



Current artist in residence at Osage Arts Community

The current artist in residence at Osage Arts Community is Sarawut Chutiwongpeti. Chutiwongpeti works in the realm of "Contemporary Art" and is interested in revealing the unexplored facets of experiences.

"I really like to travel to find something new and gain experiences," said Chutiwongpeti. Chutiwongpeti said his journeys are always linked with inspiration and creativity. "My traveling is so

meaningful to me, both for my knowledge and experiences," said Chutiwongpeti. "Traveling, to me, is like visiting the 'Utopia Stations'. Each of the stations is like one of the 'Utopia Laboratory Stations' where I can realize my wishes come true, one by one."

Chutiwongpeti said it was very hard to be an experimental conceptual installation artist in Thailand. In 1996 he had the chance to create his own installation art project which was curated by Japanese Architecture. He said it was the first time he was able to experiment his skills on a large scale project

After graduating from an art university in 1996, Chutiwongpeti said he was offered a job in a bank. He said the job was "comfortable" and "stable", but also "quite so boring."

"I'm the kind of person who really would like to have freedom and I'm looking for the challenge. I don't want to work as routine job," he said.

Chutiwongpeti experimented with digital arts to Tokyo, Japan and received good feedback. He won the Gold Prize which came with a \$5,000 prize.

From that point, Chutiwongpeti realized if he tried hard his dreams of traveling to other countries could come true.

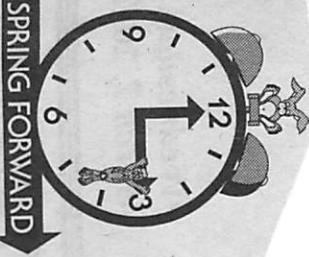
In 1999, his wishes did come true. He was invited by the Japanese government to stay in Japan for six months. He traveled to several cities and learned a lot.

Following his stay in Japan, Chutiwongpeti received more opportunities. He has traveled as an invited artist to Canada, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Egypt, China, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and South Korea.

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Chutiwongpeti said the hosts from all over the world have given him a warm welcome and have taken good care of him.

"As you might imagine, I am just a little guy from a developing country and I don't have any backup who will push me in the right direction," said

Chutiwongpeti. "There are so many good and great artists all over the world. The limited resources about funding in the art right now keep going down or even shut down."

When Chutiwongpeti was young, his parents would ask him what he wanted to be when he grew up. His reply was "Doctor", which always brought a smile to his parents face. However, in primary school Chutiwongpeti enjoyed creating artworks. He was very imaginative with his creations.

As time passed, Chutiwongpeti changed his mind about his career choice.

"I discover that I really enjoy to make the artworks," he said. "I just realize I was born only one time. I would like to be whatever I want to be. I am confident if I concentrate and put all of my energy and try to keep going on, perhaps I could be a good artist."

Most of Chutiwongpeti's ideas come from his sense perception passion and experiences.

"I have a lot of questions about beliefs, good and bad, life and death, love and destiny. I am always mixing between my idealistic and the real situations," he said.

Chutiwongpeti said he gives a lot of credit to his parents and sister for their support while he pursued

his passion or art.

"They know to be an artist is not really so good and unstable, but because they really love me, they let me choose whatever I want to be," he said.

In the next five years, Chutiwongpeti's goal is to be a "Wealthy Artist."

"I have to spend less time working in art. I wills pent and manage much more time for the love," he said. "I would like to keep the balance between life and works."

As far as his stay in Belle, Chutiwongpeti says his impression about the environment is #1. He is amazed at the view of the moon and enjoys being along without interruption.

"Before coming to Missouri I was living in China, so that is quite a lot of people. It's very high contrast for culture and living lifestyles," he said. "At Osage Arts Community I really enjoy my everyday life in my studio and watching the hill through the panoramic window."

Chutiwongpeti said he has time to reflect and think about his next project. He takes evening walks and says the horses always come to smell him.

He has also had the chance to present his works to the Belle High School Art Club and continues working every Tuesday on an art project with students for the Video Art Documentary/Fantasy and Mixed Media Installation Art Project.

"It's my good chance to contribute and exchange culture between Thailand and USA with my real experiences and artistic skills to the local community in Belle," he said.

Chutiwongpeti said he is curious to learn about living in a rural area and would like to visit with farmers and learn the differences between his country and the USA.

"I wishes my 'Utopia Station' in Belle will full lot of great memory and meaningful both for myself and the local community," he said.