

## Thailand and Italy Deepen Cultural Dialogue Through Contemporary Art at Bangkok Art Biennale 2026

27 Additional Artists Join *Angels & Mara*

The cultural dialogue between Thailand and Italy continues to grow as the Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB) unveils the second group of participating artists for its fifth edition, taking place from **29 October 2026 to 28 February 2027** under the theme ***Angels & Mara***.

With 27 newly announced artists and collectives joining the programme, BAB 2026 expands its international network across Asia, Europe and North America, bringing together artistic voices from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Korea, Germany, France, Italy, Iran, Canada, Thailand and beyond. Their works explore themes of hope and despair, spirituality and materialism, memory and forgetting, and the fragile balance between individual experience and collective history; all these are the questions that lie at the heart of this edition's theme.

Italy will be represented by two internationally recognised contemporary artists whose practices reflect different yet complementary perspectives on time, place and human experience.

Born in Naples and now based in Los Angeles, **Piero Golia** is renowned for creating works that blur the boundaries between reality and imagination. Rather than producing objects alone, Golia often constructs situations, actions and large-scale installations that challenge conventional expectations of art while inviting audiences to reconsider the invisible social, architectural and psychological structures that shape everyday life. His works have been presented at leading international institutions including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Witte de With in Rotterdam and MoMA PS1 in New York.

Turin-born artist **Renato Leotta** approaches landscape as a living archive shaped by light, time, memory and the rhythms of nature. Drawing inspiration from the Mediterranean and its long histories of exchange, migration and cultural encounter, his installations, sculptures, photographs and research-based practice investigate humanity's relationship with the environment and the passage of time. Recent exhibitions include the Pinault Collection at the Bourse de Commerce in Paris, the 17th Istanbul Biennial, Manifesta 12 in Palermo, and the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art. His poetic reflections on landscapes and shared histories resonate strongly with Bangkok Art Biennale's commitment to fostering dialogue across cultures and geographies.

Also joining a newly announced international line-up are Japanese photographer **Nobuyoshi Araki**, Japanese-Swiss artist **Leiko Ikemura**, French artistic duo **Pierre & Gilles**, Indonesian artist **Arahmaiani**, Chinese sculptor **Liu Jianhua**, Canadian-British artist **Sin Wai Kin**, Thai painter **Tawan Wattuya**, and many others. Together, the participating artists present diverse artistic perspectives while encouraging dialogue across cultures, generations and disciplines.

*\*Please see Appendix A for complete artist list*

Set against the backdrop of Bangkok, the *City of Angels*, BAB 2026 invites artists and audiences to reflect on the opposing yet interconnected forces that define our world. Through works ranging from intimate personal narratives to large-scale installations and immersive environments, the Bangkok Art Biennale will explore how individuals and societies navigate uncertainty, conflict, desire, hope, and transformation.

Bangkok Art Biennale 2026 is realised through collaboration between Thailand's leading cultural, tourism, government and private-sector organisations. Led by ThaiBev, the Biennale is supported by partners including One Bangkok, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Kasikornbank, Toyota and Lexus, Bangkok Expressway and Metro (BEM), Ch. Karnchang, Amarin Group, Chang, SangSom, Crystal, W

Bangkok, and many others, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening Bangkok as a global destination for contemporary art.

\*Additional artists and public programmes will be announced in September 2026.

## **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)** and **One Bangkok**, the Biennale now introduces four additional locations: **centralwOrld**, **Siam Paragon**, the **National Museum Bangkok**, and the **Art Centre, Silpakorn University**. 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 ANGELS & MARA**

Bangkok Art Biennale 2026 adopts the theme *Angels & Mara*, exploring the tension between guardians of light and forces of temptation. Drawing upon religious, cultural, and philosophical traditions, the biennale examines the dualities that shape contemporary existence and asks how humanity responds to the challenges of an increasingly complex world. Taking place across Bangkok's temples, museums, cultural institutions, historic sites, and public spaces, BAB 2026 continues its mission to make contemporary art accessible to diverse audiences while fostering international dialogue and artistic exchange.

## **ABOUT THAI BEVERAGE PUBLIC 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.

## **APPENDIX A: ARTIST LIST** (& more to be announced)

- |                                       |                                         |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Arahmaiani (Indonesia)             | 15. Htein Lin (Myanmar)                 | 29. Kornkarn Rungsawang (Thailand)    |
| 2. Nobuyoshi Araki (Japan)            | 16. Mahtab Hussain & Guy Gunaratne (UK) | 30. Naraphat Sakarthornsap (Thailand) |
| 3. Cedric Arnold (France/UK)          | 17. Leiko Ikemura (Japanese/Swiss)      | 31. Sylvie Selig (France)             |
| 4. Beyond Pressure (Myanmar)          | 18. Sumi Kanazawa (Japan)               | 32. Shin Min (South Korea)            |
| 5. Channatip Chanvipava (Thailand/UK) | 19. Renato Leotta (Italy)               | 33. Sin Wai Kin (Canada/UK)           |
| 6. Yanran Chen (China)                | 20. Liu Jianhua (China)                 | 34. Teerapon Sisung (Thailand)        |
| 7. Un Cheng (Hong Kong)               | 21. Breda Lynch (Ireland)               | 35. Manit Sriwanichpoom (Thailand)    |
| 8. Mel Chin (USA)                     | 22. Yasumasa Morimura (Japan)           | 36. Udom Taephanich (Thailand)        |
| 9. Yeoh Choo Kuan (Malaysia)          | 23. Ong Kian Peng (Singapore)           | 37. Mika Tamori (Japan)               |
| 10. Mandy El-Sayegh (Malaysia/UK)     | 24. Mary Pakinee (Thailand)             | 38. Sudaporn Teja (Thailand)          |
| 11. Gerard & Kelly (France/USA)       | 25. Chetsada Phuwiang (Thailand)        | 39. Ralf Tooten (Germany)             |
| 12. Piero Golia (Italy)               | 26. Pierre & Gilles (France)            | 40. Tawan Wattuya (Thailand)          |
| 13. Sonia Hamza (France)              | 27. Nazanin Pouyandeh (Iran/France)     | 41. Woo Hannah (South Korea)          |
| 14. Max Hooper Schneider (USA)        | 28. Ri (Myanmar)                        | 42. Sun Yuan & Peng Yu (China)        |

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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