



Natee Utarit

Survey

1991-2006

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

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By Numthong Gallery

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This book is dedicated to my beloved mother.

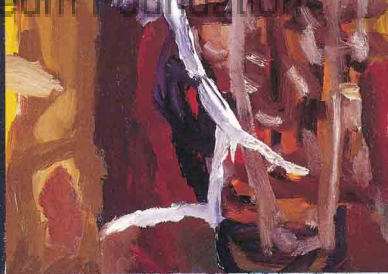
Jumman Ujarit 1936-2007

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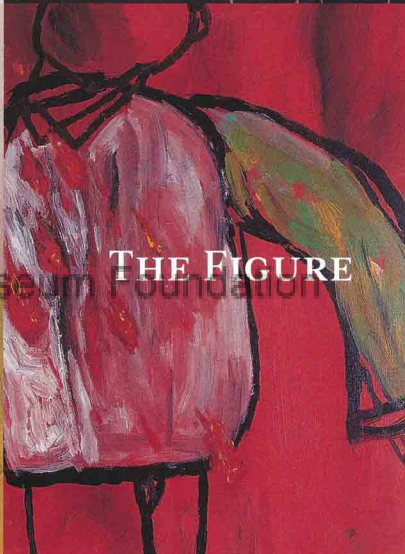
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THE FIGURE

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Many of Natee's early works were an expression of negative feelings toward common objects from a child's perspective, and were a continuation of the work he had done as a student in the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts at Silpakorn University. Chiefly black and white drawings and etchings, these works drew inspiration from a variety of sources, which included children's drawings and the paintings of the German Expressionists, which were of particular interest to Natee at the time.

After graduating in 1992, Natee turned increasingly to painting, although the form and content of these early works differed little from his earlier drawings and etchings. An exhibition of Natee's early paintings was held at the Bangkok Playhouse in 1994. This was followed by numerous displays of his drawings and small paintings at various venues in 1995.

All of the paintings and drawings that Natee produced in the years just after his graduation from university can be categorized as figurative. However, with the series entitled *Mother Figure* (1996-97), it became evident that Natee had begun to take a greater interest in the formal elements of painting. These works use the human form (mother) to explore a variety of intellectual concepts.

This series of paintings marked a turning point in Natee's development as an artist. Unlike his earlier work, these paintings did more than just tell a story. They were an exploration of the nature of painting and a conversation on the possibilities of painting. From this point forward, Natee would expand the boundaries of his work to include a wide range of styles.