

Press Release – For Immediate Release

New release from River Books: Thai Taxi Talismans: Bangkok from the passenger seat

Fun and approachable book provides an insider's view into the fascinating world of Bangkok cabs and Thai taxi drivers

Bangkok, Thailand, October 21, 2011 – *Thai Taxi Talismans* features stunning close-up shots of statuettes of the Buddha, monks, and Hindu gods and goddesses in Bangkok cabs, as well as *yan* drawings by monks on taxi ceilings, *phuang malai* flower offerings hanging from rearview mirrors, pictures of the Royal Family displayed on dashboards, and other lucky charms that Thai cabbies rely on to protect them, to generate luck, and to conjure up customers and cold hard cash. Other photographs focus on interior spaces of the cabs and views of taxi drivers within the confines of their work environment.

The author Dale Konstanz has spent over four years documenting the interiors of Bangkok taxis, photographing the iconography and asking what it means to the drivers. In *Thai Taxi Talismans*, he recollects and ruminates as to the meaning of these mini-altars, accompanied by colorful photographs and the explanations and philosophies of the Bangkok cabby. This book is a cultural study of Thai beliefs, an appreciation of Thai popular design and a document of the daily existence of Bangkok taxi drivers. It is fascinating, fun, and culturally significant.

Thai Taxi Talismans is available at www.amazon.com and through booksellers around the globe.

About the Author:

Dale Konstanz has been living in Bangkok for the past eight years and has been addicted to taking taxis since he arrived. He originally hails from the US where he studied fine arts and earned an MFA in Painting. Konstanz has exhibited his work internationally and has taught at numerous universities and museums, including the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He currently teaches in the Fine and Applied Arts Division at Mahidol University International College. His blog, *Still Life in Moving Vehicles* (www.lifeinmovingvehicle.blogspot.com) that inspired the book has gained a large following and was recently named one of six top blogs about Thailand by CNN Go.

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