MYRTILLE TIBAYRENC

Myrtille Tibayrenc (born 1980) is a French painter, curator and gallery director who lives and works in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She grew up in Bolivia, the United States and France, and has lived in Thailand since 2006.

She studied at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Dunkerque (1999 - 2003) and the École Supérieure Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Marseille (2003 - 2005), with an Erasmus year at ARCIS University in Santiago de Chile in 2004. Her paintings are made in oil on gesso-primed wood, often recycled planks of teak, mango and padauk from northern Thailand, built in thin glazes that leave the grain visible as the skin of the figure. She works in large series, clusters of small paintings that recall the ex-voto walls of churches, each worked like an icon around a single central figure on a bare ground. Her sources are photographs she takes herself or collects, and many of her sitters are friends from the creative community. Recent work draws on Renaissance and Symbolist painting and on mythology, and uses gold leaf to set European painting traditions beside Thai sacred art.

From 2006 she worked as a cultural agent at the Alliance Française in Bangkok. In 2010 she founded Toot Yung Gallery in Bangkok, later the Toot Yung Art Center, which she directed until it closed in 2021, in Bangkok and from 2018 in Chiang Mai. During those years she created the Ratchaprasong Art Maze (2016), directed the Bukruk street art festival (2013 and 2016) and curated the Pakitsilp Varamissara retrospective at the National Gallery Bangkok (2012). She has painted full time since 2021, and continues to curate occasionally.

Art practice

2027	Solo show, *Atopia*, West Eden, Bangkok, 17 March - 31 May
2026	Solo show, *DAIMON*, Alliance Française Chiang Mai, 11 July - 16 August
	Commission and exhibition, *108 Pieces*, Museum of Something, Hang Dong, Chiang Mai, curated by Yang Liu, 3 April - 30 May
2025	Mural near Soi Patpong, Bangkok, for Krung Thep Creative Streets, invited by the French Embassy in Bangkok
2024	Solo show, *Oh L'Amour*, Alliance Française Chiang Mai, 7 September - 20 October
2023	Solo show, *Créature Extraordinaire*, PULSE Gallery Ploenchit, Bangkok, 13 March - 30 April
2022	Solo show, *Just Human*, X Space Gallery, Bangkok
	Group show, Bangkok Art Biennale, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre: *Iconostasis*, an installation of 45 oil paintings on hand-woven, naturally dyed cotton canvases by Studio Naenna, Chiang Mai
	Group show, *May We Shine*, Lal Luna Gallery, Chiang Mai
	Group show, *Mango Art Festival*, De Siam Antiques, Chiang Mai
2021	Group show, *Painting X*, X Space Gallery, Bangkok
	Group show, *Soi Convent Pavilion*, Bangkok Biennial, Bangkok
	Group show, *Art for Air*, 3 Kings Museum, Chiang Mai

2020	Solo show, *Chimera*, Lido Art Space, Chiang Mai
	Solo show, *Cadavres Exquis*, Toot Yung Art Center, Chiang Mai
2019	Book launch and solo show, *Smalls*, Bangkok
2018	Solo show, *Sic-Transit*, public toilet, Bangrak market, Bangkok Biennial, Bangkok
	Solo show, *Sweet Waste*, Barbar Fetish Club, Bangkok
	Group show, *Thai French Connection*, Bangkok University Gallery, Bangkok
2017	Solo show, *Sublimation*, Serindia Gallery, Bangkok

Curatorial and gallery work

2024	Curator, *Wild Wild World*, solo exhibition by Laudine Dubeaux, Alliance Française Chiang Mai, 10 February - 24 March
2018 - 2021	Director, Toot Yung Art Center, Chiang Mai
2016	Creator and project director, Ratchaprasong Art Maze, a one-month contemporary Thai art festival on the theme of nature in the city, with six outdoor in situ installations by Thai artists
	Director, Bukruk II urban arts festival, Bangkok, a 10-day festival of international urban artists from Europe and Asia
	Inhabited Hypercube, solo exhibition and block party for the Dutch artist Daan Botlek, soi Nana community, Bangkok
	I know I can, community workshop with international street artists and a DJ for the street kids of Hub Sai Dek Association, Bangkok
	Pachimon, solo exhibition by Claude Estebe, Bangkok Photo Festival, Alliance Française, Bangkok
	In your Face, photo projection night and fashion show by Madeaw, with 20 photographers from France and Thailand, Galleries Night, Alliance Française, Bangkok
2013 - 2014	Director, Toot Yung Art Center, Ekamai soi 2, Bangkok
	Director, Bukruk Street Art Festival 2013
2012	Director, Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok
	Curator, Pakitsilp Varamissara retrospective, National Gallery Bangkok
2011	Director, Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok
	City of Angels, Identity Crisis, group exhibition of six Thai artists, supported by the French Embassy, 59 Rivoli, Paris
2010	Founder and director, Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok
	Creation of an art exhibition space for Exotissimo Travel Agency, Bangkok
	Uniform Uniformity, solo exhibition by Tawan Wattuya, Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok
2009	Exhibition at Amantee House of Oriental and Tibetan Antiques and Art, Bangkok, with Haritorn Akarapat, Pakitsilp Varamissara and Nitti Wattuya
	La Thaïlande Vous Sourit, Nitti Wattuya, Pakitsilp Varamissara, Haritorn Akarapat and Tawan Wattuya, Chapel of Salinelles, France
	Story of the Eye, Tada Varich and Tawan Wattuya, Gossip Gallery, Bangkok
	Lapse of Memory, solo exhibition by Haritorn Akarapat, Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok

2008	*The Inner I*, duo exhibition by Tawan Wattuya and Haritorn Akarapat, GMT+7 Gallery, Brussels
	Cultural agent, Alliance Française, Bangkok
2007	*Siamese Freaks, a modern courtyard of miracles*, solo exhibition by Tawan Wattuya, Numthong Gallery, Bangkok
	Cultural agent, Alliance Française, Bangkok
2006	Cultural agent, Alliance Française, Bangkok

Education

2003 - 2005	DNSEP, Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique (Master's degree; painting, installation), École Supérieure Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Marseille, France
2004	Erasmus exchange grant, ARCIS University, Santiago de Chile
1999 - 2003	DNAP, Diplôme National d'Art Plastique (Bachelor's degree; installation, drawing, photography), École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Dunkerque, France

Editorial works

2022	Olivier Fauchereau, *Paintings* (editor)
2020	Ralph Kiggell, *Sacred Shapes* (editor)
2019	Tawan Wattuya, *Works 2009 - 2019* (editor)
	Claude Estebe, *Digital works 2009 - 2019* (editor)
	Myrtille Tibayrenc, *Paintings 2016 - 2018* (self-published)
2009	Haritorn Akarapat, *Bronze works* (editor)