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ART WITH CATHERINE VIENTIANE

The art scene in Laos' capital Vientiane is another sign of a city in transition. After a period where artistic creativity was subject to greater taboo, a new generation starts expressing themselves with contemporary art creating a whole new scene.

Someone who has experienced this transition firsthand is the founder of I:cat Gallery, Catherine O'Brien. Catherine, an Australian who moved to Laos in 2004 for an art support program, opened I:cat gallery in 2009. I:cat has been providing an essential stage for Lao artists' talents ever since.

We have developed an exclusive encounter available for guests who would like to learn more about this interesting transition. Catherine leads clients through the years and shares the exciting developments in the Lao art world. This Directors' encounter can also be included in a Vientiane city tour.



PHA PHANANG MOUNTAIN TRAILS VIENTIANE

While the relatively flat Vientiane plain is not known for its trekking-options, there are some great hiking trails within a 30 minutes' drive of the capital. A 10-kilometer transfer along the Mekong brings you to Pha Panang Mountain, which offers some interesting trekking and cycling trails. There are excellent options for both beginners and experienced. The more experienced hikers have the opportunity to climb the Phou Panang peak. A 2-hour hike will bring you up to a viewpoint from where you will be rewarded with breathtaking views over both Laos and Thailand on the other side of the Mekong.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lao National Day
2 December 2020

Vientiane Marathon
8-13 December 2020

International NYE
31 December 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

Info@nakarath.com

SANDRA CARUSO VIENTIANE

Sandra Caruso is one of the renowned artists in Laos. Her high-quality silk brocades and handcrafted tableware can be found around the globe and each piece reflects aspects of Lao culture and features unique designs. Her work was already on display at some of the best hotels and . since opening her new workshop in Vientiane, we also offer the option to visit the workshop to see masters of these crafts at work.



OUR GUIDE IN FOCUS; MR. VIENGKHAM VIENTIANE

During these challenging times, we continue to work closely with our guides. In this edition of the newsletter, we are pleased to introduce you to one of our expert guides, Mr. Viengkham. Viengkham is started guiding in 2000, he has been guiding Nakarath groups right from our start. Viengkham knows Vientiane as his back pocket and is especially knowledgeable about the turbulent history of this capital.

Q: Please tell us a bit about your personal life.

A: I live in Vientiane with my wife and 2 children. My son is 21 years old and studies at the National university. My daughter is 16 years old and they both study at the National University of Laos. In my free time I like to read and I go for a walk every morning.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I was born and raised in Ban Hom village on the Mekong River, some 15 kilometres downstream of the centre of Vientiane. Ban Hom was famous for growing the best tobacco in the region.



Q: How has COVID-19 influenced your work & life?

A: It is an extremely challenging year. Most of my income was lost, and this has a significant impact on my family and me. The borders have been closed to tourists since March 2020, and we have been living from my savings for some six months now. I hope we can welcome more guests as soon as possible as we cannot easily continue much longer like this.

I also miss my guests. It is lovely to meet people from many different countries and to welcome them to my hometown.

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN JANUARY 2020