



INTERNATIONAL
CONTEMPORARY ART
MUSEUM

DIB BANGKOK, THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM IN BANGKOK, SLATED TO OPEN IN DECEMBER 2025

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

The inaugural exhibition program will honor the legacy and artistic philosophy of the late Petch Osathanugrah by highlighting major works from the Dib Bangkok collection, including pieces by Montien Boonma, Lee Bul, Anselm Kiefer, Alicja Kwade, and other key artists whose works create a visual dialogue through the theme of invisible presence



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Image courtesy of Dib Bangkok

(March 12, 2025, Bangkok, Thailand) | Dib Bangkok announces its **December 2025 opening** in an adaptive-reuse warehouse from the 1980s in downtown **Bangkok**, redesigned by **Kulapat Yantrasast of WHY Architecture**. Dib Bangkok is the **first international contemporary art museum in Bangkok**, and the **first in Thailand to showcase its own leading collection of global contemporary art**. The museum will feature eleven gallery spaces totaling 75,000

square feet, a central courtyard, an outdoor sculpture garden, and a penthouse space for special events. The museum, an undertaking led by **Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah**, sees the young visionary—an influential Thai business leader and educator—carry 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 reflecting the connection of past, present, and evolving future that guides its mission, design, and programming.

Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah, Founder 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.*”

Dib Bangkok’s collection is dedicated to global contemporary art, with a strong focus on works that challenge perceptions, spark dialogue, and invite deep reflection on the complexities of human existence as they manifest in diverse expressions across different times and places. Comprising over 1,000 works by more than 200 artists from around the world, the Dib Bangkok collection spans a diverse range of media—including painting, sculpture, photography, large-scale installations, and new media—with the majority of works dating from the 1990s to the present. Rooted in history and evolving under the new direction of Chang, Dib Bangkok’s collection serves as a dynamic platform for artistic expression, fostering deeper engagement with contemporary cultures and society.

In tribute to Petch Osathanugrah, Dib Bangkok’s inaugural exhibition will highlight works from the museum’s collection under the overarching curatorial theme of *invisible presence*. The highly anticipated grand opening show will likely showcase a series of major installations by Montien Boonma, large-scale sculptures by Lee Bul, Anselm Kiefer, Alicja Kwade, and other critically acclaimed artists from both Thailand and beyond. Taking full advantage of the museum’s expansive space, art and architecture will resonate with one another through the careful exhibition design, evoking the overarching sense of the past guiding us into the future.

Nestled in the central downtown Rama IV area, 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 and grounding visitors in the earthly realm ahead of their journey to the upper floors. The second level embraces an intimate atmosphere that invites visitors into a contemplative inner dialogue, enhanced by a nostalgic encounter with an old Thai-Chinese window grille, another remnant of the original structure. The third floor, comprised of white-cube gallery spaces, features skylights that bathe the space in natural light and follow the enlightenment-inspired design, while the iconic sawtooth roof caps the north end

of the building. Additional features of the inventive design include the “Chapel”—a cone-shaped gallery clad with porcelain mosaic tile that evokes a traditional Thai method for covering temple roofs, a 15,000-square-foot central courtyard, an outdoor sculpture garden, and a penthouse for special events.

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.”*

Bringing together leaders in the art world, Dib Bangkok’s leadership team showcases the breadth and extent of the museum’s ambition. Chairman Purat (Chang) Osathanugrah envisions a global hub for creative learning and growth, drawing from his extensive 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 enormous 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.

Dr. Miwako Tezuka, Inaugural 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, Founder, adds, *“Supporting the arts and education has always been at the heart of our family’s purpose. We believe creativity and knowledge are what keep culture alive and evolving. It’s an incredible privilege to carry forward this multigenerational dream alongside Dr. Tezuka, whose invaluable insight and experience have been instrumental in guiding this journey. We are building a space that offers a window into deeper art appreciation, a place where reflection and play coexist, and where every visit brings something new and unexpected.”*

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

of ambitious experts. Additional information and details on the opening will be available in the coming months.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Dib Bangkok

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

Dib Bangkok 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. WHY's practice is organized into three interdependent workshops: Museums, Architecture, and Landscape (WILDING X WHY). The core team of designers and architects— based in Los Angeles, New York, Bangkok and Paris—expands to include a global network of collaborating artists, cultural champions, business leaders, academics, urbanists, and activists. 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, a complete renovation designed by WHY Architecture of The Michael C. Rockefeller Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art will open to the public. Additional forthcoming projects include ilmi Science Discovery & Innovation Center in Riyadh and the design of the Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art, along with the renovation of the Roman Antiquities trail, at the Louvre.

Media Contacts

For media inquiries, please contact:

FITZ & CO | Lizzie McNamara | emcnamara@fitzandco.com | +1 917 432 4765

FITZ & CO | Lachlan Woolsey | lwoolsey@fitzandco.com | +44 7521 452 544