

## Saran Youkongdee

"No one can escape the shadow of oneself" is the philosophy behind his creations. His designs obviously speak of who he is and his passion for Thai culture which is shaped by his experience since he was young to the present date. He has travelled in many places around Thailand where he had the chance to meet and talked to different people and listened to their stories and beliefs. He has had the opportunity to learn from them which he will never get from books. He is particularly interested in local craftsmanship. He has visited villages around the country and learned ancient techniques from the local villagers. He would love to keep what he has learned from them, so he combines them with modern arts to design products appropriate to the current lifestyle.

His highest goal as a designer is to be a part of making Thai designs stronger and more competitive in the global market. It might take a long time but it's better to do something than not to do anything. He would like to do it to create opportunities for future Thai designers. This is his way to give back to what his country has given him in return because he is Thai and he will forever live in the shadow of his beloved country.

## サラン・ ユコンディ

「自分自身の影から逃れられる者はいない」という哲学が彼の創作の背景にあります。彼のデザインは、タイ人としての幼少から今日までの経験からもたらされた、タイ文化への情熱と彼自身を物語っています。タイ国内を広く旅し、本からは決して得られない知識を求めて、様々な人に会い、彼らの物語と信仰について知る機会を得てきました。彼の興味は特に地方の工芸文化にあり、国内の村々を回り先祖代々伝わる技術を学んできました。そしてこれらの技術が継承されることを目指し、近現代の美術と結びつけ、今日の生活に適したデザインを創造しています。

彼のゴールは、タイのデザインが、世界市場の競争に耐え得るように、デザイナーとして貢献することです。これは時間がかかることかもしれませんが、意味のあることでしょう。それが、彼なりの祖国への恩返しなのです。なぜなら、彼はタイ人であり、そして愛する祖国の影の元、永遠に生きるからです。

sarran@hotmail.co.th  
saranyoukongdee.com

## EXHIBITIONS

Milan Fair 2012 / Italy  
MAISON&OBJET 2011 Paris/ France  
Milan Fair 2011 / Italy  
Paper World 2011 International Frankfurt Fair Germany  
MAISON&OBJET 2010 Paris/ France  
Paper World 2010 International Frankfurt Fair Germany  
Ambiente 2010 International Frankfurt Fair Germany  
Talent Thailand NEON Interior Lifestyle Japan 2009 Tokyo  
Young Talent Thailand NEON Interior Lifestyle Japan 2008 Tokyo

## AWARDS

2011 The Winner "Thai Creative Award 2011-2012" by OKMD Thailand  
Good Design Awards 2011 by Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization  
Design Excellence Award 2011  
2010 Good Design Awards 2010 by Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization  
Design Excellence Award 2010  
2009 Good Design Awards 2009 by Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization  
Design Excellence Award 2009  
Designer of the year 2009  
Design Award Bombay Sapphire Designer Glass Competition  
Design Award Men in Trend Young Creative Bag & Shoes Design Contest 2008  
2008 Emerging Designer of the year 2008  
The Winner Thai Furniture Designer Development Project 2008 DEP THAI  
The Winner ELLE Decoration Design Contests 2008 ELLE Decoration Magazine  
The Winner Thailand Wedding Design Award 2008  
The Best Creative MK Young Creative Design Contest 2008  
The Best Presentation Thainox Design Award 2008  
2007 The Winner "Gift Design Award 2007 "DEP THAI  
The Winner "Young Designer Contest 2007 / Home Decoration  
Design Award ECO Living ETC 2007 Living ETC Magazine  
2006 The Winner "OTOP Designer Award 2006  
Design Award ELLE Decoration Design Contests 2006 ELLE Decoration Magazine  
Design Award Thailand Wedding Design Award 2006  
2005 The Winner "Flower Design Decoration Contest Baan Las Suan On TV 2005  
The Winner Kalawin Design Contest 2005  
Design Award Window Display Design Contests 2005 Central Plaza  
Design Award Thailand Wedding Design Award 2005  
2004 The Winner "IP Family Design Contest 2004" Department of Intellectual Property  
The Winner "Flower Design Contest" Baan Las Suan Fair 2004  
Design Award "Young Designer Contest 2004" Thai Gift & Premiums Association



# S P I R I T

Saran Youkongdee  
16 - 27 May 2012  
Youkobo Art Space

JAPAN FOUNDATION

JENESYS  
Programme



youkobo ART SPACE, Tokyo www.youkobo.co.jp  
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Every year the invitation Programme for Creators invites approximately 20 young and emerging creators, of age 35 or younger from 13 Asia Pacific facilities and arts and cultural institutions for one to three months. Invitees are provided with financial and professional support during their stay. Administered by the "Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths: JENESYS Programme"

東アジアクリエイター招へいプログラムとは、日本のアーティスト・イン・レジデンス実施機関や芸術文化機関等を受入団体として、アジア・大洋州13カ国から35歳以下の若手クリエイターを年間約20名、1〜3カ月間招へいし、滞在中の活動および成果発表や関連事業などを支援する事業です。本事業は、「21世紀東アジア青少年大交流計画 (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths: JENESYS Programme)」の一貫として実施されています。

Youkobo Art Space manages an Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program and a non-profit gallery for domestic and foreign artists, and also commit to supporting other AIR programs, to international exchanges and community activities through art, and to nurture young art workers. As a 'studio ('kobo') for 'you' (also means 'play' in Japanese), Youkobo aims to give many people opportunities for art and cultural experiences, by supporting artists' autonomous activities. An official member of ResArtist Artist (Worldwide Network of Artist Residencies).

造工房アトスペースは、国内外のアーティストが滞在制作するアーティスト・イン・レジデンス (AIR) と、作品を展示・発表する非営利ギャラリーを主軸に、AIRの支援・推進、アートを通じた国際交流やコミュニティ活動、人材育成にも取り組んでいます。「ユー (あなた・遊)」の「工房」として、アーティストの自律的な活動の支援と、多くの方が芸術文化を身近に体験できる場を目指します。アーティストインレジデンス世界ネットワーク ResArtis 正会員。





'SPIRIT', 2012, paper, video projection & sound

#### <Residency at Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo and Fukuoka>

During his 2-month residency at Youkobo Art Space, Saran pursued a range of activities. In April, he ran special art classes at Momoshi Elementary School, which neighbours Youkobo. The school children created sculptures of trees sized to their own height and presented them outdoors in "Trolls in the Park, Children's exhibition" held at the Metropolitan Zempukui Park during the May "golden week". As a result of his studio residency he presented a participatory installation artwork titled 'SPIRIT'. Visitors completed Tanszaku (a strip of long paper) by answering the artist's questions, then adding it to the artwork. He also joined a course in Ogawa-cho, Saitama, to experience traditional Japanese Papermaking. Here he listened to local's stories enthusiastically with his passion for preserving rural craftsmanship in Thailand. After his residency in Tokyo, through the introduction of Youkobo he moved to Studio Kura in Fukuoka, where he then presented an artwork "Spirit Away" at Itoshima Arts Farm 2012 also ran further workshops for local children.



#### <遊工房アトスペースでの滞在制作、そして東京と福岡>

遊工房アトスペースでの2カ月の滞在制作で、様々な活動を展開しました。4月には、遊工房に隣接する桃井第四小学校で特別授業を行い、「私の中の木」をテーマに子ども達は自分の背丈の高さの木を制作しました。作品は、5月のゴールデンウィーク中に地元善福寺公園で野外展示しました「トロールの森2012春の子供展」。滞在制作の成果展「SPIRIT」では、参加型の展示を行い、来訪者が作家の問い掛けに対応した短冊作りをし、作品に加えていきました。又、タイの地方工芸保存に情熱を傾けるサランは、埼玉県小川町の和紙紙造き体験に参加し、地元の人の話に熱心に耳を傾けました。2カ月の東京での滞在制作の後、遊工房の紹介で福岡のStudio Kuraへ移動。「糸島芸農祭2012」に作品「Spirit Away」を出展。又、期間中に地元の子供の為のワークショップも行いました。



"As I have known Khun Saran for years as a talent young Thai Designer, I am impressed with his strong intention to make design as a good tool to answer several questions both for his life and for all of his friends in this world. I have no doubt that he received top awards of the country like Thai Creative Awards, Design Excellent Mark etc. His future will be as bright as shining star and I believed so."

Supatra Srisook  
Former Assistant Director General, Department of Export Promotion  
Ministry of Commerce, Royal Thai Government

「私は、才能ある若手タイ人デザイナーとしてのサランを良く知っており、人々の人生における世界共通の問題について、デザインをもって応えたいという彼の強い意志に感銘を覚えます。彼が、'Thai Design Award', 'Design Excellent Mark' などの国内最高の数々の賞を受けるに値するのは自明のことです。彼の未来が輝く星の様に眩しいことを確信しています。」

Supatra Srisook  
タイ王立政府商務省輸出振興局 前局長補佐



#### <My first experience of residency program in abroad, Japan.>

Distance is not always the indicator of difference. This is what I have learned during my participation in the JENESYS Program hosted by the Japan Foundation. During my activities at Youkobo Art Space, an experience that I gained from a workshop with children was really special for me. 'Tree in My Mind' is a tree which will grow both in the children's hearts and imaginations. 'SPIRIT' was the first exhibition in Japan in which I combined Japanese and Thai culture to look for the similarities and the differences of each. It was about finding what our hearts have lost through living in the big city. Then, during my trip to Fukuoka, I participated with Kura Studio in the event Itoshima Art Farm 2012. There were workshops about rice design and I held an exhibition called 'Spirit Away'. It told a fictional story about rice through artwork made from paper displayed among beautiful nature. Moreover, during my stay in Japan, I had an opportunity to discuss with famous local artists and designers, and to learn about the traditional Japanese papermaking process. Even though each place is quite far away from other places and quite different, something in the soul is similar. Everywhere I go, I feel like it is home.

Saran Youkongdee

#### <初めてのレジデンス体験>

距離が相違を生み出すとは限らない。これは、国際交流基金が主催するJENESYSプログラムに参加して学んだことだ。遊工房アトスペースでの活動中、子供達とのワークショップから得た経験は、特に印象深かった。「私の中の木」は、子供の心と想像力の両方の中で育つ木だ。日本での初めての展覧会となった「SPIRIT」では、日本とタイの文化を組み合わせる類似点と相違点を探した。それは、大都会の生活の中で失われた私達の心を探すことでもあった。続く福岡ではにStudio Kura に滞在し、「糸島芸農祭2012」に参加した。そこでは、お米をテーマにしたデザインのワークショップを行い、「Spirit Away」と題した展示を行った。紙で作った作品を美しい自然の中に飾って、お米にまつわる寓話を表現した。更に、日本での滞在中、地元の有名な作家やデザイナーと対話の機会を得たり、日本の伝統的な紙造の工程を学んだ。それぞれの場所は、互いに遠く離れていて大きな違いがある。けれども、魂の中の何かが似通っている。どこに行こうと、そこが私の家の様に感じるのだ。

サラン・ユコンディ