

Local Studio

Buffalo Field 2019

* Call for Participation & Expressions of Interest *

Get hands-on experience in participatory design processes with an exciting live project in **Nang Loeng**, in the Old Town area of Bangkok. Local Studio will explore interdisciplinary design research as part of a community-based, site-specific performance festival, **Buffalo Field**.

The 4-day studio and 2-day festival are a collaboration between community, artists and academics from Thailand, Asia, Australia and the US, hosted by Bangkok co-design specialists, **Openspace**.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are welcome from students, professionals and local community members. Diverse backgrounds are encouraged. Makers and thinkers from all fields are welcome. Maximum 25 participants.

See Program Schedule for EOI and Contact details



Takashi Takiguchi and Cloudbear, Buffalo Field 2018

Photo credit: Mike Hornblow

Studio Cost

Students
Professionals
Community

2500 TB *
3500 TB
Free

* Attendance for Thammasat students is sponsored by the Urban Futures and Policy Research Unit, Faculty of Architecture and Planning

Key Dates >

- ❖ EOI deadline Nov. 18
- ❖ Local Studio Nov. 21 – 24
- ❖ Buffalo Field Festival Nov. 30 – Dec.1

Nang Loeng

Nang Loeng is a long-standing community in the Old Town of Bangkok, and an important node of exchange when people arrived more than 100 years ago from many different places and cultural backgrounds. It was originally called the Sanam Kwai community, Sanam Kwai meaning 'field of buffalos' because there were many buffalos living there when there were only a few houses.

Buffalo Field

Our 'Buffalo Field' recalls the history of Nang Loeng, with the original forces of life that created this place, but also the way something is awakening in the spirit of local people and their culture. Buffalo Field Festival is produced by co-design studio Openspace, as a collaboration between Ploy Yamtree, Mike Hornblow, the E-lerng community artist group, and an international network of artists and researchers.

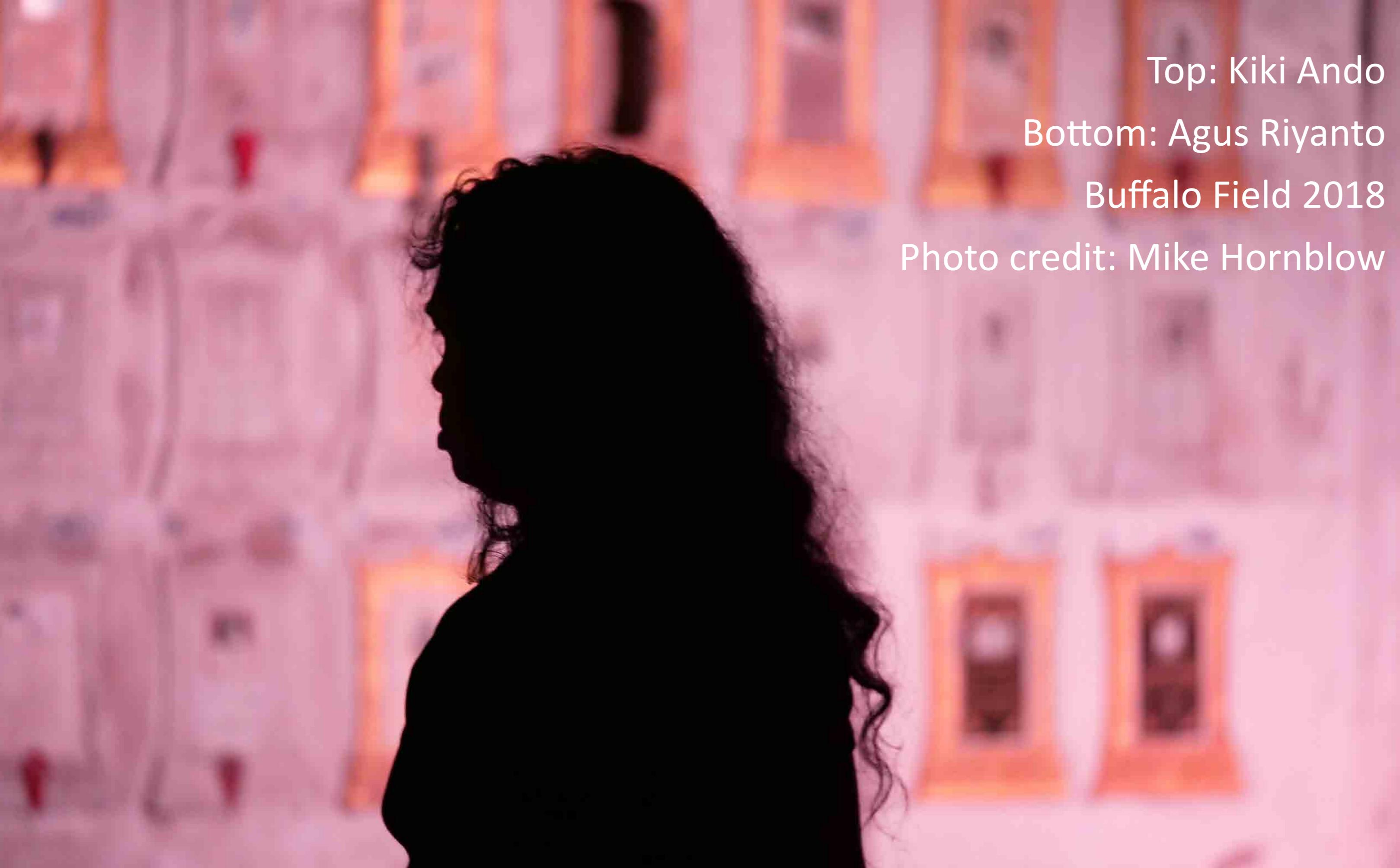


Agung Gunawan, Buffalo Field 2018

Photo credit: Mike Hornblow



Top: Kiki Ando
Bottom: Agus Riyanto
Buffalo Field 2018
Photo credit: Mike Hornblow



Themes & Approach

Three festival themes – *sustenance, settlement, social fabric* – will be used as conceptual drivers for design research during Local Studio. These will provide opportunities for academics, students, and community members to tell stories, explore techniques and formulate ideas around local concerns and special features of Nang Loeng. Studio outcomes will go on to provide context, content and material resources for Artists to activate further during Buffalo Field Festival. Studio participants are invited to continue their involvement during the festival period, as our investigations take new form, entering new fields of creative expression.

Community consultation in the studio phase will extend to a Community Forum (including a studio debrief) at the start of the Festival Week (see Program Schedule). Further opportunities for participation will occur through festival workshops and Artist ‘Co-Lab’ sessions (open to Local Studio participants). The festival will launch with a welcome dinner, followed by a two-day performance program with daytime and night-time sessions at outdoor sites and indoor venues across the Nang Loeng community.

Sustenance...

food security, urban farming, hospitality, social entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism

While it is home to one of Bangkok’s most famous markets, many residents in Nang Loeng often struggle to afford or access good quality food. Urban farming allows people to become more self-sufficient and offers useful methods for local communities. In the design studio, we’ll explore food security, radical hospitality, and ways of upcycling food waste in collaboration with local city farm networks. At the Festival Launch evening we’ll reactivate these ideas as part of a long-table Welcome Dinner, with cooking from local kitchens. We’ll discuss how these activities may then ‘plant the seed’ for future food initiatives.



The Dancing House, Nang Loeng
Phase 1 restoration, Openspace



AñA Wojak, Buffalo Field 2018
Photo credit: Brenda Pérez Castro

Settlement...

gentrification, insecure tenure, upgrading, restoration, reuse, adaptation, feng sui

The specter of eviction lies behind the gentrification of Old Town areas. In contrast with city infrastructure such as a new train line for Nang Loeng, there's also the need for upgrading squalid dwelling conditions, while retaining the informal character of the neighborhood with heritage restoration or adaptive reuse projects. The studio will review existing urban studies on the area and develop new analyses by exploring the local neighborhood. We'll also experiment with more performative urban mapping techniques, and speculative structures using found materials that may act as way-finders or narrative devices for collaboration with festival artists. Community consultation will consider the value of new design-build projects, artist-in-residency programs, and other proposals.

Social fabric...

livelihood, inclusion, cultural memory, community expertise

The cultural memory of life in Nang Loeng is most visible in places of traditional livelihood – such as an old barber, printer, butcher, or tailor. We'll work with 'local experts' in the community to open their spaces of vocation for collaboration with festival artists and designers. This process will use a range of storytelling, mapping and multimedia techniques. At the festival, audiences will navigate local sites aided by narratives and mapping tools developed through community processes – to retrace the fabric of Nang Loeng in all its colors, textures, stories and characters.

Program Schedule

Studio Week

Thurs–Sun, Nov. 21–24 Local Studio – 10am to 5pm; limited group, by EOI *
(Time and hours may change on the day)

* Send us a 250-word *Expression of Interest* by November 18; telling us a bit about yourself, your background, and your interest in participating.

<u>4-day Studio Cost</u>	Students	2500 TB *
	Professionals	3500 TB
	Community	Free

Studio fees cover festival logistics and coordination. We provide tools and general materials. Studio facilitators offer their time pro-bono.

* Attendance for Thammasat students is sponsored by the Urban Futures and Policy Research Unit, Faculty of Architecture and Planning.

Contact

buffalofieldbkk@gmail.com

Festival Week

Tuesday Nov. 26	<i>International artists arrival and orientation</i>
Wednesday Nov. 27	Co-Lab – creative collaboration (artists only) Community forum & Design Studio debrief (public, free)
Thursday Nov. 28	Co-Lab – creative collaboration (artists only); Open rehearsal / workshop session (public, free)
Friday Nov. 29	Co-Lab – creative collaboration (artists only); Festival launch & Welcome dinner (festival participants, community, invited guests)
Saturday Nov. 30	Workshop – 10am-12pm (public, 400 TB) Performance program, day & night – sites TBA (public, free)
Sunday Dec. 1	Workshop – 10am-12pm (public, 400 TB) Performance program, day & night – sites TBA (public, free) Closing party – site TBA (festival participants, community)

Further information on festival program, artists, and locations to be announced

Studio Facilitators



Kasama (Ploy) Yamtree
Senior Architect, Openspace



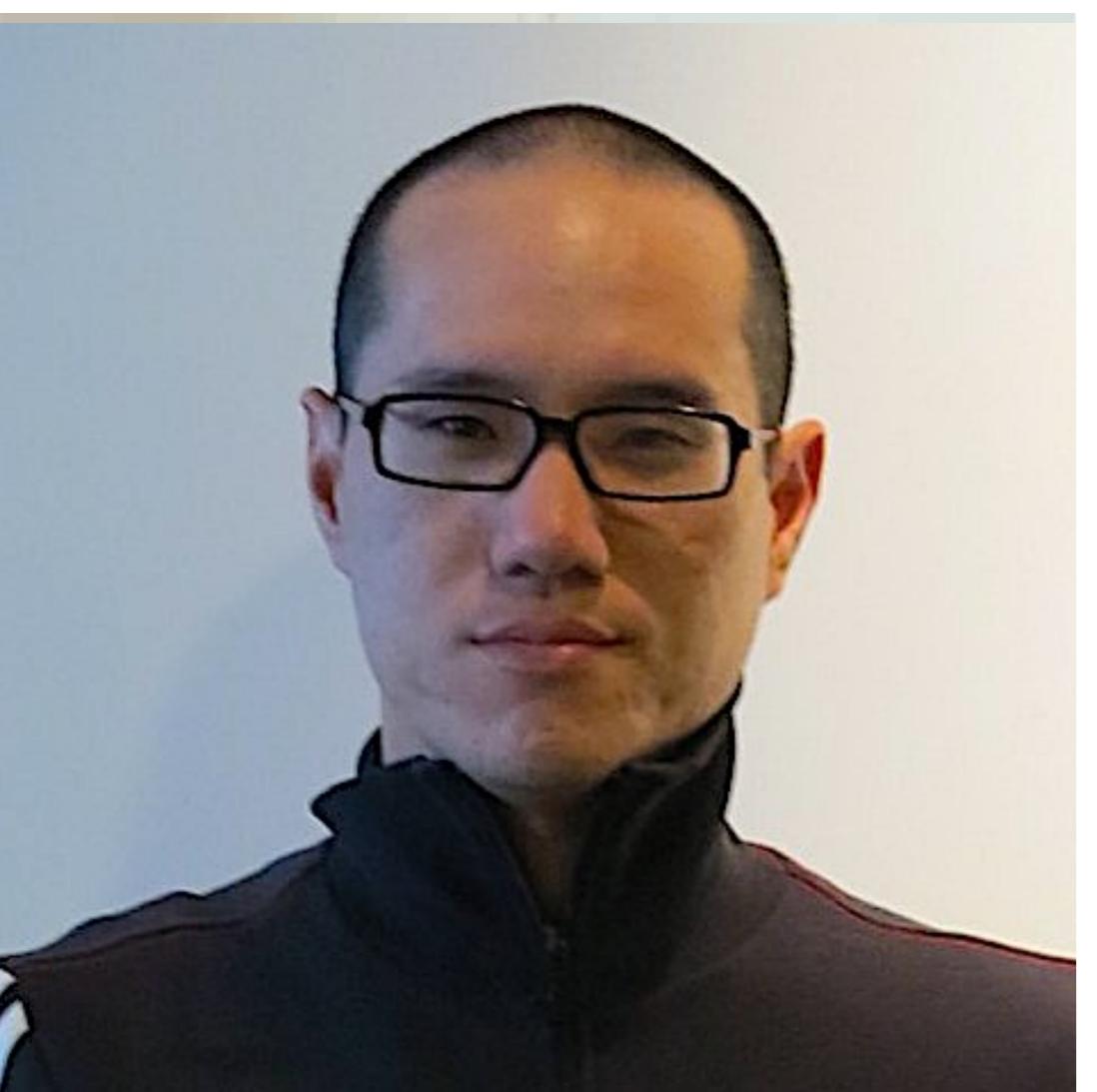
Dang Suwan Welployngam



Dr Mike Hornblow



Asst. Prof Wijitbusaba (Ann)
Marome, Thammasat University



Asst. Prof Boonanan (Pan)
Natakun, Thammasat University



Dr Stacey Moran,
Arizona State University



Asst. Prof Adam Nocek
Arizona State University



Prof Stephen Loo
University of New South Wales



Prof Julian Worrall
University of Tasmania

Kasama (Ploy) Yamtree – Senior Architect, Openspace; Local Studio host / coordinator

Kasama Yamtree is a community architect based in Bangkok, working in the areas of knowledge management, community architecture and development. She uses participatory processes, involving design, art, architecture, planning, communication, environment, public health, and climate change. Kasama is Senior Architect and Director of Openspace, an open ground for interdisciplinary collaborations in community development; and Tar Saeng Studio, which aims to promote Universal Design knowledge and adaptation across Thailand. In addition to her work at Openspace, Kasama has coordinated projects at the regional level through her work with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, and Community Organizations Development Institute. She has also taught at several Thai university architecture and design programs, including Thammasat. Kasama and her team have a long history of collaboration with the Nang Loeng community, including the restoration project Dancing House, and Buffalo Field Festival.

Kasama will co-facilitate during the Studio period; as well as the Buffalo Field Festival Week as an organisor.



Kasama (Ploy) Yamtree



Mike Hornblow

Dr Mike Hornblow – University of Tasmania

Mike Hornblow is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher and arts manager. Before moving recently to Thailand he was a Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Design at the University of Tasmania. Before UTAS, he spent two years as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Concordia University (Montreal), after completing his PhD at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Michael has a broad background across videomaking, public art, performance, and design, including presentations at Melbourne Festival and the International Symposium on Electronic Art (Sydney, Vancouver, and Hong Kong). He has a long history of creative work in South East Asia, including performing, organising and curating for Melaka Art and Performance Festival (Malaysia), festivals and art residencies across Indonesia (with Asialink and the Australia Indonesia Institute), studying with several dance choreographers in Japan (Min Tanaka, Kazuo Ohno, Ko Murobushi), as well as founding Buffalo Field with Openspace in Bangkok.

Mike will co-facilitate during the Studio period; as well as Buffalo Field Festival Week as an organisor and performer.

Dang Suwan Welployngam – Community Leader

Dang Suwan Welployngam is a community developer and leader who was born and lives in Nang Loeng. She invites visitors to her neighborhood, to walk along the small roads and alleyways, to meet local people and appreciate their lifestyle. She was a key facilitator on the Openspace renovation project, The Dancing House, adapted to become an artist residency and community space. The Arts House is another local meeting place that she cares for, where the E-Lerng artist group base their activities, including Thai dance and cooking. She is also a co-founder of Buffalo Field and plays an active role in liaising with community on the festival. She is interested in how art and culture can be used as tactical tools for community mobilization and development. In collaboration with active members in the community, she organizes cultural events and art activities focused on children, with the intent of raising awareness amongst younger generations around poverty. Such engagement is consciously political in nature, which sees creativity ‘as a tool to brighten a dark soul’, and that aims to use the community’s history and tradition of art and dance to mobilize for the rights of local people.

Dang Suwan will co-facilitate during the Studio period; as well as Buffalo Field Festival Week as an organisor. She will be joined by her daughter Nammon in the studio and festival organizing.



Dang Suwan Welployngam



Top: Artists meeting at Arts House in 2017

Bottom: Festival after party at Arts House in 2018

Assistant Prof. Wijitbusaba (Ann) Marome – Thammasat University

Wijitbusaba Marome or Ann is an urban development planner and a full-time professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Thammasat University. She is also Head of the Urban Futures and Policy Research Unit. She has worked widely in the field of urban development planning, urban sustainability and resilience. In her research, she uses multidisciplinary approaches to understand changes within the city. The city is a dynamic and complex system, for which her focus involves a human-centered holistic framework. In her practice, she works with public, private and civil society sectors, using tools such as games to encourage participatory process and communicative action planning. She has led a range of international research projects, including urban climate resilience, adaptive urban governance, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), urban poor and vulnerable minorities. Her current research investigates how cities in Thailand can foster more inclusive, resilient and sustainable policy and practices.

Ann will co-facilitate during the Studio period, participate in the Studio Debrief, and attend Buffalo Field Festival.



Wijitbusaba (Ann) Marome



Boonanan (Pan) Natakun

Assistant Prof. Boonanan (Pan) Natakun – Thammasat University

Boonanan Natakun is a full-time lecturer in Interior Architecture at Thammasat Design School. His postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne bridged architectural design, housing, urban planning and anthropology; so his research interests cover a nexus of spatial, social, cultural and political processes at urban neighborhood and community levels. He has been looking at how we can understand the livelihood of urban residents through humanistic ways of improving living conditions, while tackling other related urban problems. His research therefore focuses on participatory planning and design for urban communities. His current research projects look at climate resilience for low-income communities and the role that neighborhoods play in urban development and urbanization processes in Southeast Asian countries. He is currently Vice Director of the Urban Futures and Policy Research Unit.

Ann will co-facilitate during the Studio period, participate in the Studio Debrief, and attend Buffalo Field Festival.

Assistant Prof. Adam Nocek – Arizona State University

Adam Nocek is Founding Director of the Centre for Philosophical Technologies; and an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy of Technology and Science and Technology studies in the School of Arts, Media and Engineering at Arizona State University. He has published widely on the philosophy of media and science; speculative philosophy; design philosophy, history, and practice; and critical and speculative theories of computational media. In his creative practice, Nocek draws on social and speculative design and the material arts and sciences to design techniques for activating collective critique and imagination. His work has been performed and exhibited internationally. Nocek is currently working on two book projects: the first project addresses computational governance and the emergence of new regimes of design expertise, and the second project reimagines the role of mythology within speculative design philosophy.

Adam will Skype-in to co-facilitate during the Studio week (Nov.19-21); and in-person during the Studio weekend (Nov.23-24), as well as in the Buffalo Field Festival Week.



Adam Nocek



Stacey Moran

Dr Stacey Moran – Arizona State University

Stacey Moran is Associate Director of the Centre for Philosophical Technologies, and a Lecturer in the School of Arts, Media and Engineering, and the Department of English. Stacey works at the intersections of feminist theory and technoscience, design research, and critical pedagogy. Her current research investigates how methods in the physical sciences provide a foothold for thinking about the materiality of knowledge production in feminist theory and practice. Her scholarship views gender politics as not simply being about men and women, but focuses precisely on how to understand agency, body, rationality, and the boundaries between theory/practice and thinking/making. Stacey worked in the fashion industry for twenty years and enlists this expertise to engage new forms of speculative and critical design research.

Adam will Skype-in to co-facilitate during the Studio week (Nov.19-21); and in-person during the Studio weekend (Nov.23-24), as well as in the Buffalo Field Festival Week.

Prof. Stephen Loo – University of New South Wales

Stephen Loo works in the transdisciplinary nexus of design, philosophy, art, performance and science. He has published widely in architecture and design theory, bio-philosophy, post-humanist ethics, ecological humanities and experimental computational and digital thinking. Stephen is a founding partner of award-winning design, architecture, interpretation and exhibition practice MULLOWAY Studio, whose projects have featured in the Venice Biennale in 2008 and 2014. He has a performance-philosophy based art practice and has shown internationally in Paris, Berlin, London, Sydney and Adelaide, and is part of an international collective, *The Food Project*. Stephen has played a key role in national and international policy settings in architecture and design education. From 2010-2016 he was Chair of the National Education Committee, Australian Institute of Architects (AIA); and President of the Australian Deans of the Built Environment and Design (ADBED) from 2013-2016.

Stephen will Skype-in during the Studio period; and co-facilitate in-person during the Buffalo Field Festival Week.



Stephen Loo



Julian Worrall

Prof. Julian Worrall – University of Tasmania

Julian Worrall is an architect, writer, and Professor of Architecture at the University of Tasmania. An internationally prominent exponent of urban and architectural innovation sourced in the study of the built environments of East Asia, particularly Japan, Julian's career spans scholarly research and education, critical writing, and design practice. His PhD at the University of Tokyo traced the formation and evolution of urban public space through the development of railways in modern Tokyo. Subsequent research has explored culture-led rural revitalization through festivals of contemporary art and architecture; relational approaches to architectural design and spatial practice; and themes of publicness, displacement, neutrality, and temporality. A widely published author and critic, including the book *21st Century Tokyo* (Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2010), he has contributed to major institutions and exhibitions of architectural culture, including at La Biennale (Venice); MoMA (New York); V&A Museum (London); MAK (Vienna); Strelka (Moscow); Shibaura House (Tokyo); and Festa (Christchurch).

Julian will Skype-in during the Studio period; and participate in-person during Buffalo Field Festival.

Local Studio coordinators:

Ploy Yamtree, Mike Hornblow

Festival organizing committee:

Ploy Yamtree, Mike Hornblow, Dang Welployngam, Nammon Welployngam



Buffalo Field 2018, final performance curtain call. Photo credit: Brenda Pérez Castro