



Korakrit Arunanondchai

An Artist Who Talks Fast but Makes Meditative Films

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The artist Korakrit Arunanondchai was talking a mile a minute recently about “[with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4](#),” his video-and-sculpture show at Clearing, a gallery in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

“I put all of myself, physically and emotionally, into this,” said the amped-up Mr. Arunanondchai, 30, whose friends call him Krit. His dark hair pulled back, he was seated on a couch in a back room at Clearing, explaining how he surfs among different media and combines them.

“Instead of the video being the final product, I think of a film more as a sculpture,” said Mr. Arunanondchai, who will appear in a live performance on May 7.

The show features a 23-minute film accompanied by two separate installations, one a grotesque fantasy landscape with lights and fountains — shells are embedded in the floor — and one a more demure display of his grandmother’s possessions.

There is a man-sized rat suit sitting in one corner, worn by Mr. Arunanondchai and others in the film. He said that the character was inspired by the rat’s prominence in Elizabeth Kolbert’s book “[The Sixth Extinction](#),” which addresses the mass disappearance of species.

“It would be a dominant species after we’re gone,” said Mr. Arunanondchai, who said he often contemplates “the collapse of nature.” He mixes the rat images with footage of his grandparents, looking back with uncertainty about the world’s future.



The artist Korakrit Arunanondchai, in front of a video image of his grandmother, in “with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4” at the Clearing in Brooklyn. Stephanie Diani for The New York Times

“I’m from Thailand, and I’m always thinking about Buddhism,” he said. “When you talk about life, it’s always about transforming.”

After growing up in Bangkok, Mr. Arunanondchai moved to the United States to attend the Rhode Island School of Design, then earned an M.F.A. from Columbia. Now he lives in Chinatown and keeps a studio in Ridgewood, Queens.

His multimedia approach has been successful, with a solo [show](#) at MoMA PS1 in 2014. Klaus Biesenbach, the director there, calls Mr. Arunanondchai a “synesthetic” artist. “He combines music, sound, fashion, painting, sculpture, cinema in a plot that is both cinematic and biographic,” Mr. Biesenbach explained. “In his live performances, you nearly have the impression you can hear the colors.”

In contrast to his personality, Mr. Arunanondchai’s films are relatively slow and dreamlike — “meditative,” he said. He uses a lot of footage taken by drones, which he calls “a spirit viewpoint,” like the garuda, a divine bird in Buddhist mythology that can change into human form.

“It’s invisible but it’s not,” he said. “It changes our behavior in such an extreme way.”