

Srey Bandaul

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

In this work, artist Srey Bandol looks inward, seeing the body as a metaphorical site of tension. Creating intestinal forms, he speaks to the cycle of life whereby the psychological and cause and effect of outside forces meet. Using fabrics synonymous with daily life and the protection of the body, the kroma, the sarong and mosquito netting, he locates this tension in the local communal consciousness as well as more broadly within South Asia. Charcoal is used as a means of connecting to Srey's earlier drawing work having first studied drawing in the Thai refugee camp where he grew up.

Digestion began with the experimentation of these materials and forms, which initially attracted Srey. While adding layers, relationships began taking shape, creating a critical dialogue about the politics of the local and the global. The digestion of the 'outside' or global influences into the main body creates visible ruptures in the intestinal form.

Alongside five sculptural works on canvas, a twenty-five metre intestine is installed at Romeet. During the opening a masked figure dressed in formal business attire will enter the environment interacting with the audience and the installation itself.

In *Digestion*, a postcolonial voice emerges, engaging with the impact of outside influences and control, seeking an active position for the subject.

Artist Biography

Srey Bandaul Cambodia

b. 1972, Battambang-bang Province Cambodia

Born in 1972 in Battambang-bang Province, Cambodia, Srey Bandaul studied with the French artists Veronique Decrop from 1984 until 1990 in an art school, which she founded in Site two Camp on the Thai border (phare). The school moved to Battambang in 1995 and Bandaul has taught drawing and painting there from 1995 to the present as an artist. Bandaul started working in drawing, sculpture, and painting. Now he is one of the Founders, Professor and the Director of The Visual Arts School at Phar Ponleu Selpak, (PPS) a community based school for music, visual arts, and performing arts he helped found in Battambang, his hometown and the second largest city in Cambodia.

As an artist, Bandaul started to exhibit his works in 1998 at Reyum Gallery base in Phnom Penh Cambodia, since 2000, he has exhibited in many places around Cambodia and published two books, *Looking At Angkor* and *The Land of the Elephants*. Bandaul has also exhibited Internationally, including Norway, the Philippines, Thailand, New York, Australia, and Singapore.

Since 2010, his artworks focus on a series of paintings made from smoke, and sculptures made from aluminum cans, talking about his experience of war and the modern world of Cambodia. From October 4, 2012 to November 18, 2012 *Injured* is the artwork Srey Bandaul exhibited in Java Art Gallery in Phnom Penh Cambodia. "Injured" is an existential exploration by artist and teacher Srey Bandaul. Building on the philosophical foundations of Buddhism, the artist underscores one of the core concepts that if we let go of fears and desires, our "injuries" would diminish.

Digestion is the last artwork Srey Bandaul exhibits at Romeet arts gallery in Phnom Penh Cambodia. In this exhibition Srey Bandaul looks inward, seeing the body as a metaphorical site of tension. Creating intestinal forms, he speaks to the cycle of life where by the Psychological and cause and effect of outside forces meet. Using fabrics synonymous with daily life and the protection of the body, Thekroma, the sarong and mosquito netting, he locates this tension in the local communal consciousness, as well as more broadly within South Asia. Charcoal is used as a means of connecting to Srey's earlier drawing work having first studied drawing in the Thai Refugee camp where he grew up. In this moment *Digestion* is still display at France Embassy Phnom Penh-Cambodia.