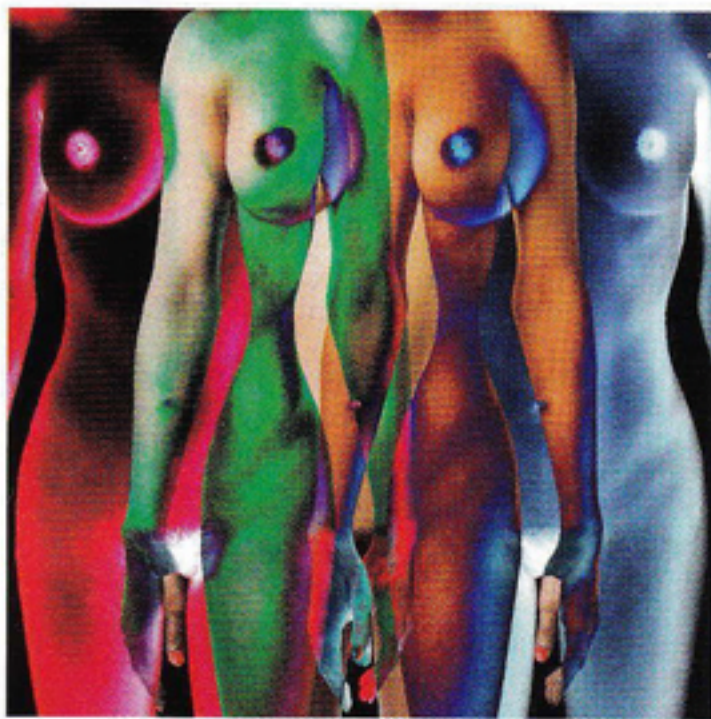


1AUG

LIFE'S WORK Artist Tanupon En-on envisages the ever-changing relationship between people and nature in the exhibition *Life and Season*. His acrylic and charcoal paintings reflect Isaan motifs and mural techniques. Admire the works at Galerie N until August 23. For more information, call 08-6601-7111.



TOO MUCH The pursuit of happiness is both a hedonistic and spiritual lifestyle, a capitalist and religious principle, says artist Richard Skene. His exhibition, *The Road of Excess Leads to the Palace of Wisdom*, includes photography, graphic designs, video and light installations. It's at Eat Me restaurant until August 30. Contact Yvonne Liang at 08-6533-0402 for details.

LOOKING GLASS The 3rd Eye Trilogy: *The New Dawn* is Piyat Hemmatat's series of photographs inspired by the mystery of looking through the lens – the third eye – to see beyond physical senses. Serindia Gallery hosts the exhibition until August 31. Contact 08-1428-5453.

NO LIMITS Global and regional fashion designers and artists blur the boundaries of conceptual design and fashion at *Nature vs Society*. The artists have no limitation on how their works are presented and invite the audience to be an interactive part of the exhibition. It runs for a month up to August 31 at the Sofitel So hotel. Contact 0-2624-0000.

TittleTattle

Editor-in-Waiting

AN AMBASSADOR'S WIFE HAS PUT HER SKILLS TO GOOD USE

FOR THOSE USED TO A CAREER, IT CAN BE difficult to find oneself relegated to just an accompanying spouse in a country like Thailand where employment opportunities are almost non-existent. Some with a hard-to-find skill may be able to find the rare job but for most of the others the alternative is volunteer work, and a life of the expat wife/husband taking care of the children during the day and enjoying the social circuit at night – not such a bad way to spend one's time, in actual fact. In the case of **JULIE-ANNE LEE**, wife of the New Zealand ambassador **HE ANTHONY LYNCH**, she has been able to combine both her professional skills and volunteer work. Having always worked, she says this sojourn in Bangkok is the first time she hasn't done so in her entire adult life. With her previous consulting jobs focused on English writing, proof reading and editing, these skills came in useful come time to put together the 19th edition of the *Bangkok Guide*. Published by the Australian-New Zealand



Bangkok Guide editor Julie-Anne Lee

Women's Group (ANZWG) since 1971, this guide is the expat's bible to living in Bangkok (see Concierge for more information). As co-patron of the ANZWG together with **TERESA WISE**, wife of the Australian ambassador, Lee took on the editing of the 450-page book, working with over 100 volunteers and completing the project in nine months instead of the expected 12. As all proceeds go to helping underprivileged women and children, she is happy that she has been able to contribute to such a worthwhile project.

Raising the Bar

AN INTERNATIONAL BARTENDING COMPETITION HELPS TO UPGRADE THE STANDARDS AMONG THAI BARTENDERS



Thai national champion Chanchai Rodbamrung

PREVIOUSLY IN THE BARS OF Bangkok, as long as you could combine alcohol and mixers topping it with a little umbrella, you could call yourself a bartender. That's not the case any longer, thanks to efforts to upgrade the profession by international liquor companies. One of the best-known competitions, the Diageo Reserve World Class, is a year-long search for the world's top bartender, where only those with creativity, innovation and mixing skills need apply. Held for the fifth year running, the competition brought together contestants from 44 countries on the Azamara Club cruise ship sailing in the Mediterranean with stops in Nice, Monte Carlo, St Tropez, Ibiza and Barcelona. The Thai representative was **CHANCHAI BOY RODBAMRUNG** from Smith restaurant, who beat 14 contestants from all over the country. Just 25 years old and with only a few years of bartending experience, he admitted he had to practise hard. Although he did not win the global title which went to **DAVID RIOS** of Spain, Chanchai has helped to raise the bar for this profession in Thailand.