

ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

top picks

Bangkok has some outstanding art galleries.

- 100 Tonson Gallery (p191)
- Bangkok University Art Gallery (p191)
- H Gallery (p192)
- Jim Thompson Art Center (p97)
- National Gallery (p192)

What's your recommendation? www.lonelyplanet.com/bangkok

Although Bangkok's hyper-urban environment seems to cater to the inner philistine in all of us, the city has a significant but low-key art scene. Largely encouraged and nurtured by the city's expat community, art in today's Bangkok ranges from beautifully benign *objets d'art* to increasingly sophisticated displays of social commentary. The city's galleries are also a diverse lot, and include a refurbished wooden house and several chic restaurant-cum-galleries. In recent years, new ones seemed to have been opening on a weekly basis. Bangkok also acts as something of a regional art hub, showing many works by emerging artists from places like Burma and Cambodia.

The performing arts have a long history in Bangkok. Dancing in particular, whether it be classically trained performers at a shrine or ladyboys camping about on stage, seems to form a large part of the entertainment options for many visitors to the city.

For profiles of Thai modern artists and movements, pick up a copy of *Flavours: Thai Contemporary Art*, by Steven Pettifor, a leading Bangkok art critic. Rama IX Museum (www.rama9art.org) is an online resource for artists' portfolios and gallery profiles.

THEATRE & DANCE

High art—wise, Bangkok's heyday passed with the dismantling of the royal court. Today Thai preservationists cling to the classical dance-dramas, which attract little government funding or appreciation, as the city races to be more modern than it was the day before.

There is a handful of companies performing Western arts and interesting fusions of Thai–Western traditions, but the number of arts venues are abysmally small compared with more-profitable and less-cultural businesses. The city's daily newspapers and monthly magazines maintain a calendar of cultural events.

Performances are typically advertised in the *Bangkok Post* or online at www.bangkokconcerts.org. Reservations are recommended for events. Tickets can be purchased through Thai Ticket Major (www.thaiticketmajor.com).

BANGKOK PLAYHOUSE Map pp118–19

☎ 0 2319 7641; 2884/2 Th Phetchaburi, Sukhumvit; tickets 300–600B; ☎ shows Fri–Sun; 📺 Phetchaburi

Open since 1993, this modern private theatre hosts modern drama and other performing arts, as well as the occasional visual-art exhibition. Show times and prices vary; call ahead for details.

NATIONAL THEATRE Map p56

☎ 0 2221 0171; Th Ratchini, Ko Ratanakosin; tickets 40–80B; 📺 air-con 503, ordinary 32, 53 & 203, 📺 Tha Chang

Thailand's National Theatre is the country's centre stage for Thai drama and *khôn* (see

p36). Exhibitions of Thai classical dancing and music are held on the last Friday and Saturday of each month and, on occasion, the theatre also offers international performances.

The National Theatre temporarily closed for renovations in 2005 and is still under construction in some parts, although performances are continuing as usual.

PATRAVADI THEATRE Map p56

☎ 0 2412 7287; www.patravadi theatre.com; 69/1 Soi Wat Rakhang, Thonburi; tickets 300–800B; ☎ shows 7pm Fri–Sun; 📺 from Tha Chang to Tha Wat Rakhang

Patravadi is Bangkok's leading modern-dance venue. A stylish open-air theatre that also includes a gallery and restaurant, the concept is the brainchild of Patravadi Mejudhon, a famous Thai actor and playwright. The dance troupe performance is a blend of traditional Thai dance and modern choreography, music and costume. The theatre is also the primary venue for the Bangkok International Fringe Festival, held in January and February.

SALA CHALERMKRUNG Map p84

☎ 0 2222 0434; www.salachalermkrung.com; 66 Th Charoen Krung, Chinatown; tickets 1000–2000B; ☎ shows 8.30pm Fri & Sat; 📺 air-con 73, ordinary 8, 📺 Tha Saphan Phut

This Art Deco Bangkok landmark, a former cinema dating to 1933, is one of the few remaining places *khôn* can be witnessed. The traditional Thai dance-drama is enhanced here by laser graphics and hi-tech audio.

GET THEE SOME CULTURE

Bangkok's various cultural centres extend an open invitation to the entire city for monthly art exhibits, film screenings, stage performances and annual festivals.

- **Alliance Française Bangkok** (Map p112; ☎ 0 2670 4200; www.alliance-francaise.or.th; 29 Th Sathon Tai, Sathon)
- **Goethe Institut** (Map p112; ☎ 0 2287 0942; 18/1 Soi Goethe, off Soi 1 (Atakanprast, Th Sathon Tai, Silom; ☎ 8am–4.30pm Mon–Fri) Also hosts Bangkok Poetry slams and Christmas Art Fair.
- **Japan Foundation** (Map pp118–19; ☎ 0 2260 8560; www.jfbkk.or.th; 10th fl, Serm-Mit Tower, Soi 21, Th Sukhumvit; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Sat)
- **Neilson Hays Library Rotunda Gallery** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 0 2233 1731; 195 Th Surawong, Silom; ☎ varies)

Concerts and other events are also held – check website for details.

SIAM NIRAMIT Map pp124–5

☎ 0 2649 9222; www.siamniramit.com; 19 Th Thiam Ruammit, Greater Bangkok; tickets 1500B; ☎ shows 8pm; 📺 Thailand Cultural Centre

A cultural theme park, this enchanted kingdom transports visitors to a Disneyfied version of ancient Siam with a technicoloured stage show depicting the Lanna Kingdom, the Buddhist heaven and Thai festivals. Elaborate costumes and sets are guaranteed to be spectacular both in their grandness and their indigenous interpretation. It is popular with tour groups.

THAILAND CULTURAL CENTRE

Map pp124–5

☎ 0 2247 0028; www.thaiculturalcenter.com; Th Ratchadaphisek btwn Th Thiam Ruammit & Th Din Daeng, Greater Bangkok; 📺 Thailand Cultural Centre

Bangkok's primary performing-arts facility, the Thailand Cultural Centre is the home of the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and hosts the International Festival of Dance and Music in September. Classical dance performances, and regional Thai concerts like *lûuk thûng* (Thai country music) and Khorat Song, also cycle through the yearly calendar.

On performance days, a free shuttle picks up passengers from the subway's exit 1.

TRADITIONAL THAI PUPPET THEATRE Map p112

☎ 0 2252 9683; www.thaipuppet.com; Suan Lum Night Bazaar, 1875 Th Rama IV, Lumpini; tickets 600B; ☎ shows 7.30pm & 9.30pm; 📺 Lumpini The ancient art of Thai puppetry (*lâkhawn lék*) was rescued by the late Sakorn Yang-

khawsod, more popularly known as Joe Louis, in 1985. Joe's children now carry on the tradition. His creations are controlled by three puppeteers and can strike many humanlike poses. Modelled after the characters in the epics Ramayana and *Phra Aphaimani*, the puppets perform nightly at this air-conditioned theatre, conveniently located in the Suan Lum Night Bazaar, as well as at the King Power Theater (p140).

DINNER THEATRE

Another option for viewing Thai classical dance is through dinner theatre. Most dinner theatres in Bangkok are heavily promoted through hotels to an ever-changing clientele, so standards are poor to fair. They can be tolerably worthwhile if you accept them as cultural tourist traps.

SALA RIM NAM Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2437 3080; www.mandarinoriental.com/bangkok/; Oriental Hotel, Soi 38, Th Charoen Krung, Riverside; tickets 1800B; ☎ dinner & show 7pm–10pm; 📺 ordinary 35, 36, 75 & 93, 📺 Tha Oriental The historic Oriental Hotel hosts dinner theatre in a sumptuous Thai pavilion located across the river in Thonburi. Free shuttle boats transfer guests across the river from the hotel's dock. The price is well above average, reflecting the means of the hotel's client base.

SILOM VILLAGE Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2234 4448; www.silomvillage.co.th; 286 Th Silom; meals 150–350B; ☎ 6–10pm; 📺 Surasak More relaxed than most dinner shows, Silom Village delivers comfort, accessibility and decent dinners. Picky eaters swear by the crispy pork and cashew chicken, and the demonstrations of Thai dance and martial arts strike one 'to do' off the itinerary.

SHRINE DANCING

Although scheduled performances are grand, lasting memories are often unscripted and the serendipity of catching a shrine dance is unforgettable, like spotting a rainbow. If you hear the din of drums and percussion from a temple or shrine, follow the sound to see traditional *lakhawn kae bon* (shrine dancing).

At **Lak Meuang** (p58); cnr Th Ratchadamnoen Nai & Th Lak Meuang) and the **Erawan Shrine** (p102); cnr Th Ratchadamri & Th Ploenchit), worshippers commission costumed troupes to perform dance movements that are similar to classical *lakhawn*, but not as refined, as they are specially choreographed for ritual purposes.

STUDIO 9 Map p56

☎ 0 2412 7287; www.patravaditheatre.com; Patravadi Theatre, 69/1 Soi Wat Rakhang, Thonburi; 🎫 shows 7.30pm-midnight Fri & Sat; 🚗 from Tha Chang to Tha Wat Rakhang

The country's top modern-dance theatre recently began combining highbrow entertainment and dining. Performances are plucked from a diverse menu of music, dance, puppetry and theatre; check ahead of time to see what's in store.

SUPATRA RIVER HOUSE Map p56

☎ 0 2411 0305; www.supatrariverhouse.net; 266 Soi Wat Rakhang, Thonburi; set menu 800-1150B; 🍷 dinner shows 8.30-9pm Fri & Sat; restaurant shuttle from Tha Mahathat

This stylishly restored teak house garners the famous dual-temple view of Wat Arun as well as the Grand Palace. An outdoor stage hosts dance performances by graduates of the affiliated Patravadi Theatre. The food and service, however, are hit and miss.

KÀTHOEY CABARET

Along with sacred temples and longboat tours of the Chao Phraya River, *kàthoey* (ladyboys) are the latest addition to the itineraries of many visitors to Bangkok. This largely takes the form of *kàthoey* cabaret, where convincing ladyboys take to the stage with elaborate costumes, MTV-style dance routines and rehearsed lip-synching to pop hits. **Calypso Cabaret** (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2653 3960-2; www.calypsocabaret.com; 1st fl, Asia Hotel, 296 Th Phayathai, Siam Sq; tickets 1000B; 🎫 shows 8.15pm & 9.45pm) and **Mambo Cabaret** (Map pp118-19; ☎ 0 2259 5715; Washington Sq, Th Sukhumvit

btwn Soi 22 & Benjasiri Park; tickets 600-800B; 🎫 shows 8.30pm & 10pm) do family- and tourist-friendly shows of pop and Broadway camp.

CINEMAS

To offset the uncomfortable humidity, Bangkok's cinemas offer more than just a movie screening; they pamper. These hi-tech, well-air-conditioned palaces offer VIP decadence (reclining seats and table service) in addition to the familiar fold-down seats and sticky floors. All movies are preceded by the king's anthem, during which everyone is expected to stand respectfully.

Hollywood movies are released in Bangkok's theatres in a timely fashion. But as homegrown cinema grows bigger, more and more Thai films, often subtitled in English, fill the roster. Bangkok also hosts several annual film festivals, including the Bangkok International Film Festival in January.

At the cinemas listed here, English movies are subtitled in Thai rather than dubbed. Ticket prices range from 100B to 180B for regular seats, and up to 500B for VIP seats. For movie listings and reviews, check the *Nation*, *Bangkok Post*, *Metro*, *Movie Seer* (www.movieseer.com) and Thai Cinema (www.thaicinema.org).

Alliance Française Bangkok (Map p112; ☎ 0 2670 4200; www.alliance-francaise.or.th; 29 Th Sathon Tai, Sathon; 🎬 Lumphini) French films at the French cultural centre.

EGV (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2812 9999; www.egv.com; Siam Discovery Centre, 6th fl, Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq; 🎬 Siam) Bangkok's poshest venue to view all the mainstream movies.

Goethe Institut (Map p112; ☎ 0 2287 0942; 18/1 Soi Goethe, off Soi 1 (Atakanprasit), Th Sathon Tai, Silom; 🎬 Lumphini) German films at the German cultural centre.

House (Map pp124-5; ☎ 0 2641 5177; www.house Rama .com; 3rd fl, UMG Cinema, RCA, Th Phra Ram IX, Greater Bangkok; 🎬 Rama IX) Bangkok's first art-house cinema showing lots of foreign flicks of the non-Hollywood type.

Lido Multiplex (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2251 1265; Th Phra Ram I, btwn Soi 2 & Soi 3, Siam Sq; 🎬 Siam) Arty and independent movies.

Major Cineplex (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2515 5810; www.majorcineplex.com; Central World Plaza, 7th fl, Th Ratchadamri, Ploenchit; 🎬 Chitlom) All the amenities and mainstream hits.

Paragon Cineplex (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2525 5555; www.paragoncineplex.com; Siam Paragon, Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq; 🎬 Siam) Bangkok's newest, biggest and baddest

CINEMA STRATEGY

Cinemas are a very big deal in Bangkok. It's unlikely that any other city in the world has anything like EGV's Gold Class, a ticket that grants you entry into a cinema with fewer than 50 seats, and where you're plied with blankets, pillows, foot-warming stockings and, of course, a valet food-and-drink service. There's also Major Cineplex's Emperor Class seat which, for the price of a sticky stool back home, entitles you to a sofa-like love seat designed for couples. And if you find Paragon Cineplex's 16 screens and 5000 seats a bit plebeian, you can always apply for Enigma, a members-only theatre.

Despite the heat and humidity on the streets, keep in mind that Bangkok's movie theatres pump the air-conditioning with such vigour that a jumper is an absolute necessity – unless you're going Gold Class, that is.

cinema offers both quantity (more than a dozen screens) and quality (several classes of viewing).

Scala Multiplex (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2251 2861; Soi 1, Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq; 🎬 National Stadium) Last of the old-style theatres, in the heart of Siam Sq.

SF Cinema City (Map pp98-9; ☎ 0 2268 8888; www.sfcinemacity.com; 7th fl, MBK Centre, Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq; 🎬 National Stadium) Multiplex showing Hollywood blockbusters.

SFV (Map pp118-19; ☎ 0 2260 9333; 6th fl, Emporium Shopping Centre, Th Sukhumvit, cnr Soi 24; 🎬 Phrom Phong) Creature comforts trimmings and varied screenings.

GALLERIES

In typical Bangkok style, the art scene lacks a centre – artists and galleries are peppered throughout the city. The more-conservative, generally government-sponsored art can be found in the older parts of town, particularly around the Banglamphu area, while the commercial galleries prefer the business districts of Th Silom and Th Sukhumvit.

For maps of the city's art scene, pick up BAM! (Bangkok Art Map), the *Thailand Art & Design Guide*, or check the lifestyle magazines for exhibition opening nights.

100 TONSON GALLERY Map pp98-9

☎ 0 2684 1527; www.100tonsongallery.com; 100 Soi Tonson, Th Ploenchit; 🎫 11am-7pm Thu-Sun; 🎬 Chitlom

Housed in a spacious residential villa, and largely regarded as the city's top commercial gallery, 100 Tonson hosts a variety of contemporary exhibitions of all genres by local and international artists.

ABOUT CAFÉ/ABOUT STUDIO

Map p84

☎ 0 2639 8057; 418 Th Maitritchit, Chinatown;

🎫 varies; 🎬 Hualamphong

Formerly the cool cat in town for cutting-edge local artists, in recent years About has

only been open on a sporadic basis. Be sure to call ahead.

BANGKOK ART & CULTURE CENTRE

Map pp98-9

Cnr Th Phayathai & Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq;

🎬 National Stadium

This large, modern building in the centre of Bangkok is the most recent addition to the city's arts scene. In addition to a permanent exhibition and several floors of galleries, the 11-storey building also boasts a theatre, library, shops and restaurants in an effort to appeal to today's 'culture-consuming lifestyle'.

BANGKOK UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY (BUG) Map pp124-5

☎ 0 2350 3500; <http://fab.bu.ac.th/buggallery>; 3rd fl, Bldg 9, City Campus, Th Phra Ram IV, Greater Bangkok; 🎫 9.30am-7pm Tue-Sat; 🎬 Phra Khanong

This spacious new compound is located at what is currently the country's most cutting-edge art school. Recent exhibitions have encompassed a variety of media by some of the country's top names, as well as the work of internationally recognised artists.

EAT ME RESTAURANT Map pp108-9

☎ 0 2238 0931; Soi Phiphat 2, off Th Convent, Silom; 🎫 3pm-1am; 🎬 Sala Daeng, 🎬 Silom

This chic restaurant also houses bi-monthly rotating exhibitions of photography and painting, often but not exclusively with a gay emphasis, organised by H Gallery.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF THAILAND (FCCT) Map pp98-9

☎ 0 2652 0580; www.fcctthai.com; Penthouse, Maneeya Center, 518/5 Th Ploenchit; 🎫 noon-2.30pm & 6pm-midnight; 🎬 Chitlom

A bar-restaurant, not to mention gathering place for the city's hacks and photogs, the FCCT also hosts art exhibitions ranging in

genre from photojournalism to contemporary painting.

GALLERY F-STOP Map pp118–19

☎ 0 2663 7421; www.talisman-media.com/fstop; Tamarin Café, 27 Soi 20, Th Sukhumvit; ☎ 3pm-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat & Sun; 📍 Asoke, 📍 Sukhumvit

Gallery F-Stop holds a variety of photographic exhibitions on the walls of Tamarin Café (p167). The bright open space can accommodate photographs that are too large for the more cramped locales.

GALLERY VER Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2861 0933; www.verver.info; 2nd fl, 71/31-35 Klongsarn Plaza, Th Charoen Nakhorn, Thonburi; ☎ noon-7pm Wed-Sun; 📍 Millenium Hilton ferry from Tha Sathon

Owned by Rirkrit Tiravanija, Thailand's most internationally recognised artist, this gallery on the Thonburi side of the river hosts a rotating display of typically edgy, installation-type conceptual art. The easiest way to reach Ver is to take the cross-river ferry from Tha Si Phraya. The gallery is directly behind the pier on the Thonburi side.

H GALLERY Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2234 7556; www.hgallerybkk.com; 201 Soi 12, Th Sathon, Silom; ☎ noon-6pm Thu-Sat; 📍 Chong Nonsi

Housed in a refurbished colonial-era wooden building, H is generally considered among the city's leading private galleries. It is regarded as a jumping-off point for Thai artists with international ambitions, such as Jakkai Siributr and Somboon Hormthienthong.

JIM THOMPSON ART CENTER

Map pp98–9

☎ 0 2216 7368, 0 2215 0122; www.jimthompsonhouse.org; Jim Thompson House, 6 Soi Kasem San 2, Th Phra Ram I, Siam Sq; ☎ 9am-5pm; khlong taxi to Tha Ratchathewi, 📍 National Stadium

This popular tourist destination has added an entire new gallery wing with rotating displays ranging from the contemporary to the traditional. Recent exhibitions have included a display of traditional Lao textiles, as well as an interactive work by Pinaree Sanpitak, one of the country's top female artists.

KATHMANDU PHOTO GALLERY

Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2234 6700; www.kathmandu-bkk.com; 87 Th Pan, Th Silom; ☎ 11am-7pm Sun-Fri; 📍 Surasak

Bangkok's only gallery truly dedicated to photography is housed in an attractively restored Sino-Portuguese shophouse. The owner, photographer Mani Sriwanichpoom, wanted Kathmandu to resemble photographers' shops of old, where customers could flip through photographs for sale. Mani's own work is on display on the ground floor, and the small but airy upstairs gallery plays host to changing exhibitions by local and international artists and photographers.

NATIONAL GALLERY Map p56

☎ 0 2282 2639; Th Chao Fa, Ko Ratanakosin; admission 30B; ☎ 9am-4pm Wed-Sun; ferry Tha Phra Athit, 📍 air-con 508, 511 & 512, ordinary 47, 53

Housed in a weatherworn colonial building, the National Gallery displays traditional and contemporary art, mostly by artists receiving government support. In general, the gallery's permanent exhibition is a rather dusty and dated affair. One noteworthy exception is the *Musical Rhythm* sculpture, by Khien Yimsiri, which is considered one of the most remarkable fusions of Western and Thai styles. More interesting are the rotating exhibits held in the spacious rear galleries.

NUMTHONG GALLERY Map p79

☎ 0 2243 4326; www.numthonggallery.com; Room 109, Bangkok Co-op Housing Bldg, 1129/29 Th Toed-damri, Dusit; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Sat; 📍 Ari

A proving ground for Thai contemporary artists, Numthong has featured work by the cream of the crop of Thailand's avant-garde, including Vasana Sitthiket, Michael Shaowanaisai and Kamin Lertchaiprasert.

QUEEN'S GALLERY Map pp68–9

☎ 0 2281 5360; www.queengallery.org; 101 Th Ratchadamnoen Klang, Banglamphu; ☎ Thu-Tue 10am-7pm; admission 20B; 📍 ordinary 5, 35 & 159, khlong taxi Tha Phan Fah

This royal-funded museum presents five floors of rotating exhibitions of modern and traditionally influenced art. The building is sleek and contemporary and the artists hail from the upper echelons of the conservative Thai art world. The attached shop is filled with fine arts books and gifts.

SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY Map p56

☎ 0 2623 6115; www.su.ac.th; 31 Th Na Phra Lan, Ko Ratanakosin; 📍 air-con 503, ordinary 32, 53 & 203, 📍 Tha Chang

GALLERY GROWTH

In the not-so-distant past, Bangkok's art galleries were either dusty state-run museums or sleek commercial entities, without any real middle ground. However, in recent years the city has seen an explosion in the number of small- and medium-size galleries, including two spaces maintained by some of the country's leading artists.

Photographer Mani Sriwanichpoom, best known for his 'Pink Man' series of photographs that criticise consumerism in modern Thai society, opened Kathmandu (opposite), the city's first true photography gallery, in 2006. To date Kathmandu has showcased the work of outspoken senator Kraisak Choonhavan, elegant black-and-white photos by the elder statesperson of Thai photography, Surat Osathanugrah, and a haunting personal look at methamphetamine addiction by Olivier Pin-Fat. Mani's work is on permanent display and, in typical eclectic style, the gallery also holds lessons in meditation and yoga.

Rirkrit Tiravanija is Thailand's best-known artist abroad, and his Gallery Ver (from the Thai pronunciation of over, meaning extreme or overboard; opposite), has featured challenging installations by Patiroop Chychookiat and Udomsak Krisanamis and conceptual paintings by Thakon Khao sa-ad. The gallery has a unique text-free magazine of the same name and, fittingly, a MySpace page (www.myspace.com/vergallery).

Thailand's universities aren't usually repositories for interesting architecture, but the country's premier art school breaks the mould. Housed in a former palace, the classical buildings form the charming nucleus of an early Thai aristocratic enclave. The building immediately facing the Th Na Phra Lan gate houses the university's art gallery, which showcases faculty and student exhibitions. To the right of the building is a shady sculpture garden displaying the work of Corado Ferrocì (aka Silapa Bhirasri), the Italian art professor who helped establish Silpakorn's fine arts department.

SURAPON GALLERY Map p112

☎ 0 2638 0033-4; www.rama9art.org/gallery/surapon/index.html; ☎ 11am-6pm Mon-Sat; 1st fl, Tisco Tower, 48/3 Th Sathon Tai, Silom; 📍 Sala Daeng, 📍 Lumpini

Perhaps the most 'Thai' of the city's contemporary galleries, Surapon has featured work by some of the country's most renowned artists such as painters Chatchai Puipia and Muangthai Busamaro.

TADU CONTEMPORARY ART

Map pp124–5

☎ 0 2645 2473; www.tadu.net; 7th fl, Barcelona Motors Bldg, 99/2 Th Thiam Ruammit, Greater Bangkok; ☎ Mon-Sat 9.30am-6pm; 📍 Thailand Cultural Centre

Emphasising the work of domestic artists, Tadu is a leading exhibition space for those working largely in the realms of performance and installation art.

TANG GALLERY Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2630 1114; basement, Silom Galleria, 919/1 Th Silom; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat; 📍 air-con 504,

514, 544 & 547, ordinary 15, 76, 115, 162, 163 & 164, 📍 Surasak

Bangkok's primary venue for modern artists from China has edged its way to become among the city's top contemporary galleries. Check the posters in the lobby of the Galleria to see what's on.

TEO+NAMFAH GALLERY Map pp118–19

☎ 0 2259 6117; www.teonamfahgallery.com; 2nd fl, Ozono Complex, Soi 39, Th Sukhumvit; ☎ 11.30am-8.30pm; 📍 Phrom Phong

Named after the children of the American-Thai couple that owns it, this new gallery is quickly earning a reputation for exhibiting a broad diversity of international artists. Teo+Namfah also houses an impressive permanent collection, as well as a space devoted to selling high-quality art supplies.

THAVIBU GALLERY Map pp108–9

☎ 0 2266 5454; www.thavibu.com; 3rd fl, Silom Galleria, 919/1 Th Silom; ☎ 11am-7pm Tue-Sat, noon-6pm Sun; 📍 air-con 504, 514, 544 & 547, ordinary 15, 76, 115, 162, 163 & 164, 📍 Surasak Thavibu is an amalgam of Thailand, Vietnam and Burma. The gallery specialises in contemporary paintings by younger and emerging artists from the three countries.

WHITESPACE Map pp98–9

☎ 0 2252 2900; www.whitespaceasia.com; 2nd fl, Lido Bldg, Soi 3, Siam Sq, Th Rama I; ☎ 11.30am-8pm Tue-Sun; 📍 Siam

An active design studio, Whitespace also includes a small non-commercial gallery that features a diverse array of exhibitions by emerging artists.

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'