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Akojorn

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Tradisexion (1995):

Selected Texts from the Exhibition Catalogue, translated from Thai

Akojorn

written and translated by Phaptawan Suwannakudt

[In this work], a *pah tung* [a tube cloth used by women] is hung on a clothesline above head level to provoke the audience into reacting. It is designed to invoke in people feelings towards the medium hung in front of them.

The title *Akojorn* means a tabooed area where one is not advised to tread. The *pah tung* is treated as lower than the bottom—it is never to be hung on the higher level of a clothesline such that it is possible to go underneath. It is considered a bad omen and damaging for one's dignity to do so, particularly for men.

Pah tung is one identity for Thai women. The work *Akojorn* identifies a place where the *pah tung* belongs—on the lower clothesline, at the back of the garden or behind the back door. It reflects the status of Thai women. Nowadays not all women use the *pah tung*, but the status of women and how society treats them is no different.

Is it true that the place for the *pah tung* is a lower level of existence? Who designed this? Since when has it been so?

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