



May 4 – June 14, 2017

**Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Opening reception at the FLINN GALLERY Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

**CAMBODIA: LOOKING BACK ON THE FUTURE** takes a deeper look at contemporary art in Cambodia, exploring notions of time, identity and history. Central to all the works selected for the exhibition is the human figure. The figure, as in traditional art forms, is an important device for many artists to assert personal narratives, implying significance and meaning in the context of larger historical events. Artist Chath PIERSATH expresses it well, saying, "I guess most artists approach the figurative first and foremost because it is familiar, and what we project visually is a mirror of ourselves, where we are in regard to our past, present and future."

The artists in this exhibition are: Anita Yoeu ALI, CHOV Theanly, HENG Ravuth, KONG Vollak, Marine KY, LEANG Seckon, LIM Muy Theam, NEAK Sophal, OEUR Sokuntevy, Chath PIERSATH, YIM Maline. For this exhibition, family names are shown in capital letters or in bold, for easy understanding. In Cambodia family names appear first, while artists who grew up abroad usually list their family names last.

A bold undertaking that represents the largest presentation of Cambodian visual artists to appear in the United States, this exhibit features eleven (11) contemporary Cambodian artists, established and emerging. It brings together a cross-section of many different mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, installation and performance. Over the course of this show a series of events will be presented in the Greenwich Library: Friday Film- *The Missing Picture*, Cambodian Music Concert; Curator Talk; Book Discussion on *Never Fall Down*. Panel Discussion – *Art in Post Conflict Cambodia: What that Means Today*; and a Documentary – *Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll*. Please visit [www.flinngallery.com](http://www.flinngallery.com) for more information.

This exhibition and the public programs are the result of a collaboration between curators, Barbara Richards and Debra Fram, longstanding members of the Flinn Gallery team and Dana Langlois, an expert in the field of contemporary Cambodian visual arts. Over the course of almost two years, several exchanges took place including in-depth research conducted by Ms. Richards and Ms. Fram in Cambodia.

In the decades following the fall of the Khmer Rouge and years of war, Cambodia as a nation and as a people has endured under the influences of international development, economic interests, and a heavy-handed government. Many artists feel compelled to respond creatively to the tensions formed through the various forces at play. It is an art scene that is rooted not only in an intense recent past and present, but also the continuation of centuries of codified traditions marked by creative innovations. Cambodia's ancient past that left remnants of sophisticated temple cities, and established the nation's spiritual, ritual and culture identity, is a persistent undercurrent in society today. While acknowledging the country's past glory and recent violent destruction, many Cambodian artists reclaim the future through individualized narratives. These intersecting timelines have shaped a contemporary art movement that is reflected in this exhibition, and is defined by self-reflection, criticality and assertion of a new identity.

The Flinn Gallery is supported by the Friends of Greenwich Library. Debra Fram and Barbara Richards of the Flinn Gallery, and Dana Langlois of JavaArts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, [www.javacreativecafe.com](http://www.javacreativecafe.com) are the curators of the show, with the assistance of Fereshteh Priou, Diane Stevens and Karen Sheer. All artwork is for sale. The Gallery is on the second floor of the Greenwich Library and open daily Monday through Saturday 10:00 – 5:00, Thursday until 8:00 and Sunday 1:00 – 5:00. [www.flinngallery.com](http://www.flinngallery.com)

**NOTE TO THE EDITORS** To obtain an exhibition checklist or to arrange an interview with the curators, please contact Margot Clark-Junkins, Gallery Manager, tel. (203) 622-7947 or email [gallerymanager@flinngallery.com](mailto:gallerymanager@flinngallery.com).

Attached: 3 Photos NEAK Sophal, *Hang On (18)*, 2013, Archival Inkjet Print, Edition of 7. 39x26".  
LIM Muy Theam, *Trapeng Thmor*, 2017, Acrylic On Board w/ Lacquer Finish, 55.5x62".  
OEUR Sokuntevy, *Human Nature*, 2015, Acrylic on Canvas, 29.5x30"