

For immediate release:

Misho Gallery is proud to present Pichai Pongsasaovapark latest works ***Looking and Seeing II*** which explores three environmental themes: drought, floods and air pollution.

Exhibition Dates: April 6-21, 2018

Opening Reception April 6, 2018 from 5:00 – 9:00pm

Misho Gallery

680 8th Street, Suite 230, San Francisco, CA 94103

www.mishogallery.com

Pichai Pongsasaovapark is a Bangkok-based artist working in several media, including painting, digital photography, and sculpture, to create textured and visually complex abstract and conceptual work. His recent work focuses on the environment and the impact of catastrophic climate change. His work is in numerous collections, including the Luciano Benetton Foundation in Milan and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and included in the Luciano Benetton Foundation's landmark volume, *Thailand: Spiritual & Material - Contemporary Artists from Thailand* (2015). He is represented by Subhashok Arts Centre (Bangkok).

In the ***Drought*** series, he overlaid photographs of drought-stricken rice farms and arid landscapes taken in northeast Thailand with photographs of the farmers most directly impacted by the unforgiving weather, capturing both their resignation and the heartbreaking sadness of their fading away with their land, their faces expressing a stoic acceptance of the harsh reality befallen them.

In his ***Deluge*** series, he has attempted to simulate the results of the flooding in Thailand in 2017. After seeing torrential rainstorms flood Bangkok streets, awash with everything from food wrappers and containers to plastic bags and bottles, and even mattresses and furniture, discarded by people on the street, combining with construction sand, garbage, and newspapers to create a foul mélange of urban flotsam and effluvia flowing into sewers and canals, he soaked canvasses in a local *klong* (canal), later moving them to large water tanks to which he added automotive oil and lubricants, organic matter, and more urban trash. He then removed the canvasses, baking them in the open air, and added the plastics, foam

sponges, coconut fiber used as mattress stuffing, and other materials that he had collected from the streets cut-up, and then painted with oil.

In his ***Poison Flower*** series, he wanted people to see air pollution in a way in which they have never seen it with their own eyes. The black and white flowers, that resemble the Thai flower called “bou tong” from the north of Thailand, are not classical paintings, but created solely by capturing carbon emissions from different type of vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles, vans, pickup trucks, rice combines, and tractor tillers on linen canvasses. The stunning images, which can be contemplated for their unsettling beauty, are the pure and direct creation of modern pollution.

For more information, please contact Gallery Manager at 415.655.1838