

Art Exchange 2020 Submission by Arkom DOUNGCHAWNA

1. Title: Urban Waterways

2. Introduction: Arkom DOUNGCHAWNA (www.doungchawna.com) is an award-winning contemporary Thai artist with an extensive oeuvre of abstract and impressionist oils, acrylics, pastels and mixed techniques. He received his BFA (painting) from Silpakorn University in 1982 and has had numerous group and solo exhibitions in Thailand and abroad. After more than two years in Sierra Leone and five years in New York City with frequent travel to other places in Africa, Asia, Europe and USA, he now resides, works and exhibits his art in Thailand again. Traveling and living abroad has provided him artistically enriching opportunities while working in unfamiliar cultural, social and natural environments.

3. Principles / Concept: My art is inspired by the Buddhist notion of Anicca (impermanence) which expresses that all things and experiences are inconstant, unsteady, and impermanent. Everything is in constant flux, and so conditions and the thing itself are constantly changing. Things are constantly coming into being and ceasing to be. My artwork represents these processes of transition.

We are now living in very unsteady and uncertain times. With record cyclones, floods, droughts and wildfires, climate change causes global disruption that transcends borders and threatens the lives of millions. But this too shall pass as all is impermanent. This particular painting wants to inspire an urban response to rising sea levels.

4. Process / Methodology: Abstract thinking turned to abstract painting

5. Materials and Techniques: Acrylic on Canvas (150x120cm)

6. Results / Conclusion: Whether we are tackling a pandemic or climate crisis, I truly believe we can change the situation for the better if we tackle these risks together and innovatively which inspired this abstract painting of a city embracing the rising waters instead of fighting it.