

'Everything Will Be OK'

This work draws inspiration from the recent military coup taking place in Myanmar (Burma) on the first of February this year.

Myanmar, a country of Southeast Asia, has a population of about 54 million and gained independence from Britain in 1948. It was ruled by the armed forces from 1962 until 2011, when a new government began ushering in a return to civilian rule. The military is now back in charge and a huge democratic issue has emerged. The protests over the coup have been the largest since the so-called 'Saffron Revolution' in 2007, when thousands of monks revolted against the military regime. Since February at least 739 people have been killed from police and military, many of whom children.

I chose to fabricate two different types of shields to expose the problem. One is a direct replica of the ones made by the People in Myanmar and made from an old oil barrel cut in half. The spray painted three-fingered salute on it has become a symbol of resistance and solidarity from democracy movements across south-east Asia. The other is a police riot shield. Although it looks like the ordinary high-quality, extremely impact resistance polycarbonate, it is not. It is made from glass, which on the contrary is a very fragile material.

The installation of the two shields on opposite direction intends to propose the ending of violence in addition to exposing this problem. By deliberately changing the material of the police shield into fragile glass I am hoping to strengthen the value of democracy over dictatorship in the eyes of the viewer.

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