

Dear Graciela

Following my request for info about your work we are pleased to invite you for the first Residency program that is being established by Womanifesto.

Titled "Harvest", the 6 week residency will run from Oct 12, 2008 to Nov 22nd 2008. Invited are 5 participants including yourself, 2 from abroad, and 3 from Thailand. The group includes visual artists and one crafts person.

We can confirm that Womanifesto will offer the following:

- Artist fee of Thai Baht 10,000
- Internal return travel from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani (nearest airport to the farm)
- Accommodation with full board (all meals) in individual rooms
- A common studio/work space
- Trips to sites of interest and communities/villages in the vicinity
- Assistance to liaise with the community

We have secured funding for the residency but unfortunately not the full amount hence are not able to cover international airfares (trying with Thai Airways but it does not look hopeful!) Sincerely hope that you can locate funding for this at your end...

I will send you detailed info in time, for now here are some points to consider:

The Artist-in-Residence Program is located on the farm, Rai Boonbandarn, Amphoe Kantaraluck, Srisaket province, North East, Thailand.

Boonbandarn farm offers a mixed agricultural area with livestock and forest plantation situated near Khayoong Creek, which runs from Preah Vihear Hill in Cambodia. The majority of residents of the area work in the agricultural industry.

During the off season people are involved in make bamboo baskets, cloth and mat weaving, which they use in their daily lives.

The distinguishing characteristic of the area is the mixture of four ethnic groups each with unique ways of living; all live together harmoniously. They include Lao, Souay, Khmer and Yeau each of which has their own language, and cultural traditions and customs; these are sadly diminishing with time. The main dominant architectural characters in the area are from Khmer civilisation such as the temple complex of Preah Vihear, which is situated nearby.

The emphasis of the residency is for participants to engage with the community, explore local materials and traditional ways of living, and to address local concerns.

Furthering the dialogue and contact established at a workshop that was conducted in 2001 (see Womanifesto website, event 3: Womanifesto Workshop 2001), the residency aims to provide a dynamic environment for process and exchange.

Based within the local community, participants are required to:

- engage in the events and activities taking place within the community
- develop existing or new project/work in dialogue with and addressing their surroundings and inherent issues
- engage with and involve contributions from the local community
- conduct workshop or project that involves students from the local art school and primary/high schools

The residency does not offer an exhibition space or gallery, and participants are not required to present a finished piece of work as a culmination to their residency period. Instead, work situated in and considering the environment will be encouraged along with projects that involve local people, their way of life, crafts, music etc.

As we need to finalise the artists soon please let us know soon if you will be able to join us. I sincerely hope so!

Look forward to your reply.

Best as always,

Varsha

Organising team:

Nitaya

Phaptawan

Varsha

(PS: Perhaps you remember meeting Nitaya in Tokyo??)