

Kedsuda Loogthong

RICHARD KOH FINE ART (Singapore)
Artspace@Helutrans
39 Keppel Road, #01-05
Tanjong Pagar Distripark
Singapore 089065



Open Tuesday to Saturday, 12 pm - 7 pm

Tel: +65 6221 1209
Fax: +65 6221 1249

The Unknown Silence

“There are no facts, only interpretations”

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Will to Power*, Trans, Walter Kaufmann
(New York: Vintage Books, 1968) 267 (481); Translation Modified

Certainly when inspecting Kedsuda Loogthong's paintings in this series *The Unknown Silence*, one could feel the sense of nostalgia in the images of ancient books and paperbacks. The gigantic mounds of mostly anonymous books are staged in an indistinct dark space and appear like they have been left there and forgotten. Their contents removed and only left with their ghostly appearance. These books are no longer used to store information but are transformed into personal symbols. Rendered delicately in oil with luscious colours with a deep understanding of chiaroscuro, the paintings explore different visual compositions of a single shape, pure in its presentation and devoid of visual distractions except by the occasional alphabets of the titles illustrated on a strayed spine or a protruding brightly coloured bookmark.

The visual and symbolic powers of objects have always intrigued the artist. Her very early works in which she “painted” popular branded consumer

Kedsuda Loogthong

products such as Kellogg's cereal boxes and Sun-Maid raisins containers out of clay on canvas speak of the seductive and potentially alienating power of consumer goods when presented in specific contexts. The glossy Western products found in convenient stores in her home village seems alien and displaced in the eyes of simple country folks. From this series, Kedsuda recognizes the symbolic power of objects when framed in selective contexts.

The young Thai artist's interest in the formal appearance of books has been an on-going investigation and she has explored the motif in a variety of media such as drawing, sculpture (wood, plaster) and painting. In her previous series, *The Book of Silence*, exhibited in the Philippines in 2013, she explored her personal affection towards her private collection of books and mundane objects and the relationship developed with paperbacks when they are read.

Kedsuda mentioned of an encounter with a stack of books on a windowsill on the way home one night as the starting point for *The Unknown Silence*. She was initially attracted to the formal elegance of the stack and what it reminded her of. The emotional power conjured by the images of the books is magnified due to the large quantity of the objects. One book has a different sort of power than a towering stack of books. Kedsuda in an explorative manner uses books as models in an exercise that resembles painting a still life. She organizes towers of books in her room into different configurations dictated by subject matter or categories into blueprints for the compositions. Interestingly, with titles such as *The Fortress* (2014) and *Tower of Sorrow* (2014) that refer to architectural structures, the books are stacked like an impenetrable wall, cinematic in its expanse and lighting. In the large groupings, Kedsuda's books become assemblies dense with meaning, though the books' subjects are usually hidden, one could feel the graveness of the tone from the aesthetic choices applied and the stillness of the scene.

Haffendi Anuar
2014

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *The Fortress*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 125 x 125 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



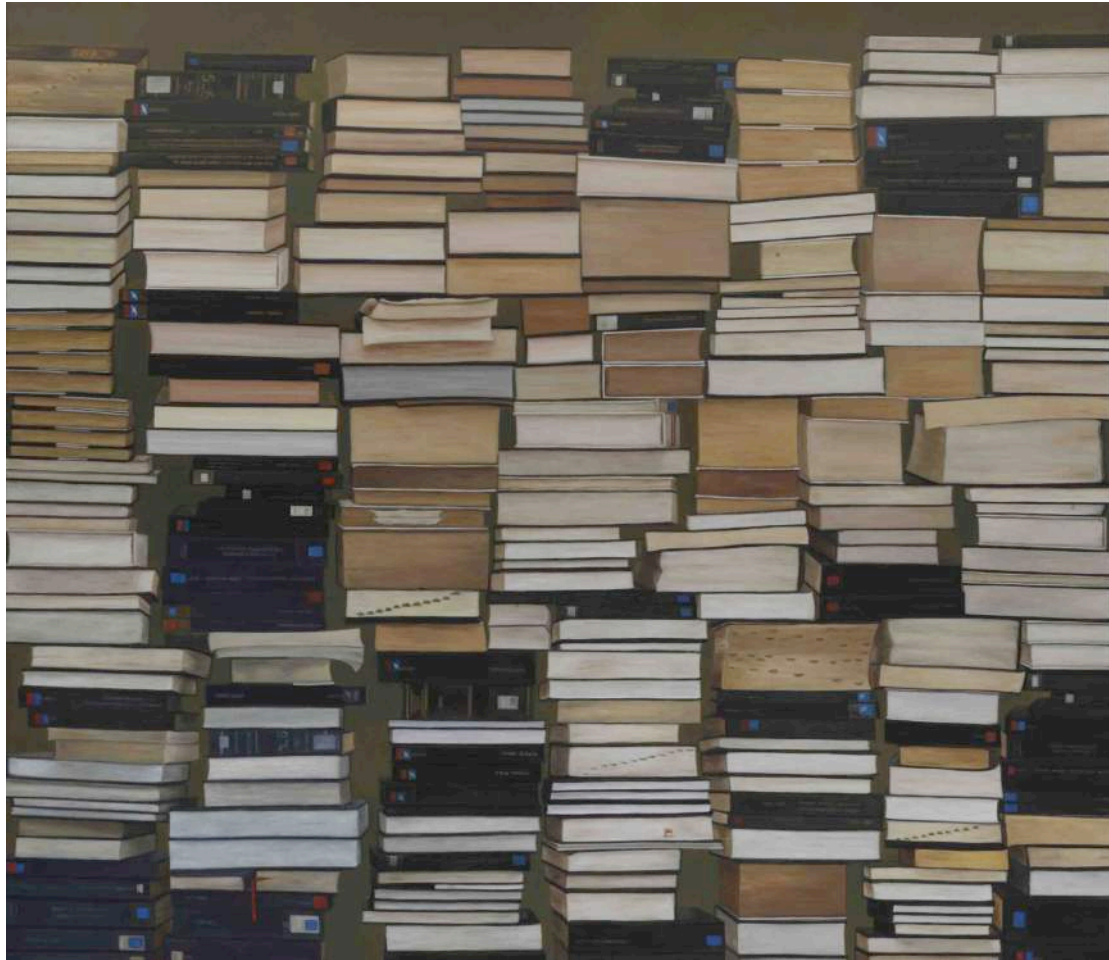
Title: *Tower of Sorrow*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 207 x 90 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *Pyramid*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 180 x 220 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *Black Bulwark*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 195.5 x 170 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *White Bulwark*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 180 x 220.5 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *Road*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 145 x 170 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *Vanilla Books*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 70.5 x 120 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong



Title: *Red Books*
Year: 2014
Medium: Oil on linen
Size: 100 x 120 cm

Kedsuda Loogthong

Kedsuda Loogthong (b. 1983, Songkhla, Thailand) graduated from the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Bangkok University in Thailand in 2006. Loogthong's early works examine the urbanization of her rural landscape and society and how consumerism has affected the lives of simple country folks. Her recent works explore the materiality and symbolism of books both an icon and a nostalgic object of reverence. Kedsuda has participated in many group exhibitions in Singapore, the Philippines, South Korea and Finland. Her works are collected by Singapore Art Museum, and are currently in their permanent collection. She lives and works in Bangkok.

Education

2006 Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Bangkok University, Bangkok, Thailand

Solo Exhibitions

2014 *The Unknown Silence*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore

2013 *The Book of Silence*, Finale Art File, Makati City, Philippines

2011 *Tomorrow*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
Letters from Songkhla, Project Stage / ArtStage Singapore 2011,
Presented by Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore

2009 *Prints and Drawings*, Numthong Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2005 *Light*, Studio 8 Bangkok University Rangsit, Pathumthanee, Bangkok, Thailand

Group Exhibitions

2013 *ArtStage Singapore 2013*, Presented by Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
Beirut Art Fair 2013, Beirut, Lebanon

2012 *ArtStage Singapore 2012*, Presented by Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
Pameran Poskad, Singapore

2011 *Works from Southeast Asia*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore

Kedsuda Loogthong

RAW: An Exhibition of Sketch Ideas by Thai Contemporary Artists,
Numthong Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
Wonderland, g23, Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand
Art Expo Malaysia 2011, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- 2010 Sungshin Woman's University, Gallery LVSSean Lee, Seoul, South
Korea
MiniPrint, Finland 2010, Lathi, Finland
Young Contemporary Thai Artist, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur
Pameran Poskad, Singapore
- 2009 *Numthong Gallery Collection*, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center,
Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 Presented Work of Bachelor Degree Project of Bangkok University,
TOA Warehouse, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2006 *QUE SERA SERA*, Patumwan Warehouse, Bangkok, Thailand
International Culture of Peace: Voices of Youth, Bangkok, Thailand
Character Cartoon Thailand Animation & Multimedia, Queen Sirikit
Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2004 *Painting Exhibition*, Bangkok University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2002 *Rajamankala Sampan 1*, Rajamankala Institute Songkhla, Songkhla,
Thailand

Public Collection

Singapore Art Museum, Singapore