

ara contemporary Presents Two Debut Solo Exhibitions by Alisa Chunchue & Mar Kristoff

Jakarta, 2025 – Kickstarting the Art Jakarta 2025 season, ara contemporary is proud to present dual solo exhibitions across its spaces. The Main Gallery features *Wound*, the first solo exhibition by Thai artist **Alisa Chunchue**, with an exhibition text by Pojai Akwatanakul. Meanwhile, the Focus Gallery features *Interloper*, the first solo exhibition of **Mar Kristoff** following his recognition as UOB Artist of the Year, with an exhibition text by Raina Alonge.

***Wound* by Alisa Chunchue**

Wound, Alisa Chunchue's ongoing series, consists of methodical meditative drawings that record the artist's time spent with each piece. The series started in 2020 as a method to cope with grief, and later became a reflection of her survival. She traces the stitching steps of surgical suture techniques using a pencil and creates endless loops of patterns until they fill the whole space. Fascinated in how wounds heal on living bodies, her obsession with perfectly closing them can be straining, but the continual process of endlessly 'doing', is also soothing, and in doing so becomes a meditative gesture.

Other series, *Invisible Suture* (2022-24) and *Stitching* (2024) showcases glass sculptures; float in the air, sharing space with our bodies, glistening strong skeletons, organic flowing gentle curves, transparent and vulnerable. The artist is attracted to how the materials require handling with care, and the same precision as working with the body, its making cannot be reversed.

All of these light lines invisible from afar, invite the viewers to come closer and inspect. Be intimate with the work. Its sensorial abstract shapes and tones slowly fill one's plane. Ultimately, it is not only in the artist's concentration during the making, but also the viewer's exercise of looking, of being absorbed, too, that elicits stillness and meditation. To the artist, the series is a testament to how she has survived difficult moments. The lines are incisions of her existence, every breath held and released, grounding one to a present time.

***Interloper* by Mar Kristoff**

Mar Kristoff's solo exhibition, *Interloper*, positions the artist within an ambiguous terrain of both participant and outsider. The title itself suggests intrusion, a figure who moves between spaces without fully belonging.

In his paintings, Kristoff works with family photographs and found objects, refusing to see them as neutral vessels of memory. Here, the archive is not a fixed repository but a fluid site, subject to revision, erasure, and speculation. Through painterly gestures of blurring, reframing, and displacement, Kristoff unsettles inherited meaning and sets memory on alternate trajectories and raises unresolved questions: Who owns an image? Who is entitled to narrate it? Whose truth is made visible?

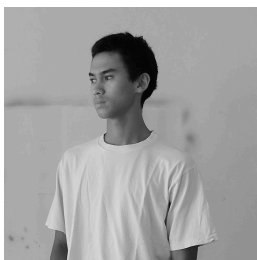
The exhibition reflects a paradox of remembering: the desire to preserve while facing the inevitability of distortion. Every image gestures toward a suspension of time, yet once it circulates, it begins to drift, absorbing new interpretations, accumulating contexts, and gradually betraying its origins. Kristoff does not resolve this tension, he amplifies it. The result is a portrait of memory not as a static archive but as a living process: discontinuous, volatile, and perpetually unresolved.

About the Artist



Alisa Chunchue investigates the physical and mental states, questioning what it means to be human, and what drives us to perceive existence. She looks into how human bodies are intertwined in today's society, with multi-layered interconnectedness. Chunchue works across mediums and disciplines in a series of large-scale projects, comprising sculpture, installation, drawing, performance, and recently, videography. *Wound*, her latest series of meditative drawing procedures inspired by autopsy wounds on human cadavers at the Condon Anatomical Museum in Bangkok, has been awarded the ARTJOG Young Artist Awards (2024), The Vogue Hong Kong Women's Art Prize in The Sovereign Asian Art Prize (2023), and the Prince Claus Seed Awards (2022).

Chunchue has participated in group exhibition such as *ARTJOG : Ramalan*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2024); *The 2023 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists Exhibition*, H Queen, Hong Kong (2023); and *Illuminated Curiosities*, the Nguyen Art Foundation, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (2022).



Mar Kristoff is a multidisciplinary artist currently based in Bali, Indonesia. Gathering inspiration and references from his personal archive and found imagery, Kristoff is known for his interpretation of a photographic image in paint that captures the nature of memories. Kristoff interrogates both the limitations and potential, and the contrast and the likeness, of painting and photography as a medium while delving into the themes of identity, memory, nostalgia, the concept of time, and the eternal pursuit of belonging.

Kristoff has participated in exhibitions such as *Tandur*, Nonfrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia (2024); *TERRA*, Burgundy, France (2024); *OPC Collectors Show*, Gajah Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia (2024); *Salon Et Cetera*, Ace House Collective, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2024); *The Inaugural Exhibition* at SUN. CONTEMPORARY, Bali, Indonesia (2024); *TOREH*, Nonfrasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia (2023); and *Coalesce – OPC Collectors Show*, ROH Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia (2023). He is the gold winner of the emerging artist category of the UOB Painting of the Year 2024, Indonesia.

About the Writer

Pojai Akratanakul is a curator based in Bangkok, Thailand, and appointed curator for Bangkok Art Biennale 2024: Nurture Gaia. She works full-time as the Curatorial Section Lead at Bangkok Art Biennale and was Assistant Curator for the 2020 and 2022 editions. Prior to joining Bangkok Art Biennale, Akratanakul had experience working in exhibitions, public programs, and publications, in Bangkok and New York, including at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok University Gallery, and Independent Curators International (ICI), as well as managing the Petch Osathanugrah Collection and his private museum project. Akratanakul holds an MA in Visual Arts Administration in Curatorial Concentration and Non-profit Management from New York University, with internships at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and SculptureCenter.

Raina Alonge Raina Alonge is a Jakarta-based editor and writer whose work examines the intersections of art, design, fashion, and contemporary culture. Her writing often centres on the conditions of making, highlighting the craft, process, and intention, while attending to the human narratives behind them.

About ara contemporary

Established in 2025, the gallery's name ara comes from the abbreviation of the founders' names: Arlin, Ramadanti, Chandra. Beyond that, the word holds a layered meaning that aligns with the gallery's philosophy. In Sanskrit, ara means a place of shelter, adaptability, and consideration of others. These values are at the heart of ara contemporary, shaping its role in the arts community.

The gallery's focus will center on artists, from emerging to established, whose practices engage with the context of Southeast Asia, exploring the connections between immediacy and global discourse. Founded with the mission to thoughtfully advocate for Southeast Asian artists, ara contemporary aims to serve as a dynamic platform for dialogue and collaboration and to contribute to the burgeoning art scene in the region and beyond.

Main Gallery:

Wound by Alisa Chunchue

27 September - 2 November 2025

Focus Gallery:

Interloper by Mar Kristoff

27 September - 2 November 2025

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