

6-24 JUNE 2001

TUESDAY-SUNDAY 10.30 - 18.30 HRS.
ARTIST DEMONSTRATION : SATURDAY 13.00

HAI - LIFE CONTENT BY BATHM KAEW-NGOG

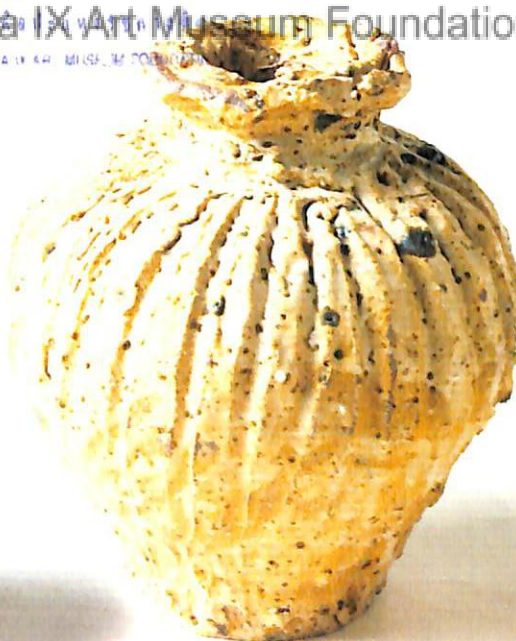


VIENGTAVERN
GALLERY

at ViengtaVERN Gallery

**2nd Floor BB house Asoke, Sukhumvit 21
Bangkok Thailand Tel:(02) 664-3875**

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



BATHM KAEW-NGOG

บัทม แก้ว-นงอก



Photographed by : Pansak Mitsuparh

Born:

June 25, 1971 Petchburi, THAILAND

Studio:

88 Moo2 Had Chao Samrann Road Po Raiwan area

Muang District, Petchburi 76000 THAILAND

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Education:

1988 - 1991

College of Fine Art, Bangkok

1993 - 1996

Bachelor of Applied Art (Ceramics)

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

1999 - 2000

Workshop study in Ceramics with Kanji Atarashi, Japan

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Selected exhibitions/Experience:

1993 - 1999

7th, 8th and 9th National Ceramics competition, Bangkok

2000

Demonstration of ceramics for Yom River settlement

Children Art Project, Nakhon Sawan

2001

Demonstration of ceramics in "When I was young
Exhibition" Goethe Institute, Bangkok

Demonstration of ceramics for "Save Environment"
children Art Project, Chachoengsao



BEHIND THE SCENE

Suntan Viengsima

"It started when I was studying at the College of Fine Art" says Bathm, recalling his first interest in ceramic art. "We had all learned about the fundamentals of art and had been practicing basic skills. However, it was only to pass a course and to get our diplomas. That was it. None of us knew exactly what we were interested in, almost until we graduated from college. At the time I was thinking over and over about my direction, whether I should join a business or apply for university. If I went for university, I had no idea at all about which professional skill I should pursue. It would be great if I could learn painting, printing and sculpture all together. Ceramic art was my final decision because it included painting, printing, carving and modeling skills all at once, as per my requirement."

Bathm Kaew-ngog, 28 years old, was born in Petchburi province. He came to Bangkok to study art after finishing secondary school in Petchburi. "As an upcountry kid, I had no information about continuing study in Bangkok, but I had heard that the College of Fine Art was the best schools art in the country. Even though nobody in my family was familiar with art, I thought - I loved it - then I made it my way." At college, Bathm became inspired about ceramics by working in his teacher's studio. He watched his teacher's entire work process, and found the kiln firing of the clay work especially exciting. So he decided his direction would be to study ceramic art at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Art at Chulalongkorn University.

After his graduation with a Bachelor of Applied Art (Ceramics), Bathm went to Chiang Mai to learn from the experience of local ceramic artists. He then sought out ceramic artists in Japan. He sent out proposal to 30 Japanese ceramic artists for scholarships to study in their workshops.

"There was only one reply out of my 30 proposal, but that was enough," Bathm said "I told them the truth - that I had no money. Only intention. What I could pay was to be a good student and spread my knowledge to the public in return."

He flew to Japan in 1999 to study with the Japanese ceramic artist, Mr. Kanji Atarashi. Bathm learned not only traditional Japanese ceramics, but also Zen philosophy from Mr. Atarashi. He learned that ceramic art is not just working with clay, but being with nature. Clays from different sources have different substances that affect color and strength. The fuel or temperature control of the kiln is also a factor. To learn the art of ceramics is to understand the spirit of nature. "My heart became more peaceful. When I considered the fact of the resource, I found it is life itself. Nature is not so difficult to learn, actually it is very simple, but perhaps we have never tried."

In 2000 Bathm returned to Thailand, and true to his words, spread his knowledge to the public. He went to Chumseang district, Nakhonsawan province to train an artist and educate villagers about ceramics. It is here he began creating ceramics based on a masterpiece of Thai rural life. "One day I saw Hais, earthen jars, hiding in the kitchen of the house where I was staying. They were used for preserving food, or for keeping treasures, planting a flower or as a musical instrument, etc. In the Thai fairy tale of Nang Nak, a Hai was used for keeping a spirit in before it drowned at the bottom of a river. It seems that Hai has always been a part of Thai life so far. Hai represents Thai life and intellect. It is not a purely clay work, it contains life."

Bathm used clay from various sources to make his Hais for this exhibition. Some from the Yom River contain tiny gravel, which makes for a rough surface and a bit stronger clay. Additionally coating the clay with natural ashes produces a precious glaze once it is fired in the kiln. This Hai exhibition is Bathm's first solo exhibition. It is also his first step toward becoming a professional ceramic artist after a long journey of learning.

"I have stopped my journey for a while to show people what I have learned. Very soon, I may start another life adventure. But I have forgotten my intention that anything I receive, I will give back to the world."





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Ramkhamniang Museum Foundation

