

# JAKKAI SIRIBUTR

## ART BASEL HONG KONG, 2023

21 - 25 March 2023

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Booth 1B25

Flowers Gallery is delighted to participate in Art Basel Hong Kong 2023, with a solo presentation by Jakkai Siributr. One of today's leading Thai artists, Jakkai is known for his intricately handmade tapestries, quilts and installations, which convey powerful responses to contemporary and historical societal issues in South East Asia.

*The Outlaw's Flag (2017)* is an installation of 21 imagined flags embroidered with beads and fishing nets. Gathered in Sittwe, the materials allude to the displacement of the Rohingyas, the ethnic Muslim minorities in Myanmar, who escaped religious persecution in the city on boats to Ranong, southern Thailand.

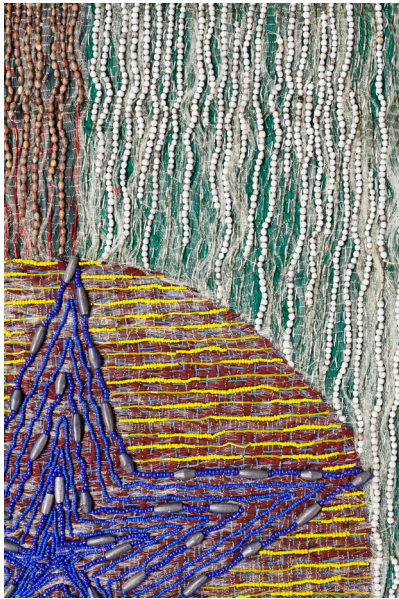
These 21 flags of invented nations integrate colors and emblems from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malaysia and Thailand, referencing the countries implicated in the Rohingya refugee crisis. "A flag in general whether from a country, a sports team or a club is to unite their members. But when religious symbols appear on a flag, it automatically excludes a certain group of people." Siributr says. As well as the assemblage of differently sized, richly colored flags, hung aloft from individual hooks, the installation

Presented in conjunction with *The Outlaw's Flag*, *Blind Faith I, II, III* (2011/2019) is made from Thai military uniforms adorned with brass bullet shells, glass beads and ritual objects. These works were previously exhibited in *Garmenting: Costume as Contemporary Art* at The Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), New York last year. The artist explains that the work is "to address the military's negligence of army conscripts sent to the restive deep south of Thailand.... The only thing they can rely on is supernatural powers from various talismans."

A retrospective exhibition is planned for CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile, Hong Kong) in November 2023.



Jakkai Siributr, *The Outlaw's Flag* (2017), mixed media flag and video installation, single channel HD video, colour, 7:52 mins, videography: Shane Bunnang, photography: Smit Na Nakornpanom



Clockwise from left:

Detail of *The Outlaw's Flag* (2017);

Jakkai Siributr wearing *Blind Faith I*

(2011/2019), Found materials,

160 x 30 x 30 cm; Installation view of *The Outlaw's Flag* (2017);

Detail of *The Outlaw's Flag* (2017)



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jakkai Siributr (b. 1969) lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand. He is known for his intricately handmade tapestries, quilts and installations, which convey powerful responses to contemporary and historical societal issues in Thailand.

Siributr studied Textile and Fine Arts at Indiana University, Bloomington, USA; and Printed Textile Design, at Philadelphia University, USA. He has exhibited widely, with notable exhibitions including *Exploring the Cosmos: The Stupa as a Buddhist Symbol*, Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore (2013); *Phantoms of Asia: Contemporary Awakens the Past*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, California, USA; *Link Tradition and Future*, (2012); and the 2nd Chongqing Biennale for Young Artists, The Art Museum of Sichuan Fine Art Institute, Chongqing, China (2011). His works are in the public collections of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, Taiwan; Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, USA; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA; Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey; and the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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