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**Treeline Urban Resort, championing Cambodian contemporary art,
unveils its latest exhibition and launches a grant program**

SIEM REAP—February is shaping up to be a busy month for Treeline Urban Resort, the design-led luxury boutique hotel along the leafy banks of the Siem Reap river, as it ramps up its art programming and continues to galvanize the city's nascent contemporary art scene as one of its most dedicated champions.

From the 9th of February to the 29th of March, Treeline Gallery's latest exhibition called *The Cities*, will be on display at the wraparound foyer of the hotel's lush courtyard. The exciting group show assembles emerging artists Eng Rithchandaneh, Prak Dalin and Sao Sreymao, all of whom investigate the complexities of modern urban life and the fast-changing cityscapes in their works.

"*The Cities* pays attention to the practice of these emerging artists and highlights their concern and close relationship with what is currently happening and will happen in their cities and country," explains Treeline Gallery and exhibit curator Meta Moeng. "It also explores the different ways artists create their works through photographs, sculptures and installation."

Prak Dalin's *Merge*, for instance, is a series of sculpture pieces—a hanging installation and three other works—made of building construction materials. As a set, the works cast a probing eye into how myths are created, magnified and shaped by various interpretations.

In similar fashion, the four pieces of sculpture that comprise Eng Rithchandaneh's *Black Seaweed* experiment with the possibilities of material and are a reflection on the current

economic landscape. Two of the works resemble a snag tree, strewn with sprouts, while the two others are made of layers of wood-ear mushrooms.

Sao Sreymao, on the other hand, uses photographs, combined with digital layering, to create stamps of the cityscape. The six works featured in *The Cities* express the peculiar anxieties of a city in flux, its gradual disconnection from nature as it rapidly transforms, as well as the artist's desire for a better alternative scenario. Here, Sreymao trains her lens on the city's daily life, questioning the reality and fiction of the image through humor.

The Cities, Treeline Gallery's fifth exhibit since the hotel opened, coincides with the launch of Treeline Artist Grants, designed to nurture and support up-and-coming Cambodian artists as well as to cultivate an even more robust arts scene in Siem Reap and in Cambodia. Five artists are set to receive monetary support and mentorship while they each produce three artworks during a given period. The program will culminate in an exhibition and selling show, during which 30% of the proceeds will be reinvested into Treeline's art projects.

"Art and community are a large part of the Treeline DNA," says Treeline General Manager Joni Aker. "We simply wouldn't be the hotel that we are without these two. Our art initiatives—the regular exhibitions, the artist grants, as well as the upcoming Treeline Art Foundation and artist-in-residence program—are all part of a sustainable arts effort and a larger vision for Siem Reap."

Part of that larger vision is to regenerate the city's riverside district into a buzzing creative hub for tourists and locals alike. Treeline's founder and architect Hok Kang believes the area has endless opportunities, not to mention historical significance: as one of the country's most sacred waterways, it flows from the waterfalls of Kulen Mountain—which have ancient lingas carved into the riverbeds—meanders around the temples of Angkor and then into present-day Siem Reap, before flowing out into the vast Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in all of Asia.

"Siem Reap without this river wouldn't be such an inspiring city—so we need to protect it," says Kang. "When you drive or stroll along this tree-lined river, and there's a cool breeze in the air, there's nothing quite as magical. My dream is to see the river turned into a leafy, clean community space filled with public art installations and pop-up galleries."

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Treeline Urban Resort is a privately owned, 48-room design hotel on Siem Reap's Riverside in Cambodia. Treeline Urban Resort offers a one-of-a-kind home for guests traveling to gateway city for the temples of Angkor. Masterfully crafted with leading Cambodian artists, our curated experience includes dedicated spaces for a growing private collection of contemporary art. www.treelinehotels.com