

## *Film and Politics: 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976*

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**Matthew Hunt**



*The Terrorists*

### **Causes and Consequences: Documenting 6<sup>th</sup> October**

The massacre of students at Thammasat University in Bangkok on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976 came almost exactly three years after the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1973 killings, when students had protested against the military junta. Forty-six people died at Thammasat, and their corpses were desecrated by a baying mob. The docudrama *Tongpan*<sup>1</sup> (1977) describes the event and its consequences in a melancholy epilogue: “a violent coup d’etat of a magnitude never before seen in Thailand brought to an end Thailand’s three-year experiment with democracy. An extensive purge followed the coup.”

By creating a culture of militarism, the Thai armed forces effectively legitimised their violent suppressions of civilian dissent. For example, *lakorn* (soap opera) series broadcast on state television are utilised for propaganda purposes: “lakorns have long been employed by juntas to instill within viewers a sense of nationalism and positive feelings towards the military.”<sup>2</sup> The short film *Official Trailer* subverts this by intercutting footage of the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre with clips from the popular *lakorn* series *Love Destiny* (2018).<sup>3</sup> Patporn Phoothong’s documentary *Silenced Memories*<sup>4</sup> (2014) challenges the military’s “culture of impunity, the culture of acceptance of state violence, and the culture of silence” in its epilogue. However, its impunity makes the military a largely untouchable subject for filmmakers, and coded, metaphorical references are therefore employed. Anocha Suwichakornpong’s *Mundane History*<sup>5</sup> (2009) and Prabda Yoon’s *Someone from Nowhere*<sup>6</sup> (2017), for example, both use domestic settings as metaphors for the tensions between the military and society. Reliance on metaphor has its drawbacks, however: if the allusion is

too direct, a work may be censored, though if the message is too subtle, the intended meaning may not be understood by the audience.<sup>7</sup>

The short film *Friendship Ended with Mudasir Now Salman Is My Best Friend*<sup>8</sup> (2018) acknowledges this dilemma, challenging the audience to decode its rapid-fire montage of allusions. The film makes indirect reference to the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre using animated clips, with the *Powerpuff Girls* cartoon characters replaced by pictures of Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit, the Red Bull logo, and the Scout emblem. These refer respectively to Nawaphon, the Red Gaurs, and the Village Scouts, the three paramilitary groups that joined the police and army in storming Thammasat University on 6<sup>th</sup> October.<sup>9</sup>

The massacre began with a small group of students campaigning against coup leader Thanom Kittikachorn's return from exile. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 1976, the police hanged two anti-Thanom activists, and on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1976 a group of Thammasat students performed a reenactment of the hanging.<sup>10</sup> The right-wing newspaper *Dao Siam* reported this performance on its front page on 6<sup>th</sup> October, with a photograph of a student posing as a hanging victim.<sup>11</sup> The image had been retouched, accentuating the man's resemblance to Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn (now King Rama X), and a banner headline accused the students of hanging the Prince in effigy.<sup>12</sup> The result was a devastating example of the power of propaganda, with the incendiary front-page condemnation of the students precipitating the massacre at Thammasat.

The mock hanging, and the media's misrepresentation of it, remain taboo subjects. The political documentary *Paradoxocracy*<sup>13</sup> (2013) describes the press coverage only in general terms, without specific reference to *Dao Siam* or the Crown Prince, indicating the episode's continued sensitivity. *Different Views, Death Sentence*<sup>14</sup> (2011), a documentary commemorating the massacre, claims euphemistically that *Dao Siam* accused the students of expressing "severe ill-will to the Crown Prince." Even Thunskas Pansittivorakul's otherwise uncompromising *The Terrorists*<sup>15</sup> (2011) refers only indirectly to "the hanging of an important person in effigy." Released less than a year after the massacre, the documentary short *They Will Never Forget*<sup>16</sup> (1977) describes both the mock hanging and the student who "resembled the Crown Prince," with postproduction in Japan allowing the filmmakers to avoid Thai state censorship.

Thunskas analysed the massacre and its causes in *The Terrorists* and *Homogeneous, Empty Time*<sup>17</sup> (2017). *The Terrorists* examines the demonisation of protesters in 1976 and 2010, when the government used scaremongering rhetoric as a pretext for military crackdowns. In both cases, the state defended the massacres as preemptive measures against supposed violent insurgencies. In 1976, an influential monk encouraged attacks on the students, whom he unashamedly dehumanised. *The Terrorists* quotes him justifying the killing of Communists: "It's the same as killing a fish to cook and offer it to the monks."<sup>18</sup> The film develops this extraordinary pronouncement into an extended visual metaphor, with sequences filmed on a fishing trawler and at an aquarium. The short films *Don't Forget Me*<sup>19</sup> (2003) and *From Forest to City*<sup>20</sup> (2023) also quote the monk, and the drama *Time in a Bottle* (1991) portrays the consequences of his words: a doctor refuses to treat a massacre victim, leaving her to bleed to death.<sup>21</sup>

*The Terrorists* was made in the aftermath of the 2010 military crackdown, and the documentary is a passionate response to the cycle of recurring state oppression. Each of Thunskas's films is sexually and politically challenging, though *The Terrorists* features his

most provocative sequence: a naked man is shown masturbating, while captions describe the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre. The film then cuts directly from the masturbation to archive footage of the Thammasat victims' desecrated corpses, accompanied by a romantic song.<sup>22</sup> Outwardly, the man's orgasm and the military massacre have nothing in common, except for their shock value. However, for the director, one is a metaphor for the other: "that massacre is like masturbation. Some people did it to make it better. They need to feel good and happy, but it's really cruel."<sup>23</sup> His intention is not to exploit or eroticise violence, but to condemn what he views as the military government's quasi-sexual impulse to massacre its opponents. His documentary *Danse Macabre* (2021), released ten years after *The Terrorists*, includes a similar (though not sexually explicit) sequence in which 6 October footage is intercut with topless male dancers gyrating.<sup>24</sup>

*Homogeneous, Empty Time* explores the construction of Thailand's national identity, and the nationalist fervour stoked by state propaganda venerating the three pillars (nation, religion, and monarchy). It shows how such values are absorbed and passed from generation to generation, a result of media announcements that, according to Ing Kanjanavanit, "sicken the airwaves with constant saccharine exhortations to the people to love Nation, Religion, King."<sup>25</sup> The film illustrates how military propaganda, disseminated via radio, television, and billboards, inculcates an irrational fear of any notional threat to the three pillars.

'Protecting' these pillars has been cited as justification for the demonisation of political opponents, from the unfounded *lèse-majesté* accusations used as a pretext for the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre, to the anti-government campaigners who claimed in 2008 that, without their illegal protests, "the monarchy might collapse."<sup>26</sup> *Homogeneous, Empty Time's* interviewees, some with tears in their eyes, vow to protect the three pillars with their lives. Army cadets, for example, pledge their commitment to defend Thailand against its enemies, though they are unable to specify who those enemies might be. A Village Scout leader, wearing a bright yellow shirt, boasts of his brief encounter with King Rama IX: "I peeled a coconut for the King... And the King ate my coconut! A round of applause for me, please!" The assembled Village Scouts all pledge to defend the monarchy. Cut to: footage of Village Scouts and other ultra-nationalists attacking the students on 6<sup>th</sup> October. The film thus reveals the ultimate consequences of state-sanctioned nationalist rhetoric.<sup>27</sup>

*Homogeneous, Empty Time* also shows the Village Scouts receiving their ceremonial yellow neckerchiefs, symbols of the monarchy's patronage of the organisation. Similarly, Chulayarnnon Siriphol's 'Planetarium', his science-fiction segment of the anthology film *Ten Years Thailand*<sup>28</sup> (2018), depicts a near future in which the country's leader and her minions all wear Scout uniforms and neckerchiefs, which are "symbolic of people's power, right-wing power."<sup>29</sup> In Chulayarnnon's dystopian vision, the entire country has been taken over by this royalist militia.

Several short documentaries have emphasised the human tragedy of the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre. For her films *Silenced Memories* and *Respectfully Yours*<sup>30</sup> (2016), Patporn Phoothong interviewed elderly relatives of the students who were killed, presenting the victims as individuals rather than the battered corpses visible in news coverage of the massacre. In the intervening four decades since 6<sup>th</sup> October, the victims' families had rarely spoken about the massacre, though the director encouraged them to "break through the silence after all these years."<sup>31</sup> For her subsequent documentary, *The Two Brothers* (2017),

she interviewed relatives of the two men hanged for protesting against the return of Thanom Kittikachorn. Again, their case had been forgotten for forty years, as Patporn's codirector Teerawat Rujenatham explained: "The truth of Oct 6 is still stuck in a different world."<sup>32</sup> Exceptionally, *The Two Brothers* also shows the *Dao Siam* front page that sparked the massacre.

The short documentary "*Red*" at Last<sup>33</sup> (2006) is told from the first-person perspective of one 6<sup>th</sup> October victim. The film begins and ends with a fictitious voiceover from the dead man, and a survivor of the attack narrates flickering archive footage of the incident.<sup>34</sup> The short film *Don't Forget Me* is a multilayered documentary featuring archive footage of 6<sup>th</sup> October and scathing political captions, accompanied by the plaintive title song<sup>35</sup> and a narration appropriated from an ethnographic documentary on the nomadic Mlabri tribe. The voiceover describes the tribe's ceremonies and rituals, its tone and content providing an intentionally ironic counterpoint to the massacre footage.



*By the Time It Gets Dark*

## Revealing and Concealing: Narratives of 6<sup>th</sup> October

The events of 6<sup>th</sup> October have also been represented in narrative films, most prominently *By the Time It Gets Dark*<sup>36</sup> (2016). In Anocha Suwichakornpong's film, a young director (Ann, a surrogate for Anocha herself) is making a biopic about a former student, who describes the 6<sup>th</sup> October attackers "dragging the dead bodies out to burn them." (Although the film was not censored on its original release, a screening to commemorate the massacre was blocked by the military government in 2017.)<sup>37</sup>

As in *Mundane History* and *Someone from Nowhere*, key scenes in *By the Time It Gets Dark* are replayed to suggest history repeating: Ann's first session with the massacre survivor is later restaged, with the two women played by different actresses. Anocha self-reflexively questions the motivations of a director in tackling such a politically loaded event, as Ann confesses to her interviewee: "Your life is meaningful. A life worth living. Whereas me, I appropriate someone's life and turn it into a film." She also challenges the ethics of such appropriation, as another character advises Ann to let the film's subject write the script herself: "You should give it to her. She's a writer. And it's about her life, so it's her story."

The film therefore acknowledges the inherent limitations involved in representing historical events in works of fiction.

*By the Time It Gets Dark* recreates a familiar photograph from 6<sup>th</sup> October, of a police officer<sup>38</sup> aiming his gun while nonchalantly smoking a cigarette, though it begins by subverting the audience's expectations. Students are shown lying on the ground, watched over by armed soldiers, though what initially appears to be a flashback to 6<sup>th</sup> October is, in fact, taking place on a movie soundstage. The sense of verisimilitude is further confounded when an offscreen voice (Ann, the director) instructs the soldiers to kick the students and point guns at them.

Other films that refer to the massacre use similar distancing devices. A short film by Manussak Dokmai (2010) includes photographs from 6<sup>th</sup> October shown on a digital camera's LCD screen.<sup>39</sup> In *Time in a Bottle*, the massacre is announced via a radio broadcast.<sup>40</sup> The Malaysian film *River of Exploding Durians*<sup>41</sup> (2014) shows 6<sup>th</sup> October newsreel footage via a projector, and features a brief play about the massacre by Malaysian students. The film's message is that Malaysians are permitted to study the historical controversies of other countries rather than their own, though this also applies in Thailand, as 6<sup>th</sup> October is omitted from the Thai national curriculum. *Young Bao*<sup>42</sup> (2013) and *Colic* (2006) both recreate newspaper headlines about 6<sup>th</sup> October, and *Colic* is one of the more unusual interpretations of the massacre: in this horror film, a general from 6<sup>th</sup> October is reincarnated as a newborn baby, and the restless spirits of his victims torment the infant and his parents.<sup>43</sup> The film suggests that, in the absence of legal accountability, karma is unavoidable. These representations of historical events, filtered through the news media, reflect how most Thais experienced the events themselves: as passive media consumers rather than participants or eyewitnesses.

On the other hand, directors who depict 6<sup>th</sup> October without such distancing techniques run the risk of censorship. Films that capture the full horror of the massacre, either through realistic reconstruction or archive footage, have been cut or banned. When Ing Kanjanavanit appealed against the banning of *Shakespeare Must Die* (2012), the Appeals Court upheld the decision on the grounds that her recreation of 6<sup>th</sup> October could cause division in society.<sup>44</sup> The film includes a reenactment of a notorious incident in which a man hits a hanging corpse with a chair, as depicted in a news photograph by Neal Ulevich that symbolises the extreme violence and prejudice of the event.<sup>45</sup> (*Friendship Ended with Mudasir Now Salman Is My Best Friend* references this photograph with an animated clip from *The Simpsons* in which Bart hits Homer with a chair<sup>46</sup> and it was recreated in a popular music video by Rap Against Dictatorship.)<sup>47</sup> The censors recommended that Ing replace the sequence with a new ending, in which concerned citizens discuss the nature of violence; instead, she appealed against the ban to the Supreme Court. As Ing's producer, Manit Sriwanichpoom, says in her documentary *Censor Must Die*<sup>48</sup> (2013), the massacre remains a forbidden subject for Thai cinema: "October 6 returns to haunt us, to be used as a tool. To justify the ban."

The horror film *Haunted Universities*<sup>49</sup> (2009) also recreates the violence of the massacre, and was censored as a result: ghosts of 6<sup>th</sup> October students are gunned down by soldiers, one shot in the chest as he prepares to defend himself, and a second shot in the back as he tries to escape. Another horror movie, *Meat Grinder*<sup>50</sup> (2009), includes archive footage of bodies being burned on 6<sup>th</sup> October, though this was deleted in its entirety for the film's

domestic release. (*Meat Grinder's* title was also changed, among numerous other revisions to the film.)<sup>51</sup>

*Blue Sky of Love*<sup>52</sup> (2009), *Young Bao*, and Chatrichalerm Yukol's *Somsri*<sup>53</sup> (1985) also evoke 6<sup>th</sup> October, though they avoided censorship by toning down the horror of the event. *Blue Sky of Love*, a comedy, begins with a police officer's flashback to 6<sup>th</sup> October, showing the student protests though not the violent retribution. *Young Bao* shows students lying on the ground, with soldiers watching over them (a scene also recreated at the start of *By the Time It Gets Dark*). *Somsri* includes a contemporary sequence in which riot police beat protesters, followed by a match cut to a 6<sup>th</sup> October flashback of a woman being beaten, though this is seen in black-and-white and lasts only a few seconds. A film by Pundhevanop Dhewakul<sup>54</sup> (1986) also includes a black-and-white flashback: although non-diegetic gunshots are heard repeatedly on the soundtrack, the violence depicted is limited to hand-to-hand combat. The short film *Pirab*<sup>55</sup> (2017) begins with a 6<sup>th</sup> October flashback in sound only, leaving the violence to the viewer's imagination. The 6<sup>th</sup> October footage in the short documentary *Dawn of a New Day*<sup>56</sup> (2021) is also heard as audio over a black screen. Thus, sanitised representations of the massacre—devoid of blood or death—are deemed acceptable, whereas real or realistic imagery is censored.



### **‘Guilty Landscapes’: The Legacy of 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Thanin Kraivichien, who was appointed Prime Minister after the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre, overturned the liberal reforms of the previous regime. His intensified political censorship included literal book-burnings, which are dramatised in *October Sonata*<sup>57</sup> (2009). He also revived an anti-Communist purge that had begun earlier in the decade. In Chatrichalerm Yukol's *Grounded God*<sup>58</sup> (1975), a soldier refuses an order to kill Communists when he realises that they are loyal patriots, not the terrorists of propagandist misrepresentation.



The 6<sup>th</sup> October survivor in *By the Time It Gets Dark* describes “the methods with which the government clamped down on what they called “the terrorists”. They’d be thrown out of helicopters or set on fire in oil barrels.” (The title of Thunskya Pansittivorakul’s *The Terrorists* refers to the use of this term in demonising not only Communists but also ‘redshirt’ protesters.) Suspected Communists were indeed burned alive in red oil barrels, and Thunskya alludes to this in *Santikhiri Sonata*<sup>59</sup> (2019) with a caption describing the killing of subversives by “pushing them into a ‘CXII Red Suitcase’”.

*Santikhiri Sonata* was filmed in the villages of Mae Salong and Hin Taek, whose names were changed to draw a line under their sinister legacies. Mae Salong was renamed Santikhiri (‘hill of peace’), and Hin Taek became Thoet Thai (‘honour Thailand’), though they were previously sites of anti-Communist violence. The film highlights this violent heritage—“A lot of people were killed, including villagers”—demonstrating that, despite their new names, they remain silent witnesses to their traumatic past. They are, to use Dutch artist Armando’s term, ‘guilty landscapes’.<sup>60</sup>

Apichatpong Weerasethakul made several films in and around the village of Nabua, a similarly ‘guilty landscape’ with an equally loaded history to that of Santikhiri, as its inhabitants were victims of the anti-Communist purge. In his short film *A Letter to Uncle Boonmee*<sup>61</sup> (2009), a narrator recalls the area’s past: “Soldiers once occupied this place. They killed and tortured the villagers and forced them to flee to the jungle.” Apichatpong’s *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*<sup>62</sup> (2010) was also filmed in the vicinity, and that film’s most iconic image—a man-ape with glowing red eyes—also has a political subtext: the creature is Boonmee’s young son, who became an outcast in the jungle, as did many Communists from Nabua and elsewhere. (*Pirab* dramatises a student’s anguished decision to join the insurgency, allowing the audience to empathise with the young man’s dilemma.) When the eponymous Boonmee confesses that he “killed too many” Communists, his sister reassures him that he did so “for the nation,” a justification given by many who support the military regime, whether through apathy or deference. In fact, Apichatpong says that even his own family members are “totally submissive, no questions asked: disruption of the flow and unity is really a big deal.”<sup>63</sup>

On the surface, Chulayarnnon Siriphol’s short, silent film *Planking* (2012) is merely a series of comic tableaux, in which a prankster lies incongruously on the ground. However, like Chulayarnnon’s short film *Blinding* (2014), this is cinema as subversive performance art. The film has further layers of meaning, relating not only to 6<sup>th</sup> October but also to national identity itself. Each scene takes place at 8am or 6pm, when it is customary to stand while the national anthem is played; planking at those times is therefore an irreverent act of “disruption of the flow and unity” that Apichatpong described.

Like *Santikhiri Sonata* and *A Letter to Uncle Boonmee*, *Planking* also evokes specific episodes from Thai history by appropriating politically charged ‘guilty landscapes’.<sup>64</sup> For example, one sequence was filmed at the Thammasat University football pitch, where hundreds of students were forced to lie during the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre (as restaged in *By the Time It Gets Dark* and *Young Bao*). The planking man in Chulayarnnon’s film, adopting an identical pose on the same ground, provides a jarring reminder of the area’s violent past. As the director explained, reenacting the event in the present day also alludes to the military’s continuing interventions in Thai politics: “I think it’s a good place to make a connection relating to history and the current situation.”<sup>65</sup> The short film *Re-presentation*<sup>66</sup>

(2007) makes a similar point, intercutting between archive footage of 6<sup>th</sup> October and present-day images of the same locations. Another short film, Weerapat Sakolvaree's *Nostalgia* (2022), features still photographs taken at Thammasat University, accompanied by the sound of the massacre. Likewise, *Homogeneous, Empty Time* and Taiki Sakpisit's *A Ripe Volcano*<sup>67</sup> (2011) include sequences filmed at Bangkok's Royal Hotel, which is associated with both 6<sup>th</sup> October and the subsequent 'Black May' massacre of 1992.<sup>68</sup> *Homogeneous, Empty Time* reveals the building's grim function in relation to 6<sup>th</sup> October: "They hid the bodies of dead students in this hotel."

In Chulayarnnon's 'Planetarium', citizens in a dystopian future demonstrate loyalty by standing to respect their leader. However, a group of rebels show their resistance by lying down: again, planking became a visible expression of nonconformity. In 'Catopia', Wisit Sasanatieng's *Ten Years Thailand* segment, almost everyone has (CGI) cat's heads, and the few remaining humans are hunted down and killed, echoing the 6<sup>th</sup> October massacre and the subsequent anti-Communist purges.<sup>69</sup>

Prabda Yoon's short film *Transmissions of Unwanted Pasts*<sup>70</sup> (2019) anticipates an equally dystopian future, in which images of 6<sup>th</sup> October and other military massacres—broadcast via satellite—are deleted by the military to erase such events from the collective public memory. The engineer who discovers them excitedly suggests that researchers could use the satellite data to study this secret history: "They might discover many new things, things that they were previously unaware of, or things that were never documented." Her boss has other ideas, however, and three soldiers destroy the transmissions. Prabda's film was made in response to the state education system, which he describes as "pretty much propaganda, because they don't tell you the things they don't want you to know or to remember. So there is that censorship always in Thai culture and society."<sup>71</sup> However, although the legacy of 6<sup>th</sup> October has been whitewashed by successive military governments, it continues to be memorialised by cinema.

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- 1 *Tongpan* [ทองปาน] was directed by Euthana Mukdasanit and Surachai Chantimatorn.
- 2 Kittinun Klongyai (2017)
- 3 *Official Trailer* [อนุสรณ์สถาน] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THhBOiMvAp4>) was directed by Veerapong Soontornchattrawat. *Love Destiny* [บุพเพสันนิวาส] was directed by Pawat Panangkasri.
- 4 *Silenced Memories* [ความทรงจำไร้เสียง] was directed by Patporn and Saowanee Sangkara.
- 5 *Mundane History's* Thai title is *เจ้านกกระจอก*.
- 6 *Someone from Nowhere's* Thai title is *มา ณ ที่นี้*.
- 7 Graiwoot Chulphongsathorn (2010) wrote: “if the films are too opaque then the communicative power of cinema has not been utilized. The hidden idea, then, is impotent.” Thanavi Chotpradit (quoted by Ariane Kupferman-Sutthavong) makes a similar observation in relation to political art: “The authorities won’t get it. However, this is a limitation in itself. If nobody understands your work, then what’s the point?” (2018; *Life*, p. 1). With reference to literature as political satire, David Streckfuss (2020, p. 327) discusses “the tension between letting readers in on the joke and somehow concealing it from the authorities”.
- 8 *Friendship Ended with Mudasir Now Salman Is My Best Friend* [มิตรภาพสิ้นสุดกับ Mudasir ตอนนี้ Salman คือเพื่อนที่ดีที่สุดของฉัน], directed by Tewprai Bualoi, was shown at the *Internet Universality Beyond Words* exhibition (2018). It includes extracts from Charnvit Kasetsiri’s documentary *14 ตุลาคม* (‘14<sup>th</sup> Oct.’, 1993) and the *Tom and Jerry* cartoon *Jerry’s Cousin* (1951, directed by William Hannah and Joseph Barbera). Sirisak Saengow’s installation ‘History of Guns’ (2021) also includes a coded reference to the massacre: ceramic rifles stamped with the number 061019, referring to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2519 BE. (2519 in the Buddhist Era is equivalent to 1976.) Sirisak also painted images of the massacre on ceramic tiles.
- 9 The massacre is significant to the plots of the historical novels *Comrade Aeon’s Field Guide to Bangkok* (Emma Larkin, 2021), *A Good True Thai* (Sunisa Manning, 2020) and *Democracy, Shaken and Stirred* [ประชาธิปไตยบนเส้นขนาน] (Win Lyovarin, 1994), and Pradit Prasartthong’s play *A Nowhere Place* [ที่ ไม่มีที่] (2016); the play’s script is reproduced in *Micro Politics* (2018), pp. 43-59, 154-171. The massacre has also inspired numerous works of visual art. A large outdoor art exhibition, *สปิริต 6 ตุลาคม* (‘spirit of 6<sup>th</sup> October’), was held at Thammasat University on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 1996. Sudarat Musikawong (2010, p. 22) calls art about 6<sup>th</sup> October “trauma art” and Phatarawadee Phataranawik (2016, p. 12B) examines art that “attempts to address the terrible truth” about the attack. Choekchai Takpoe painted a student’s head riddled with bullet holes, *ก่อน-หลัง ตุลาคม 2519* (‘before-after October 1976’, 1976); reproduced in Sudarat Musikawong (2010), p. 31. In Pratuang Emjaroen’s painting ‘Sacrifice (Fasting Buddha)’ [บำเพ็ญทุกรกิริยา] (1976), the Buddha has a black hole in his shoulder, representing a bullet wound; reproduced in *Pratuang Emjaroen: Traces and Trails* [ประเทือง เอมเจริญ “ร้อยริ้วสรรพลีสร” ตำนานชีวิตและสังคม] (2015), pp. 142-143. Piles of skulls in Pratuang’s ‘National Fanatic’ [‘บ้ำรักชาติ’] (1976) and ‘Red Morning Glory and a Rotten Rifle’ [ผักมั่งแดง ปืนเน่า] (1976) also refer to the massacre. The former is reproduced in *Spirit of Art: A Retrospective 1963-2005* [จิตวิญญาณศิลปะ คัดสรรผลงานจิตรกรรมระหว่างปี พ.ศ. 2506–2548] (Pratuang Emjaroen, 2005), p. 47; the latter is reproduced in Apinan Poshyananda (1992, plate 51). Apinan (ibid., pp. 171-172) describes another painting inspired by the massacre: “Santiphab Nakhao’s *6 October* (1979) is a powerful image of a fat man sitting in an armchair atop a heap of lifeless bodies.” Tang Chang drew a concrete poem (1980) featuring a repetition of the Thai word ‘ศพ’ (‘corpse’) surrounding the numeral ‘6’, in reference to the date of the massacre; reproduced in *Tang Chang (1934–1990): Non-Forms* [Tang Chang (1934–1990): Non-Formes] (2023), p. 57. A series of six drawings by Piseat Popis, titled *บันทึก 6 ตุลาคม 2519 (วันล้อมปราบ)* [‘record of 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976 (the day everyone was surrounded)’], was exhibited at Thammasat University’s 6<sup>th</sup> October commemoration in 2020. Sinsawat Yodbangtoey staged a performance art event at Thammasat’s 6<sup>th</sup> October monument, documented in a series of photographs titled *1976 October 6*; reproduced in *Memory / History / Democracy* [ความทรงจำประวัติศาสตร์ประชาธิปไตย] (2019). For his *Siamese Talk* exhibition (2020), Kritsana Chaikitwattana covered newspaper and magazine pages with paper, revealing only fragments of the original contents; one piece featured a magazine cover with only the words “6 ตุลาคม” [‘6 Oct.’] visible. In Manit Sriwanichpoom’s *Horror in Pink* [ปีศาจสีชมพู] (2001) series, an incongruous pink man is inserted into news photographs of 6<sup>th</sup> October; reproduced in *Phenomena and Prophecies* [ท่าและทาย] (2011, pp. 60-67). The series was imitated by Anuwat Apimukmongkon in two photomontages shown at his *BangLee Everything Everywhere* exhibition (2023). Similarly, for his *Selfie Series* [เซลฟี่ ซีรี่ส์] (2016), Chumpol Kamwanna recreated 6<sup>th</sup> October photographs, depicting himself taking selfies in each painting; reproduced in Phatarawadee Phataranawik (2016, p. 12B). An exhibition of art influenced by 6<sup>th</sup> October, *Flashback '76: History and Memory of October 6 Massacre* [อดีตหลอน ประวัติศาสตร์และความทรงจำ 6 ตุลา 19] (2008), included Vasan Sittthiket’s video ‘Delete Our History, Now!’ [อำนาจ/การลบทิ้ง] (2008), in which he digitally erased photographs of the massacre, as they are erased from national historiography (exhibition catalogue, pp. 10-11); and Manit Sriwanichpoom’s *Died on 6th October 1976* [ตาย 6 ตุลา 19] (2008), autopsy photographs of massacre victims soaked in blood (exhibition catalogue, pp. 13, 15-16). Pat Yingcharoen’s paintings based on press photographs of the massacre are reproduced in *Collective Coalescence* (Panu Boonpipattanapong, 2023). For her series *The Will to Remember*, Charinthorn Rachurutchata tore prints of photographs of the massacre and repaired them using *kintsugi*; reproduced in *World Press Photo 2022* (2022, pp. 184-185).

- 10 Choomporn Thummai and Vichai Kasripongsa were hanged from a gate in Nakhon Pathom. Jirapatt Aungsumalee's painting 'ประตูแดง' ('red gate', 2019) shows the outlines of their two bodies hanging from the gate; reproduced online ([https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2326997440898830&id=1000076579\\_08937](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2326997440898830&id=1000076579_08937)). The reenactment was directed by Viroj Tangvanich.
- 11 The student was Apinan Buahapakdee.
- 12 The publication of the *Dao Siam* [ดาวสยาม] photograph was highly inflammatory, as David Morell and Chai-anan Samudavinija wrote (1981, p. 274): "Faculty members later were divided as to whether or not the image had been deliberately contrived, but the effect was the same regardless of the motive—popular outrage." The continued sensitivity of *Dao Siam's* reference to the Crown Prince is also indicated by a reference to the photograph in the *Bangkok Post* (Veera Prateepchaikul, 1996; p. 1) twenty years after the event: "the actor in the mock hanging looked like a member of the Royal Family." Even forty years after the event, the *Bangkok Post* (Soonruth Bunyamane, 2016; p. 4) again avoided naming the Crown Prince directly: "it appeared to bear a resemblance to a royal family member. It was accompanied by a headline that led to public misunderstanding." The *Dao Siam* front page is rarely reproduced in its complete form, as the combination of the strapline ("แขวนคอหุ่นเหมือนเจ้าฟ้าชาย", 'hanging the Crown Prince in effigy') and photograph is still considered highly provocative. The strapline was included in พลิกแผ่นดิน นประวัติศาสตร์การเมืองไทย 24 มิย 2475 ถึง 14 ตค 2516 ('overturning the history of Thai politics from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1932 to 14<sup>th</sup> October 1973'; Prachuap Amphasawet, 2000), p. 548, though the photograph was blacked out. A reproduction of the front page was self-censored from an exhibition at Thammasat University in 1996, on the day before the show was due to open, and a question mark was hung in its place. The strapline was shown at an exhibition at Thammasat on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 [ครบรอบ 42 ปี 6 ตุลาคม 2519] ('42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1976'), though the photograph was cropped out. When the strapline is quoted online, the word 'prince' (เจ้า) is sometimes omitted. Exceptionally, the complete front page was shown uncensored as part of a Thai political history series, ย้อนรอยประวัติศาสตร์รัฐประหารไทย ('tracing the history of Thai coups'), on the satellite television channel DNN; the episode, '๖ ตุลาคม ๒๕๑๙ จากนองเลือด สู่อำนาจ' ('6<sup>th</sup> October 1976: from bloodshed to power'), the seventeenth in the series, was broadcast on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ealiHqQhek4>). The front page also appeared in the June 2012 issue of *Sarakadee* [สารคดี] magazine (vol. 28, no. 328), pp. 76, 86; in 45 ปี 6 ตุลาคม: ข้อคิดจากคนเดือนตุลา ('45 years of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.: thoughts from Octobrists', ed. Kasidit Ananthanathorn), p. 80.; and in สงครามเย็น (ใน)ระหว่าง โบว์ขาว ('the Cold War (in)between the white bow'; Kanokrat Lertchoosakul, 2021), p. 57. It is reproduced, along with other newspaper coverage of the massacre, in *Prism of Photography: Dispersion of Knowledge and Memories of the 6<sup>th</sup> October Massacre* [ปริซึมของภาพถ่าย: การแตกตัวขององค์ความรู้และความทรงจำว่าด้วยเหตุการณ์ 6 ตุลา] (Thanavi Chotpradit & Kornkrit Jianpinidnan, 2019), pl. 261. It also appears in *Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the October 6, 1976, Massacre in Bangkok* (Thongchai Winichakul, 2020), p. 29. Thasnai Sethaseree produced a series of four painted collages for the Dismantle [ปลด] exhibition (2021). Each painting reproduces the front page of a Thai newspaper dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 1976, the day before the massacre. Thasnai covered the headlines in bright colours and gave them optimistic titles taken from vintage pop songs, to show how the news coverage of the period ignored the impending political crisis. The four collages are: *Have You Ever Seen the Rain*, based on the front page of *Daily News* [เดลินิวส์]; *Who Will Stop the Rain*, based on เสียง ปวงชน ('the people's voice'); *What a Wonderful World*, based on *Dao Siam*; and *The Sound of Silence*, based on ชาวไทย ('people of Thailand'). His *What You Don't See Will Hurt You* (2016) exhibition featured similar collages that partially obscured photographs of 6<sup>th</sup> October and other notorious historic events.
- 13 *Paradoxocracy* [ประชาธิปไตย] was directed by Pen-ek Ratanaruang and Pasakorn Pramoolwong.
- 14 *Different Views, Death Sentence* [sic] [ต่างความคิด ผิดถึงตาย ๖ ตุลาคม ๒๕๑๙], produced by Suthachai Yimprasert, was released on DVD. The National Administrative Reform Council (the 1976 junta) produced their own propaganda documentary shortly after the massacre: a short, black-and-white film that emphasised the alleged Communist sympathies of the students and showed weapons purportedly discovered at Thammasat. A documentary commemorating the massacre's twentieth anniversary, ชำระประวัติศาสตร์ ๖ ตุลา ๒๕๑๙ ('settling history: 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976', 1996), begins with brief historical context, then replays raw footage of the massacre, and concludes with a caption calling for an end to state violence against civilians. It was released on VHS as ปณิธาน 6 ตุลา วิถีคนกล้าแห่งยุคสมัย แม้ 20 ปี ล่วงไป ไม่เคยจางความทรงจำ ('6<sup>th</sup> October resolution: a time of bravery'). In 2001, it was extensively reedited and reissued for the twenty-fifth anniversary, with much of the raw archive footage replaced by new interviews with academics and relatives of the victims. Another documentary, พ.ศ. 2519 ('BE 2519', 1996), consists only of raw footage from the massacre. (This documentary concludes with the same caption mentioned above, suggesting that it originates from the same production team.) Yuenyong Opakul's solo album ข้าวสีทอง รำลึก 20 ปี '6 ตุลา' ('golden rice: remembering 20 years since 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.', 1996) also marked the twentieth anniversary of the massacre. The album ๒๕ปี หกตุลา นาฏลีลา ตุลาคมวิถี ('25 years since 6<sup>th</sup> October 1976: Dance October-Style', 2001) commemorates the massacre's twenty-fifth anniversary.
- 15 Its Thai title is ผู้ก่อการร้าย.
- 16 A Thai-Japanese coproduction, it was filmed in 8mm and Jon Ungpakhorn was one of the principal cameramen.
- 17 *Homogeneous, Empty Time* [สูญกาล] was directed by Thunskha Pansittivorakul and Harit Srikhao.

- 18 The monk (Kittivuddho Bhikku) made the comments in an interview with the magazine *จัตุรัส* ('square', 29<sup>th</sup> June 1976). Artist Sutee Kunavichayanont carved the quote onto a school desk for his 'History Class' [*ห้องเรียนประวัติศาสตร์*] installation (2000), inviting viewers to make tracings of this and other carved texts and drawings, all of which represented historic events excluded from the national curriculum; reproduced in *Concept Context Contestation* [มโนทัศน์ บริบท และการต่อต้าน ศิลปะและส่วนรวมในเอเชียตะวันออกเฉียงใต้] (ed. Iola Lenzi, 2014), p. 148. Sutee also created a Calligramme of the quote, in the shape of a Buddhist sitting in the lotus position; reproduced in *October 1973 to October 1976: A History of State Violence in Thailand* [ตุลา-ตุลา สังคม-รัฐไทย กับความรุนแรงทางการเมือง] (ed. Charnvit Kasetsiri & Thamrongsak Petchlertanan, 2018), p. 227. A large painting by Lucky Leg displayed at Thammasat University in 2021 depicts a monk tying a chord around a dead man's neck, a reference to the consequences of Kittivuddho Bhikku's comments.
- 19 *Don't Forget Me* [อย่าลืมฉัน] was directed by Manussak Dokmai.
- 20 *From Forest to City* (อรัญนคร) was directed by Chatchawai Thongjun.
- 21 *Time in a Bottle* [เวลาในขวดแก้ว] was directed by Prayoon Wongcheun. The students were also demonised in films such as Supan Prampan's *เก้ายอด* ('nine peaks', 1977). In one sequence, the Hindu demon Tossakan is superimposed over footage of student protesters from 1976, as he mocks the students and denounces them as agitators.
- 22 Linda Napapan's single *คนร้อยเล่ห์* ('trickster') was released in the 1970s. As Arnika Fuhrmann (2016, p. 192) writes, "the director juxtaposes explicit images of male bodies and sex scenes with cases of repressive state measures that do not at first seem related to sexuality."
- 23 Interview with Thunsa Pansittivorakul in Bangkok (1<sup>st</sup> May 2017).
- 24 *Danse Macabre*'s Thai title is *มรณสติ*.
- 25 Ing Kanjanavanit (2011), p. 19; Ing's essay 'Poses from Dreamland' [*ท่าโพส จากแดน ช่างฝัน*] is included in *Phenomena and Prophecies* [ท่าและทาย] (2011).
- 26 Sondhi Limthongkul, quoted by Nattaya Chetchotiros (2008), p. 3.
- 27 *Homogeneous, Empty Time* also serves as a counterpoint to films such as Supachai Tosampan's *ท้องนาสะเทือน* ('shaking the paddy fields', 1976) and Sombat Methanee's *หนักแผ่นดิน* ('burden of the land', 1977). As Rachel V. Harrison (2010, p. 197) explains, action movies such as these celebrate the Village Scouts as national heroes, functioning as "a vehicle for anti-communist propaganda." Sombat's film took its name from an ultranationalist song (written by Boonsong Hakritsuk in 1975) played on military radio stations in the period leading up to 6<sup>th</sup> October. The song denounced anyone who did not affirm their loyalty to the nation, religion, and monarchy as traitorous 'scum of the earth', and its repeated broadcasts fomented anti-Communist violence. A *Bangkok Post* editorial called it "the most hateful song in Thai political history" (2019, p. 8). Despite the song's incendiary legacy, army chief General Apirat Kongsompong ordered all military radio stations to resume playing it on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The order was later rescinded, though the song was played on that day over the public address system at the Royal Thai Army headquarters in Bangkok. The song's title appears alongside other pejorative terms in the video installation *Silence* (2020), codirected by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr, Chatchai Suban, and Pathompong Manakitsomboon, which also includes autopsy photographs of 6<sup>th</sup> October victims and footage of the desecration of their corpses.
- 28 *Ten Years Thailand* consists of four segments: Apichatpong Weerasethakul's 'Song of the City', Wisit Sasanatieng's 'Catopia', Aditya Assarat's 'Sunset' (filmed in black-and-white), and Chulayarnnon Siriphol's 'Planetarium'.
- 29 Interview with Chulayarnnon Siriphol in Bangkok (14<sup>th</sup> December 2018). Nutdanai Jitbunjong also alluded to the role of the Village Scouts in the 6<sup>th</sup> October incident: visitors to his installation 'A Massacre' (2018) had their hands stamped by two Girl Scouts. (The installation consisted of a wooden folding chair hanging from a noose, in reference to Neal Ulevich's photograph of a 6<sup>th</sup> October victim's corpse being battered with a folding chair; Nutdanai's chair was made from tamarind wood, as the corpse was hanged from a tamarind tree.) In 2010, the government organised 'Cyber Scout' camps at which young volunteers were trained to monitor the internet for *lèse-majesté* content. Thongchai Winichakul (2014, p. 99) notes the appellative and ideological similarities between the Cyber Scouts and Village Scouts: "The name 'Cyber Scout' is a reminiscence of the royalist right-wing movement, the 'Village Scout', that was active in the 1976 massacre."
- 30 *Respectfully Yours* [*ด้วยความนับถือ*] ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig2DCytG8\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig2DCytG8_Y)) was first shown, in a shorter version, in 2016. It was also shown at a discussion about cultural representation of the massacre, 'The Forgotten', which took place as part of 'The Strange Facts of an Estranged Land' event at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- 31 Patporn Phoothong, quoted by Kong Rithdee (2017a), *Life*, p. 1.
- 32 Teerawat Rujenatham, quoted by Kong Rithdee (2017b), *Life*, p. 1. *The Two Brothers* [*สองพี่น้อง*] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbQ981ZZZII>) was codirected by Teerawat Rujinatham.
- 33 *"Red" at Last* [*มันส์ เตียรสิงห์*] was directed by Suchart Sawadsri.
- 34 The eponymous victim is Manus Siansing, whose nickname was Daeng ('red').
- 35 The song is by Chatree, from their album *ชะตารัก* ('love destiny', 1981).

- <sup>36</sup> *By the Time It Gets Dark's* Thai title is ดาวคะนอง.
- <sup>37</sup> A screening on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Warehouse 30 in Bangkok was cancelled due to military pressure.
- <sup>38</sup> The photograph, taken by Kraipit Phanvut and depicting Lt Col. Watcharin Niamvanichkul, is reproduced in *Chronicle of Thailand: Headline News since 1946* (ed. Nicholas Grossman, 2009), p. 212. A collage and tee-shirt design by Spanky Studio and Headache Stencil (2020) reproduces the photograph, though it replaces Watcharin's head with a clown mask and uses the *Dao Siam* masthead as a background; reproduced on Headache Stencil's Facebook profile (<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=210915997072861&set=ecnf.100044633850222>). Headache Stencil's 'Déjà vu' ['เดจา วู'] (2020) also appropriated the photograph, replacing Watcharin's pistol with a futuristic ray gun; reproduced in *A Day*, vol. 21, no. 243 (November 2020), p. 191. The photograph is also restaged in the music video 'Sun Rises When Day Breaks' ['ลิวลิว'] by View from the Bus Tour (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkwDIJxGTMc>).
- <sup>39</sup> Its title is นครพนมมือบ้าง นครไม่พนมมือบ้าง ('Nakhon Phanom: some pray, some don't').
- <sup>40</sup> Similarly, 'Oc(t)ugen' (2015), by Liberate P, begins with a radio broadcast from 6<sup>th</sup> October (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nd79Y70xH2Q>); translated in *Shout Out or Shut Up (?)* (Judha Su, 2017), p. 5.
- <sup>41</sup> *River of Exploding Durians* [榴莲忘返] was directed by Edmund Yeo.
- <sup>42</sup> *Young Bao* [ยัง'บาว คาราบาว เดอะมูฟวี่], directed by Yuthakorn Sukmuktapha (credited as 'R-Jo'), features a mockup of a newspaper headline: "Almost 100 people have been effected from 6<sup>th</sup> Oct In Thailand" [sic].
- <sup>43</sup> *Colic* [เด็กเห็นผี] was directed by Patchanon Thumjira. The General is Arun Dvadasin.
- <sup>44</sup> *Shakespeare Must Die's* Thai title is เชคสเปียร์ต้องตาย. The verdict was announced on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- <sup>45</sup> Neal Ulevich's photograph was also used as the cover for the Dead Kennedys' single 'Holiday in Cambodia' (1980). Ulevich, quoted by Kong Rithdee (2016; *Life*, p. 1), described how "police had raided Thai newspapers seizing film of the events." *โลกใหม่* ('new world') magazine was banned in 1979 after it published several such photographs. For her *Where Are They Now?* [ไทยมุง] series (2008), Ing Kanjanavanit painted portraits of onlookers in the background of Ulevich's photograph (reproduced in *Flashback '76*, pp. 1-3, 6). Kosit Juntaratip recreated the photograph using his own blood ('Thammasat Hanging'), for his *Allergic Realities* exhibition (2016). Vasan Sitthiket's *Blue October* [ตุลาภัย] (1996) exhibition included the painting 'This Is the Buddhism Country' [sic] ['นี่แหละหนอเมืองพระพุทธศาสนา'] (exhibition catalogue, p. 26), a recreation of Ulevich's photograph with gold leaf applied to the victim as a mark of respect. Anonymous artist Headache Stencil isolated the man holding the chair for his stencil 'Beautiful 6<sup>th</sup> Oct' (2019), reproduced in *Guru*, vol. 14, no. 10 (8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March 2019), p. 6. The man also appeared on the cover of *Same Sky* [ฟ้าเดียวกัน], vol. 6, no. 2 (April-June 2008). Headache Stencil also isolated the man in another stencil, 'Good Shit' ['คนดีแห่งสถาบัน'] (2020), with the chair replaced by a speaker. The man represents one of the royalist counter-protesters who attacked student protesters at Ramkhamhaeng University on 21 October 2020; reproduced in Headache Stencil's 2021 desk calendar, 2564 ปีที่คนเท่ากัน ('2021: the year of equality'). Headache Stencil also created 'The Sound of Elite', a collage combining the background of Ulevich's photograph with a publicity still from *The Sound of Music* (1965); reproduced online (<https://www.facebook.com/headachestencil/photos/pcb.1394119084100175/1394118900766860>). The folding chair appears in Nathee Monthonwit's painting 'World of Wrestling' ['โลกมวยปล้ำ'] (2020), with the hanging corpse and the military junta depicted as two wrestlers. A shrine-like installation (2020) by Yada Kinbaku featured a blue folding chair tied up with red rope, in reference to the colours of the Thai flag and their symbolic meanings. A painting by Ekalux Julsukont (2019) featured the man holding the chair superimposed onto a large leaf. Ekalux also printed the man and his chair onto a roll of toilet paper, for his installation กระดาษชำระประวัติศาสตร์ ('the purifying paper of Siamese history', 2017). Tawan Wattuya painted the man holding the chair, and the hanging corpse, in two untitled watercolours, reproduced in *Tawan Wattuya: Works 2009-2019* [ตะวันออก] (ed. Myrtille Tibayrenc, 2019), pp. 210-211. The two figures appear in silhouette in Sitthiphorn Anthawonksa's digital painting 'Death of Book' ['ศพหนังสือ'], exhibited at *Art for Freedom* [ศิลปะเพื่อเสรีภาพ] in 2013. Another painting inspired by Ulevich's photograph, shown at the *Unmuted Project* exhibition (2020) is partially obscured by a banknote featuring Prayut's face. A 2021 exhibition, *Specter* [ปีศาจแห่งกาลเวลา], at the same venue, featured numerous paintings of various figures from the photograph, including a painting of the crowd of onlookers by Rattapob Sirichon, a drawing of the man wielding the chair and the hanging corpse inside an hourglass by Sinsawat Yodbangtoey, and a painting by KKTKKKH of the corpse hanging from an ornate lamp post with a kinnaree finial; *Specter* also included an installation of a mannequin and folding chair hanging from a tree. In a sketch by Dipthroat (2020), the 'chair man' is replaced by Prayut Chan-o-cha wielding a lectern, and Future Forward founder Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit is depicted as the victim. For his collage 'Lamentation of October 6, 1976' (2017), Nakrob Moonmanas replaced the hanging corpse with the figure of Jesus from a painting by Gerard David; reproduced in *Everything*, no. 12 (2021). The Artn't group staged *Calmer Rouge*, a performance art event from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Tha Phae Gate in Chiang Mai, and one of their props was a folding chair splattered with symbolic blue paint. Ulevich's photograph also inspired Preecha Rakson's exhibition *Once Upon a Time at Sanamluang...* (2024).

- <sup>46</sup> The clip is from an episode titled 'A Milhouse Divided', broadcast on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1996. The man with the chair also appears in Chalerm Pol Junrayab's satirical comic-book series *The Amazing Thai-Land: surrounded by politicians in 'When I Was Young I Like Marvel Comic' [sic]* (vol. 1, 2018), next to a dancing woman in 'Thailand History X' (vol. 2, 2019), at Thammasat University in 'The Killing Fields' (ibid.), and in front of the *หนักแผ่นดิน* ('burden of the land') film poster in 'Hard Song' (ibid.); reproduced online ([https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheArtDistrict86/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=14177281050\\_40570](https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheArtDistrict86/photos/?tab=album&album_id=14177281050_40570)). The online comic *Manee Has Chair [sic]* [มานีมี่แชร์] (2013-2019) regularly featured its eponymous schoolgirl character Manee wielding a folding chair; reproduced in *Moments of Silence: The Unforgetting of the October 6, 1976, Massacre in Bangkok* (Thongchai Winichakul, 2020), p. 237. The photograph is also referenced in two cartoons in a book by the anonymous artist Khai Maew (ไขแมว, 2019): in one image (p. 137), Doraemon is added to the crowd of onlookers; and in another (p. 139), a pupil draws a version of the photograph on a blackboard, while his classmate displays a textbook with pages removed. A noose and folding chair also feature in a 2020 calendar illustrated by Khai Maew, and in 2016 the artist produced 'Happy Boy', a toy figurine depicting a young boy seen in the background of Ulevich's photograph. In 'No More 1976' (2020), a cartoon by Stephane Peray (known as Stepfff), the hanging corpse is replaced by a giant student, representing the strength of the anti-military youth movement in 2020. The massacre features, in a sanitised, child-friendly form, in the picture books *The Folding Chair Stars* [ดาว เก้าอี้] (สองขา ['two legs'], 2022), *We Are All Human* [เราล้วนคือคน] (สองขา ['two legs'] and Jinglebell, 2022), and *Where Have You Gone?* [พื้หนุอยู่ที่ไหน] (สาริน ['Sarin'], 2022).
- <sup>47</sup> Rap Against Dictatorship's video for their single 'My Country Has' ['ประเทศกูมี'] (2018), directed by Teerawat Rujintham, recreates Ulevich's photograph, with the hanging corpse represented by a battered mannequin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZvzvLiGUtw>). The video for their single 'To Whom It May Concern' ['ถึงผู้มีส่วนเกี่ยวข้อง'] (2019), directed by Kasiti Sangkul, features folding chairs and a noose, in another reference to Ulevich's photograph (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1A1KUuVNI>). The video for their single 'Burning Sky' ['ไฟไหม้ฟ้า'] (2021), directed by Skanbombomb, features a hanging corpse in silhouette (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfvEh4PGxVo>), and their single 'Homeland' [บ้านเกิดเมืองนอน] (2022) describes Thailand as "this land where they swing chairs on faces". Another Khai Maew book (ไขแมวX, 2021) features cartoons in which political figures (protester Sirawith Seritiwat, p. 51; army chief Apirat Kongsompong, p. 55) are inserted into the 'To Whom It May Concern' video. CD and cassette editions of *Gigantrix Extinction* (2012), an album by Killing Fields, feature drawings by Dissolute inspired by Ulevich's photograph; the album includes '6<sup>th</sup> October', a song inspired by the massacre. The EP สามัญชน ('commoner', 2019), by The Commoner, also features a drawing of the hanging corpse from Ulevich's photograph, by Chuveath Dethdittharak. The hanging corpse appears in the animated video for Dogwhine's single 'Democracy' (2019), directed by Jung (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc3aEWwO04I>), from their EP *Dog of God*. Pongsit Kampee recorded a song about the massacre, '6 ตุลาคม 2519' ('6<sup>th</sup> October 1976'), on his album *เส้นทางสายเก่า* ('the old way', 1996), and recorded an *a cappella* version, retitled '6 ตุลา' ('6<sup>th</sup> Oct.'), for the album *ตุลาธาร ๑๔ คน ๑๔ เพลง ต้องห้าม* ('October: 14 people, 14 forbidden songs', 1997).
- <sup>48</sup> *Censor Must Die's* Thai title is *เซ็นเซอร์ต้องตาย*.
- <sup>49</sup> *Haunted Universities* [มหาลัยสยองขวัญ] (2009) was directed by Banjong Sintanamonkolgul and Suthiporn Tabtim. The 6<sup>th</sup> October sequence occurs in a segment titled 'The Elevator' [ลิฟต์แดง]. The film's other segments are: 'Stairway' [ป๊อกกฯ ครีต], 'The Morgue' [ห้องดับจิต], and 'The Toilet' [ศาลห้องน้ำหญิง].
- <sup>50</sup> *Meat Grinder* was directed by Tiwa Moeithaisong; its original title *ก๋วยเตี๋ยว เนื้อ คน* ('beef noodles') was changed to *เขียด ก่อน ชิม* ('slice before eating').
- <sup>51</sup> The film's Thai and international versions are compared on the Movie Censorship website (<https://www.movie-censorship.com/report.php?ID=451668>).
- <sup>52</sup> *Blue Sky of Love* [ฟ้าใส ใจขึ้นบาน] was directed by Krekchai Jaiman and Napaporn Poonjaruen.
- <sup>53</sup> *Somsri's* Thai title is *ครูสมศรี*.
- <sup>54</sup> The film's title is *ช่างมันฉันไม่แคร์* ('forget it, I don't care').
- <sup>55</sup> *Pirab* [พิราบ] (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjnprnAMgWc>) was directed by Pasit Promnumpol.
- <sup>56</sup> *Dawn of a New Day* (ก่อนฟ้าสว่าง) was part of the 5 ตุลาฯ ตะวันจะมาเมื่อฟ้าสว่าง ('5th October: the sun will come at dawn') project (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0crHyePnqXc>).
- <sup>57</sup> *October Sonata* [รักที่รอคอย] was directed by Somkiat Vithuranich. Elliott Kulick and Dick Wilson (1996, p. 27) discuss Thanin's censorship: "His repressiveness ran to sending Special Branch policemen to the liberal bookshop to take away 45,000 books to be burnt."
- <sup>58</sup> *Grounded God's* Thai title is *เทวดาเดินดิน*.
- <sup>59</sup> *Santikhiri Sonata's* Thai title is *สันติคีรี โชนาตา*. Artist Pin Sasao's installation 'ถังแดง: ความตายของบิลลี่' ('red barrel: the death of Billy', 2019) used a mannequin and a red barbecue to symbolise the oil barrel killings; reproduced online ([https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=2455907084732796&id=1000094058\\_46636](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2455907084732796&id=1000094058_46636)).



- <sup>60</sup> Armando's 'guilty landscape' series of landscape paintings are reproduced in *Het schuldige landschap / Die schuldige landschaft* ('the guilty landscape', 1998).
- <sup>61</sup> *A Letter to Uncle Boonmee* [จดหมายถึงลุงบุญมี] was part of the *Primitive* series (2009), which also included the captivating short film *Phantoms of Nabua* [ชื่อว่า ผีนาบัว] ([http://animateprojectsarchive.org/films/by\\_date/2009/phantoms](http://animateprojectsarchive.org/films/by_date/2009/phantoms)).
- <sup>62</sup> *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* [ลุงบุญมีระลึกชาติ] won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2010.
- <sup>63</sup> Interview with Apichatpong Weerasethakul in Chiang Mai (27<sup>th</sup> June 2016).
- <sup>64</sup> The seemingly tranquil landscapes in Pachara Piyasongsoot's exhibition *Anatomy of Silence* [กายวิภาคของความเงียบ] (2018) also represent politically charged locations. His *Nabua* [นาบัว] series includes 'No Happiness Other than Serenity' (2018), whose ironic title refers to a slogan painted on the gate of a Nabua temple used as a detention centre for suspected Communists in 1965 (exhibition catalogue, p. 10). His *Sequence* [ผลสืบเนื่อง] series includes 'What a Wonderful World: Parallel Side of the Red Gate' (2018), another deeply ironic title, which depicts the view that the two anti-Thanom activists saw as they were hanged from a red gate in 1976 (*ibid.*, p. 15). 'What a Wonderful World' was inspired by the documentary *The Two Brothers*. Pachara's exhibition title, *Anatomy of Silence*, highlights a common theme in artistic responses to the massacre: silence, a commentary on the long repression of public recognition of the massacre's memory. Chalida Uabumrungjit's 2008 silent film *ฉันนั่งอยู่ริมสนามฟุตบอล* ('sitting by the football pitch')—a blurred shot of Thammasat University's football pitch—also captures this theme.
- <sup>65</sup> Interview with Chulayarnnon Siriphol in Bangkok (14<sup>th</sup> December 2018).
- <sup>66</sup> *Re-presentation* [ผสมขาม ไฟฟ้า ประชาธิปไตย ในคืนที่ลมพัดหวน] (2007) was directed by Chai Chaiyachit and Chisanucha Kongwailap.
- <sup>67</sup> *A Ripe Volcano* [ภูเขาไฟพิโรธ] was directed by Taiki Sakpisit and Yasuhiro Morinaga.
- <sup>68</sup> The video for the band Amata's single 'The Devil of Time' ['ปีศาจร้ายแห่งกาลเวลา'] (2019), directed by Matichai Teawna, also includes footage of 6<sup>th</sup> October and 'Black May' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A-ELHsVrQg>). A music video by T\_047—'ความฝันยามรุ่งสาง' ('dreaming at dawn', 2021), directed by Yanna—begins with a toddler watching footage of 6<sup>th</sup> October on multiple TV screens (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC6J0287pVA>). The music video for 'Vicious Circle' by High Voltage (2019) also incorporates footage of 6<sup>th</sup> October (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzaxa-M4kMA>).
- <sup>69</sup> 'Catopia' is a dystopian version of Wisit's *Citizen Dog* [หมานคร] (2004), in which city dwellers grow tails.
- <sup>70</sup> The film's Thai title is วงโคจรของความทรงจำ.
- <sup>71</sup> Prabda Yoon, quoted by the Institute for Ideas and Information (2019).