



DIB BANGKOK, THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM IN BANGKOK, OPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON DECEMBER 21, 2025

The inaugural exhibition, (In)visible Presence, transforms the museum into a multisensory exploration of memory and the human condition through works by 40 major artists, including Montien Boonma, Lee Bul, Anselm Kiefer, and Alicja Kwade

Founded by the Osathanugrah family and designed by WHY Architecture, this three-story converted Bangkok warehouse will showcase significant Thai and international contemporary art, fostering creativity and learning for visitors from around the world



Image courtesy of Dib Bangkok

(October 21, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand) | Dib Bangkok is pleased to announce that it will officially open its doors to the public on December 21, 2025, becoming the first international contemporary art museum in Bangkok and the first in Thailand to present its own world-class collection of global contemporary art. Founded by the Osathanugrah family and located in an adaptive-reuse warehouse from the 1980s, the museum has been thoughtfully redesigned by Kulapat Yantrasast of WHY Architecture. The inaugural exhibition, *(In)visible Presence*, will offer

a landmark introduction to the museum's vision, bringing together significant Thai and international contemporary art.

Located in an adaptive-reuse warehouse from the 1980s in Bangkok, redesigned by Kulapat Yantrasast of WHY Architecture, the museum will feature eleven gallery spaces totaling 7,000 square meters (75,000 square feet), a 1,400-square-meter (15,000-square-foot) central courtyard, an outdoor sculpture garden, and a penthouse space for special events. The museum, an undertaking led by Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah, an influential Thai business leader and educator, carries forward the legacy of his late father, Petch Osathanugrah, whose renowned collection of artworks comprises Dib Bangkok's collection. The museum's name, *Dib*, translates to "raw" or "natural, authentic state," an ethos reflected in the museum's mission, design, and programming.

Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah, Chairman & President of Dib Bangkok, comments, *"At Dib Bangkok, we see art as the ripest fruit of human imagination—something to be savored, questioned, and shared. But more than that, we're building Dib Bangkok to be a true creative oasis, a bridge between Thailand, Southeast Asia, and the global art scene—where deep art circles and the simply curious can come together. Bangkok, with all its energy, creativity, and unstoppable spirit, has long been overdue for an anchor to its contemporary art scene that matches its vibrancy—somewhere that celebrates art in a way as dynamic and bold as the city itself."*

The leadership team of Dib Bangkok showcases the breadth and extent of the museum's ambition. As Chairman & President of the museum, Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah envisions a global hub for creative learning and growth, drawing from his experience as President of Bangkok University, CEO of Zipcode, and Partner at Arc 9, emerging forces in Thailand's real estate sector and Southeast Asia's private equity scene, respectively. Dib Bangkok is part of his dynamic vision for holistic urban living, with the museum embodying the culmination of a multi-generational mission to transform the modern art landscape. The inaugural Director, Dr. Miwako Tezuka, brings expertise from previous leadership roles at prominent New York institutions, including roles as the Gallery Director of the Japan Society, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asia Society Museum, and Associate Director of Arakawa and Madeline Gins's Reversible Destiny Foundation. Ariana Chaivaranon will serve as Curator, bringing past knowledge from institutions such as Harvard Art Museums, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Dib Bangkok's grand opening exhibition, entitled *(In)visible Presence*, will pay tribute to Petch Osathanugrah and feature highlight works from the museum's collection under the artistic direction of Dr. Miwako Tezuka and curation by Ariana Chaivaranon.

Dr. Miwako Tezuka, Inaugural Museum Director, describes how this exhibition came together: *“While the museum was still under construction, Petch had already sketched a rudimentary vision for the opening exhibition, identifying a few key works from the collection and suggesting their general placement in the galleries. While preliminary, it offered a point of departure for me to develop the exhibition to reflect how Chang is taking the collection into the future. Together, we nurtured the seed that Petch planted, shaping it into an exhibition of more than sixty works by forty artists from around the world that we hope will blossom and bear fruit in the minds of our audience.”*

The highly anticipated exhibition will present 80 works by 40 artists, drawn primarily from the Dib collection, across the museum’s expansive galleries and grounds. Through its unifying theme, it poses a vital question: how do we remember what is dear to us, yet invisible? The works engage sound, scent, scale, light, and everyday materials to connect us with what lies beyond the visible. Inside the galleries, visitors will encounter a series of major installations by Montien Boonma and Somboon Horntientong, large-scale sculptures by Lee Bul and Anselm Kiefer, and paintings by a diverse range of artists such as Alex Katz, Yuree Kensaku, and Jessie Homer French. These will be shown alongside mixed-media and new media works by critically acclaimed artists from Thailand and beyond. Designed in dialogue with the museum’s architecture, the exhibition resonates with the overarching theme of the past guiding us into the future.

Extending beyond the museum walls, outdoor installations transform the landscape into an integral part of the experience. Alicja Kwade’s *Pars pro Toto* (2020), an installation of 11 monumental stone globes ranging from 70 to 250 cm in diameter, anchors the courtyard with a poetic meditation on planetary systems and materiality. In quiet response, on the upper terrace overlooking the courtyard, Pinaree Sanpitak’s *Breast Stupa Topiary* (2013), a series of stainless steel forms shaped as breast-like stupas, invites reflection on femininity, spirituality, and the body, softening the hard lines of the city with a presence both tender and profound.

For many featured artists, including Sho Shibuya, Finnegan Shannon, and Hugh Hayden, *(In)visible Presence* marks their first presentation in Thailand, expanding a global dialogue with local artists through a shared inquiry into the conditions of human existence: ephemerality, memory, and identity.

Dib Bangkok’s permanent collection is dedicated to global contemporary art, with a focus on works that challenge perceptions, spark dialogue, and invite deep reflection on the complexities of human existence in manifold expressions. The collection comprises over 1,000 works by over 200 artists worldwide, spanning a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, photography, large-scale installations, and new media, with most works dating from the 1990s to the present. Rooted in history and carried forward by Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah’s vision, Dib Bangkok’s collection serves as a dynamic platform for artistic expression, fostering deeper engagement with contemporary cultures and society.

Dr. Miwako Tezuka, Inaugural Museum Director, says, *“I am inspired by the visionary foundation laid by Petch and brought to the next generation by Chang, centered on profound conceptual and emotional engagement with contemporary art from across the globe. As a new museum, we have the freedom to explore initiatives beyond traditional frameworks. I look forward to fully activating our collection, creating transcultural and transgenerational dialogue in art, and inviting diverse artists to engage and collaborate through various programs.*

Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah, Chairman & President of Dib Bangkok, adds, *“Supporting the arts and education has always been at the heart of our family’s purpose. We’ve long believed that creativity and knowledge are what keep culture alive—ever renewing, ever evolving. It’s a privilege to continue this multigenerational dream alongside Dr. Tezuka, whose insight and quiet wisdom have astutely guided this vision. With Dib Bangkok, we hope to create a place where art can be felt as much as it is seen—a space for reflection, curiosity, and play, where each visit unfolds something new and unexpected. We like to think of art as an ocean—some people dive deep; some just dip their toes in—but everyone can feel its pull. At Dib Bangkok, we want to help more people learn to swim in these creative waters, to find their own rhythm, curiosity, and joy in discovering art.”*

Nestled in the area between Bangkok’s main thoroughway Rama IV and Sukhumvit 40, the museum spans three floors of exhibition space and follows a minimal yet nuanced design inspired by the Buddhist concept of enlightenment as visitors journey upwards. The ground floor introduces an austere, concrete aesthetic, preserving the building’s industrial origin. The second level embraces an intimate, contemplative atmosphere, enhanced by a nostalgic Thai-Chinese window grille, original to the structure. The third floor, comprised of white-cube gallery spaces, features skylights that follow the enlightenment-inspired design with an iconic sawtooth roof at the north end of the building. Additional design features include the “Chapel,” a cone-shaped gallery clad in porcelain mosaic tiles that reimagine the traditional Thai method of temple ornamentation, and a surrounding reflection pool bisected by a driveway to the museum’s underground parking space. Across the large courtyard and separate from the main museum building are a café and a flexible program space.

Kulapat Yantrasast, Principal, WHY Architecture, says, *“With Dib Bangkok, WHY Architecture’s intent was to reflect the city’s evolving role as an international art destination, crafting a space that fosters dialogue among artists, curators, and the public, while supporting both community engagement and creative exchange.”*

Additionally, Dib Bangkok operates a satellite site, Dib26, located in the Phrom Phong area just a 10-minute drive from the main museum and designed by Bangkok’s leading design studio, Supermachine. This converted warehouse, offering approximately 900 square meters (9,700

square feet) of usable space, provides a platform for alternative approaches to creative engagement, community-focused initiatives, and forward-thinking educational programs. It enables Dib Bangkok to remain at the cutting edge of the region's fast-developing arts and culture industries. The first Dib26 program, *Dib x BU Art Beyond Canvas: Management in the Art Industry*, launched this summer as a professional development initiative in partnership with Bangkok University. Developed with the university's Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, it offers students training in art management through lectures and workshops led by local and international experts, followed by hands-on internships with leading cultural institutions. This collaboration reflects Dib Bangkok's commitment to fostering education, professional growth, and long-term impact within both the Thai and global art ecosystems.

Dib Bangkok will offer local and international visitors a new cultural hub in the heart of Thailand's bustling capital, featuring an exceptional contemporary art collection, and driven by a team of ambitious experts.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Dib Bangkok

www.dibbangkok.org / [@dibbangkok](https://www.instagram.com/dibbangkok)

Dib Bangkok (pronounced like the English word 'dip') is Thailand's first major institution dedicated to international contemporary art. Led by Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah, an influential Thai business leader and educator, the museum continues the legacy of his late father, Petch Osathanugrah, whose renowned art collection forms its foundation. Comprising over 1,000 works by more than 200 artists from Thailand and around the world, the Dib collection has a strong focus on works that challenge perceptions, spark dialogue, and invite deep reflection on the complexities of human existence. Valuing art as the finest fruits of imagination and creativity, the museum offers a serene and meditative space for visitors to pause, reflect on, and enjoy the present moment through art. For more information, please visit www.dibbangkok.org.
#DibBangkok

About WHY Architecture

WHY Architecture is a team of interdisciplinary architects, landscape architects, designers, and strategists committed to creating lasting connections between people, culture, and place. Founded in 2004 by Kulapat Yantrasast, WHY has been at the forefront of architectural design for art museums and cultural institutions over the last two decades. Beginning with the completion of the Grand Rapids Art Museum in 2007, the first Gold LEED Certified museum, WHY has prioritized accessibility, sustainability, and cultural placemaking. Based in Los Angeles, New York, Bangkok and Paris, WHY Architecture has completed significant projects with The Speed Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Harvard Art Museums, The Marciano Art Foundation, The American Museum of Natural History, and The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. In 2025, they completed a renovation—designed by WHY Architecture—of the

Michael C. Rockefeller Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and are currently working on the renovation of the Roman Antiquities trail at the Louvre in France.

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