

39<sup>+</sup> ART SPACE

## PRESS RELEASE

### *Thinking About Abstraction*

A 2-part exhibition on Abstract Art curated by Dr. Charles Merewether. Part I features 9 contemporary Singaporean artists across generations.

On view from 18 August - 1 October 2023

# Thinking About Abstraction

Curated by Dr. Charles Merewether

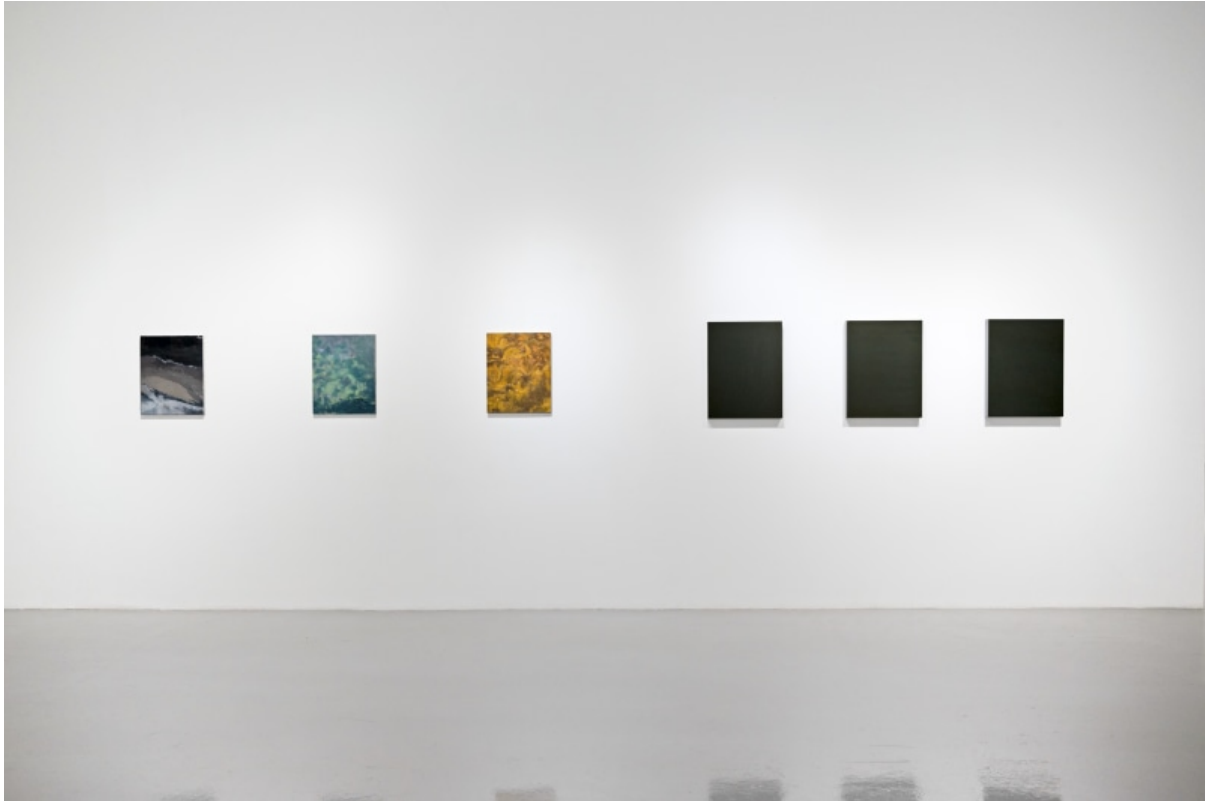
**Part I**

18 Aug -  
1 Oct 2023

Adeline Kueh / Aki Hassan  
Ashley Yeo / Cheong Kah Kit  
Hazel Lim / Ian Woo / Jeremy Sharma  
Milenko Prvacki / Wei Leng Tay

***“Abstract art offered a new visual language which could express this spirit of modernisation and independence – a sharp distinction from the reductive and essentialising beautiful and exotic depictions of before.”***

- Dr. Charles Merewether, *In The Mind's Eye - Thinking About Abstraction*

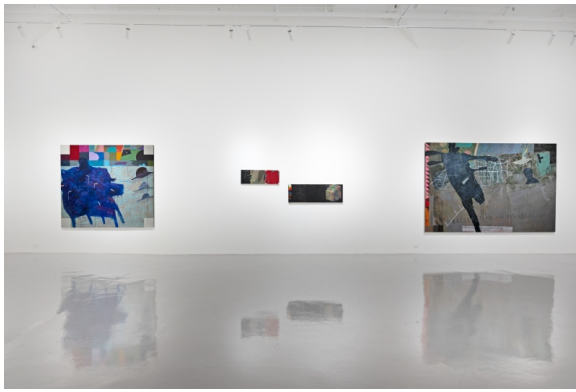


Installation view - Jeremy Sharma, *Wave*, 2023, *Cezanne Golf*, 2022, *Sun Burn*, 2023, *Untitled II (grey painting)*, *Untitled III (grey painting)*, *Untitled I (grey painting)*, 2013

39+ Art Space is thrilled to present Part I of a 2-part exhibition, *Thinking About Abstraction*, **the first major group presentation, a total of 17 Singaporean artists, shown in a commercial gallery in Singapore.** Part I runs from Friday, 18 August through to Sunday, 1 October 2023. The exhibition is curated by Dr Charles Merewether, former Director of the Biennale of Sydney (2004-2006) and Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore (2010-2013).

The exhibition will represent different generations of distinguished contemporary Singaporean artists, including some artists who range from the age of 30-70+ years old. For the first part, we're proud to be exhibiting 9 artists:

Milenko Prvacki, (1951), Ian Woo (1967), Adeline Kueh (1971), Hazel Lim (1975), Cheong Kah Kit (1976), Jeremy Sharma (1977), Wei Leng Tay (1978), Ashley Yeo (1990), and Aki Hassan (1995)



Left: Milenko Prvacki, *Abstraction For Beginners*, 2018, *Dark For Beginners*, 2023, *Abstraction for Beginners*, 2017, *Abstraction for Beginners*, 2021.

Right: Cheong Kah Kit, *Base*, 2022, Wei Leng Tay, *Untitled (ipoh street at night)*, 2023 and *Untitled (city grid from the sky)*, 2022.

***"Thinking about Abstraction', is intended to provoke the viewer to recognize the participation of the mind in thinking about the process of abstraction. This is both for the viewer and the artist. Using their hand and eye, artists work in dialogue with the process of thinking, that is a process that entails the additions, shifts and changes reached over the course of making a work of art."***

The concept of the exhibition *Thinking about Abstraction* offers the opportunity for viewers to see the ongoing vitality of abstraction across generations in Singapore. The exhibition is based on research made by the curator while living in Singapore and most recently, over a two-month period this year. As a result, the curator has shaped an exhibition that includes a broad range of Singaporean artists in order to show **the quality and shifting focus on forms of abstraction**, from painting, work on paper to work with textiles and sculpture. Some of these artists are rightly preeminent, having been honoured with a Singaporean Medallion or exhibited internationally.



There have been very few exhibitions about the tradition of abstraction in Singapore. By showing a full range of abstraction in Singapore, this broad-ranging exhibition will offer **the opportunity to appreciate the correspondences and ongoing dialogue with artists from Southeast Asia and Europe.**

***"The boundaries of abstraction are limitless and these artists offer material evidence of the potential."***

Installation view - Ian Woo, *Brain Is A Scroll*, 2015



Installation view

Background: Wei Leng Tay, *One full frame 135mm colour reversal film slide. "National Parks Board Of W.A." and*

*“18 The Shawl” printed on one side, and “KODACHROME DUPLICATE” and “MADE BY Kodak” on the other, of a heat-sealed cardboard slide mount. In a yellow plastic slide box. // 150x magnification. Full coaxial episcopic, and transmitted illumination. Fragmented. // 10 variable sizes on archival pigment print, 2022*

Foreground: Ashley Yeo, *Non*, 2020

### Opening Reception:

Thursday, 17 August, 4-7pm

All quotes are taken from *In The Mind's Eye - Thinking About Abstraction*, the accompanying exhibition essay by Dr. Charles Merewether. To read the full text, click [here](#).

More information can be found on our website [here](#).

Media assets may be found [here](#).

*Thinking About Abstraction* - Part I is **on view until 1 October 2023**.



For further information, interviews and images  
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Saturday - Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

By appointment only: Monday & Public Holidays  
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