



## THE ART OF ANCIENT THAI PATTERNS IN “PAH LAI YANG”

by Sethamun Kanchanakul

Saturday, June 11 2022

This programme will be conducted in both Thai and English



A number of Thai designs and motifs find their origin in India tracing them further back to Persia. These were produced in Andhra Pradesh on India's eastern Coromandel Coast. Among the patterns are *kanok*, *krajang* and *prajumyaam*, Thai motifs that appear on *Pah Lai Yang*, drawn and painted cotton chintz cloth. Known as Kalamkari, these designs were specially produced for the Siamese royal court in the late Ayutthaya to early Rattanakosin periods. The patterns and

motifs were influenced by both Hindu and Persian mythology and iconography, made under the patronage of the Mughals and the Golconda Sultanate. However, the production of these textiles began to wane in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Through Ayutthaya's trade with India and China, textiles from these countries became very popular, especially textiles with Indian patterns. In the court tradition, *Pah Lai Yang* textiles were only worn by royalty and high-ranking courtiers who were royally bestowed these precious pieces for their good deeds. Additionally, some important visitors and guests were fortunate enough to receive them via this tradition, a practice that remained until the Rattanakosin Period. After the Western style of dressing arrived at the royal court, *Pah Lai Yang* lost its strict sartorial code and disappeared completely during WWII. Since then, there has been a revival in Thailand of this ancient craft and Ajarn Sethamun is one of the people responsible for it.

Ajarn **Sethamun Kanchanakul** from **Boran Lai** (Ancient Patterns) has been interested in recreating *Pah Lai Yang* with new designs and motifs. Graduated from Thai Wijitsilp Art School and Poh-Chang Academy of Arts, he was a special lecturer at Rangsit University and Kasembundit University. He worked as artistic consultant and costume designer in numerous impressive institutions in Thailand as well as in dramatic productions. In 1990, he started writing and publishing books based on his research of ancient textiles and patterns. From his collection of more than 3,000 patterns, drawings, paintings and actual pieces of textiles he has recreated 230 designs that were printed onto various garments thus far. In making these *Pah Lai Yang*, he has preserved, redesigned and developed ancient patterns for cultural diversity of Thai textiles.

**Venue:** Bandara Suites Silom (see map below)  
4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, first building  
75/1 Soi Saladaeng 1

**Time:** 10:00 am Members: B300 Non-members: B400

For information and reservation contact [bkk.tts@gmail.com](mailto:bkk.tts@gmail.com)



