

Andreas Hoffmann
Monika Weber

<https://www.youtube.com/@wearestrangers-w6i>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YclXrzdHwsY&t=81s>

We would like to use this newsletter to wish all our friends and acquaintances a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in 2024 and hope that we will have just as many, or even more, caring people around us in 2025.

Since 7 November, we have been working on projects in South-East Asia again. This time focussing on Thailand.

Most of our projects are publicised via Facebook. Many of you are therefore excluded. That's why we would like to let you participate through the newsletter to let you participate.

Over the past six months, we have focussed on our 'We are strangers Tour 2024'.

We described the section of this long duration performance from Melchingen to Venice in the autumn newsletter <http://www.hoffmann-kunst.de/Newsletter%20Herbst%202024-web.pdf>.

In November and December, 'The Strangers' continued the tour in Nan and Bangkok, Thailand.



Arrival Chiang Mai

7 November 2024

I See you!



Since 2014, an international performance art network has developed, which began in Chiang Mai in Thailand. Since then, performance art encounters or festivals have taken place in Asia or Germany every year. The Fields of Vision Festival and the Echt Jetzt! Festival in Reutlingen Tübingen and Stuttgart have developed from this. The artists of the performance art encounter 'The Other Value - Big hugs' have also been to Germany. Monika and I were involved with the performance 'I See You!'.



Laos

Our Asia tours always consist of a mixture of classic travelling and art projects. The transitions are fluid.

We spent the second half of November travelling through Laos. A really classic tourist tour by boat across the Mekong to Luang Prabang and by train to Vientiane. The Mekong tour was special for us because we were able to get to know the Mekong from its origins in China, its course in Laos, its meanders in Cambodia and its end in the river delta of Vietnam. The economic utilisation of the river in China, the dams that the Laotian government is planning and building and the effects of low water levels in Cambodia are all contributing to change in the countries bordering the river. Depending on who benefits and who suffers the damage.



Laos is wonderfully scenic. We are particularly fond of the people in Laos, who are very polite, reserved and yet approachable. Laos is not a rich country. China has a great influence. Much has been bought up by China.

The train we used is a newly inaugurated Chinese-built railway link from southern China to the Laotian capital Vientiane. Sometimes we thought that there were more Chinese in Laos than Laotians.



Studio visit Marisa Darasavath, Paul Phothyzan in Vientiane
Thank you for this talk



Nan Festival 2024 and performance art encounter at Asiatopia House

We are strangers tour in Nan

Asiatopia house in Nan is an art space created by Chumpon and Noi Apisuk. It is a place to live, to enable and create art. We can only thank them for inviting us for the second time.



Paul Siemt arrived in Nan at the beginning of December. That made us 3 original 'strangers'



We are strangers in Nan

'Rituals that have to do with earth and water have different meanings. They are important elements of our world, show respect for the things that sustain life and coexistence, and they are expressed in all religions and beliefs. Even if today we rarely think about the relationship between our lives and the world of the elements. We appreciate the achievements that man has made, but nature and the elements will outlast them.

In a live performance on 6 December, seven strangers will come to give a gift to the land of Nan by walking through Nan and bringing soil from their homeland into the heart of the city. It is a symbolic act to show that we all live on one earth. That we all have a connection to the origin. We are all just visitors, which means we are all strangers in the world, in the country, in the life we have.

In many moments we feel foreign. It is a feeling of awareness of the visitor's situation. It is only a moment - a few years of life, if you compare it with the time of the world, if we think further and deeper. In this short time we have lived on a planet that is millions of years old. What have we done to preserve and maintain the life expectancy of the world? Have we harmonised it with our short lives?' Quote from Chumpon Apisuk

6 December, the artists from Germany, the Philippines, Khon Kaen, Bangkok and Ban Nam Khrok Mai present a live performance, it's a walk, in the heart of Wiang Nan, we bring soil from Germany, the Philippines and other regions of Thailand to Nan



Connection of earth and water - we are strangers to each other - everywhere

On 7 December, artists from Germany, the Philippines, Khon Kaen, Bangkok and Ban Nam Khrok Mai presented their live performances in and around the Asiatopia House. We are all just visitors on this earth, which means that we are all strangers in the world, in the country, in the life we have.

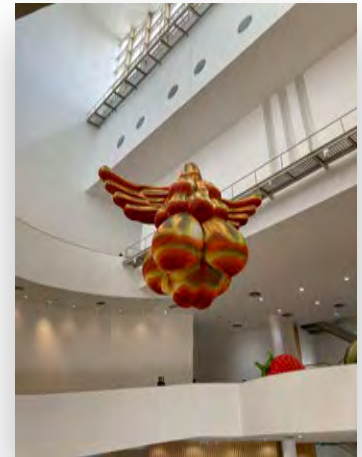
Chumpon & Noi Apisuk (Thai), Anucha Hemmala (Thai), Chomp Puttha (Thai), Monika Weber (D), Lorina Manlapaz Javier (Phil), Paul Siemt (D), Andreas Hoffmann (D)

Photo: By the artists



Asiatopia at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Asiatopia is the oldest performance art festival in Thailand and one of the oldest in Asia. We were already there as participants in 2018. The BACC is located in the middle of the modern, vibrant centre of Bangkok. An extraordinary building, eight storeys high. It is reminiscent of the Guggenheim Museum in New York.



This year, the 'we are strangers' group with Paul Siemt, Monika Weber, Toi Padungsak Kochsomrong and Andreas Hoffmann were invited to a performance and exhibition. Antonio Irre was unfortunately unable to attend.



On the we are strangers tour, home soil is mixed with the soil of the performance location.

<http://www.hoffmann-kunst.de/Newsletter%20Herbst%202024-web.pdf>

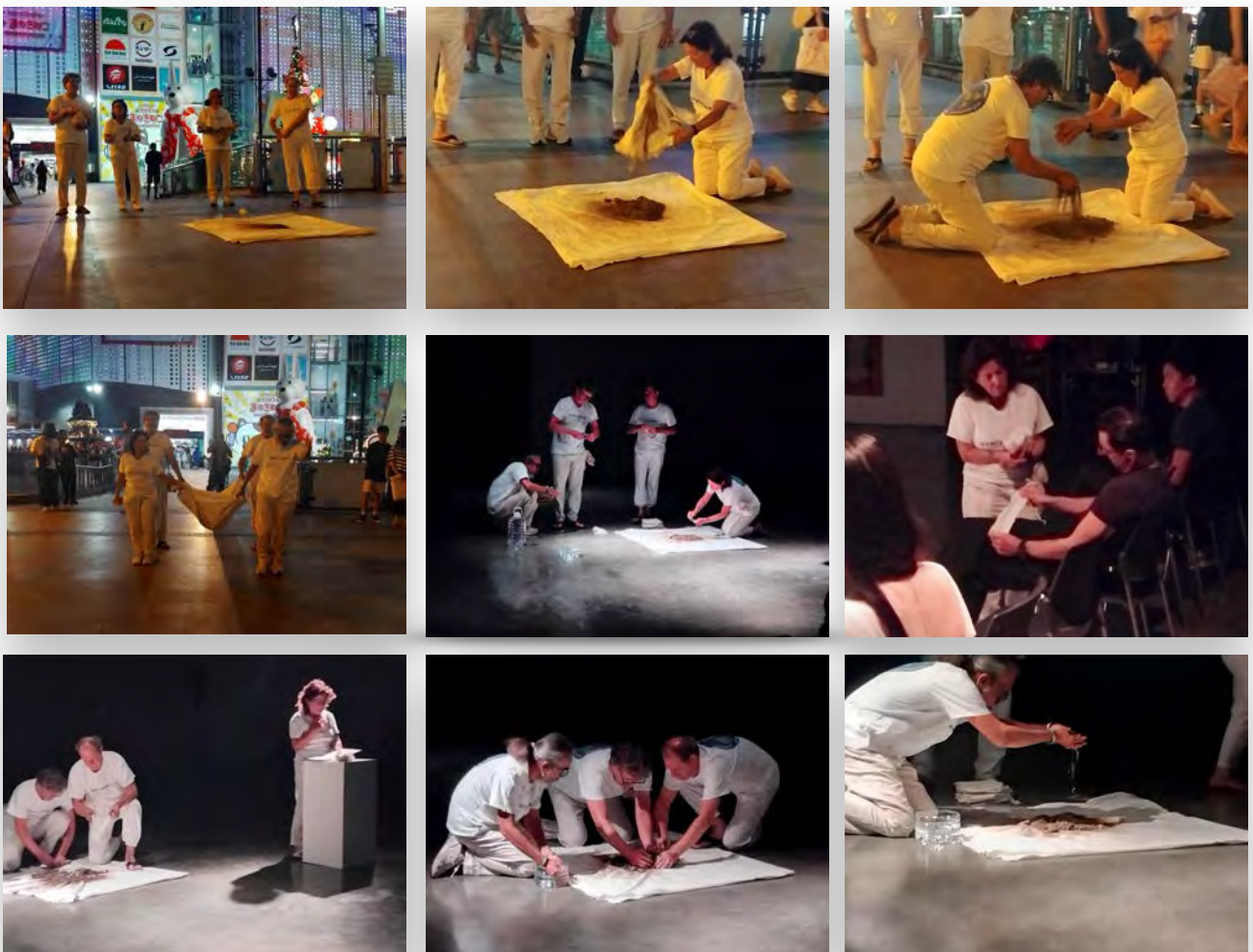
The group has done this in Melchingen, Leutkirch, Füssen, Imst, Pfunds, Mals, Caldenazzo, Bassano del Grappa, Venice, Nan and Bangkok.

At the Asiatopia Festival, the soil was mixed with flower seeds and distributed to the audience in small linen bags. So that the foreign home soil can become new home soil.

Exhibition at the BACC Bangkok



We are Strangers Performance at Asiatopia 2024 BACC, Bangkok





We are spending Christmas and New Year together with Paul, Conny and Bene on Koh Jum, a small island in the Andaman Sea, south-western Thailand.

We wish everyone a wonderful, healthy and happy New Year.

Monika and Andreas

Outlook 2025

Current exhibitions

4 Photographic positions at the Galerie im Steinbruch, Reusten

De Hong Biennial, Yunnan, China

Upcoming events and exhibitions

January and February

Yunnan Provincial Federation of Literature and Arts, Kunming

May to July

Solo exhibition at Galerie Peripherie, Tübingen

July

Echt Jetzt Festival

Six artists from South-East Asia will live and work at pArt Space Ammertal in the first half of 2025.

One of them will be Yui Krynkana Kongpetch with her Apezky project.

