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## ***Bangkok – Call Waiting***

**Frank Hallam Day**

Texts by Brian Curtin, Paul Roth

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**Nocturnal images of Bangkok's last public phone booths and their colorful traces of urban life**

*Bangkok: Call Waiting emerged from Day's on-going interest in the wreckage of the city's (rapidly disappearing) public phone booths to encompass a fascination with the wider nocturnal urban complex. The phone booths are captured as magnets for the detritus of daily life in a metropolis. Day's intimate yet subtly epic images register traces of the demands that govern our urban existence: postings for job adverts, signs of commercial pleasure, and listings for entertainment spectacles or social advancement opportunities. These sites are also a portal through which to view the vernacular expression of guerrilla creativity and politics. Many of the markings visible in the booths are tags by graffiti artists as well as messages left by street protestors during the recent years of Thailand's political meltdown, a period during which many of these images were made. And outside the encrusted enclosures and visible through the marred panes of the booths, quotidian life goes on in all its idiosyncrasies: people eat at the ubiquitous sidewalk tables or play with their pets. Children play and sleep, tourists hail tuk-tuks and sex workers mingle.*

*(...)*

*Bangkok, as a constantly mutating cauldron of possibilities and histories, will always confound attempts at creating a definitive image. But Day's work profoundly skirts sociology, instead shaping strange relationships of beauty and estrangement in the shadows of this compelling metropolis.*

– from the introduction by Brian Curtin

**Frank Hallam Day** is a fine art photographer based in Washington D.C. His work is in numerous museum and private collections in the United States and abroad, including the State Museum of Berlin, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Portland Art Museum, the Orlando Museum of Art, the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, the Phillips Collection and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. His artistic interests revolve around the themes of culture and history, and humanity's footprint on the natural world. Recent projects include the erasure of personal and cultural memory in EastBerlin, and on the impact of globalization on African identity. With the series *Nocturnal* (published by Kehrer), he was a winner of the prestigious Leica Oskar Barnack Prize in 2012.

**Brian Curtin** is an Irish-born art writer, curator and critic based in Bangkok, and lectures at Bangkok University International College. He publishes in a variety of academic and journalistic contexts and has curated exhibitions of contemporary art internationally. Brian directs H Project Space in Bangkok.

**Paul Roth** is Director of the Ryerson Image Centre in Toronto, Ontario. Previously he served as Senior Curator of Photography and Media Arts at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and as Executive Director of The Richard Avedon Foundation in New York. Roth has organized numerous exhibitions and film series.

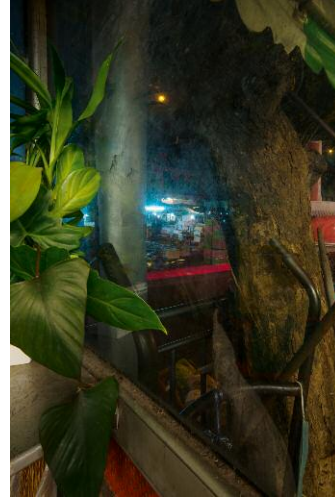
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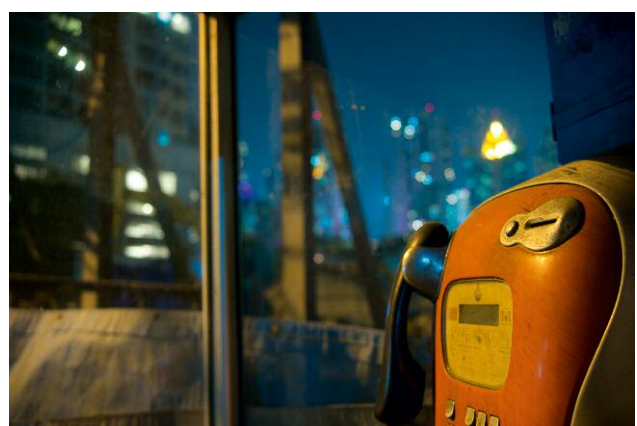
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