

ROMAN ROAD

PRESENTS



CHANNATIP CHANVIPAVA

The Sound of Many Waters

17 April - 27 May 2024 | Press Preview: 15 – 16 April 2024

**60TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION
VENICE BIENNALE**

To coincide with the 60th edition of the Venice Biennale, Roman Road is pleased to present 'The Sound of Many Waters', a solo exhibition curated by Marisa Bellani dedicated to the young Thai painter **Channatip Chanvipava**. Staged in the intimate setting of a 17th-century Venetian 'dimora', opened to the public for the first time, the exhibition unveils eight new works that poignantly explore the notions of fixed identities, belonging and subjective memory.

Aligning with this year's Biennale theme 'Foreigners Everywhere', Bellani turns to water as a powerful reference to address the concepts of queer identity and connection in a divided world. These are vibrantly expressed in Chanvipava's work which navigates queer sensibilities with immense power and emotion. Water, in this instance, becomes a symbol of both connection and division, resonating with the complexities of queer identity.

Based in London, Channatip Chanvipava is a self-taught painter who embarked on his artistic journey after a degree in Economics, driven by an enduring passion for art cultivated since a young age. His unique style, marked by distinctive and bold brushstrokes inspired by the impressionists, seamlessly oscillates between abstraction and figuration. Notably, Chanvipava's compositions are characterized by layered, thick, and vibrant paint textures distinguished by vertical lines outlining forms. His organic and meditative artistic process relies on intuition and fragments of memory, pieced together to create a 'tapestry' of recollections. He navigates through colour as a vehicle to express form, bringing to light moments of reflection, contemplation and liberation. Without employing preliminary sketches or physical references, he paints directly on canvas and relies solely on memory and his acute understanding of space and depth.

Chanvipava's autobiographical works often weave a compelling connection between the microcosm of his personal life and the macrocosm of world politics and current affairs, serving as expressions of universal emotions and shared experiences. In 'The Sound of Many Waters', the paintings range from large-scale to tiny canvases, delving into intimate subjects such as surrogacy, LGBTQ+ rights and fantasy. Notably, *Triumph of Life* (2023) serves as the antithesis to the 15th-century fresco 'The Triumph of Death' from Palazzo Abatellis in Palermo, a masterpiece which the artist instantly recalled when the conflict in Ukraine broke out in 2022. His take on the work is a powerful message of peace and also a personal reflection of a pivotal year in his life. *Lovers at First Sight* (2024) draws inspiration from Titian's 'Bacchus and Ariadne', portraying queer love and relationships through expressive gestural brushstrokes. The work highlights how everyone endures the same intensity of emotions whilst in love. In *Scrabble on Sunday* (2024), Chanvipava captures a fleeting exchange between two smartly attired male figures over a board game, which he witnessed in a London restaurant. This experience emphasizes the mundane yet profound aspects of everyday life through the lens of his queer experience.

The exhibition display, set in a private historical home, heightens the intimacy of the paintings' subjects. The works are exhibited on large stainless-steel panels that shine and reflect like water – a visual nod to the exhibition's title. Viewers are invited to navigate through these contemporary structures, prompting an immersive connection with the art and the surrounding space, an environment where past and present meet and collide.

About Channatip Chanvipava

Channatip Chanvipava (b.1993, Bangkok) is a Thai artist based in London. Following a BSc in Economics in 2016, Chanvipava seamlessly transitioned to a passionate pursuit of painting which he has practiced for years and has led him to study fine art at the Royal College of Art in London. Chanvipava's work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions, including 'WE ARE THE FUTURE: Knocking on Heaven's Door', Christie's, London (2024); 'City Escape', Monti8, Latina, Italy (2023); 'From here to here', Nova Contemporary, Bangkok (2023); and 'EXTREME', Roman Road, London (2023). His debut group exhibition 'When I was walking on the edge of a teacup' was held at Roman Road in 2023. Solo exhibitions include 'Spirit Unravelled' at Monti8, Latina, Italy (2023) and '2 Chairs, 1 Life' at Roman Road, London (2023). He recently completed an artist residency with IM Residency, Suffolk (2023).

About Roman Road

Launched in 2024 by curator, strategist and talent hunter Marisa Bellani, Roman Road is an innovative and forward-looking curatorial and studio platform that responds to young artists' needs for a new and viable support system in an ever-evolving art world. Radically departing from the gallery format, Roman Road's core mission is to support artists' career growth and foster artistic development through a two-pronged strategy: Roman Road Curation and Roman Road Studios.

Roman Road Curation is dedicated to the conception and production of exhibitions, either independently or in partnership with high profile organisations. Each exhibition reflects Bellani's distinctive curatorial vision, shaped by extensive academic research and her drive to address the future of the world through utopia and dystopia and the complexities of the human mind.

Roman Road Curation launched to wide acclaim in February 2024 with a group show at Christie's London titled 'WE ARE THE FUTURE: Knocking on Heaven's Door', featuring work by selected artists including Antony Cairns (UK), Channatip Chanvipava (Thailand), Daisuke Yokota (Japan), Daisy Dodd-Noble (UK) and Julie Maurin (France), among others. A major solo exhibition dedicated to Thai artist Channatip Chanvipava is next on Roman Road Curation's programme and will run concurrently with the 60th Venice Biennale (April 2024).

Roman Road Studios is a programme that nurtures talent and aims to root artists in the community, fostering experimental freedom and artistic autonomy through tailored guidance, workshops and residencies.

Instagram: romanroad_

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Channatip Chanvipava: The Sound of Many Waters

17 April - 27 May 2024

Dimora ai Santi
Calle Larga Giacinto Gallina 6381
30121 Venezia
Opening times: 11.00-18.00