

# Sokuntevy Oeur

## Artist Statement and Biography

---

### Artist Statement

*Picnic in the Grass* is a work of Oeur Sokuntevy that playfully investigates personal secrets through the subconscious and imagery of dreams. Shifting away from personal story-telling, social and gender commentary moves to the forefront of this work which features an idyllic scene of a family enjoying a day in the country. The family portrayed in the scene is dressed in Western clothing with the father drinking whiskey and smoking a cigar, symbols of a “rich lifestyle” which also alludes to the secret wish of many Cambodian families to be “affluent and sophisticated”.

Like much of Oeur’s work, the characters are drawn from pop media, personal histories and anecdotal research, imitating the social strata of a rapidly evolving contemporary culture. Through satirical gestures - the shift of the eye, forced laughter - we know there is more going on below the surface.

## Artist Biography

### Sokuntevy Oeur Cambodia

Oeur Sokuntevy studied painting at the Phare Ponleu Selpak in Battambang and moved to Phnom Penh in 2007. Sokuntevy has had much interest in her work as one of the very few female contemporary artists currently showing in Cambodia. Solo exhibitions include Love, Death and Dreams at Utterly Art (Singapore), Love to Death at the French Cultural Centre, I Curl in Memory's Belly at Java Gallery in 2010, and Star Signs at Hotel De La Paix in 2008 (Cambodia). Group exhibitions include Sightlines at Noel-Baza Fine Art Gallery, 2010 (USA), Incheon Women Artists' Biennale (Korea) in 2009, The Art of Survival, ivieta House Gallery, 2008 (Cambodia) and more. Sokuntevy's work is included in art collections of the Singapore Embassy (Cambodia) and the Singapore Art Museum. Her work has appeared in magazines and newspapers including Art Asia Pacific, Asialife, Cambodge Soir, Phnom-Penh Post, The Cambodia Daily and the Southeast Asia Globe Magazine.

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2013      Me Love You Long Time, Boston Center for the Arts, MA, USA  
              Feeding Cambodia, Utterly Art, Singapore
  
- 2012      Me Love You Long Time, Aljira A Center for Contemporary Art, NJ, USA  
              Fantasies, Utterly Art, Singapore  
              Ping Vey, Java Gallery, Phnom -Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2011      Flea Market of Memories, part of the SurVivArt project presented in Phnom Penh,  
              Cambodia and Berlin, Germany  
              Love, Death and Dreams, Utterly Art, Singapore  
              Love, Death and Dreams, Hotel De La·Pix, Siem Reap, Cambodia  
              Love, Lust and Loathing, Java Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2010      Love to Death, French Cultural Centre, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
              I Curl in Memory's Belly, Java Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2009      Family Ties, Java Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2008      Star Signs, Hotel De La Pix, Siem Reap, Cambodia  
              Something in the Signs, Java Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2007      Free & Easy, Salt Lounge, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
              -Wishes From My Past; Meta House, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  
- 2006      Ancient Spirits (reborn), Java Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2011 SurVivArt, Mikael Anderson and Meinblau Galleries, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 Hey Sister, public square Sovanna Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Sightlines, Noel-Baza Fine Art, San Diego, CA, USA
- 2009 Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Incheon, Korea  
-Another China, Meta House, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- 2008 The Art of Survival, Meta House, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **Residencies**

- 2010 Residency at the New Zero Art Space, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2008 Residency in Lijiang Studio, Lijiang, China