

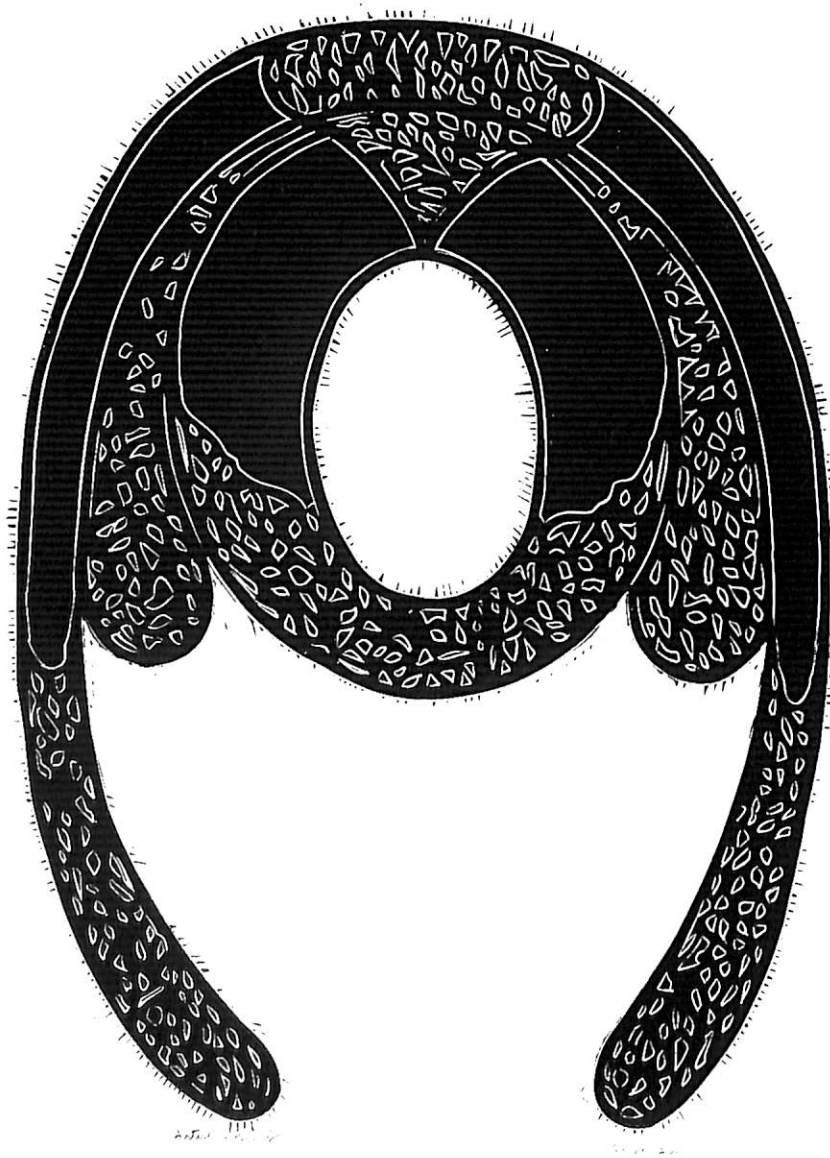
PROVERBS FROM THAILAND
Dhamma Park Art Museum Foundation
WOODCUTS AND WATER COLOURS

BY

INSON WONGSAM
IN AID OF THE DHAMMA PARK FOUNDATION

TO Tony
with Bert Lush
From Thore

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



INSON WONGSAM

by

VENETIA WALKEY

ama IX Art Museum Foundation

If you speak ill of others, your words will rebound on you
ปลาหมอตายเพราะปาก

FINEART
FINEART MAGAZINE CHIANG MAI

คำนำ

ศิลปินแห่งชาติ นับได้ว่าเป็นบุคลากรที่สำคัญยิ่งต่อการสร้างสรรค์องค์ความรู้ทางด้านศิลปวัฒนธรรม ท่านเหล่านี้ผ่านการสั่งสมความรู้พร้อมกับการพัฒนาศาสตร์แขนงต่างๆ ที่ได้เล่าเรียนและศึกษามาตลอดชีวิต ซึ่งได้ถ่ายทอดผลงานอย่างเป็นรูปธรรมในรูปแบบต่างๆ เช่น ด้านทัศนศิลป์ ด้านวรรณศิลป์ ด้านสถาปัตยกรรม และด้านศิลปะการแสดง เป็นต้น สำนักงานคณะกรรมการวัฒนธรรมแห่งชาติ ตระหนักและระลึกถึงความรู้ความสามารถของศิลปินแห่งชาติทุกท่าน จึงมีการดำเนินโครงการเปิดบ้านศิลปินแห่งชาติขึ้น โดยบ้านของนายอินสนธิ วงศ์สาม ศิลปินแห่งชาติ สาขาทัศนศิลป์ (ประติมากรรม) ปีพุทธศักราช ๒๕๔๒ ได้เข้าร่วมในโครงการเปิดบ้านศิลปินแห่งชาติด้วย ซึ่งจะเป็นแหล่งเรียนรู้และแหล่งท่องเที่ยวทางวัฒนธรรมที่สำคัญแห่งหนึ่งของจังหวัดลำพูน

การเรียนรู้ทางศิลปวัฒนธรรมนอกจากจะศึกษาผ่านตัวอักษรแล้วยังสามารถเรียนรู้ และซึมซับความรู้สึกได้จากการชมผลงานทัศนศิลป์ของศิลปิน ดังเช่น การแสดงนิทรรศการผลงานภาพพิมพ์แกะไม้ และภาพจิตรกรรมสีน้ำของ นายอินสนธิ วงศ์สาม ณ บ้านศิลปินแห่งชาติ ซึ่งเป็นกิจกรรมหนึ่งในโครงการเปิดบ้านศิลปินแห่งชาติ การสร้างสรรค์ผลงานของท่านที่นำมาแสดงนิทรรศการนี้ได้ใช้เวลาในการสร้างสรรค์มานานนับปี แล้วจึงนำมารวบรวมและจัดแสดงผลงานให้เป็นที่ชื่นชมแก่ผู้สนใจงานศิลปะและผู้ชมทั่วไป ดังปรากฏในการแสดงนิทรรศการผลงานทางทัศนศิลป์ เรื่อง PROVERBS FROM THAILAND WOODCUTS AND WATER COLOURS BY INSON WONGSAM ซึ่งมีจำนวนผลงานภาพพิมพ์แกะไม้ และภาพจิตรกรรมสีน้ำ ของนายอินสนธิ วงศ์สาม ศิลปินแห่งชาติ จำนวนไม่น้อยกว่า ๘๐ ภาพ

สำนักงานคณะกรรมการวัฒนธรรมแห่งชาติ ขอขอบพระคุณ นายอินสนธิ วงศ์สาม ศิลปินแห่งชาติ ที่ได้สร้างสรรค์ผลงานอันมีคุณค่าต่อการเรียนรู้ทางศิลปวัฒนธรรมของชาวไทยและชาวต่างประเทศ อันจะเป็นการเปิดพื้นที่การแสดงผลงานด้านทัศนศิลป์ของคนไทยให้เป็นที่รู้จักในระดับประเทศต่อไป



(นางปริศนา พงษ์ทัดศิริกุล)
เลขาธิการคณะกรรมการวัฒนธรรมแห่งชาติ

FOREWARD

National Artists are person of great importance in creating body of knowledge on arts and culture. Throughout their lives, these artists have acquired and accumulated their knowledge and experience and developed them in various subjects of education. They have devoted themselves for the creation of artworks in various forms such as visual art, literary art, architecture, and performing art etc. The Office of the National Culture Commission, with great appreciation of valuable knowledge and wisdom of every National Artist, launches the project entitled, "Revealing the Houses of National Artists". The house of Mr. Inson Wongsam, the National Artist in visual art (sculpture) 1999, is known as a learning place and an interesting cultural site for tourism in Lamphoon province.

The learning of art and culture can be achieved not only through literary education, but can also be appreciated by way of watching outstanding works of prominent artists such as Exhibition on Woodcuts and Watercolour Paintings by Mr. Inson Wongsam. This is one of the activities of the "Revealing the Houses of National Artists" Project. The creation of these exhibited artworks has taken a number of years before they can be exposed to the public and interested audiences. The exhibition entitled Proverbs from Thailand Woodcuts and Watercolours by Inson Wongsam comprises no less than 80 pictures.

The Office of the National Culture Commission owes its gratitude to Mr. Inson Wongsam, the National Artist for his artistic creation rendering value and benefit to the learning experience of both Thai and foreigners on the subject of art and culture. This will be a path open for visual art presentation by a Thai to be recognised further at the national level.



(Mrs.Prisna Pongtadsirikul)
Secretary General of the National Culture Commission

Content

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING ARTISTS –
INSON WONGSAM

A CATALOGUE OF HIS UNIQUE WOODCUT PRINTS DESIGNED
FOR A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE DHAMMA
PARK FOUNDATION AND GALLERY IN NORTHERN THAILAND.
By Venetia Walkey. Buddhist Artist and Peace Builder

P. 7 - 20	About the Artist
21	Introduction to the Dhamma Park Foundation and Gallery
34	Biography of Venetia Walkey
35	Inson Wongsam & Venetia Walkey at Dhamma Park & Heritage Gardens
37	See Thai Section Wood Cuts Water Colours Various works of art The Collection at a glance

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



Don't contradict yourself.
พูดกลับไม่กลับมาก



Don't bind your hands or feet.
ขี้มือขี้เท้า

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

About the Artist

Inson Wongsam, Sculptor and National Artist of Thailand, received his country's highest award for Fine Arts in 1999. He was born in Pasang in 1932 in an agricultural village in the province of Lumphun in Northern Thailand. His Father was a Jeweler and Goldsmith who encouraged his talent from the earliest age. He also introduced the first printing press to his neighbourhood. His Maternal Grandfather was a merchant who traded in Burma and the stories of his adventurous journeys inspired his grandson with a strong desire to travel abroad.

Inson became an Icon for succeeding generations when he traveled alone from Thailand to Italy on a Lambretta Scooter, sponsored by Esso company and Berlei Jucker. He spent a fruitful year traveling round Thailand after graduating from Silpakorn University of Fine Arts in 1961 and in 1962 he held a successful one man show of the work he had accomplished, at the Tourist Organisation of Thailand in Bangkok, to raise money for his journey.

The Journey

He was determined to make a pilgrimage to Florence, the birthplace of his teacher Professor Corrado Ferocci (known in Thailand as Sil Pirasri.) The Father of Modern Art in Thailand and founder of Silpakorn University of Fine Arts. Inson wanted to seek inspiration for his work in other countries. He carried his art materials with him and a roll of woodcut prints, depicting scenes of rural life in Thailand, to introduce his country, whose spirit he had captured so well, to the people he would meet on his travels. He exhibited these, together with new works of art he had created in pastel, crayons and water colours, during his journey.



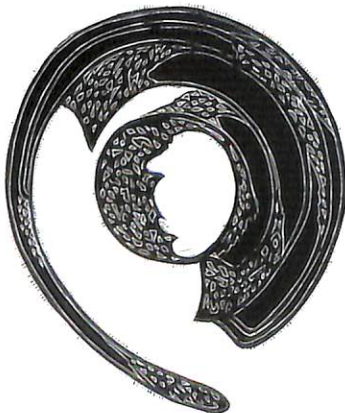
Kai's Octopus



There is no escape from your own shadow.
เงาตามตัว



Worldly treasure is an illusion.
สมบัติ دنیا



Ignorant eyes cannot see clearly
ตาไม่เห็นชัด

Exhibitions en route.

He held exhibitions in New Delhi, Lahore and Karachi, in Tehran, Istanbul and Athens. His work was still figurative and popular but when he reached Greece he realized that it was not contemporary and that he needed to develop his abilities in tune with the new trends. This marked a turning point in his career. He lived with a fisherman and his family on the Island of Corfu for six months where he began to experiment with semi abstract art making woodcuts, wood blocks and prints, which became increasingly abstract. He never returned to figurative art.

Arrival

He arrived in Rome in 1963 where his faithful scooter finally succumbed to the rigours of the journey. After completing his mission to visit Florence he held an exhibition at the Numero Gallery, then traveled on to Vienna and Zurich and held two more exhibitions, before finally settling in Paris where he was so broke on arrival that he lived under the bridges with the Clochards until he was able to afford to rent a place of his own in the Rue Dumat Paris Cinquieme, opposite the Cathedral of Notre Dame

Paris and New York

He lived in Paris from 1963-1966. After a one man show at the prestigious Haut Pave Gallery in 1966 he went to New York to begin a new chapter in his life arriving with only one dollar in his pocket. He established a Studio and workshop in East Greenwich (at St Mark's Place) and six years later, moved to Atlantic Highlands New Jersey.

A versatile artist

Inson has always displayed great versatility in his work, using a variety of media. He began recycling interesting metal objects which had been trashed, making beautiful and useful sculptures. He used silver, brass and copper wire to make simple sculptures and attractive jewelry

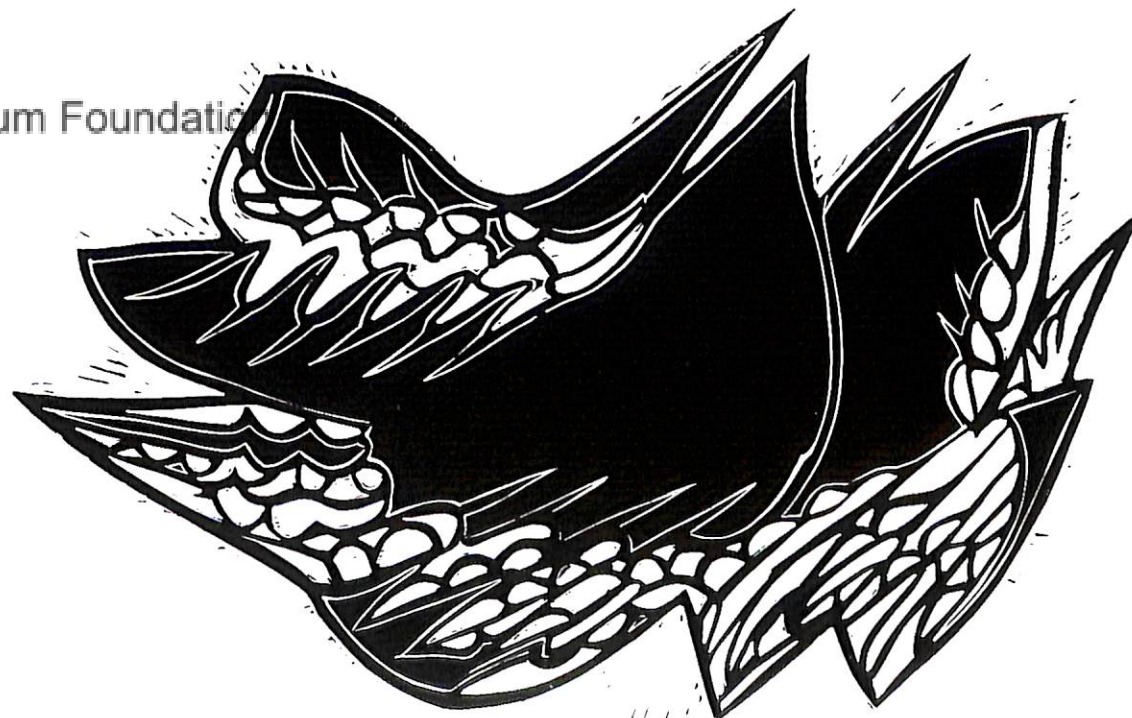


Imaginary machine for
cleaning the environment.

He was inspired by Industrial machinery but appalled by the growing pollution of the environment, so he conceived the idea of civilising them. He believed that artists and scientists should work together, to produce beautiful machines to clean up the environment under the sea on land and in the air, a kind of Sci Fi Art Techno Fix.

After moving to Atlantic Highlands New Jersey, where the sea was badly polluted, he converted an old Barber's shop into a studio and workshop and continued to work on his metal sculptures

He continued with his project and this resulted in the staggering production of over 400 small metal models, constructed from copper and brass sheet, but his concept was too far ahead of its time and he was unable to proceed further with his project. He continued to make new woodblocks



Don't go fishing close to a fish trap
ตีปลาหน้าไซ



Don't try to catch a snake by his tail.
จับข้อเท้า



There are some things money can't buy.
คนซื้อด้วยเงินไม่ได้



Log cabin at Huey Fy

He returns to his roots in Thailand

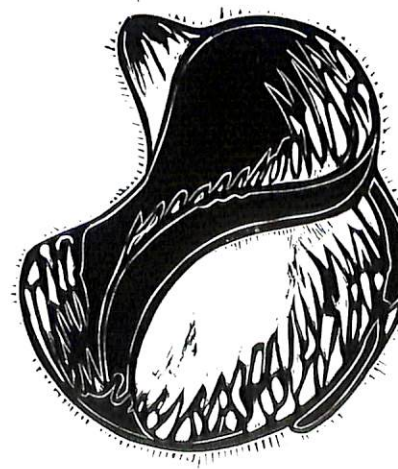
In 1974, he returned to the North of Thailand to recuperate after a severe illness, leaving everything that he had created behind him. He had very little money and in order to recover from his experience of industrial society, he built a log cabin in the wilds and began to recycle the stumps and roots of teakwood trees, bringing them back to life again, in a degraded area where a Teakwood Forest which had been felled years before, was being cleared by Karen villagers for resettlement.



You cannot find a needle in a haystack
งมเข็มในมหาสมุทร



The world is born again
โลกเกิดใหม่



Conception
ตั้งครรภ์

Discovering the joy of carving wood.

The villagers showed him how to use an adze (a long handled axe). He built a log cabin and began to recycle the stumps and roots which were all that remained of the trees in the once beautiful forest which had been destroyed. He had discovered the medium which came as naturally to him as breathing and for the next 25 years he concentrated his energies on wood carving.

To see his carvings

Four shy girls came together

Closer to nature

VFW

He held the first exhibition of the recycled trees at the Town Hall in his home town. It was entitled "Requiem for the Forest." The sculptures were set in a desert of sand, planted with prickly cactus. The remnants are still flourishing in his garden. It was certainly a new experience for the local population.

Requiem for the forest.

There he saved the mutilated stumps of Teakwood trees,

Once tall and graceful, brought them back to life.

His sensitive hands revealed the life within,

His inner eye guiding the questing tool.

The children came and learned from him,

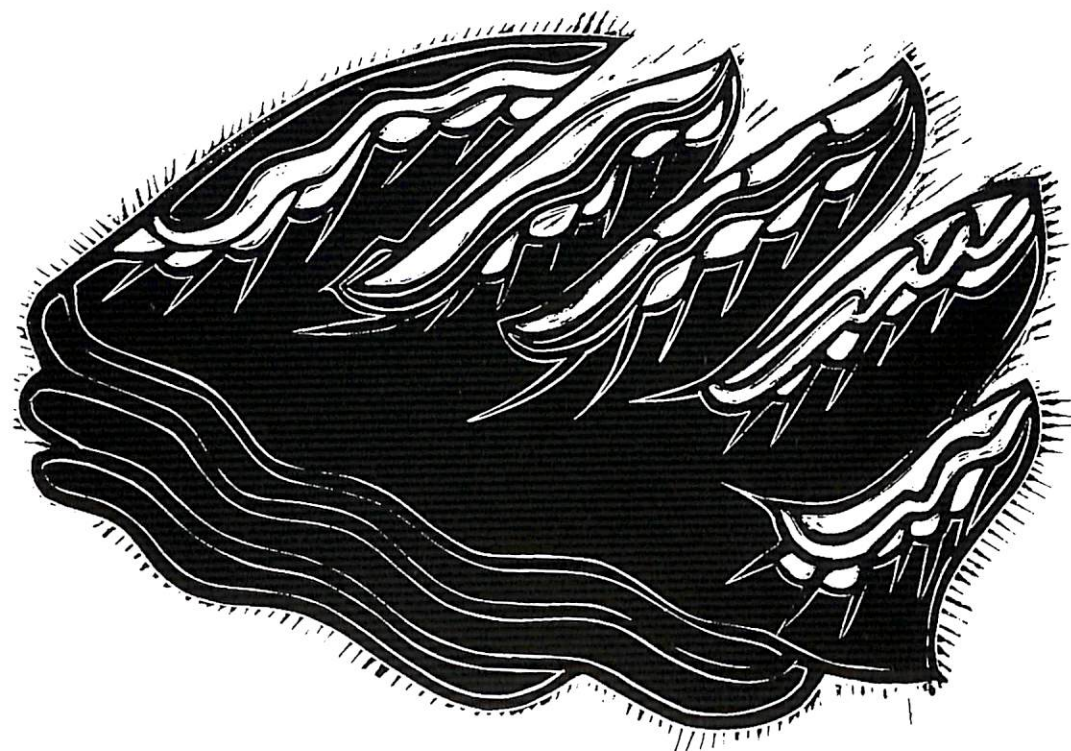
How to work with nature, not against the grain.

Accepting pain, we will not break but come to life again.

VFW

Disaster strikes.

He returned to his home town, Pasang after his log cabin was destroyed by a typhoon in 1977. Once again, he left everything behind him. He constructed a small wooden house in the family rice field and vegetable garden, began a new chapter in his life and continued his woodcarving.



Say one thing and do another
กลับหน้ามือเป็นหลังมือ

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

He held his first exhibition of the recycled trees in the grounds of the City Hall in Pasang. It was entitled "Requiem for the Forest". A miniature desert was created and the sculptures were set on bases of undulating sand, planted with prickly cactus. It was a new experience for the local people.

He created many abstract three dimensional carvings as well as wall panels, doors and decorations for the traditional buildings which he began to collect and reconstruct in his compound. These became popular with interior designers and architects as they conveyed the vitality and spirit of classical Northern Thai design which is based on natural rhythms and forms, in a contemporary manner. At the same time he continued to create water colour paintings and drawings of great delicacy and sophistication.



"Garden in outer space" Water colour
"สวนในจักรวาล" สีน้ำ



"Garden under the sea" Water colour
"สวนใต้ทะเล" สีน้ำ



"The red planet" Batik on silk
"โลกสีแดง" batik สีแดง

The Evolution of the woodcuts.

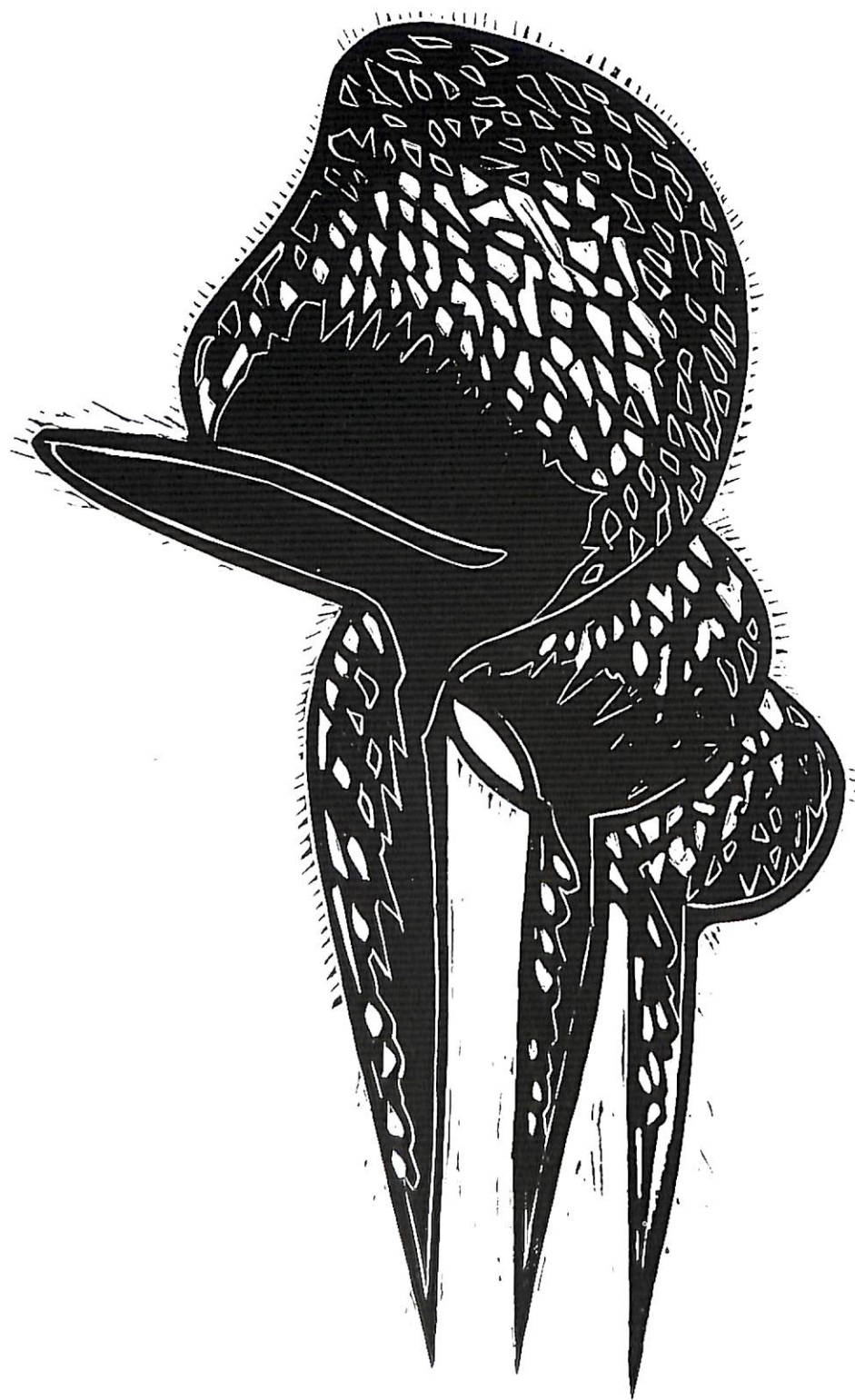
In Exploring the evolution of the woodcuts, we must journey back in time to 1987 and a modest exhibition of exquisite water colour paintings of intricately combined organic forms, which seem to express all the fecundity of nature in celebration of its limitless and breathtaking diversity. Some of these designs were later translated into Chinese cut wool carpets, wall hangings and stained glass.



"Mystic Dragon" Chinese cut wool carpet
"มังกรที่ลึกลับ" พรมขนสัตว์จีน

New Developments

A further development occurred when he began to experiment with Batik paintings on silk, augmented with hand painting in coloured inks. His designs became bolder and broader in scope. In 1993 they were exhibited at the Chiang Inn Plaza Gallery in the Northern Thai Capital of Chiang - Mai, together with his earthy woodcarvings and wall hangings which perfectly complemented their elusive grace



May our prayers be answered
อธิษฐาน

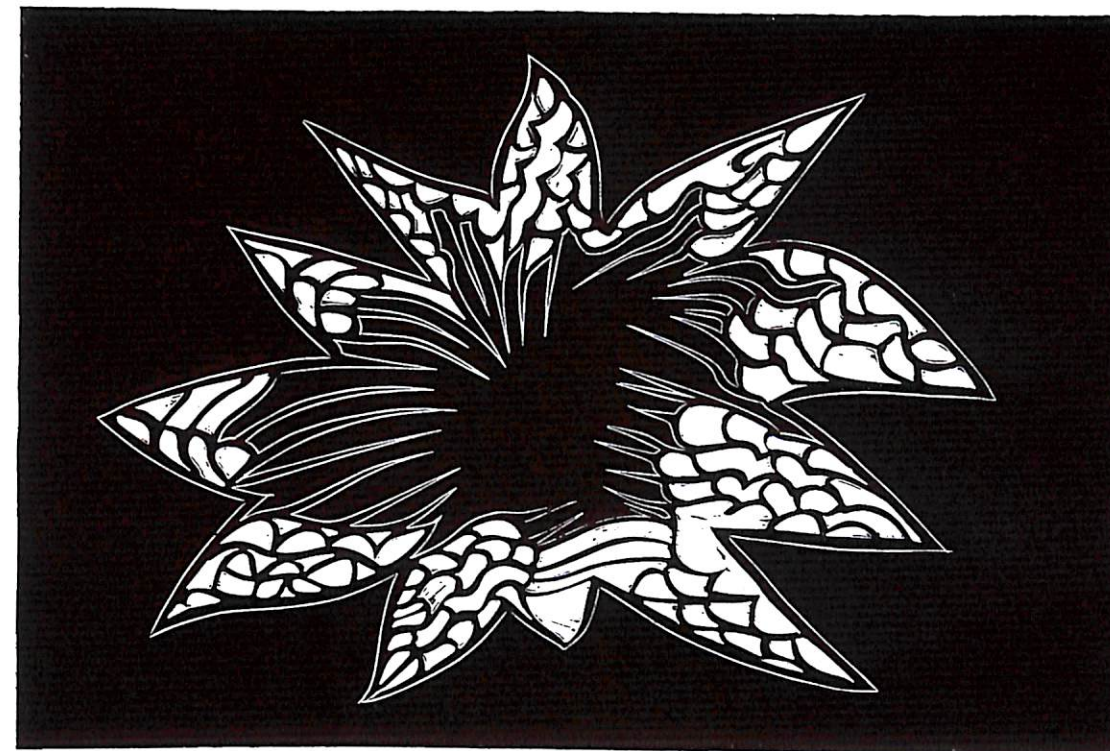
Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

Coffee Break

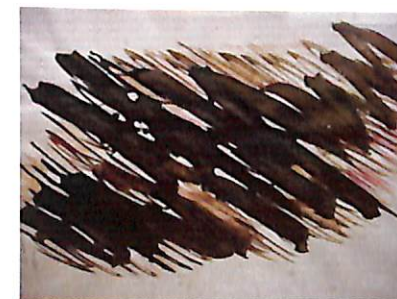
The playfulness and carefree expression of more violent emotions can be seen in his coffee paintings. These are astonishing ragged, jagged scribbles, executed in sepia ink supplemented with Nestcafe which was also a stimulus and less expensive than ink. They were exhibited in a one man show together with woodcarvings and installation art at the National Gallery in Bangkok in 1991.

An auspicious birthday

He celebrated his Birthday on September 9th 1999, by holding another one man show at the National Gallery. The large halls of the Colonial building and even the gardens were filled with his woodcarvings, and gigantic metal sculptures which had been enlarged from the models he had created in New York. Four furniture vans had to be hired to transport them to Bangkok. The metal sculptures were complemented by elegant black and white pen and ink drawings of sculptures designed for outer space.



Diamond cannot cut diamond
เพชรตัดเพชร



Coffee Painting *Untitled*
ภาพเขียนจากกาแฟ "ไม่มีชื่อ"



Coffee Painting *Untitled*
ภาพเขียนจากกาแฟ "ไม่มีชื่อ"