

BANGKOK
CITYCITY
GALLERY

PRAY (SONGS FOR LIVING IN A ROOM FILLED WITH PEOPLE WITH FUNNY NAMES)

KORAKRIT
ARUNANONDCHAI
& ALEX GVOJIC

10.03–24.04.2022

"Fire and heat provide modes of explanation in the most varied domains, because they have been for us the occasion for the unforgettable memories, for simple and decisive personal experiences. Fire is thus a privileged phenomenon which can explain anything. If all that changes slowly may be explained by life, all that changes quickly is explained by fire. Fire is the ultra-living element. It is intimate and it is universal. It lives in our heart. It lives in the sky. It rises from the depths of the substance and offers itself with the warmth of love. Or it can back down into the substance and hide there, latent and pent-up, like hate and vengeance. Among all phenomena, it is really the only one to which there can be so definitely attributed the oozing values of good and evil. It shines in Paradise, It burns in Hell. It is gentleness and torture. It is cookery and it is apocalypse" It is a pleasure for the good child sitting presently by the hearth; yet it punishes any disobedience when the child wishes to play too close to its flames. It is well-being and it is respect. It is a tutelary and terrible divinity, both good and bad, it can contradict itself; thus it is one of the principles of universal explanation"

— Excerpt from *Psychoanalysis of Fire*

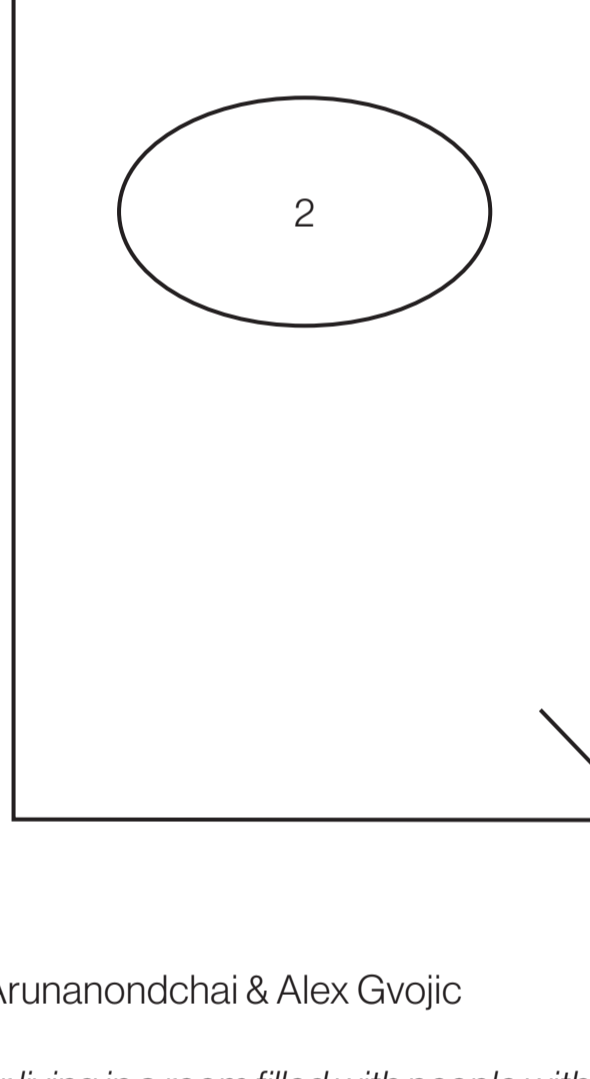
by Gaston Bachelard

"Songs for living" provides excerpts from Simone Weil's *Gravity and Grace*, Edouard Glissant's *Sun of Consciousness*, and *On Prayer*, a poem by the Polish-American poet, Czesław Miłosz. From separate times and places these writers survived under oppressive regimes with the provocation of their art. What they had in common was that they fought for a spiritual clarity amidst the forcefulness of symbolic communions. It is from this space of holding onto the uncertain, which allowed them to refuse. Instead of speaking directly to their rulers, they found ways to make songs, using the discards left over from the struggles of power.

*I am not saying we are powerless.
I am no longer interested in power.
I am asking, who is it that we pray to?
Are these prayers meant to unite us
with our legitimate rulers or do they
only take us somewhere further away?*

*"and all I know is
that prayer constructs a velvet bridge
walking it we are aloft
as on a springboard
above landscapes
the color of ripe gold
transformed by a magic stopping of the sun
that bridge leads to the shore of Reversal
where everything is just the opposite and the word "is"
unveils a meaning we hardly envisioned
notice I say "we"
There
Everyone
separately feels compassion for the others entangled
in the flesh
and knows that if there is no other shore
we will walk that aerial bridge all the same
all the same"*

— *On Prayer* by Czesław Miłosz



1 Korakrit Arunanondchai & Alex Gvojjic

"PRAY"

(Songs for living in a room filled with people with funny names)

(2022)

Korakrit Arunanondchai, *If we burn you burn with us* (2021),

Acrylic, metallic foil on bleached denim on inkjet print on canvas,

digital print on red carpet, metallic foil on bleached denim

pillows, artist made shaman costume, soft sculpture, pond;

water, mirror, resin on bleached denim

40 min loop, dimensions variable

2 Korakrit Arunanondchai & Alex Gvojjic

Songs for living (2021)

Single-channel HD video

20:51 min, sound, color

"PRAY"
*(SONGS FOR LIVING IN A ROOM FILLED
WITH PEOPLE WITH PEOPLE WITH FUNNY NAMES)*

Korakrit Arunanondchai and Alex Gvojjic

10.03 – 20.04.2022

BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY

Writing: Diane Severin Nguyen and Korakrit Arunanondchai

Translation: Korakrit Arunanondchai and Nunnaree Panichkul

Soft Sculpture Design: Korakrit Arunanondchai

Soft Sculpture 3D rendering: Phanuphong Songkong

Pattern & Fabrication: Sasawat Saengchaiarun

Carpet Design: Tanat Teeradakorn

Installation: Itsaret Sutthisiri, Tonkao Kwannak, Naruiporn

Piriyapittaya, Charintus Saengrueangrit, Mathus Wattuya,

Somsak Phongwattanakul, Phurinad Sugtamna (Paraform

Studio), ALL TIME PRODUCTION Co., Ltd., DuckUnit and C3S

Poster Design: Win Shanokprasith

BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY Team: Akapol Sudasna,

Supamas Phahulo, Nunnaree Panichkul,

Setapa Prommolmard, Kantida Busaba,

Napisa Leelasuphapong and Kamolkarn Kosolkarn

Korakrit Arunanondchai Studio: Kanich Khajohnsri and

Kolap Kansorn

Co-produced by BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY

SONGS FOR LIVING

PRODUCTION

KOH TAO

Camera Operator: Andres Gutierrez Fiskeseth,

Korakrit Arunanondchai, Cyrus James Khan

Talent: Warin, Senay Zahir, Asia, Taw, Joy, Sha Prad

Production Manager: Turan Zahir, Pookie Supaya,

Sirada Chaumthong

Location Supported by: New Heaven Diving School

NEW YORK

Bonfire Movement Direction: Monica Mirabile

Performers: Jack Meriwether, Joy Norton, Kate Williams,

Maxi Canion, Amanda Wallace, Ellery Burton, Sadie

Carnot, Margot Roo Ells, Erika McCarthy, James Adelman,

Bryant Kennedy

Tai-Chi Dancers: Albert Chan, Yee Lai Gong, Irene H Lee,

Jie Ming Dong, Sun Choi Tsang, Yun Ho Poon, Kam

Lei,

Zenia de la Cruz, Richard Chin, Wai Wah Ho, Margaret

Yuen, Sue Seto

Unicycle Delivery Riders: Melanie Flores, Sofya

Yuditskaya, Timothy Villaluz, Veronica H Generoso

CREW & POST PRODUCTION

Producer & Camera B: Rory Mulhere

Producer & Art Department: Cherisse Gray

Lighting: Michael Potvi dd Faulkner, Arba Hall, Dylan Golden

Production: Zanze Addington-White

Production Assistant & Art Department: Alden Louke,

Alison Peery, Emma McMillian, Meghan Smith

Production Assistant: Violet Flux, Elias Riviera

SOUND

Storyteller: Zsela

Composition and Mixing: Aaron David Ross

MUSIC

Score: Aaron David Ross

"Coral like bone" originally composed by Mikey Hart and Zsela

Drums: Brian Chippendale

Guitar: Mythless

Writing: Diane Severin Nguyen and Korakrit Arunanondchai

"Songs for living" made in collaboration with Alex Gvojjic is

commissioned by Migros Museum and Kunstverein Hamburg

with support from FACT Liverpool.

WWW.BANGKOKCITYCITY.COM