundi prize, the UK's largest prize for international contemporary art.

His ongoing projects include *Fever Room*, a projection performance about displaced consciousness. Since 2016, a large-scale retrospective of his visual artworks has been held at various countries, starting at MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai, The Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD), Manila, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, and Taipei Fine Arts Museum. His latest film, *Memoria*, featuring Tilda Swinton, won the Cannes Competition Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival, 2021. Apichatpong currently lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

About 100 Tonson Foundation

Over the past 18 years, 100 Tonson Gallery has been a forefront contemporary art gallery in Thailand and Asia. The gallery has mounted over 100 exhibitions and programs of both local and international artists. Since 2015 we have supported artists and curators in their ambitious experimentations and through long-term programming, while generating greater cultural exposure to the public at large.

In 2020, 100 Tonson Gallery officially transitioned into a non-profit organization under the name 100 Tonson Foundation. All profits and donations directly support the production of exhibition and new commissions while allowing us to keep our diverse public programs free for visitors.

100 Tonson Foundation aims to further elevate the stature of Thai contemporary art internationally, as well as to support the progress of the local art community. The foundation provides opportunity for artists to exhibit across all art disciplines at its unique Christian Liaigre designed space in the heart of Bangkok. The scope of the foundation's support stretches beyond these white-cube walls. The foundation establishes relationships and collaborations with renowned international museums and art institutions.