



Hedonism to spiritualism

Last Saturday (December 21), Breeze at Cape Yamu held an opening reception for Richard Skene's exhibition of contemporary art, 'The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom', which runs until Sunday, January 5.

In addition to having a Thai flavour, a common theme of Richard's collection is the "pursuit of happiness", which is one of the three "unalienable rights" in the United States of America's Declaration of Independence, and a key principle of Buddhism.

That such superficially conflicting forces of capitalism and religion share the same destination, suggests the path to happiness may not be straightforward, and short cuts may be counterproductive.

For example: while Thailand is a welcoming, tolerant and spiritual place, Bangkok provides abundant opportunities for hedonism.

So, like the Yin-Yang, Krung Thep, the 'City of Angels', is a centre of energy, within which seemingly contrary but complementary forces co-exist.

Those who deviate from the true path may, after a period of trial and error, reach the same conclusion as William Blake, who wrote, 'The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom'.

In short, the collection represents a visual journey: from hedonism to Buddhism in Bangkok. The result is a stimulating and provocative collection, comprising graphic design, photography, video and light installations.

The artworks are beautifully simplified and stylised, in-

corporate wit and wisdom, and reveal influences from Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst and Roy Lichtenstein.

Richard Skene was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and lives in Bangkok.

"I first came to Thailand as a backpacker in 1990 and returned to work in Bangkok in 1995. Since then, I've had the privilege of working in Bangkok, Phuket and Koh Samui for over eight years, so have a close affinity with Thailand and a great respect for Thai culture," he said.

"I am delighted that Breeze agreed to sponsor my exhibition in Phuket as I believe the restaurant's contemporary style and funky character complements my collection."

For more information please visit breezecepayamu.com or richardskene.com

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New Oscars logo shines a spotlight on Academy

The body behind the Oscars has unveiled a new logo that it hopes will focus more attention on the organization's wider work in addition to Hollywood's biggest trophy festival.

The prestigious Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, whose 6,000 or so members choose who gets the prized golden statuettes every year, is aiming to highlight its year-round work supporting filmmakers, showcasing cinema and fostering talent.

The old logo featured the distinctive Oscar silhouette against a gold oval. The new one creates a large capital "A" that surrounds Tinseltown's most coveted little man.

"This design gives the Academy a presence in its own logo for the first time, and underscores our efforts to support creative arts and sciences year-round," said the Academy's marketing chief Christina Kounelias.

The Academy, which next month will unveil its nominees for Hollywood's annual awards festival on March 2, used design studio 180LA to create the new look.

The logo "transformed the visual balance from not only representing the Oscars, but now it's very much about the Academy," said 180LA's chief of design Richard Harrington, who is based out of Britain.

As well as organising the Academy



ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

Awards, the Beverly Hills-based body runs events and exhibitions, provides grants and support, holds archives and fosters research into the history of cinema, among other activities.

The organization is due to open an Academy Museum in 2017. AFP



Artist Richard Skene, centre, at the official opening. Right, Parichat Namchoo.

GREAT ART ON SHOW

Breeze at Cape Yamu held the official opening of Richard Skene's exhibition of contemporary art, titled 'The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom' on Saturday (December 21). Photos: Jessi Cotterill



PEARL OPENS

The Pearl of Surin Beach Club held its official grand opening on Thursday (December 19).



The Pearl of Surin Beach Club partners Catherine Morel and Martin Flynn.



GOODBYE TO 2013!

Twinpalms held its annual staff party on Thursday (December 12) at Bimi Beach Club.



Joanne Bayliss, Elena Glebova, Sona Neuhaus, Guillaume Langerart, Pauline de Graeve.



OC, Kees P, Fred, Brechje Gondrie, Claes Soderberg and Suzanna.