

Letter from Hanoi

AKKO ART GALLERY

23 July to 16 August 2008

Watercolor & Acrylic by

SOMBOON PHOUNG DORKMAI

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

Photograph by

ANDRÉ LURDE

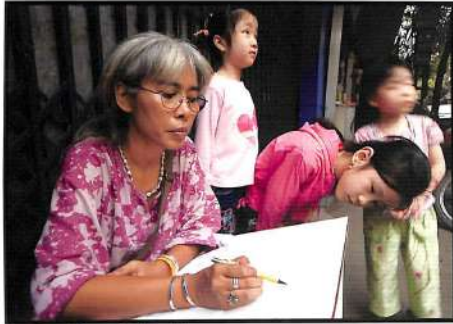
www.akkoart.com

The exhibition was presided over by

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Duy Hung,
Ambassador E & P of the S. R. Vietnam

Mr. Kiyoharu Yuki Yoshi,
President & C.E.O. of Dentsu (Thailand) Ltd.





Somboon Phoungdorkmai ▲

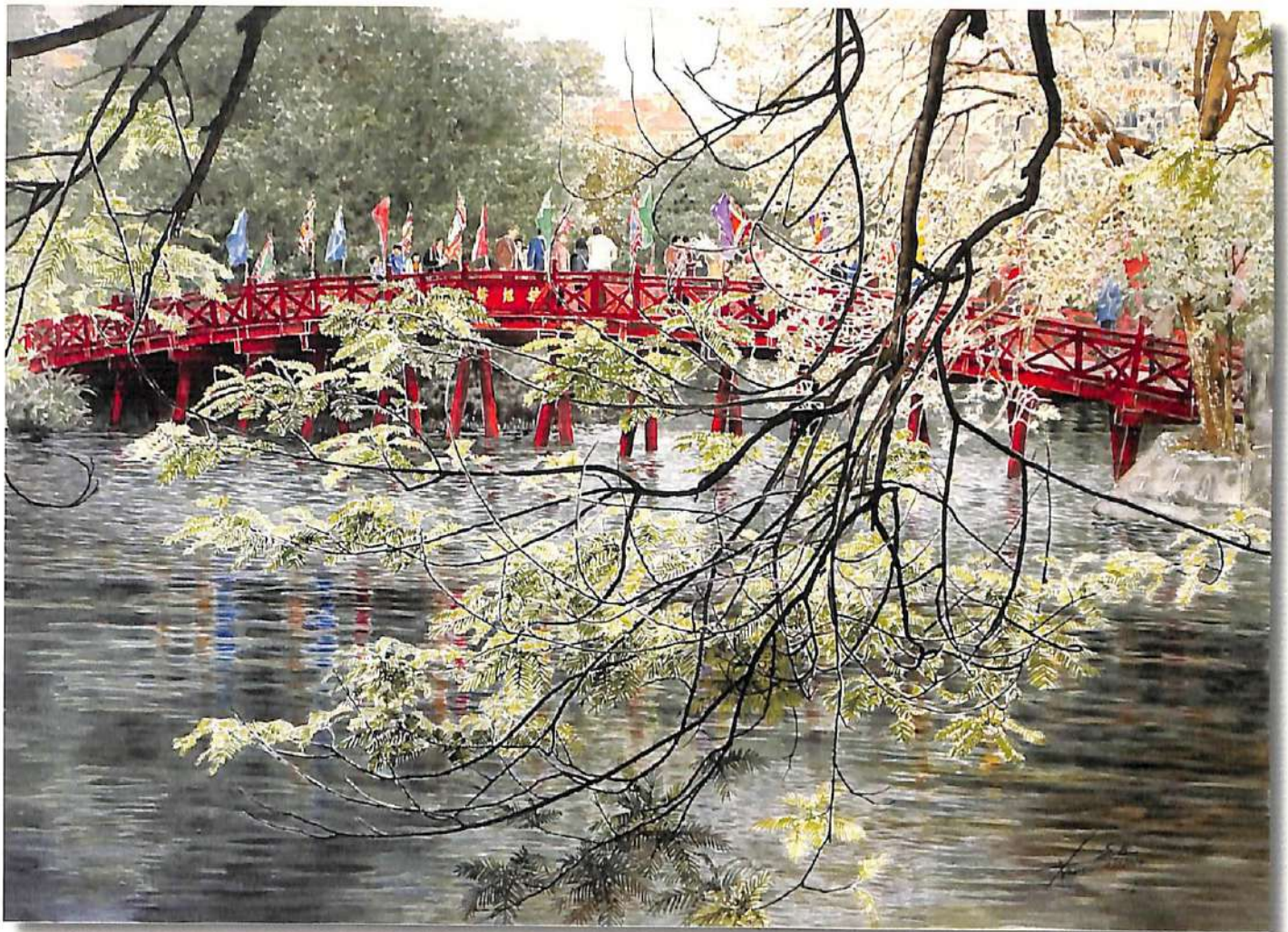


André Lurde ▼

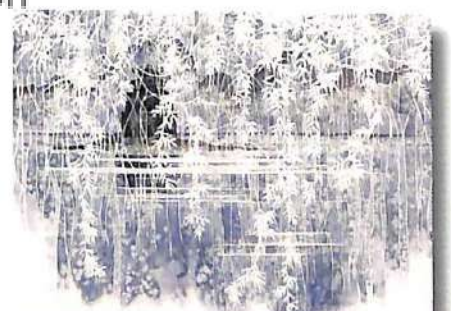


Paintings and Photographs of the artists at www.artsomdede.com - contact: info@artsomdede.com - Tel: (66) 02 991 7119.





Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



LETTER FROM HANOI

Celebrated Thai watercolor artist Somboon Phoungdorkmai and French photographer, husband André Lurde, visited Hanoi a number of times and stayed there for several months in the past three years to produce this exhibition "Letter from Hanoi".

Somboon & Andre believe the best way to encounter a place and become familiar with its people and the life is to stay there. In the same way, from 1993 to 1996, Somboon painted a breathtaking series of watercolors in Cambodia. At this time Akko of Akko Art Gallery also joined with Somboon at the sites. Somboon amazed us with the marvelous stone buildings of the Angkor site displayed in a very successful series of exhibitions organized by Akko Art Gallery and published in the book "An Artist at Angkor". Furthermore, Angkor was the place where Andre and Somboon met. During the course of familiarization with Angkor, André jumped into the footsteps of Somboon and started a new life in photography. Producing his first black & white pictures of Angkor, he had the chance to share the space in some of the exhibitions of his wife Somboon.

Following this process, from 1997 to 2000, Luang Prabang, an ancient capital of Laos newly integrated to the world heritage, became the center of interest of the couple. The traditional life scenery, the beautiful lines of roofs and buildings of Luang Prabang were captured for a great exhibition honored and presided over by Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. André also joined this exhibition and took a big part in the realization of a second beautiful book: "Luang Prabang by Somboon Phoungdorkmai", illustrated with the pictures of Somboon, and with photos by André following her stroll to encounter the city and its inhabitants.

Next, a few years were spent traveling and working between Thailand, France, and USA. World events like the Asian economic crisis, Nine Eleven, the Tsunami, and the social movements in Europe were the framework for some of the works of Somboon. Sharing time with friends and keeping contact with nature was a way to attenuate the impact of the events aforementioned. Thus, Somboon painted the disappearing canals and houses along the canals of Rangsit. She excels in accurately catching the tone of nature under the daylight from early morning to noon, and the colors under the sunny or misty weather along the seasons.

Today Somboon and André come back from Vietnam to present the exhibition "Letter from Hanoi", which displays the result of their interlaced work of watercolor paintings and photographs. The viewer will get the chance to visit Hanoi and immerse himself in the life of the city by hanging around the maze of the 36 streets with their households specialized in particular trades, meet the merchants, the peddlers, the bicycle riders running the activity of this human hive. Visitors will come and go around the temple of literature, the one pillar pagoda, the Hoan Kiem lake, the Lon Bien bridge over the Red River, and so on, discovering the remains of the French influence bathed in sunlight or mist depending on the seasons, so peculiar to Hanoi. The observation towards street workers is always warm and gentle under the impressionable brush of Somboon, or behind the camera of André, always conveying much passion towards people.

Akko Gallery has been involved with Somboon ever since Angkor and has the pleasure to invite you to this latest exhibition "Letter from Hanoi". The intimate character of the gallery will give the perfect space to recreate the ambiance of Hanoi. Accordingly to the style of a Vietnamese house, a little narrow staircase will lead and give access to the show room for all the visitors.

The visitor public will enjoy meeting Somboon whom, though a renowned artist, continues to always carry her sketchbook and black pen - never stopping the practice of drawing. As she responds how to express, continuously, with a profound sense of simplicity and sparkle. Art lovers and collectors will have noticed, in Somboon's past work, that she uses a unique watercolor technique, in which parts of the paper are left white: the parts which form lines of objects, or that highlights objects. Somboon has the creative genius of letting the paper work for her and this can be seen in many of her works in this exhibition.

Akko Art Gallery

Somboon Selected Exhibitions

These events, which undoubtedly sealed the fame of Somboon Phoungdorkmai, must not conceal that the talent of the artist had also been recognised in Thailand and abroad on several other occasions. A non-exhaustive list of exhibitions regularly held from the beginning of the years 80s until now confirms that.

1978	1st Vane Croup Exhibition, Rajburi, Thailand
1981	Poh Chang College Art Exhibition, Bangkok, Thailand
1984	Silpa Bhirasri Arts Festival, Bangkok, Thailand
1985	Exhibition, 25th Anniversary of Goethe Institute, Bangkok, Thailand
1986	1st International Women in Art Exhibition, Bangkok, Thailand
1987	Exhibition of Aesthetics in Honour of The King, Bangkok, Thailand
1988	Solo Exhibition, Ostbirk, Denmark
1989	Solo Exhibition, Kvindegalleriet, Aarhus, Denmark
1991	Thai-Japanese Women Paintings, Bangkok, Thailand
1992	Asian Young Artists' Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
1995	Exhibition: An Artist at Angkor, The Royal Cambodian Embassy, Bangkok, The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Akko Collectors' House, Bangkok, Thaise-Vlaanse vriendenkring Exhibition, Kookelaere, Belgium
1995	31st and 32nd Asia Modern Art Exhibitions, Japan
1995-1996	Solo Exhibition: Amazing Blossoms, Siam City Hotel, Thailand
1998	Exhibition: An Artist in Luang Prabang, Rajanakam Bldg., Bangkok.
1998	Ex.: Where have all the Flowers gone?, Akko Art Gallery, Bangkok.
2000	An Evening With Thai Artists, Royal Thai Embassy, New York, and Washington DC.
2004	At the Vietnam Art Center in Hanoi.
2007	Asia Art Link exhibition in the Fine Art Museum of Hanoi
2008	Letters from Hanoi, Akko Art Gallery, Bangkok
2008	



Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

Flower Seller, Hanoi - 56x42 cm - Watercolor by Somboon Phoungdorkmai

AKKO ART GALLERY

919/1 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, Thailand 10110

Between Soi 49 & 51 Opposite the Rex Hotel

(66) 02 259 1436

akkoart@csloxinfo.com

www.akkoart.com

Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat. 10:00 – 19:00: Walk-ins welcome

Sundays and after hours: By appointment only

Parking at the Pearl Mansion near the mouth of Soi 49.



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