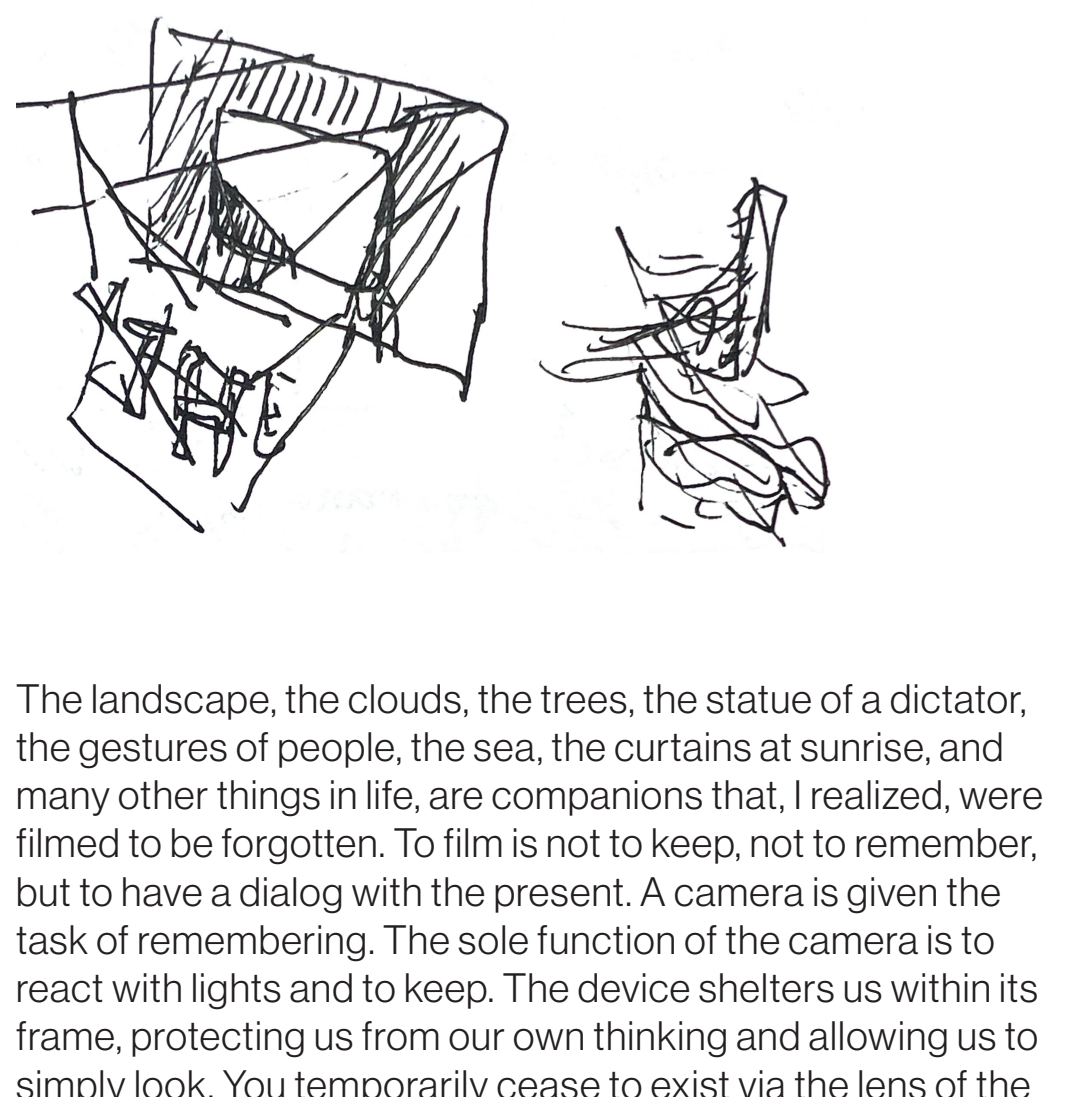


A CONVERSATION WITH THE SUN

APICHA TPONG
WEERASETHAKUL

IN COLLABORATION
WITH DUCKUNIT
AND PAT
PATARANUTAPORN

28.05 – 10.07.2022



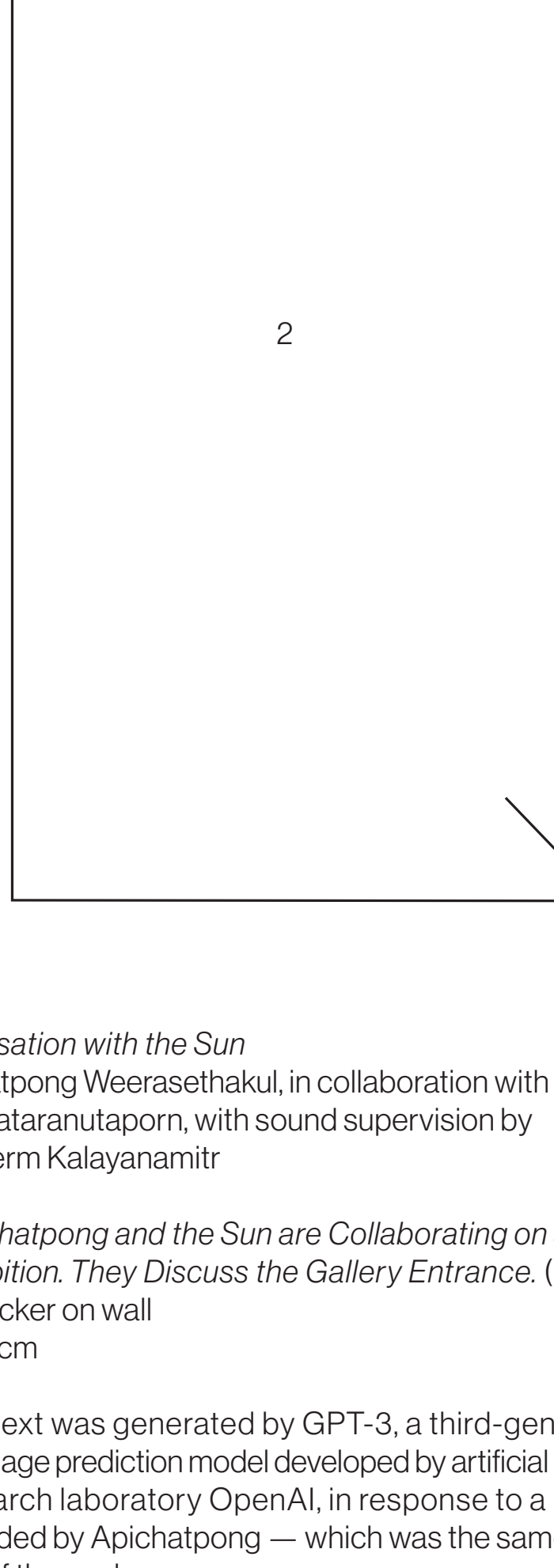
The landscape, the clouds, the trees, the statue of a dictator, the gestures of people, the sea, the curtains at sunrise, and many other things in life, are companions that, I realized, were filmed to be forgotten. To film is not to keep, not to remember, but to have a dialog with the present. A camera is given the task of remembering. The sole function of the camera is to react with lights and to keep. The device shelters us within its frame, protecting us from our own thinking and allowing us to simply look. You temporarily cease to exist via the lens of the camera. You are the clouds as well as the trees. When a man and a camera become one, they have a direct conversation with the sun.

However, when the images are combined to create an illusion of reality, as in cinema, they cease to be themselves. They form a propaganda of shadows. Cinema in the dark resembles dreams, in which our visions are rebuilt at night. We fill our hearts with brightness out of dread of being empty. Perhaps, for the cinema to return images (and their viewers) to their pure forms, we must eliminate its crucial component, time. It remains a question of how to sculpt a dimension in which memory cannot operate. The state could be compared to dreaming while being empty. In that proposal, man and images are neither constructed nor propagandized. Then a genuine conversation between objects may take place without the need for art.

Apichatpong Weerasethakul
26 May 2022



GALLERY



A Conversation with the Sun
by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, in collaboration with DuckUnit and Pat Pataranutaporn, with sound supervision by Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr

1 *Apichatpong and the Sun are Collaborating on an Art Exhibition. They Discuss the Gallery Entrance.* (2022)
Die cut sticker on wall
218 × 170 cm

The text was generated by GPT-3, a third-generation language prediction model developed by artificial intelligence research laboratory OpenAI, in response to a prompt provided by Apichatpong — which was the same as the title of the work.

2 *A Conversation with the Sun* (2022)
2-channel video randomly projected, 3-channel sound on 7 speakers, motorized fabric
Infinite loop, dimension variable

The work has no beginning nor ending point; The video clips featured therein are chosen at random and played by a machine. Recommended viewing duration: 20 minutes to 1 hour.

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4	6
5	
3	1
	2

A Conversation...

The color images were machine-generated on VQGAN+CLIP, a neural network architecture platform, with words prompted by Apichatpong Weerasethakul and technical assistance by Pat Pataranutaporn.

(Each edition features a unique drawing of a comparable image.)

- 1 *A Conversation (On Devastated Fabrics)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP
- 2 *A Conversation (On an Interpretation of Sculpture)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP
- 3 *A Conversation (On Cinema and the Sun)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP
- 4 *A Conversation (On Animism)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP
- 5 *A Conversation (On Metaphors)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP
- 6 *A Conversation (On Dreams)* (2022)
Framed giclée print with hand-drawn marker on glass
37.4 × 60.4 × 3.6 cm
10 + 2AP

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28.05 – 10.07.2022
BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY

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Sound Designer Assistant: Voratorn Peerapongpan
Installer: Paraform Studio; Itsaret Sutthisiri, Tonkao Kwannak, Naruiporn Priyapittaya, Charintus Saengrueangrit, Phurinat Sugtamna
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Special Thanks: Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr, Chayaporn Maneesutham, Gridthiya Gaweewong, Kittima Chareeprasit, Manuporn Luengaram, Chatchai Suban, Eric Chan, Suaraya Weerasethakul, Sam, Kawita Vatanajyankur, Jenjira Pongpas Widner, Tilda Swinton, Phillip Huang, Chornwan Weeraworawit, Chai Siris, OpenAI, MIT Media Lab, Dracula

and every companion in my journey.