

## INTERVIEW

### Young Cambodian Female Artist



Kanitha stands behind her art work. Photo: CHIM Linna

### Interviewed by CHIM Linna

October 5, 2010

In the following is an interview with TITH Kanitha, a young artist presenting her work at the art exhibition "Hey Sister...Where are you going?!", which is sponsored and organized by the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) in Cambodia and starts on October 22, 2010.

Kanitha started to create artwork in 2007. Promoting gender equality, Freedom of Expression and a liberal society are some of the motivations for her to become a female artist.

**Q:** What inspired you to become an artist?

**Kanitha:** When I do my work, I want to get freedom which does not mean personal freedom but rather the freedom to express my opinion. Since I was young I don't like someone to restrict my freedom of opinion. Through my artworks I can freely express my thoughts.

**Q:** What are your challenges in your career/life as a female artist in Cambodia?

**Kanitha:** As for me, I am having a bit more luck than other female artists because my family supports and encourages my decisions even though they are not clear about what I am doing. I am not creating art with a view to profit since I am supporting my living with other activities such as decorating and organizing events. So earning money out of it is not an issue in my career as an artist.

**Q:** What do you think is the relationship between arts, politics and society?

**Kanitha:** Actually, my work is dealing with many issues in society and politics, but in the end it is just a reflection of reality and the viewers have to build their opinion and judge by themselves. What I want is that my achievements are recognized by other people. They are reflecting reality and should be perceived doing that.

**Q:** What inspired you to be involved with the HBF supported art exhibition: "Hey Sister... Where are you going?"?

**Kanitha:** At the exhibition with HBF, I will show an artwork stating that women have to be able to go away from the stove since old people say that women cannot do this. My aim is not to arraign what the old say but we need to accept that things change and today's reality in Cambodia is completely different to that of the past. I want to show to other women that we have the same ability as others and should not look down on ourselves.