



NEW WAVE WEAVERS: THE FUTURE OF THAI TEXTILES

by Acharn Wuthigrai Siripon, PhD

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There are concerns that Thai textiles are at risk of disappearing due to the fact that the majority of weavers are elderly and the younger generation are not interested in the practice, yet there are young individuals across the country who learn and practice the craft and produce wonderful textiles. These weavers and creators work with different approaches, some work tirelessly to rediscover and reproduce long-forgotten techniques and archival pieces. And there are emerging designers/weavers whose works barely resemble or represent the Thai tradition, who produce textiles with international influences for another audience. Although they may be the keys to

preserving and developing Thai textiles, these young weavers are not as well recognized or represented as they should be.

This talk will offer a comprehensive overview of this new wave of Thai weavers. It will offer a contextual review of Thai contemporary textiles and the Thai textile craft sector. It will also give a glimpse into the spectrum of approaches that these young makers adopt, whether they be traditional, innovative, provocative, or educational. The session will further offer a reflection and discussion on the current status of this upcoming yet vital group of weavers and the possibilities, opportunities, and challenges that they may face. The presentation will introduce a selection of the makers and their works. Examples of the textiles from the weavers will be presented and the audience will have the opportunity to examine their works up close. Some of the weavers will be present during the talk and available for later conversations. This will be a great opportunity to know and possibly make the connection with these new weavers, the future of Thai textiles.

Dr Wuthigrai (Fa) Siriphon is an award-winning weaver, designer and a researcher. He is a Lecturer in Textiles Design at Thammasat University's Department of Textile and Fashion Design. He is also a founder of FA Research Studio, a practice that focuses on the design, development and education of fine and applied arts with a particular focus on textiles. He received his MA and PhD (2018) in Textiles from the Royal College of Art, UK. His thesis: Revealing Localised Design Practice in Thai Hand Weaving, won the 2018 Anglo-Thai Society Annual Educational Award for Excellence in the Arts. In 2019 he won a grant from the British Museum and Arcadia's Endangered Material Knowledge Programme for his current research project: Wooden Reed Making of the Ethnic Lao Khrang in Thailand.

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

Time: 10:00 am Members: B300 Non-members: B400 Students: B100

For information and reservation contact bkk.tts@gmail.com



