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| **Your article** |
| **Santi Isrowuthakul (1945-)** |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| [Enter an **abstract** for your article] |
| Santi Isrowuthakul is an artist and activist who participated in the Artist’ Front of Thailand (AFT.)(1974-1976). Born in Bangkok, Santi graduated with a masters degree in Fine art in 1975 from the Art Institute of Chicago, USA. While studying in Chicago he participated in several exhibitions and workshops, in which he created public mural paintings and mixed-media works. When he returned to Thailand in 1975, he used arts and cultural activities to encourage the student-led peoples’ movement, taking part in group exhibitions including The Bangkok Dice Group (1976) and The Tao Group (1976). He used simple materials including toilet paper, newspapers, wood and marble to produce collages, and site-specific works aimed at provoking the viewer. Santi’s work reflects a radical ideology, which developed as a result of the country’s communist insurgency, the development of political consciousness among artists and a growing interest in Socialist Realism, giving birth to works that satirised politicians, culture and society. In 1976, Santi was elected chairman of the AFT, and co-organised an art exhibition around the Pramane ground (Sanam Luang) area to support the student-led movement against American military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War. The AFT, under Santi’s leadership, created several politically motivated cultural and arts activities before the coup d’état on October 6, 1976. He lives and works as a freelance in Bangkok |
| Further reading:  Leesuwan, Wiboon. (2005) *Art in Thailand : From Siam to Modern art (Thai)*. Bangkok, LadPraw Book Center.  Poshyananda, Apinan. (1992) *Modern Art in Thailand : Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. New York : Oxford University Press. |