PRESS RELEASE FLOWERS

## JAKKAI SIRIBUTR CULTURA (IM)MATERIALE

MAD Murate Art District Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography Florence

23 October 2025 - 18 January 2026

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Flowers Gallery is delighted to announce acclaimed Thai artist Jakkai Siributr's first solo institutional exhibition in Italy, *Cultura* (*im*)*materiale*.

Curated by Veronica Caciolli and Valentina Gensini, the presentation is between two venues in Florence. Murate Art District and the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology. A survey of narrative textile works and intricate embroidery transformed into monumental installations. alongside are collective embroideries and handcrafts developed through workshops and dialogues with local women, intertwining Thai traditions with the women of the Tuscan region. The artist collaborated with local



Jakkai Siributr, *Cultura (im)materiale*, Install, 2025, (c) The Artist, Courtesy of Murate Art District, Photography by Alisa Martynova.

women's communities with migratory backgrounds from Nosotras and Casa delle Donne, as well as with the artisans involved in the Comune di Barberino Tavarnelle project dedicated to passing on the traditional "Punto Tavarnelle" embroidery technique through intergenerational transmission of artisanal knowledge.

The exhibition also features an iteration of *There's no Place*, the ongoing long-term collaborative embroidery project that creates cross-border dialogues between the displaced ethnic Shan communities at Thailand's Koung Jor Shan Refugee Camp and viewers around the world.

In collaboration with the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology - University Museum System, Jakkai Siributr was invited to engage with the figure of Galileo Chini (1873-1956), a Tuscan artist, decorator, and ceramist who lived for a long period in the East, where he produced several major public works, including the frescoes for the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall in Bangkok. Part of Chini's Siamese collection, donated by the artist himself, is on display in this room, where Siributr presents a new site-specific garment inspired by Chini's collection, along with a section of his work *Transient Shelter* (2014), which reflects on the relationship between life and death, the reversal of values, and the tension between matter and spirit. For the occasion, the museum has partially reinstalled the room with new works from the Chini Collection.

Through these shared processes, Siributr weaves together the stories of women and communities, the legacy of Chini, and the contributions of students and visitors, constructing a dialogue of sensitivity, memory, and imagination - between the material and immaterial, the individual and the collective.



Jakkai Siributr, Cultura (im)materiale, Install, 2025, (c) The Artist, Courtesy of Murate Art District, Photography by Alisa Martynova.

## ABOUT JAKKAI SIRIBUTR (b. 1969)

Jakkai Siributr lives in Bangkok, Thailand, and is one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists, working primarily in the textile medium. He is known for his intricately handmade tapestries, quilts and installations, which convey powerful responses to contemporary and historical societal issues in Thailand, and beyond.

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 Phantoms of Asia: Contemporary Awakens the Past, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, California, USA (2012); Exploring the Cosmos: The Stupa as a Buddhist Symbol, Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore (2013); *Displaced: The Politics of Ethnicity* and Religion in the Art of Jakkai Siributr, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, Thailand (2017); Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh (2018); Spectrosynthesis II, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, Thailand (2019); Garmenting: Costume as Contemporary Art, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA (2022); Matrilineal, a solo exhibition at 100 Tonson Foundation, Bangkok (2023-2024), Everybody Wanna Be Happy, CHAT, Hong Kong (2023-2024) and participation in the 15th Gwangju Biennale (2024) in the Thailand Pavilion.

In November 2024, Siributr's exhibition *There's no Place* at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, surveyed his practice and transformed one of the Whitworth's core collection galleries into the latest iteration of the artist's long-term project *There's no Place*. *There's no Place* was featured in *The Spirits of Maritime Crossing*, presented by the Bangkok Art Biennale as an Official Collateral Event at the 2024 Venice Biennale.

In 2025, his work has been shown in *All Directions: Art That Moves You*, the inaugural exhibition of the FENIX museum, the Netherlands; in the 2025 London Design Festival at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and in the 2025 Setouchi Triennale, Japan. Siributr will be honored at the Hirshhorn Museum Gala in New York in November 2025, and will present a solo exhibition at Canal Projects in New York in early 2026.

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**PRESS ENQUIRIES:** For more information and images please contact Emily Flowers: press@flowersgallery.com / +44 (0) 207 439 7766