

YAVUZ FINE ART | PRESS RELEASE | 6 MAY 2014

Yavuz Fine Art at Art Basel Hong Kong 2014

Booth 3D20 / Hall 3

78

SOLO PRESENTATION BY JAKKAI SIRIBUTR

Art | Basel
Hong Kong | May | 15-18 | 2014

VERNISSAGE
14 May 2014

VENUE
Hong Kong Convention and
Exhibition Centre (HKCEC)

Yavuz Fine Art is pleased to announce its participation in the second edition of Art Basel Hong Kong, presenting a groundbreaking installation by **Jakkai Siributr**.

One of Thailand's leading contemporary artists working primarily in the textile medium, Jakkai Siributr (b. 1969) is known for his intricate and meticulously handmade tapestry and installation works that explore social, political and religious tensions in contemporary Thailand.

Specially commissioned by Yavuz Fine Art for Art Basel Hong Kong 2014, **78** is a large-scale, immersive installation that addresses a controversial event in recent Thai political history, while elaborating on Siributr's continuing artistic concerns. The title of the installation refers to the 2004 Tak Bai Incident in Thailand, a violent and controversial incident where political protests led to the deaths of 78 Thai Muslims as they were being transported to a military camp. The installation is modeled on the Ka'aba, the cuboid structure in Saudi Arabia that functions as a unifying focal point for the Islamic world. As viewers enter the cube structure, they experience a claustrophobic corridor that leads them to a smaller room containing rows of trays. On each tray lies a white *kurta*, a traditional Muslim garment, hand-embroidered with numbers written in Arabic script. There are 78 *kurtas* in all, one for each of the victims of the Tak Bai Incident. Surrounding the installation is a series of three new tapestries, each comprising hundreds of Buddha amulets shrouded in hand-crocheted hemp.

The work is an ambitious departure for Siributr in terms of scale, an engagement with a specific event in Thai history, and the use of a controversial yet reverential aesthetic that draws on a diverse range of historical symbolism. While imbuing the memory of the deaths at Tak Bai with a pronounced sense of dignity, **78** also demands a consideration of the terrible correspondences between religion and political beliefs that should be considered anathema to each other.

Art Basel Hong Kong 2014 will take place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from 15 to 18 May, 2014. Yavuz Fine Art will be located at **Booth 3D20** in **Hall 3**. For more information about Art Basel Hong Kong, please visit www.artbasel.com/hongkong.

For press inquiries, please contact Irene Fung at irene@yavuzfineart.com or at (65) 6338 7900.

Text credit: Brian Curtin

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51 Waterloo Street, #03-01, Singapore 187969 | Tel: +65 6338 7900 | info@yavuzfineart.com | www.yavuzfineart.com
Opening Hours: Tue - Sat: 11am - 7pm, Sun: 1pm - 5pm | Mon & public holidays: by appointment only



78, 2014, steel scaffolding, bamboo, fabric and embroidery, 350 x 350 x 350cm

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Interior view of 78

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Embroidery details of 78

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Pim Somdet I, 2014, crocheted amulets, 165 x 135cm



Detail of *Pim Somdet I*

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jakkai Siributr (b. 1969) is one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists, working primarily in the textile medium. He received a B.A. in Textile and Fine Arts from Indiana University in 1992, and a Masters in Printed Textile Design from Philadelphia University in 1996. Like other Thai artists of his generation, Siributr is particularly aware of the great cultural and political shifts that have taken place in recent decades. While maintaining a rigorous connection to traditional Southeast Asian handicraft, his multi-layered works demonstrate the coded qualities and subversive potential of traditional methods of handicraft for contemporary art practice.

Siributr has exhibited in solo and group shows in Asia and the USA. His works are included in numerous international private and public collections, including the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (USA); Asian Civilisations Museum (Singapore); National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (Taichung, Taiwan); the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (USA) and the Vehbi Koc Foundation (Istanbul, Turkey).

He currently lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand.

ABOUT YAVUZ FINE ART

Yavuz Fine Art focuses on contemporary art, predominantly from the Asian region. Since its inauguration in 2010 in Singapore, the gallery has established itself as one of Southeast Asia's key destinations for showcasing cutting edge art. There is no stylistic or generational thread running through the exhibitions, but strong elements of surprise and independence. Guiding the curatorial programme is the social significance of the artworks and the perception that within their chosen field of endeavour, the artists are among those leading their field.

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