

Important!

There are explanations for some words in the text.

The explanations are placed to the right.

And these explanations are written in gray.



The exhibition “Mo num en ts.”

There is a new exhibition at Museion.

The exhibition is called “Mo num en ts.”

The word without spaces is “monuments.”

A monument is a building or a place.

A monument reminds people of history.

In this exhibition you can see a video installation.

A video installation is an artwork.

Artist’s use films and videos for these artworks.

You can visit the exhibition from 15 May 2026 to 14 June 2026.

The exhibition is in the basement of Museion.

Who is Som Supaparinya?

The artist’s name is Som Supaparinya.

Som Supaparinya comes from Chiang Mai in Thailand.

Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia is a region in Asia.

For example, Thailand and Vietnam are in Southeast Asia.

Chiang Mai is a big city in the north of Thailand.

Who made the exhibition?

Museion worked on this exhibition together with the Han Nefkens Foundation.

A foundation is an organization.

Som Supaparinya won a grant from this foundation.

This grant gives money to video artists from Southeast Asia.

So, artists can make new video works.

And artists become better known internationally.

Internationally means:

In many countries around the world.

What does the video installation show?

The video installation is about an important question:

How do political ideas change the world?

And what happens when these ideas leave something behind?

For example, an old dam.

A dam is a large wall built across a river.

People use this dam to hold back water.

For example, to produce electricity.

The dam is **no** longer needed.

But the dam still stands.

Som Supaparinya looks at the history of Thailand to find answers.

The artist uses historical documents and new research for this.

Historical documents are old texts and old records.

Research means:

People study a topic carefully to find out more about it.

For example, about the Cold War.

The Cold War was a time of strong tensions between powerful countries.

For example, the United States of America and Russia.

The countries did **not** fight directly.

Each powerful country wanted other countries to follow its way of life.

The United States of America wanted Thailand to join the Free World.

Free World means the western countries.

These countries said:

We are free and modern.

And Thailand wanted to show:

We are modern.

And we are moving forward.

Thailand celebrated these changes in different ways.

For example:

- Titles at Miss Universe.
- The export of rice.

Export means that Thailand started selling rice to other countries.

- And the construction of massive dams.

And the influence of America was important on music too.

Because of this, American pop music influenced traditional Molam music in Thailand.

Molam is a traditional style of music from a region in Thailand.

Media as a powerful tool.

The media was also very important during the Cold War.

Media are, for example:

- Films.
- Magazines.
- And radio.

The US government of the United States of America created the agency USIS.

USIS was an agency for the media.

USIS worked in Thailand and other countries.

And USIS made films and magazines.

These films and magazines told a story:

Development is good.

Progress is modern.

The Free World is the right path.

In this way, people learned to see these changes as progress.

Progress means:

Things are getting better and more modern.

Media was used to tell people what to think.

In her video, the artist focuses on the dams as an example of this.

The two dams.

These dams were built during the Cold War:

- The Bhumibol Dam.
- And the Pak Mun Dam.

They were meant to show:

Thailand is modern and moving forward.

But today they cause serious damage to nature.

For example:

Animals and plants lose their places to live and grow.

And waterways are changed.

In the United States, old dams are sometimes taken down.

This happens when they cause damage.

In Thailand, these dams are left standing.

The dams are **not** just concrete and steel.

They are now monuments.

Why is the exhibition called “Monuments?”

The artist asks:

Why do we build things that cause harm?

For example, the dams in Thailand.

Monuments are important symbols of a country’s history.

Because they show:

Our country is modern and strong.

In this way, they become part of the history of Thailand.

And this history was made through:

- Power.
- Media.
- And ideology.

Ideology means:

A set of political ideas.

These ideas say how a country should work.

Som Supaparinya’s video shows:

Monuments are **not** just there by chance.

People create them.

And sometimes the ideas behind monuments change.

But the monuments remain standing.

Like the dams in Thailand.

Where else can you see the video installation?

The video installation is also shown at several other museums.

For example, in:

- Vietnam.
- Thailand.
- Japan.
- Denmark.
- And China.

Each museum shows the video installation at a different time.

For example, the Thompson Art Center showed the video installation from 4 December 2025 to 29 March 2026.

The Thompson Art Center is a museum in Thailand.

Later, the video installation will also become part of the Museion Collection.

Museion Collection means:

Museion keeps the artwork.

And Museion can show it again in the future.

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