

Organized by Hamid Amini in collaboration with Tiravanija Studio



Opening: December 15th, 2023 / 3-8 pm

چیدمان: حمید امینی با همکاری استودیو تیراوانیجا

Rirkrit Tiravanija: Tomorrow is the Question Poster

Courtesy of Pejman Foundation | Designed by Sam Keshmiri

Argo Factory, a Contemporary Art Museum and Cultural Centre *Rirkrit Tiravanija: Tomorrow is the Question*

Exhibition: *Rirkrit Tiravanija: Tomorrow is the Question*

Organizer: Hamid Amini in collaboration with Tiravanija Studio

Project Manager: Javid Ghaem Maghami

Date: December 15th, 2023 – March 15th, 2024

Location: No. 6, Behdasht St., Taghavi St., Ferdowsi Ave.
Tehran, Iran



Rirkrit Tiravanija: Tomorrow is the Question

Argo Factory presents the first solo exhibition in Iran of works by Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija. One of the leading artists working today, Tiravanija is internationally acclaimed for his interactive installations, compelling films, and unconventional approach to making art where people share meals, lounge, read or play music together.

Rirkrit Tiravanija: Tomorrow is the Question presents works including silkscreened text-based banners, t-shirts, ping-pong tables, flags and for the first-time cooking performances mixing Thai and Persian ingredients and dishes. Tiravanija's pluralistic approach centers on bringing people together to ultimately, as the artist has observed: "Make less things, but more useful relationships."

The title of the exhibition *Tomorrow is the Question* is borrowed from Ornette Coleman's (1930-2015) seminal 1959 free jazz album and encapsulates a linguistic expression that affirms our free will and the potential to change. Tiravanija's use of slogans asks the viewers to actively rely on their own experiences and ideas in order to make sense of the work. As the artist once noted, "I usually describe my text works as road signs. Like when you drive on a highway, and you drive by a big sign and pick up whatever words are written on it... I always find it interesting how they suddenly show up in the middle of nowhere, totally out of context."

Since the early 1990's Tiravanija has made works that invite people to "play" and engage in a game of possibilities. In his work untitled 2012 (Tomorrow is the Question), Tiravanija pays tribute to Slovakian artist Július Koller (1993-2007) by re-staging his conceptual work titled Ping-Pong Society (1970) first exhibited in Bratislava, in former Czechoslovakia, where the artist organized ping-pong tournaments for people to gather and meet. The editions of the tables in this presentation are produced in Persian, Arabic, Armenian (three of many languages spoken in Iran today) and English.

The exhibition in Tehran also showcases Tiravanija's remake of Koller's 1978 "Anti-happening" Universal Futurological Question Mark (U.F.O), for which the artist had children perform a question mark in a field. In Tehran's presentation the action was performed around the tree depicted in Abbas Kiarostami's film (Where Is the Friend's House?, 1987). The documentation of this performance is the source for the wallpaper throughout the exhibition.

Biography

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija is known for a practice that overturns traditional exhibition formats in favor of social interactions through the sharing of everyday activities such as cooking, eating and reading. Creating environments that reject the primacy of the art object, and instead focus on use value and the bringing of people together through simple acts and environments of communal care, Tiravanija's work challenges expectations around labour and virtuosity and accepted ideas of Western art history and aesthetics. Tiravanija is on the faculty of the School of the Visual Arts at Columbia University. He has helped establish an educational-ecological project known as The Land Foundation, located near Chiang Mai, Thailand. He has had exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, Serpentine Gallery in London, The Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Hirschhorn Smithsonian Washington DC, Luma Foundation in Arles among others. His current solo shows are on view at MoMA PS1 in New York and at Phi Foundation in Montreal.



Argo Factory: No. 6, Behdasht Alley, Taghavi St., Ferdowsi Ave., Tehran, Iran

December 15th, 2023 - March 15th, 2024

Opening: 3 - 8 PM

Visiting hours:

Sunday to Thursday: 4 PM – 8 PM

Friday: 12 PM – 8 PM

(Closed on Saturdays)

Exhibition Sponsors:



Pejman Foundation

Founded by Hamidreza Pejman, the Pejman Foundation is a non-profit foundation and began its activities in 2015 with a focus on contemporary Iranian and international art. Throughout recent years, the activities of Pejman Foundation have expanded beyond building its collection and its grant and sponsorship program. Through the organization of workshops, lectures, and panel discussions; the invitation of international experts; as well as its support for cultural research and publications, Pejman Foundation has become a creative hub for art practitioners and initiatives in Iran and abroad. Today, Pejman Foundation supports art and culture through a vibrant program of exhibitions, talks, and events at its multiple sites including Argo Factory and Kandovan.

Argo Factory

Argo Factory is a Contemporary Art Museum & Cultural Centre, housed in a former drink manufacturing factory in Tehran. Argo Factory is part of Pejman Foundation's constellation of sites. Argo Factory was one of the major drink manufacturing factories in Iran during the 1960s and 1970s. Its construction dates to early 1920s as one of the first industrial factories in Iran. Despite its unique architectural features – high smokestacks and strategic geographical position at the heart of the city – the factory was taken for granted for many years and eventually turned into a tumbledown building for almost four decades. In 2016, Pejman Foundation acquired and reconstructed the Argo Factory and turned into one of its multiple sites.

Pejman Foundation

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