

# ARNDT

## MIT JAI INN

Mit Jai Inn's paintings come into being at his outdoor Chiang Mai studio, where he gives turns to the vibrating spectrum of sun and moonlight, with nocturnal interludes of white fluorescent. He considers his laborious painting process a form of meditation, a rhythm for an optimistic non-time – both separate and complimentary to his public role as a political agitator.

Embedded in Jai Inn's multi-layered, colorful compositions and ongoing serial forms are nods to 'Eastern' and "Western' paintings' histories, memories of a sacred-secular intimacy of color-form-function, and site-specific dedications to the nations, spaces, hosts or publics of his works. While the artist is less interested in general religious associations between his paintings and suspended prayer flags or rolled iconographic ceremonial painting, he is inspired by and willfully inherits associations with their direct purpose: to create a merit-field for the makers and their publics; to be an invitation, an opening

For *Traitor and Tradition*, the hanging *Untitled (Wall Work)* and standing *Untitled (Scrolls)* are encrusted with blotches and varying measures and blurs of longitude and latitude. The artist speaks of this series as site-specific memorial, "Both consciously and unconsciously, they are a recognition of the atmosphere and liveliness of the Berlin I knew...retrospective and blurred memories...a vibration from a distance."

Jai Inn spent the years between 1986 -1992 based in Vienna, assisting Franz West and studying at Academy of Arts. His ongoing series *Wall Works* began in Berlin in 1986 as playful alternatives to conventional painting styles, economies and exhibitionary frameworks of their time and place. Unstretched and unframed, the one or two-sided color fields on canvas were dealt by a range of public figures such as taxi drivers. Jai Inn's two-sided, free-standing *Scrolls* series began in 2003 after returning to Thailand.

In Thai language, verbs play as a way to socialize. When one invites a friend to share time together, it is usually to 'talk-play', 'walk-play', even 'rest-play'. Jai Inn's works are intended to invite conversations as they sit, rest, lay, hang, curl, and roll-play. The relatively subdued color and heavy weight of his double-canvased, two-faced, multi-layered painting-sculptures for *Traitor and Tradition* suggests a preoccupied play, indeed a nostalgic role-playing of their maker's past.

### Biography

Mit Jai Inn (1960, Chiang Mai) is a widely respected senior Thai artist. He studied at Silpakorn University, Bangkok (1982-1986) and Academy of Arts, Vienna (1987-1992). He is a co-founder of the Chiang Mai Social Installation Project (1992 - ) and engaged with The Land. Jai Inn's recent exhibitions include *Medium at Large*, Singapore Art Museum (2014), *Postpositive: Freaky You Are Always*, SA SA BASSAC, Phnom Penh (2013), *Untitled*, H Gallery, Chiang Mai (2013), *All Our Relations*, 18<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney, Australia (2012), *Museum Serve Project*, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center, Bangkok, Thailand (2011).