

BANGKOK ART BIENNALE 2026

UNVEILS FULL ARTIST LINE-UP AND EXPANDS ACROSS BANGKOK

72 artists from around the world will take over Bangkok from 29 October 2026 to 28 February 2027, as *ANGELS & MARA* unfolds across temples, museums, cultural institutions and public spaces – alongside a wider city programme of independent exhibitions.

Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB) announces the complete line-up of **72 participating artists and collectives** for its fifth edition, *ANGELS & MARA*. Building on its earlier artist announcements, BAB 2026 brings together practices spanning painting, sculpture, photography, moving image, textile, installation and performance, exploring the forces that pull contemporary life between desire and restraint, destruction and renewal, the sacred and the everyday. Running from **29 October 2026 to 28 February 2027**, the Biennale continues its distinctive model of placing contemporary art within Bangkok itself, creating encounters between artworks and spaces charged with their own histories, beliefs and communities.

This year, the programme expands further with **Alliance Française Bangkok** joining the Biennale's venues, alongside **Wat Arun, Wat Pho, Wat Prayoon, Museum Siam, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), One Bangkok, centralwOrld, Siam Paragon, National Museum Bangkok** and the **Art Centre, Silpakorn University**. The previously announced venues bring together sacred temples, national collections, educational institutions and commercial districts, positioning the city itself as an active context for the exhibition.

From porcelain and bronze to tattoos, dreams and discarded pickleballs

Rather than approaching *ANGELS & MARA* as a simple opposition between good and evil, participating artists expose the unstable territory between the two.

At **Wat Pho**, Japanese-Swiss artist **Leiko Ikemura** connects mortality, rebirth and Buddhist iconography through Memento Mori, a reclining bronze figure whose pose recalls both European funerary sculpture and the temple's monumental Reclining Buddha. Nearby, Wu-san and Ma-san – “Angel from Cologne” and “Devil from Cologne” – embody opposing forces that ultimately belong to the same world. At the **National Museum Bangkok**, Chinese artist **Liu Jianhua** creates Square (Siamese Triangle), a site-specific configuration of steel and glazed porcelain in the Throne Hall. Its molten-gold-like porcelain fragments reflect the hall's vermilion ceiling and evoke centuries of ceramic exchange between China and Siam, including the histories of benjarong and lai nam thong. Elsewhere, Thai performance and tattoo artist **Chomphunut Phuttha** turns the body itself into a site of resistance. In the durational work WOMARA, she tattoos consenting participants with reversed texts drawn from traditional didactic proverbs for women, confronting the gendered histories of tattooing and transforming inscription into an assertion of bodily agency. Vietnamese artist **Lê Hiền Minh** moves through another kind of image-world. Lotusthetics rapidly collages hundreds of images from cinema, news, archives, celebrity culture and spiritual iconography, destabilising their original meanings while confronting representations of Asian women shaped by Orientalism, colonialism and ornamental stereotypes. For Thai textile artist **Ploenchan Vinyaratn**, transformation begins with what has already been discarded. Vestibule is a woven passage constructed from surplus yarns, fabric scraps, cardboard and even broken

pickleballs. Visitors enter one at a time, moving through a physical threshold in which materials — and potentially identities — are given another life. One may enter as Mara and emerge otherwise, or the reverse. Hmong artist **Tcheu Siong** gives material form to another invisible realm through hand-stitched embroidery and reverse appliqué. Emerging from dreams and visions, her figures evoke spirits, gods, ghosts, memory and Hmong cosmology, bringing the unseen into physical presence through fabric and thread. Nepalese performance artist **Amrit Karki**, meanwhile, examines the tension between stillness and worldly ambition in *A Fallen Petal Floating on the River of Time*. Through the body, water and the image of the bed as a place of rest and renewal, the participatory performance asks what prevents us from surrendering to the flow of time. These works sit alongside practices by artists including **AES+F**, **Nobuyoshi Araki**, **Arahmaiani**, **Mel Chin**, **Amanda Coogan**, **Mandy El-Sayegh**, **Max Hooper Schneider**, **Yasumasa Morimura**, **Sun Yuan & Peng Yu**, **Bill Viola**, **Sin Wai Kin**, **Apulu Pati Tyrell**, **Udom Taephanich**, **Yanran Chen**, **Yuan Goang-Ming**, **Woo Hannah**, **Renato Leotta**, **Htein Lin**, **Sakarin Krue-On**, **Tawan Wattuya** and many others, bringing together generations and perspectives from across Asia and beyond.

Beyond the Biennale: BAB Plus and BAB Fringe

For 2026, *ANGELS & MARA* extends beyond BAB's official venues through **BAB Plus** and **BAB Fringe**, two collaboration programmes connecting the Biennale with the wider contemporary art ecosystem beyond Bangkok. BAB Plus brings together **One Bangkok Art & Culture Space**, **100 Tonson Foundation**, **BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY**, **DIB 26** and **Jim Thompson Art Center**, each developing its own exhibition during the Biennale period in dialogue with *ANGELS & MARA*. BAB Fringe expands the constellation further through collaborations with **Rongsi 1984+1 Gallery**, **HELU-TRANS (THAILAND)** and **Warin Lab Nomad**, creating another layer of independently produced exhibitions taking place alongside BAB 2026.

Together, Bangkok Art Biennale, BAB Plus and BAB Fringe position Bangkok not simply as the host of a biennale, but as a city in which multiple exhibitions, institutions and independent spaces can respond simultaneously to a shared question: where, in contemporary life, does the angel end and Mara begin?

About the theme *ANGELS & MARA*

Taking its title from Bangkok's identity as the "City of Angels" and the figure of Mara — associated with temptation, desire and forces that obstruct enlightenment — *ANGELS & MARA* examines the contradictions embedded in contemporary existence. Across sacred architecture, museums, commercial spaces and cultural institutions, artists approach uncertainty, conflict, memory, spirituality, technology, identity and transformation from radically different perspectives. The theme does not insist on fixed opposites. Instead, it asks what happens when seemingly contradictory forces coexist — within societies, histories and ourselves.

Bangkok Art Biennale 2026: *ANGELS & MARA*

29 October 2026 – 28 February 2027

72 participating artists and collectives

The full line-up includes **AES+F** (Russia), **Tara Al Dughaiter** (Saudi Arabia), **Arahmaiani** (Indonesia), **Nobuyoshi Araki** (Japan), **Cedric Arnold** (UK/France), **Beyond Pressure** (Myanmar), **Channatip Chanvipava** (Thailand/UK), **Yanran Chen** (China), **Un Cheng** (Hong Kong), **Mel Chin** (USA), **Amanda Coogan** (Ireland), **Margret Eicher** (Germany), **Mandy El-Sayegh** (Malaysia/UK), **Gerard & Kelly** (France/USA), **Piero Golia** (Italy/USA), **Sonia Hamza** (France), **Amrita Hepi** (Australia), **Max Hooper**

Schneider (USA), **Mahtab Hussain & Guy Gunaratne** (UK), **Leiko Ikemura** (Japan/Switzerland), **Sumi Kanazawa** (Japan), **Amrit Karki** (Nepal), **Klara Kristalova** (Sweden), **Sakarin Krue-On** (Thailand), **Emi Kusano** (Japan), **Le Hien Minh** (Vietnam), **Renato Leotta** (Italy), **Jason Lim** (Singapore), **Htein Lin** (Myanmar), **Liu Jianhua** (China), **Hsing Yu Liu** (Taiwan, R.O.C.), **Breda Lynch** (Ireland), **Lê Hiền Minh** (Vietnam), **Yasumasa Morimura** (Japan), **Soe Yu Nwe** (Myanmar), **Mary Pakinee** (Thailand), **Marie Lloyd Paspe** (USA), **Ong Kian Peng** (Singapore), **Chomphunut Phuttha** (Thailand), **Chetsada Phuwiang** (Thailand), **Pierre et Gilles** (France), **Nazanin Pouyandeh** (Iran/France), **Chatchai Puipia** (Thailand), **Ri** (Myanmar), **Kornkarn Rungsawang** (Thailand), **Vayupad Ruttanapet** (Thailand), **Naraphat Sakarthornsap** (Thailand), **Sylvie Selig** (France), **Shin Min** (South Korea), **Sin Wai Kin** (Canada/UK), **Tcheu Siong** (Laos), **Teerapon Sisung** (Thailand), **Song Kun** (China), **Manit Sriwanichpoom** (Thailand), **Mariam Suhail** (Pakistan), **Sun Yuan & Peng Yu** (China), **Wasinburee Supanichvoraparch** (Thailand), **Manop Suwanpinta** (Thailand), **Udom Taephanich** (Thailand), **Mika Tamori** (Japan), **Bruno Tanquerel** (France), **Sudaporn Teja** (Thailand), **Pathompol Tesprateep** (Thailand), **Ralf Tooten** (Germany), **Apulu Pati Tyrell** (New Zealand), **Ploenchan Vinyaratn** (Thailand), **Bill Viola** (USA), **Tawan Wattuya** (Thailand), **Parada Wiratsawee** (Thailand), **Forrest Wong** (Malaysia), **Woo Hannah** (South Korea), **Yeoh Choo Kuan** (Malaysia), **Yuan Goang-Ming** (Taiwan, R.O.C.).

About the venues

The Bangkok Art Biennale transforms the Thai capital into a city-wide platform for artistic discovery, presenting contemporary art across an exceptional range of cultural, historical, educational and public spaces. Alongside the previously announced venues, including **Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn)**, **Wat Pho (Temple of the Reclining Buddha)**, **Wat Prayoon (Temple of the Iron Fences)**, **Museum Siam**, **Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC)**, **One Bangkok**, **centralwOrld**, **Siam Paragon**, the **National Museum Bangkok**, and the **Art Centre, Silpakorn University**, the Biennale now introduces one additional location: **Alliance Française Bangkok**. Together, these venues embody the Biennale's vision of bringing contemporary art into conversation with Bangkok's rich cultural landscape. By connecting sacred temples, national collections, educational institutions and vibrant commercial districts, BAB 2026 encourages visitors to experience the city through new perspectives, where history, spirituality and contemporary artistic practice intersect.

About Thai Beverage Company Limited (ThaiBev)

Founded by Thai Beverage Public Company Limited (ThaiBev) in 2018, the Bangkok Art Biennale Foundation (BABF) presents one of Southeast Asia's leading international contemporary art festivals. Under the patronage of Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi, Director and Group CEO of ThaiBev, the biennale has become a major platform for artistic exchange, bringing together leading artists from Thailand and around the world.

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Press Kit: [BAB 2026 Press Kit Full Artist Line-up | Angels & Mara](#)

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