Press Release
June, 2025

√k Contemporary

Sareena Sattapon

When you find you in the middle of emptiness

Opening July 5th, Saturday at√K Contemporary

√K Contemporary is pleased to present *When you find you in the middle of emptiness*, a solo exhibition by emerging Thai artist **Sareena Sattapon**, on view from **July 5 to August 2, 2025**.

Sattapon, a rising voice in contemporary art, was born into a minority ethnic group in Thailand. After earning her Master's degree at Silpakorn University in Bangkok, she completed a Ph.D. in Global Art Practice at Tokyo University of the Arts in spring 2025. Garnering attention from early in her career, Sattapon has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the **Grand Prize at the CAF Award 2022**, the **Second Prize at the Tokyo Midtown Award 2024**, and the **Nomura Art Award**, among others.

Her work confronts the invisible structures of modern life—highlighting themes such as human connection, social isolation, disparity, and the boundaries between self and other. Employing diverse media such as performance, installation, photography, and painting, Sattapon powerfully visualizes what society often chooses to overlook. Her artistic practice is grounded in a desire to challenge inequality and to advocate for the pursuit of shared happiness and understanding.

Balen(ciaga) I belong, 2022
Performance at CAF Award 2022 Grand Prize Winner Exhibition, Hillside forum, Tokyo

This exhibition marks a significant turning point for the artist. Following the completion of her doctoral studies and years of living and working in Japan, Sattapon takes a reflective pause—one that signals both closure and new beginnings. Her latest series, titled *When you find you*, offers a softer, more

introspective departure from her earlier work. Warm and enveloping, these new pieces invite the viewer into a meditative space—one that emphasizes the quiet power of stillness.
In a world driven by relentless progress and constant motion, Sattapon encourages viewers to embrace the necessity of rest and reflection. *"Stopping, even briefly, can be an act of resistance—and of renewal,"* she states. This exhibition serves as a gentle yet profound reminder of the importance of pausing, reorienting, and reconnecting with oneself.

In the Realm Beyond Spectrum, 2024
Tokyo University of the Arts Doctoral Program Final Exhibition 2024 exhibition view

The exhibition will showcase a wide range of works, including **paintings, photographs, video,** and **installation**, both new and past.
A special **meditation event with a sound therapist** will also be held on **Saturday, July 26** during the exhibition period.
We invite you to experience this milestone solo exhibition by Sareena Sattapon—an artist whose thoughtful and socially engaged practice continues to resonate both in Japan and internationally.

■ Artist Statement

When you find you
In the middle of emptiness

We fight. We strive. We labor. We believe. We survive.
All this motion, all this noise.
Was it ever the point?
Maybe life was never about the climb but about the quiet in between.
Perhaps all we ever needed was simply... to breathe.

Throughout my journey as an artist. I have spent most of my time contemplating.
I think about the lives of people, society, the world, nature, and the complex relationships between all of these. I move through my thoughts, beliefs, and my own quiet struggles, hoping that art will benefit others and help make this world a better place.
Intensive conceptual work, combined with continuous efforts to develop processes and techniques, has gradually made me neglect my inner voice and forget the peace and joy that come from creating art.

'When you find you in the middle of emptiness' is a space where we all can pause and breathe. I stepped away from the social critique I once engaged in, turning instead to self-reflection, revisiting old memories in order to better understand and live within the present. This exhibition brings together my new and past works, to show the evolution of my artistic journey.

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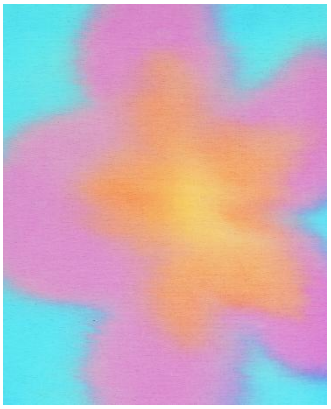
The new series When you find you (2025) becomes a raw and unfiltered landscape of memory, not only the ones we readily recall but also those long sealed behind inner walls. Ultimately, this process of looking inward may become a small staircase that brings us closer to the peace we are quietly searching for.

— *Sareena Sattapon*

■ **Works**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① 《When you find you II》(2025) Acrylic on canvas, 50×61×2cm
② 《When you find you VI》(2025) Acrylic on canvas, 50×61×2cm
③ 《Balen(ciaga) I belong : Nihonbashi VI》(2025) Silicone acrylic on plastic bag, 57.5×74×3 cm
④ 《Balen(ciaga) I belong : Nihonbashi VII》(2025)Silicone acrylic on plastic bag, 57.5×74×3 cm
⑤ 《When you find you》(2025) video installation
⑥ 《Balen(ciaga) I belong: Quarantine XIII》(2020) Watercolor on paper, 24×18cm
⑦ 《Balen(ciaga) I belong : Untitled I》(2018) Digital print on paper, 35×53cm

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■ **Artist | Sareena Sattapon**

Born 1992, in Thailand. Sareena Sattapon is a visual artist based in Tokyo. She completed a PhD in Global Art Practice, at Tokyo University of the Arts. Sattapon works with various mediums such as performance, installation, photography, painting etc. She gets her artistic inspiration from her experiences and ordinary life. Sattapon is currently interest in performative spatial dynamics, related to human's connection and dis-location. She has had exhibitions internationally: in Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea, China, Indonesia, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Norway, Sweden and Japan. Received many awards such as CAF Award 2022（2022）, Nomura Art Prize（2024）, Tokyo Midtown Award 2024（2024）and more.

■ **Sareena Sattapon「When you find you in the middle of emptiness」Exhibition Details**

Title | *When you find you in the middle of emptiness*
Artist | Sareena Sattapon
Dates | July 5 (Sat) – August 2 (Sat), 2025 (closed on Sundays & Mondays)
Venue | √K Contemporary (6 Minamicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan)
Hours | 1-7pm
Special Event | Meditation with Sound Therapist – July 26 (Sat) *details to be announced later date
Web | https://root-k.jp/exhibitions_en/sareena-sattapon_2025/

Sareena Sattapon, *When you find you in the middle of emptiness*
Opening Reception

We are pleased to invite members of the press and art community to the opening reception for Sareena Sattapon's solo exhibition *When you find you in the middle of emptiness*, taking place on the opening day, July 5th, Saturday.

Date & Time: Saturday, July 5, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Venue: √K Contemporary (6 Minami-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)
RSVP: pr@sei-rin.com / +81-3-6280-8808 (Contact: Ms. Watanabe)

The artist will be present during the reception.
We warmly invite you to join us for this special occasion.

For press inquiries and interview requests:
√K Contemporary (Operated by SEI-RIN Co., Ltd.)
Contact: Ms. Watanabe
Address: 6 Minami-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Tel: +81-3-6280-8808 | **Email:** pr@sei-rin.com | **Website:** https://root-k.jp