**Pichai Nirand** (7 February 1936-)

Pichai Nirand is a Thai painter who worked using Expressionist and Surrealist styles in his depiction of Buddhist themes. In 1956 Pichai attended a local art school, the School of Fine Arts. In 1956-59 he conducted his training at the Faculty of Painting and Sculpture at Silpakorn University, later gaining an international reputation and winning many awards. Pichai has been involved in teaching since graduating and continues to the present day in this capacity. The mediums Pichai employs are varied, including oil on canvas as well as mixed-media. His works are influenced by a Buddhist philosophy and his practice aims to bring personal inner serenity via an exploration of Buddhist doctrine. Many themes are explored in his works including the cycle of life, the Buddhist concept of personal self-enlightenment and the idea of impermanence. In many works he uses a high degree of symbolism in order to reflect an ethereal presence of a Buddha. Buddha footprints, which are often traditionally portrayed on the walls of Thai Buddhist temples, denote this presence. Images of lotus flowers in different stages of bloom are delicately detailed to depict cycles of life. Nature in the form of trees and butterflies, are represented as part of a complex and in-depth expression and reflection on the nature of life and spirituality with in a Buddhist ideology.

**References and further reading**

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