

ARTS

Thanavi Chotpradit ATS Awards 2014: Acceptance Speech

I'm so honored to be here tonight, and grateful to be the recipient of the Anglo-Thai Society Educational Awards in Arts in 2014. To be considered for the ATS Awards is a great honor and a privilege, so thank you the Anglo-Thai Society.

My research "Revolution versus Counter-Revolution: The People's Party and the Royalist in Visual Dialogue" interrogates the rivalry between the People's Party (Khana Ratsadon) and the Royalist as manifested in Thailand's visual culture from 1932 to 2010. It considers the People's Party's artefacts such as the People's Party's Plaque, the Safeguarding the Constitution Monument and the Democracy Monument as sites of contested memories. During the past 3 years, I have developed a theoretical and conceptual analysis on the relationship between visual culture and Thai politics. The research reveals an interaction between art and politics, which shapes the Thai collective memory and consciousness. The performative power of art in constructing



Award presented by: Khun Saipin Lee
Director of Chaophraya Group

and de-constructing political discourses has proven the significance of art in the Thai politics.

Now my work is near to the end. I will return to Thailand by the end of January and come back for a viva examination in June. I will start working at the Department of Art History, Faculty of Archaeology at Silpakorn University in February. And I am happy to inform you that I have just been awarded a place in a cross-regional research program, "Ambitious Alignments: New Histories of Southeast Asian

Art". It is a research initiative funded through the Getty Foundation's Connecting Art Histories' grant program and developed by the Power Institute, University of Sydney with regional Southeast Asian Project partners, National Gallery Singapore and Institute of Technology, Bandung. The project will start in February too.

I believe that my research and experiences will contribute greatly to the development of the study of modern and contemporary Thai art history. My connection both in Thailand and abroad will also be beneficial to the future collaboration between the Thai and international art and academic communities.