

Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan

Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan is the first of a two-phase collaborative exhibition curated by Harrison See, Desmond Mah & Yeo Chee Kiong featuring 6 artists from Singapore and 6 from Boorloo/Perth. These two coastal and culturally diverse locations are bound by intersecting histories of British colonisation in the Asia Pacific region. To renegotiate these intersections in a contemporary context, the artists have explored paper and textiles as a metaphor for diaspora, trade and identity.

Singapore

Ezzam Rahman
Nhawful Juma'at
Tan Yen Peng
Terry Wee
Xin Xiao Chang
Yeo Chee Kiong

Boorloo/Perth

Deborah Worthy-Collins
Desmond Mah
Di Cubitt
Harrison See
Kelsey Ashe
Sarah Thornton-Smith

SCULPTURE 2052

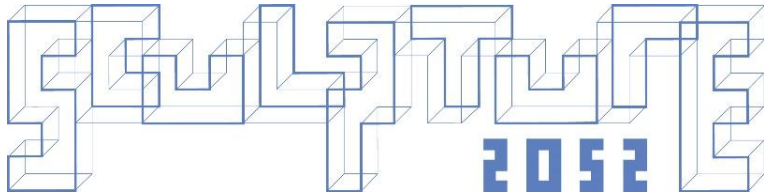
#03–16, Primz Bizhub, 21 Woodlands Close, S'737854

Opening event: 7pm (17 Jan, 2024)

Artist Talk: 8pm – 9pm (17 Jan, 2024)

Exhibition dates: 18 Jan – 25 Feb, 2024





#03–16, Primz Bizhub, 21 Woodlands Close,
S'737854

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January 2024

SCULPTURE 2052, an art space and also a research project that is dedicated to the art of *Sculpture*. It is conceived as an ongoing research endeavour to investigate the practice of *Sculpture* in Singapore through the sculptors' perspective and vision.

SCULPTURE 2052 aims to preserve “the accents” of sculpture and sculptural art of our time, in order to establish continual dialogues for future art generations. A sustainable 30 year duration (2022-2052) is designated as a challenge and a vision for the local sculptor community. Through the comprehensive understanding of the *Classic*, we imagine the *Future*.

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The exhibition is supported by funding from the Department of Local government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) of the Government of Western Australia and additional support from Artsource.



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Curatorial Statement

Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan (or *Paper Trails* for short) at 'SCULPTURE 2052' art gallery is the first of a two-phase curated exhibition featuring 12 artists working with paper and textiles, 6 from Singapore and 6 from Perth. We begin our co-authored curatorial statement by respectfully acknowledging the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of Australia. Specifically, we acknowledge the Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the unceded land on which Perth was colonised, and pay respect to the Noongar people's enduring culture of tens of thousands of years and the leadership of their elders past and present. Lastly, we recognise 'Boorloo' as the Noongar name for the Perth region and will use 'Perth/Boorloo' in our statement.

At a glance, Singapore and Perth/Boorloo appear to be categorically different cities: the former (population \approx 6 million) is the densely populated gateway between the Global North and South, and the latter (population \approx 2 million) is one of the most isolated major cities in the world. However, there are significant similarities, more than just a shared time zone. The two histories of these coastal and culturally diverse port cities are intersected by British colonisation. Perth/Boorloo was colonised as the 'Swan River Settlement' in 1829, while Singapore was claimed as a port for Britain's East India Company in 1819—'Singapore' the anglicisation of 'Singapura', which was derived from the Sanskrit word for 'Lion city' (or 'Lion fortress'); whereas Perth was named after the Scottish town where British settler leaders had connections and the river after the black swans unique to the colony.

Within an Asia-Pacific context, attempts to renegotiate colonial histories are complex. Even when adopting the term 'Perth/Boorloo' out of acknowledgement and respect, it potentially reinscribes not only a hierarchy of English over Noongar, but a binary of coloniser/colonised. Further, these dualistic terms potentially exclude non-European cultural communities from Australia's colonial histories. The regrettable legacy of the White Australia Policy notwithstanding, records reveal that as early as 1818—a year before the Swan River Settlement was colonised on the west coast—a man from Guangzhou immigrated to Australia's east coast¹, which begs the question, how might Asian diaspora fit into Australia's attempts at reconciling its colonial history? More recently, it is evident by the Trumpian Sinophobic sentiment during COVID-19, that in times of crises it is too easy to resort to the problematic simplicity of 'us' vs 'them' thinking, and a tendency to reinscribe binaries of opposition like East-vs-West that neglect the nuance of forward-thinking contemporary cultural exchange.

In 2024, as we approach the midpoint between the 200-years since Perth/Boorloo and Singapore's aforementioned encounters with British imperialism—2019 and 2029 respectfully—an opportunity presents itself to negotiate new intersections between these cities of Lion and Swan. Further, the choice of materials for *Paper trails* is intentional and symbolic. Paper was used by the British Empire to invoke deeds, certificates, propaganda, and letters as instruments of identity, division, authority and ownership. Textiles were used for flags, banners and uniforms, as well as the sails of ships that facilitated the expansion of trade, influence and military conquest. There is a sense of irony in using these symbolically-loaded materials to think beyond a postcolonial present; however, as artists know, it is through the handling of materials that new and unfamiliar meanings can be inscribed to old and familiar ways of knowing and being. The exhibition does not intend to condemn nor celebrate the British colonialism, its feats and injustices are deeply woven into the Asia-Pacific region. Rather, *Paper trails* is an invitation for the artists and their audience to question and imagine new ways of approaching the challenges and opportunities of cultural hybridity, transnationalism and multiculturalism.

We conclude by thanking the *Paper Trails* artists and the support of SCULPTURE 2052 during the Singapore phase of the *Paper Trails* exhibition and look forward to the second phase of *Paper Trails* when its artists come to Perth/Boorloo. Lastly, we encourage readers to engage with the artists' voices through their artworks, as well as their statements and biographies on the proceeding pages.

Harrison See, Desmond Mah and Yeo Chee Kiong
(Co-curators of *Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan*)

¹ Sahni, N. (2017). *Mak Sai Ying aka John Shying*. The City of Parramatta Council's Research and Collection Services.
<https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/people/mak-sai-ying-aka-john-shying>

6 Perth/Boorloo Artists @ Sculpture2052

Deborah Worthy-Collins

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Deborah Worthy-Collins (2023), *Laphet/to receive with one hand* (detail). Teabags, thread, and cotton. Dimensions Variable. Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Deborah Worthy-Collins is an emerging mixed media artist based in Boorloo (Perth) with a Bachelor of Visual Arts degree from Edith Cowan University. Her studio practice is process-based and focuses on exploring themes of life cycle, connection, identity, and healing. Worthy-Collins has participated in several group exhibitions and held a solo show in 2020. She has also facilitated paper-making workshops for children and adults. Her work has been exhibited at various venues, including Spectrum Project Space ECU, PS Art Fremantle, The Lobby Swanbourne, and Ellenbrook Arts Centre. In 2018, she was featured in Athena Magazine, and in 2019, was the featured artist in Precious HK Magazine's Biannual Art Exchange. Worthy-Collins' upcoming exhibitions include a group show at the Moore Building in June 2023 and in Singapore in 2024. Recently, she completed a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Western Australia and aims to explore how art can be used for social change and community engagement.

Statement: Deborah Worthy-Collins' installation explores the global significance of tea, transcending continents and symbolising cultural transformation. Once a privilege reserved for royalty, tea has evolved into a symbol of accessibility across all social classes, grappling with the impacts of Western colonisation and capitalist commodification. *Laphet/To Receive with One Hand* draws inspiration from 11th-century Myanmar folklore, where tea seeds were gifted during a royal tour. Laphet, derived from 'La Ta Phet' meaning 'one hand', has become integral to Myanmar's identity, spanning diplomacy, justice, marriage, rituals, and friendships across social classes. The artist, reflecting on her Anglo-Burmese heritage, explores power dynamics and cultural shifts.

Worthy-Collins employs tea bags as symbols of convenience, unfolding and stitching them as an act of resistance. Grounded in tea's ancient origins, her work delves into the interplay of tradition, identity, and transformation. Stemming from her daily routine, the artwork becomes a ritual inviting introspection, offering a space for wholeness amidst the threads of colonisation's harm juxtaposed with healing and reconnection rituals in a persistently harmful system.

Desmond Mah

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Desmond Mah (2023), *The road-kill I saw leaving Koorabup (Denmark, Western Australia) and later in my mind* (detail). Acrylic paint, mixed media, print, xuan paper, bamboo. 16cm (H) x 86cm (W) x 40 cm (D). Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Desmond Mah (b. 1974, Singapore) resides in Boorloo/Perth, having migrated during his teenage years. With a BA Hons in Painting from Loughborough University, UK (1998) and LaSalle College, Singapore (1997), Mah transitioned to art in 2017 after working in art education and horticulture. His diverse cultural heritage, spanning China (potentially Hui ethnicity), Taiwan's Kinmen Islands, and Singapore, informs his exploration of cultural hybridity, fluid identity, and Asian diasporic experiences. Mah employs a unique line mark-making style, his 'migrant language', influenced by his horticulturist background. Notable achievements include the E.SUN Bank Special Selection Prize (Taiwan, 2022) and the Southern Buoy Studios Portrait Prize (Australia, 2021). Mah has participated in exhibitions, residencies, grants, and commissions, including Red Gate Residency in Beijing (2018) and Fremantle Arts Centre (2023), and his solo exhibition at Art Seasons (Singapore, 2023) and an upcoming show at Mossenson Galleries (Australia, 2024). Mah's work is part of Judith Neilson's private collection.

Statement: In the Chinese classic text, *The Classic of Mountains and Seas*, the fox is depicted as a malevolent spirit that devours humans. Encountering a dead European red fox both excites and frightens me as a Chinese-Australian. This introduced species, a sentinel of British colonisation and an apex predator in a foreign land, has ravaged native wildlife and reshaped the Australian landscape irreversibly. Ironically, foxes inadvertently curbed other introduced invasive species like rats, rabbits, and cats.

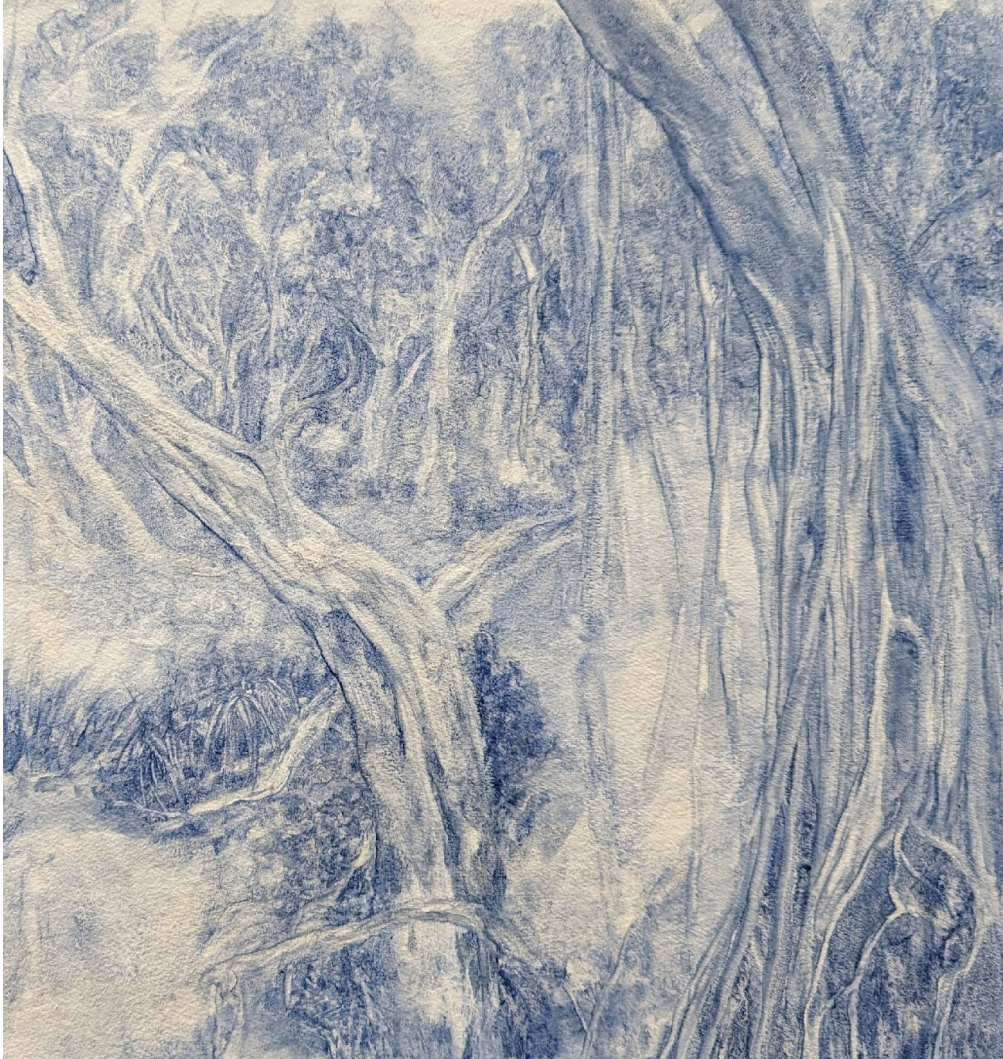
The playful re-imagining of the fox as a 'thug' fosters this sense of irony, prompts viewpoints on the complexities of colonisation and its consequences, and the roles of predator, invader and saviour.

Di Cubitt

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Di Cubitt (2023), *Remnants and Ghosts* (detail), Oil on paper, 36cm (H) x 106cm (W). Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Born in Malaysia, Di Cubitt grew up in the UK before migrating to Australia. She has lived and worked in Perth since 1990, graduating from Curtin University with a BA (Hons) Visual Arts in 2007. Alongside her art practice, Cubitt currently works as a Lecturer (Drawing) at Curtin University. She has held 5 solo exhibitions, taken part in over 50 group shows, and is a recipient of several art awards. Her work is held in several collections including Curtin University and is represented in Perth by Stala Contemporary.

Cubitt's art practice explores ideas about the natural world and our interactions with it, in particular the concept of landscape as a place for meditating on themes concerning continual change. Within this framework, she is interested in the influence of memory, myth and imagination on our perception of place. By revisiting the same locations time and again over many years Cubitt observes and maps the changes in the landscape, a witness to the continual cycle of life and death, responding to these interactions through her paintings and drawings.

Statement: Maps, plans, drawings and sketches were all invaluable tools of the colonialists as they moved across the globe; symbols of ownership, demarcating borders, permissions needed to cross lines and to enter spaces. The paper map has always had a fascination for me, exploring different realms and sparking imaginative journeys that inspired my travels from London, across South-East Asia to Australia. Maps are also the starting point for *Remnants and Ghosts* created for *Paper Trails*.

Comparing maps of Perth and Singapore from early European settlement shows the changing shape of the landscapes since colonisation, the results of altered landscapes and shorelines due to reclamation and development. *Remnants and Ghosts* is an exploration of what was, what remains, and what efforts are being made to repair the damage. Responding to vanishing wetland areas in Perth and Singapore, this work imagines a landscape that unites aspects of the two places in one frame, creating a new topography that speaks to the changing nature of co-existence.

Harrison See

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Harrison See (2023), *Valley of Coasts and Beasts* (detail). Archival print on synthetic fibre (380 gsm) suspended from rod. 138m (H) x 103cm (W). Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Harrison See (b. 1990) is an artist, researcher and emerging curator interested in allegorical landscapes as means to explore cultural divergence and plurality—juxtaposing historical symbolisms with videogame tropes. See has undertaken 7 solo shows, 5 artist residencies, 3 curatorial projects and 8 collaborative exhibitions in Perth and Asia, as well as participated in multiple group exhibitions. Originally an industrial designer, See completed his Bachelor of Visual Arts at Edith Cowan University (ECU) in 2015 after receiving the Louise Macfie Painting Prize. In 2016, he was awarded a New Colombo Plan (NPC) scholarship that funded his honours research in Shanghai, after receiving 1st class honours, See extended his NPC funding and returned to China for a 3-month artist's residency in Xiamen. In 2019, See returned to ECU after being awarded a Research Training Program Scholarship and completed his practice-led PhD on dialogic cross-cultural collaboration. See is currently a researcher and tutor at ECU, while working from his studio at the artist run initiative Holmes Studio Collective.

Statement: *Valley of Coasts and Beasts* is an allegorical response to the geographical and historical intersections between the numerous sea-bound cities of the Asia-Pacific region. The flow and erosion of water are explored as metaphors for the movement of culture and influence made possible by seas, rivers and oceans. Through an integration of videogame tropes and graphic devices, See imagines a discordant scene reflecting the pluralistic, and at times incommensurate, nature of cross-cultural spaces. It is the juxtaposition of videogame aesthetics with the materialities of textiles—specifically, banners, flags and tapestries—through which See depicts a tense duality of two horsemen. Neither horseman represents a particular culture, however, their duality is analogous to dualistic metanarratives, such as the East-vs-West binary, that often oversimplify past (and present) cross-cultural interactivity. Although these two figures dominate the landscape, the landscape simultaneously envelopes them in a constellation of subtler localised storytelling. While parts of this constellation corroborate the horsemen's dominance, others serve as alternative, or even contradictory counternarratives.

Kelsey Ashe

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Kelsey Ashe (2023), *Orihon Codex of the Flame, Shell, Swan and Mer-Lion* (detail). Canvas, paper and Silk, botanical inks Indigo, Myrolaban, Wax; Screen Printed Origami Folding Concertina Scroll. 140cm (H) x 300cm (W) x 0.2cm (D) [when open] and 30cm (H) x 70cm (W) x 35cm (D) [when closed]. Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Kelsey Ashe is a contemporary artist and writer whose aesthetic draws from themes within Austral-Asian inter-cultural studies, constructed mythologies and ficto-critical narrative. Grounded in motifs of the Antipodean landscape, Ashe seeks to comprehend the hidden, mysterious, and deeply powerful sense of the sublime within landscape and our earthly and human relationship to it. Ashe has a Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD Art) which directs a depth of knowledge into contemplative works that examine both harmonious and difficult moments of cultural collision.

Ashe has studied Japanese Aesthetic Philosophy and traditional print making techniques which direct a depth of contemplation into the work. Story-telling is central to Ashe's practice-led research, which traverses print, textiles and film. Ashe exhibits regularly nationally and internationally. Ashe surveys cultural identity drawn from her Celtic convict and migratory ancestry and from the Austral-Asian basin she calls home – (the vast geographical region that sweeps from Polynesia to Aotearoa (New Zealand) across the land mass of Tasmania and Australia to Asia and Japan). Exploring the universal symbology of cultures, both ancient and modern, Ashe seeks resonances from previous era's; sensing traces of stories or symbols of place, to perceive perceptions or concerns for contemporary culture.

Statement: In the age of the 'Archival turn' Ashe delves into allegorical, symbolic and mythological narratives, to subvert, intervene or disrupt the colonial archive and to contemplate both harmonious and difficult moments of cultural collision. *The Orihon Codex of the Flame, Shell, Swan and Mer-Lion* is a contemporary form of Origami and Scroll making, where the printed mountains and valleys of the folded origami hint at the complex dimension of relations across the vast Austral-Asian geographic basin. In depicting the Mer-Lion and the Swan amongst the Shell, Fire, and a geometric grid, the work asks the viewer to consider their own projections and understandings of the multiple social, geographic and symbolic links between the Republic of Singapore and the city of Perth in Western Australia.

Sarah Thornton-Smith

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Sarah Thornton-Smith (2023), *Heartlines* (detail). Etching inks on hosho paper. Dimensions variable. Image courtesy of the artist.

Biography: Arriving from Singapore in her teens, Sarah was struck by the quality of the light here in Boorloo-Perth which contrasted with her formative experience of light-bound by tropical lushness. Thornton-Smith's art practice gravitates towards the search for patterns found in nature, particularly in the way colour surfaces, interacts and make connections with one another and its surrounds. She is interested in how colours influence, direct and appeal to the experiences and how perception plays a part in formulating our cultural environment. Driven by observation, ensuing playful intuitive processes, and seduced by the infinite attributes of light/colour in the compositions, the resulting work can generate a sense of intimacy by slowing-the-eye, ephemerality in the git of the moment and connection with the beauty of forms. Being raised in a Malay-Chinese household and crossed between Eastern and Western cultures, the experience has contributed unwittingly to an ongoing enquiry of connections.

Her work can be found in private and public collections such as the Kerry Stokes Art Collection, St John of God Art Collection and various other shires or cities.

Statement: Presenting an installation of sculptural foldings in a repeated pattern, Sarah Thornton-Smith's *Heartlines* hold in its intent an expression of diasporic disintegration and an acculturation of a new sense of what it means to be home. With her Malay-Chinese Singaporean heritage, and exposure to Western culture as she grows up in Boorloo-Perth, the work aims to track her assimilation and adoption of the influences of her surroundings using the Australian landscape and flora as her inspiration. Motifs resembling structural aspects of Australian flora such as the banksia and colours of the landscape imbue *Heartlines* with a layered infusion of colours, forms, and patterns by using monoprinting on translucent hosho paper. Recalling lengths of textiles of batik sarongs and kain lepas of her family heirlooms, the motifs and patterns capture vignettes of stories, culture, and societal implications. Repeated foldings subconsciously mimicking the structure of banksia, and the visible tracing of lines incorporated throughout each folding make symbolic connections between Perth and Singapore, revealing cultural hybridity illuminating the interplay between identity, heritage, culture, and landscape.

6 Proposals by Singapore Artists

for *Paper Trails* @ artsource in Perth/Boorloo, June 2024

Ezzam Rahman

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Artist Biography

Ezzam Rahman (b.1981, Singapore) is a multi-disciplinary artist known for his interest in the body and the use of common, easily accessible, yet unconventional media in his art practice. Working across sculpture, installation, digital media, and performance, he creates works that are often autobiographical, time-based, and ephemeral, aiming to pique viewers' thoughts on the themes of body politics, impermanence, traces, and abjection. Ezzam is an adjunct lecturer in LASALLE College of the arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He was awarded a joint winner of the Grand Prize for the President's Young Talents 2015 and the People's Choice Award by the Singapore Art Museum. In 2016, Ezzam was awarded the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award by Yayasan Mendaki and the prestigious Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council, Singapore. In 2021, Ezzam was awarded the Most Promising Award; photography category for PULSE Awards, Thailand.

why you keep calling me this?

Medium - Artist's skin and hair, used anti-inflammatory plaster, adhesive, epoxy resin on repurposed wooden Lazy Susan board.
Dimensions - 39cm (L) X 3.5cm (D)
Year – 2023



Artwork Synopsis

Ezzam is currently working on, researching, and focusing on borrowed and colonized languages. Ezzam's is relearning *Jawi*, the Arabic alphabet or writing system used for Malay or related languages. Jawi was developed from the advent of Islam in the Maritime Southeast Asia, supplanting the earlier Brahmic scripts used during Hindu-Buddhist era. The ensuing trade expansions and the spread of Islam to other areas of Southeast Asia from the 15th century had brought the Jawi alphabet beyond the traditional Malay-speaking world. Until the 20th century, Jawi remained as the standard script of the Malay language. The use of Jawi heralded the birth of traditional Malay literature, when it was featured prominently in the royal correspondences, religious texts and literary publications. With the arrival of Western influence through colonization and education, Jawi was relegated to scripts for religious education, with the Malay language eventually adopting the Latin alphabet called Rumi in general usage. Ezzam wants to revisit the historical documentations of 1819 Singapore Treaty was written in English on the left side and Malay on the right on the official document. Looking back at how language had shaped negotiations between people.

Fig. 01

In Fig. 01 is the 1819 Singapore Treaty Written in both English and Malay Jawi.

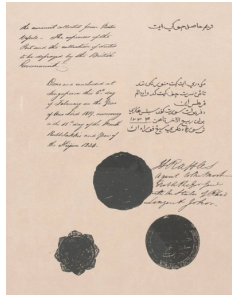


Fig. 02

In Fig.02 work in progress – mixed media



PAPER TRAILS BETWEEN LION AND SWAN

Proposal for SAW 2024 @Sculpture 2052 and Art Source @ Perth

Artist: Nhawfal Juma'at

Artwork Title: An Inquisition into the Void Century

Proposed Medium: Paper Mache, Masking Tape, LED Tubes

Proposed Dimension: A Series of Three Sculptures at 100cm (Length) x 70cm (Width) x 220cm (Height)

Artwork Statement:

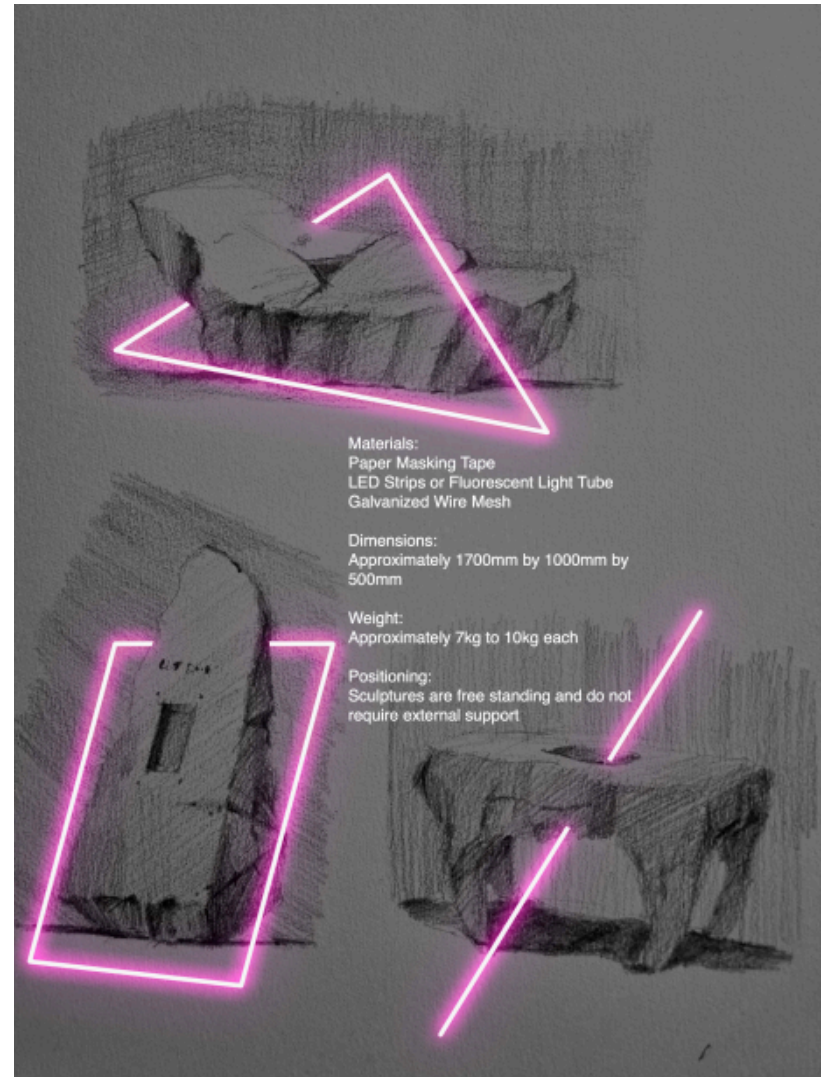
An Inquisition into the Void Century offers a speculative inquiry inspired by the lost ancient relic, Singapore Stone.

The Singapore Stone: re-discovered in June 1819 and was blown up in 1843 to widen the mouth of Singapore River was considered to contain information about Singapura's ancient past and possibly insights into a world left unknown; a world that was left into obscurity and ruins during the 17th Century.

Adopting the irony of materiality: **weight** (*as importance towards discovering and understanding a proto-colonial past/history*) and **permanence** (*socio-cultural meta monuments: with, across or after*); the series of sculptures would be a representation of what Singapore Stone could have contained; a spectrum of curiosities such as holding the secrets of a covenant, an expression of love or maybe, it could simply be a recipe.

Biography: Nhawfal Juma'at (b.1991) lives and works in Singapore. He received his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Fine Art from Loughborough University. Nhawfal has exhibited extensively in Singapore in group exhibitions, erected public installations and in recent years, embarked on a curatorial role with his recent project, Bridging Through the Age: An Intergenerational Collaborative Exhibition (2022) and Pneuma: Of Spirituality in a Contemporary Age (2020) in conjunction with Singapore Art Week 2022 and 2020 and have also curated Landscapes of Our Mind (2018), a form of advocacy for mental wellness, showcasing the works of beneficiaries from Club HEAL. Nhawfal is currently working as an adjunct lecturer at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts teaching studio modules such as oil painting and hand building in ceramics.

Proposed Sketch



Terry Wee (Singapore)

Biography

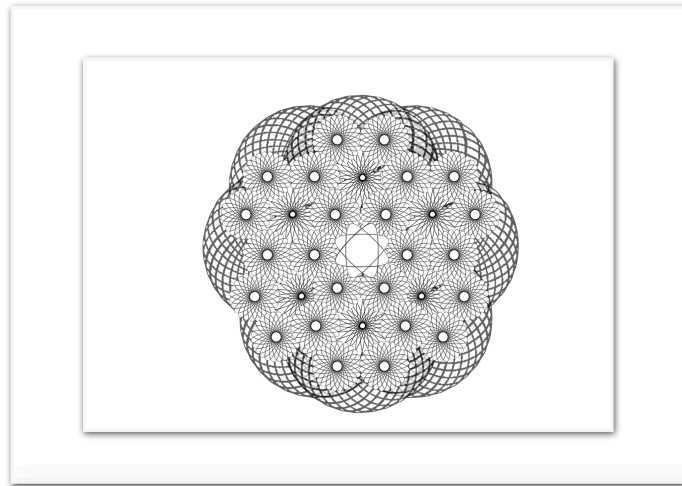
Terry Wee (br.1988, Singapore) is an inter-disciplinary visual artist who graduated from both Lasalle College of the Arts & Nanyang Academy of fine arts (Diploma & Degree in fine arts) in 2009 & 2015. Terry has a deep interest in abstraction & administrative work as a form of design. He sees these two as a love/hate relationship that co-exist within the same space where order & chaos meets. His interdisciplinary practice in painting/printmaking/digital drawings and paper sculptures allow him to explore various forms of abstraction on different platforms.

Proposal

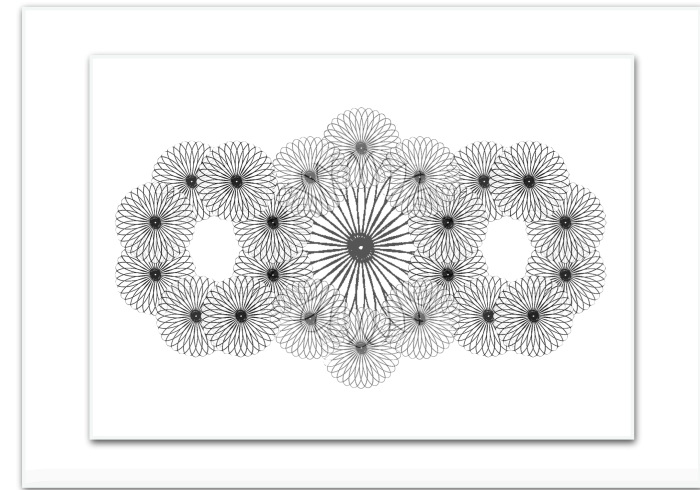
Terry Wee explore and researched on the motifs and narrative behind Singapore's Bank notes since the early 1900 "Straits Settlement Dollar" to mid 1900 "Malaya Dollar". He is particularly interested in the early 1900 banknotes and its transition for its early historical context of the British Colony with its relationship to other existing Malay States. During this period, the transformation & identity of these regions' economical images were largely influenced by the British Colonial system, which eventually demonetised other countries existing influences of trade by having it's own system of trade within the region.

Terry revisits the imagery of the British arrival and their first impressions printed on notes as a starting point on Singapore's first issued notes known as the "Strait Settlement Dollar". And in 1939, it was replaced by Malaya Dollar which features more on Singapore and the other Malay States. Both the placements in different coat of arms represents different states & Guilloche patterns inter-connects the different states. Terry would like to draw out the ripple effect and its familiar motifs of these states and its common interest together with the British Colony.

Sketches.



(1) Straits Settlements Currency (1899-1939)



(2) The Malayan Dollar (1939-1953)

- (1) Straits Settlements Currency (1899-1939)
Medium: Screen print acrylic on paper clay mount on wood panel
Size: 84.5 x 59.5 cm with panel
- (2) The Malayan Dollar (1939-1953)
Medium: Screen print acrylic on paper clay mount on wood panel
Size: 84.5 x 59.5 cm with panel

Xin Xiaochang
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Artist Biography

Xin Xiaochang is an artist whose work is informed by her cross-disciplinary background across art and design. Her artistic output mixes ceramics and other materials in sculptures, installations, and finely crafted media. They have been exhibited in numerous local and international shows, and several are now in private and corporate collections globally.

Xin's artistic practice engages with humour and play, constantly using Singapore as a context for her works. Notably, she was inducted into the Sculpture Society (Singapore) committee in 2014, a role that saw her active participation and organisation of activities and shows, curation of works, and overseas exchanges. She currently heads talent development initiatives at NAFA and lectures while continuing her creative practice.

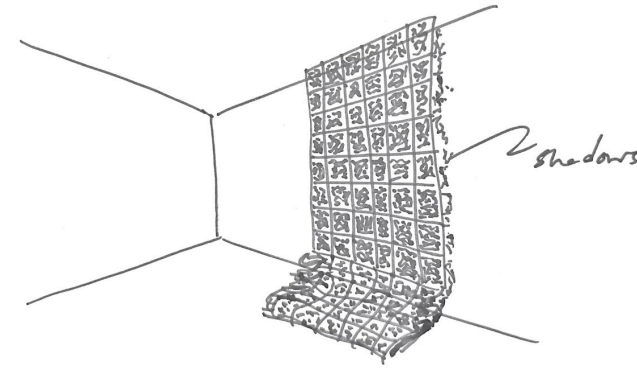
Artwork Proposal for *Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan*

Artwork Title: Interwoven Colonial Threads

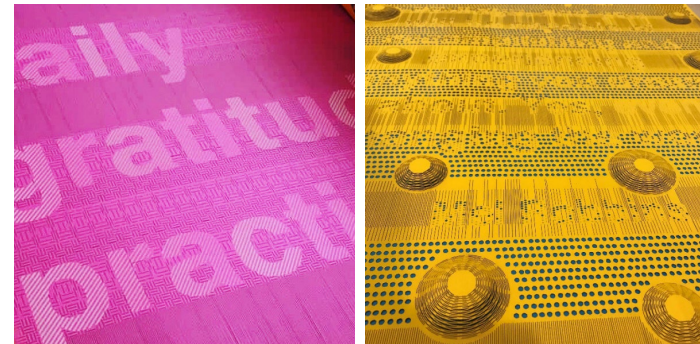
The free port in Singapore was a significant factor in shaping the cultural and social landscape of the region. It brought together people from different cultures, resulting in the emergence of a unique ethnic group known as the Peranakans. The Peranakans are a unique ethnic group that emerged from the intermarriage between Chinese, Indian, Malay, and Indonesian immigrants who settled in the region.

A collection of paper pieces, resembling a patchwork quilt, displays intricately cut Peranakan patterns created by machine laser cuts. These patterns, commonly referred to as "kebaya" or "batik," hold significant importance in the Peranakan cultural identity. They can be found in various aspects of Peranakan life, such as clothing, textiles, ceramics, and architecture. These designs symbolise the Peranakan community's cultural blend, incorporating Chinese, Malay, Indonesian, and European influences into a unique and distinct aesthetic.

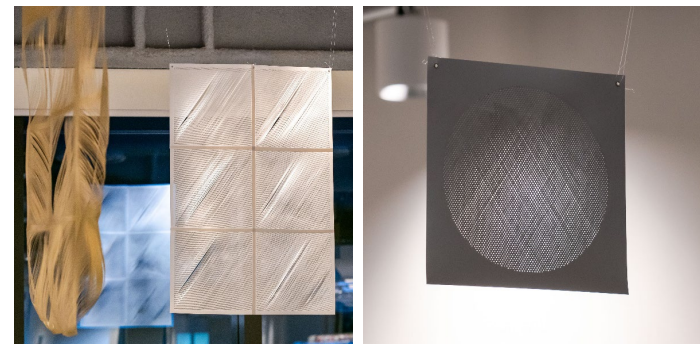
The Peranakans became a testament to the diversity and openness of Singapore, showcasing how the convergence of different traditions can lead to the creation of something entirely new and vibrant. Today, their legacy continues to be celebrated in Singapore and beyond, as their cultural contributions remain integral to the nation's history and heritage.



Sketch of the hanging artwork
Estimated Size: H 4m x W 1.5m



Past explorations with laser-cut paper



Past explorations with digital cut paper

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Tan Yen Peng was born in Singapore and studied in the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (1993), Birmingham University of Art and Design (1998), and Edinburgh College of Art (2004). She is currently pursuing PhD from the National Taiwan University of the Arts, and is focused on investigating the interplay between personal memory images, collective memory, and the archive within a digital-urban environment. Her artworks explore these themes with an autobiographical approach, often employing low-res images printed with common commercial machines as a way of articulating the prevalence of free images and their performative potentials.

Proposed artwork

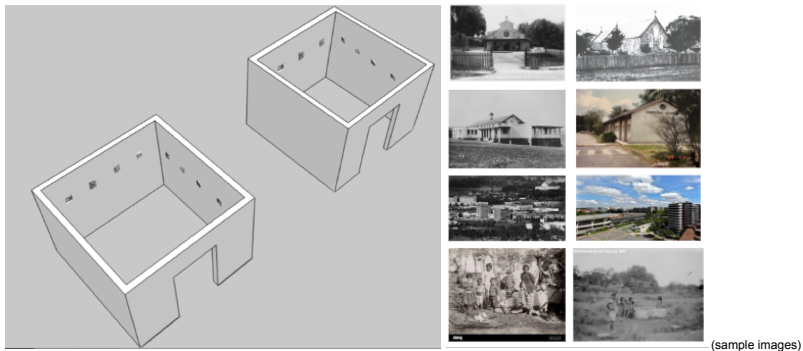
Title: Canberra Here, Here Canberra (tentative name)

Medium: digital prints on paper

Size: variable

The artwork *Canberra Here, Here Canberra* will continue the use of paper printed archival images acquired through online image and keyword search. The artist will explore nostalgic scenes of things and people and events from "Canberra Road" both in Singapore and in Australia. By digging into and juxtaposing two sets of archival images that came from the two individual places with interesting visual or semantic resemblances - which are otherwise mainly related through their commonwealth ties, the artist wishes to establish spatial-temporal imaginations and reestablish or unveil disappearing or diminished narratives.

Illustration:



Note: Display area is flexible: requires 2 adjacent rooms of oblong or square shape, with or without enclosure.

Yeo Chee Kiong

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Biography: Yeo Chee Kiong (b. 1970) is a contemporary sculptor and installation artist who is fascinated with the language and spatial relationship between object, space and authorship. His work destabilises the familiar notions of spatial proportions and perspectives, whilst examining the human conditions in the construction of an extended surreal world. As an alumnus of the Glasgow School of Art (UK) and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), his list of conferred awards and commendations include the NAFA Distinguished Alumni Medal for his outstanding achievement in Singapore art scene (2016), SG50 Commemorative Public Sculpture Competition, National Museum of Singapore (2015), JTC Green Core Public Sculpture Open Call (2014), the LTA Downtown Line Art Competition, ExpoStation (2012), Legacy Sculpture for Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Village Sculpture Competition, Grand prize for the APB Foundation Signature Art Prize (2008), NAC Young Artist Award (2006), 14th Asian Artists Award, VSC Fellowships (2006 – 2007), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts 68th Founder's Day Commendation Award (2006) and Grand prize for the 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award (2005). Yeo was also short-listed as one of the 25 outstanding finalists amongst a total of 574 international entries whilst participating in the International Competition for Young Sculptors in Milan, Italy in 2006.

Paper Trail – The “Overprint Stamp Project” in The Digital Age

Overprint Stamp Project

- The “*Overprint Stamp Project” revisits the changing of sovereignty during the Japanese occupation and the post WWII British Military Administration (BMA Malaya) through the administrative overprint gesture on a “1.3in by 1.8in printed chalk paper”.
- The advent of digital technology has both threatened the 180 years old philately's existence and sparked its new imagination towards the digital age.

A bigger than life-size 3D printed low relief “pixelated *stamp/stencil*” (approximately 130cm x 180cm) will be produced based on a selected historical stamp design during the British Settlement Era. It will be integrated with the QR Codes as the fundamental graphic pattern to imagine a futuristic stamp design as both the digital tokens and physical collector items. Through the exploration of the classical stamp printing process on paper, in combination with 3D Printing and laser marking, it is an experimental project in search of our personal message of the post-colonial era with digital tools.



Stamp issued during the Japanese occupation.



British Military Administration stamp overprinted "BMA MALAYA".



Concept Drawing of “Overprint Stamp Project”

*Overprint

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overprint>

An **overprint** is an additional layer of text or graphics added to the face of a [postage](#) or [revenue stamp](#), [postal stationery](#), [banknote](#) or [ticket](#) after it has been [printed](#).^{[2][3]} Post offices most often use overprints for internal administrative purposes such as accounting but they are also employed in public [mail](#). Well-recognized varieties include [commemorative](#) overprints which are produced for their public appeal and command significant interest in the field of [philately](#).^[4]