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16 GO SHOPPING

Friday, July 11, 2008 DAILY XPRESS

Wrap it up, Navin

The artist is still finding new uses for the traditional *pha khao ma*



Made from tatami mats and 'pha khao ma', a pair of slippers for Bt550, the mat for Bt2,200 and a pillow for Bt600

A comfy Phi Phi beanbag in bright blue and green for Bt2,500



Patong and Pattaya tote bags in red and orange for Bt3,500

Samui beanbags for Bt2,950 and a bright blue Samet beanbag for 2,100



By Pattarawadee Saengmanee

SPECIAL TO DAILY XPRESS

Not to be overlooked in artist Navin Rawanchaikul's mind-blowing retrospective "Navin's Sala" at the River Promenade is the *pha khao ma* collection from his own production company, the Jim Thompson crew and young designers.

In 2006, for the centenary of the original Jim Thompson's birth, Navin came up with handbags made from the ubiquitous wrap-around cloth. Now he's mixed traditional textiles with fine canvas, glinting plastic and Japanese tatami mats.

The focus is on practicality, the colours pure pop - vivid pinks, blues, greens, reds, oranges, purples and yellows.

"Thais have known for a long-time that the *pha khao ma* is multi-functional," says

Navin. "I've given our products names like Pattaya, Patong and Samui to link them to my 'Long Heart' and 'Long Krung' artwork series, which are on display in this exhibition too."

You'll find canvas handbags, shoulder bags, cosy beanbags, pillows,

cushions, hats, slippers, mats and cotton-based T-shirts on view and on sale, both at the River Promenade and the Jim Thompson branch on Surawong Road.



Casual for men, a blue cotton T-shirt adorned with 'pha khao ma' for Bt750



Accessories on sale include a blue cotton hat for Bt750 and a loincloth handbag for Bt2,950



A colourful canvas beanbag with loincloth pockets in green, red and bright-blue for Bt5,500

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IS THAT YOU, JIM?

>> Jim Thompson's Surawong branch is open daily from 9 to 9. Call (02) 632 8100 or visit www.JimThompson.com.

>> "Navin's Sala" continues until August 10 at the River Promenade, daily from 10 to 6pm, and it's free. Call (02) 861 1971. Get there by river from the Hotel Shuttle Boats Pier at Taksin Bridge.

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