For Immediate Release
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NEW PROJECT BY BOLD THAI INSTALLATION ARTIST RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA READY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

The Wexner Center continues to explore the definition of "art" with an exhibition where visitors can eat Thai curry, form a rock 'n' roll band, and make art. The audience-driven ***Rirkrit Tiravanija: Untitled 1999 (reading from right to left)*** runs January 30–April 18, 1999.

Rirkrit Tiravanija, a New York- and Berlin-based conceptual artist of Thai descent, is known for creating environments and installations in which visitors are not just viewers but artistic collaborators who eat, work, rest, play, and entertain each other in the galleries. For Tiravanija, the "lots of people" who use his work are his defining medium, and they are what keeps his art in unpredictable motion.

Untitled 1999 (reading from right to left)

Untitled 1999 (reading from right to left) combines, documents, and re-creates four previous projects to form a new installation—his first U.S. show with multiple pieces. The four works are:

- *Untitled 1997 (Free/Still*), a makeshift kitchen environment where Thai curry will be cooked on-site Thursday evenings at 6 pm, Fridays at 12 noon, and Sundays at 1 pm. Visitors to the galleries at these times can enjoy a bowl of curry, free of charge. This project was first realized at the 303 Gallery in New York and is on loan from The Robert J. Shiffler Foundation in Greenville, Ohio.

- *Untitled 1998 (On the road with Jiew Jeaw Jieb Sri and Moo),* a vintage 1960s American motor home and remains of a past

"performance"—a cross-country journey Tiravanija took with five students from Thailand in 1998.

- *Untitled (D) 1995,* a rehearsal studio equipped with guitars and drums that visitors can play. Free admission passes are available for musicians and bands from the Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (292-3535). Musicians are especially encouraged to play during the curry meals.

- *Untitled 1997 (Playtime),* a child's scale replica of architect Philip Johnson's famous glass house residence originally created for the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In the house, kids can make drawings to add to the display or to take home.

Rirkrit Tiravanija

Tiravanija's installations have been presented in museums and art centers around the world, from New York to Johannesburg, Venice to Kwangju. Past projects have included a working supermarket set up in a museum; a bar and social lounge environment; and a replica of the artist's own apartment where some gallery visitors lived for the duration of the exhibition, which was accessible 24 hours a day.

Tiravanija was born in 1961 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his father was a diplomat. He grew up in Ethiopia and Thailand before moving to Canada at age 19 to study as a photojournalist. After an art history course at the Banff Center School of Fine Arts in Canada, he enrolled in The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and then in the Whitney Independent Studies Program in New York. He currently lives in New York and Berlin.

Publications

On sale in the Wexner Center Bookshop is the most comprehensive publication on Rirkrit Tiravanija’s work to date. *Supermarket*, copublished by the Wexner Center and Migros Museum in Zurich, is a monograph that fully documents the artist's past and present projects, presented in a "very Rirkrit-like" text and image collage. Mixed among the book’s numerous full color images are personal and reflective commentaries by artists, curators, critics, collaborators, and friends who have shared experiences with

Tiravanija and his practice. An additional publication will document Tiravanija's upcoming project and activities at the Wexner Center, which are organized by Annetta Massie, the Wexner Center's associate curator of exhibitions.

Related Events

Two other exhibitions are on view at the Wexner Center along with the Rirkrit Tiravanija project—*On the Table: A Succession of Collections 3* and *David Reed Paintings: Motion Pictures*. A members opening celebration for these exhibitions will be held Saturday, January 30 from 7 to 10 pm.

As part of the Wexner Center's ongoing Art and Ideas informal gallery talks series, Joy Reilly will discuss Rirkrit Tiravanija's work and the intersections of visual and performing arts on February 26. In addition, the *Home Is Where the Art Is* Family Day on February 28 features a fun-filled afternoon of free activities inspired by the Rirkrit Tiravanija and *On the Table* exhibitions. For detailed information about these and other related programs, see the attached schedule of events.

Rirkrit Tiravanija was organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts.

The exhibition is presented with the support of Shastar, Inc., Toby Devan Lewis, and the Wexner Center Foundation.

In-kind support is provided by Wild Oats Community Market and Columbus Percussion.

Promotional support is provided by WBNS-TV.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Rirkrit Tiravanija: Untitled 1999 (reading from right to left)

Dates: January 30–April 18, 1999

Gallery hours: 10 am–6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; 10 am–9 pm Thursdays; and 12 noon–6 pm Sundays.

Curry times: Thursdays at 6 pm; Fridays at 12 noon; and Sundays at 1 pm.

Rehearsal studio: Open for informal jamming during all gallery hours. Visitors may use only the instruments and equipment provided. Volume goes up at 4 pm.
Guided tours: Sundays at 1 pm beginning February 14. Free with gallery admission.
Admission: $3 for adults; $2 for students, senior citizens, and groups; free to Wexner Center members, Ohio State students, faculty, and staff, and children under 12. Free to all on Thursday evenings from 5 to 9 pm. Free with purchase of a film/video ticket on the day of the film only. Includes admission to the other winter exhibitions*, On the Table: A Succession of Collections 3* and *David Reed Paintings: Motion Pictures*.
Tickets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (*614* 292-3535).
Public information: *614* 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

The Wexner Center, a “national laboratory for the arts,” is a contemporary arts center dedicated to the visual, performing, and media arts with a strong commitment to the creation of new work. Its home, designed by Peter Eisenman and the late Richard Trott, has been acclaimed as a landmark of postmodern architecture. Since its opening in November 1989, the Wexner Center has presented an ambitious program of exhibitions, performances, films, and video screenings.

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