



*What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week*  
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## The New York Times

A few decades ago, referring to universal human consciousness was often viewed with suspicion: a form of colonial domination masquerading as “equality,” in which certain identities and localities were erased. This has shifted in the current era, with millennial artists like Korakrit Arunanondchai, who was born and raised in Bangkok and has degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and Columbia University, serving as bellwethers.

The nearly-24-minute video in Mr. Arunanondchai’s show, titled “[with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4,](#)” at Clearing, ruminates on life, death, the past, images and technology. The middle room in the gallery features an elaborate installation with lights, fountains flowing with water and traces of indigo — a plant linked to Thailand, colonialism and slavery — and a floor made of dirt, crushed shells, resin and epoxy. The final room in the show includes some of the simple possessions of Mr. Arunanondchai’s grandmother.



Korakrit Arunanondchai’s “with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4 (garden),” from 2017, an elaborate installation with lights, water fountains and a floor made of dirt and other materials. Courtesy of the artist and CLEARING New York/Brussels

Moving between East and West, human and nonhuman, science and speculative fiction, the exhibition considers how we are all connected, not just by global art, climate change and political upheaval, but also in ancient concepts like Buddhist reincarnation, which suggests life as a river of spirits where the past, present and future commingle.

Mr. Arunanondchai’s work overlaps with Afro-Futurism and with works like “The Flavor Genome,” Anicka Yi’s video in the current Whitney Biennial, which also imagines life in cross-cultural and trans-species terms. At a moment when human life is still defined by biological limits and life spans, these artists remind us that we are on the cusp of technologically augmented existence, in which consciousness itself will be altered.