## 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、様々な人に出会い、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えられように、デザイナーとして貢献することです。これ は時間の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。

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# **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 Lifestive 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

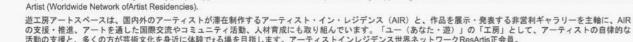
2004 The Winner "IP Family Design Contest 2004" Department of Intellectual Property

The Winner "Flower Design Contest" Baan Las Suan Fair 2004 Design Award "Young Designer Contest 2004" Thai Gift & Premiums Association

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 and cultural institutions for one to three months. Invitees are provided with financial and professional support during their stay. Administered by the "Japan-EastAsia



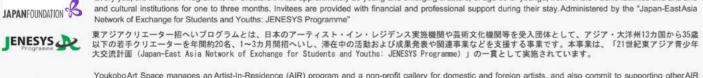
Youkobo Art Space manages an Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program and a non-profit gallery for domestic and foreign artists, and also commit to supporting other AIR programs, to international exchanges and community activities through art, and to nurture young art workers. As a 'studio ('kobo') for 'you'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

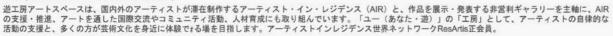














# SPIRIT

Saran Youkongdee 16 - 27 May 2012 Youkobo Art Space



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

<Residency at Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo and Fukuoka>

During his 2<sup>1</sup>-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 Zempukuji 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.



<遊工房アートスペースでの滞在制作、そして東京と福岡>

遊工房アートスペースでの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漉き体験に参加し、地元の人の話に熱心に耳を傾けました。2ヵ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。遊工房アー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、子供の心と相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て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、日本の伝統的な紙漉の 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