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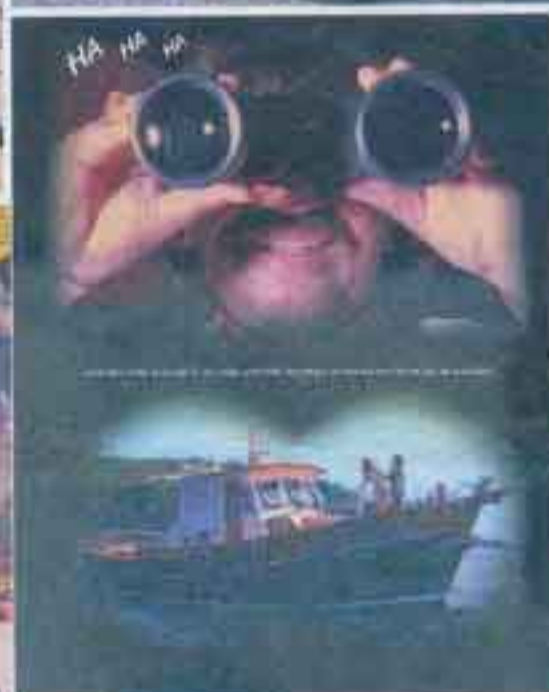
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SAMILA WENIN

ART YOU CAN READ

Navin Rawanchaikul's 'Sala' proves a comprehensive art publication can be eye candy



NAVIN'S SALA
Edited by Navin Rawanchaikul
Navin Production, 2008,
416pp, 1,500 baht
ISBN 978-9740800534



Last month, internationally-acclaimed artist Navin Rawanchaikul welcomed a horde of art enthusiasts into his world, again, in his inaugural retrospective exhibition. Art-goers who attended the show (yes, with Navin, an art exhibition is always a show) returned home with a 416-page souvenir, *Sala*, described as "Navin Production's international art and life magazine".

The amount of pages is not the only aspect that differentiates *Sala* from magazines. The book is packed with a large collection of articles by renowned art writers. They discuss various issues in contemporary art, lifestyle, culture, travel and community—all presented in glossy full-colour.

To call the publication a mere magazine probably doesn't do it justice, for *Sala* itself can be considered a work of art—in a form that directly plays with (and, at times, stabs) the culture of magazine publication. It features continuous photo shoots that imitate the fashion spreads of glossy publications. Instead of featuring models in outrageously gorgeous outfits, the collection of images feature taxis all over the world and brings readers to another analytical article on Navin's past exhibition *Navin Gallery Bangkok*.

Highlights of the magazine include a comic supplement titled *Who is Navin?* that tells the story of the artist, and a photo novel *Long Heart* featuring catwalk babe Sangthong Ket-u-thong, Suthaporn Muenchamnan, known as the mini-me of internationally-renowned Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija and the charismatic Michael Shaowanasai.

With a list of contributors that stretch to 34 names, including familiar personalities in art and culture arenas such as sharp-tongued critic Mukhom Wongthes, National Artist Inson Wongsam, Japanese culture writer Ryota Suzuki and artist Thaveesak Srithongdee, to name but a few, the heavyweight size of *Sala* is justifiable, since every page of the magazine is worth reading.



Bangkok Post, August 24, 2008

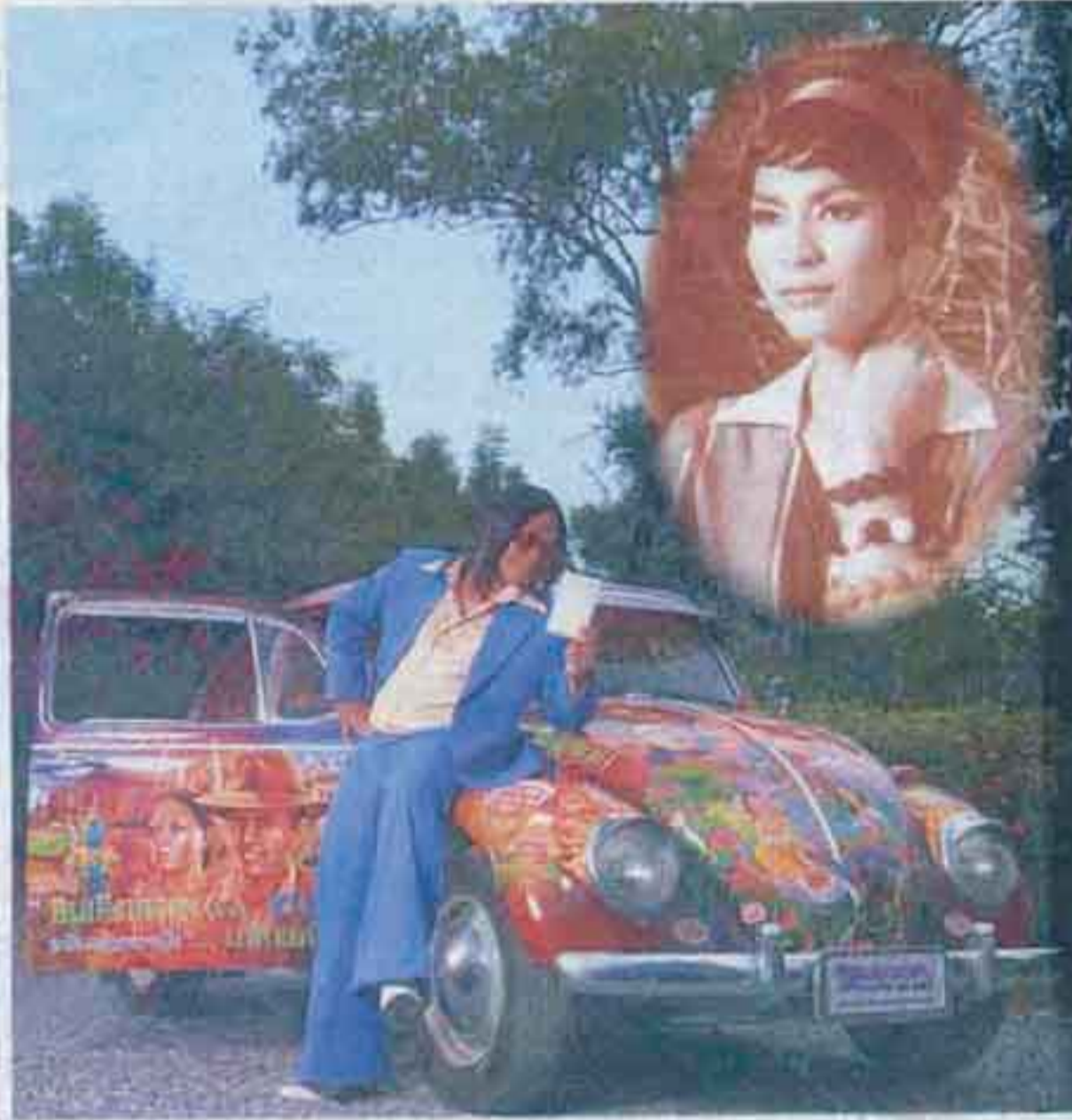
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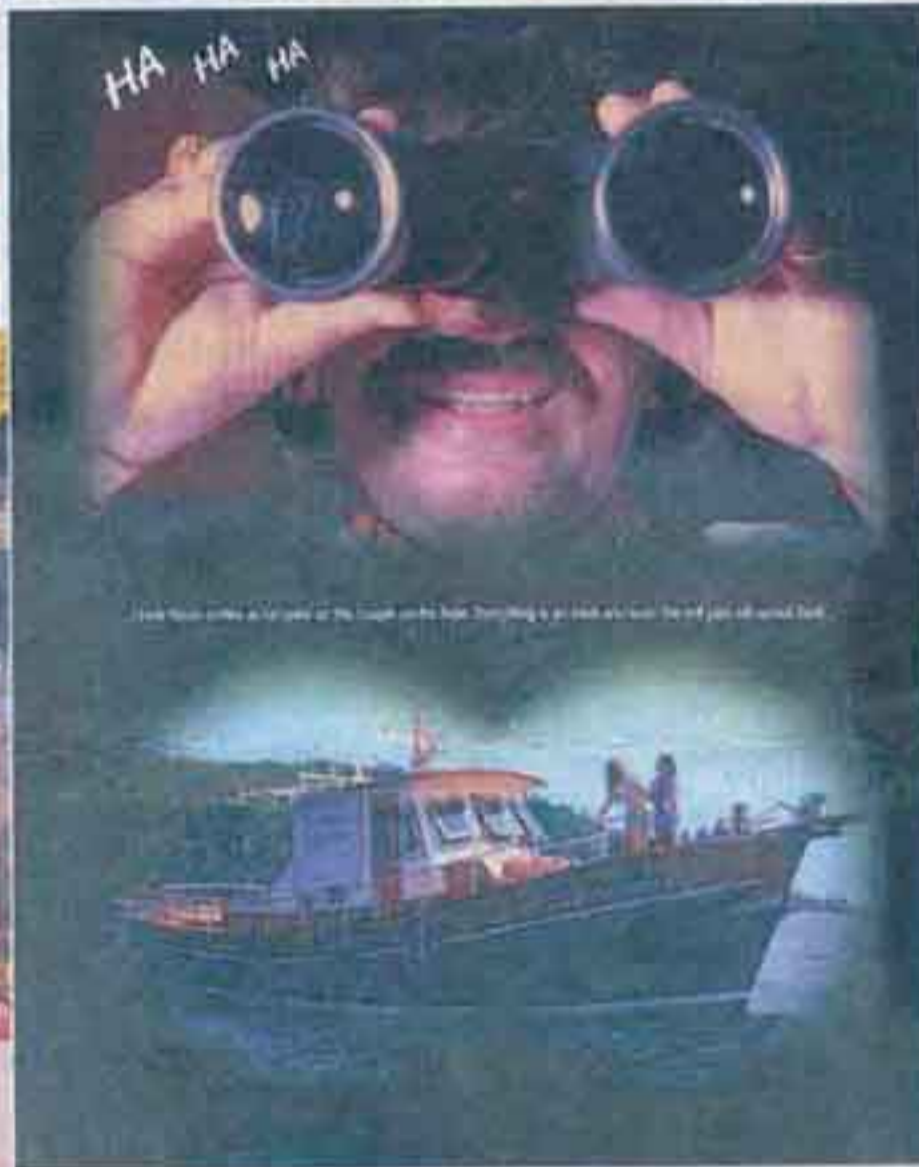
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