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39⁺ ART SPACE

PRESS RELEASE

Part II of Thinking About Abstraction

The multi-generational vibrancy of abstraction in Singapore comes through the second time, flowing with high energy and high impact impressions by 8 contemporary local artists:

**Genevieve Chua | Ian Tee | Jane Lee | Kanchana Gupta
Keith Teo | Luke Heng | Valerie Ng | Wyn-Lyn Tan**

Curated by Dr Charles Merewether

On view from 6 October - 3 November 2023

An abstract painting featuring bold, gestural brushstrokes in vibrant colors like orange, red, blue, and black. The composition is dynamic and layered, with some areas appearing more textured than others.

Thinking About Abstraction

Curated by Dr. Charles Merewether

Part II
6 Oct -
3 Nov 2023

Genevieve Chua / Ian Tee
Jane Lee / Kanchana Gupta
Keith Teo / Luke Heng
Valerie Ng / Wyn-Lyn Tan

39+ Art Space unveils **Part II** of the two-part exhibition, *Thinking About Abstraction*. Welcoming all back for another round of exploration on abstraction through the lens of contemporary Singaporean artists across three generations.

We proudly showcase a new line-up of 8 Contemporary Local Artists:

Genevieve Chua (1984), Ian Tee (1994), Jane Lee (1963), Kanchana Gupta (1974)
Keith Teo (1992), Luke Heng (1987), Valerie Ng (1974), Wyn-Lyn Tan (1974)

Part II plays to the touch of tactility on paintings, adding upon layers of intentions through gestural movements, materials and mediums. Together in the gallery, the group show highlights various compositions, each beckoning the eyes of viewers to examine the whispers of an element. Inch closer to discover the tradition of abstraction presented in ways more than one. The multi-generational vibrancy of abstraction in Singapore flows through high energy, high impact impressions.

“The boundaries of abstraction are limitless and these artists offer material evidence of the potential.”

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



Kanchana Gupta, *Edges and Residues 31 - Steel Blue, Bright Blue and Paynes Grey and White*, 2023, Stacked oil paint skins burnt and stripped off jute and mounted on wooden structure, 56cm x 76cm

Trailing in the same curatorial direction by Dr Charles Merewether, former Director of the Biennale of Sydney (2004-2006) and Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore (2010-2013), the exhibition aims to promote the recognition of the vibrant and broadly-based tradition of abstraction in Singapore.



Left: Valerie Ng, *On Beige*, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 30.5 x 30.5 cm



Right: Ian Tee, *Fire Blanket 09*, 2020, fibre-glass fire blanket, bleach, old clothes, unwanted textile, reflective strip, polyester webbing, and seat belt, 123 x 123cm

The two-part exhibition showcases a total of 17 Singaporean artists.

Part I debuted with 9 artists: Adeline Kueh (1971), Aki Hassan (1995), Ashley Yeo (1990), Cheong Kah Kit (1976), Hazel Lim (1975), Ian Woo, Jeremy Sharma (1977), Milenko Prvacki (1951), Wei Leng Tay (1978), showcasing a variate of paintings, works on paper to work with textiles and sculptures. 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. Now, by showcasing a full range of abstraction in Singapore's art landscape, this broad-ranging exhibition will offer the opportunity to appreciate the correspondences and ongoing dialogue with artists from Southeast Asia and Europe.



Luke Heng, Non-Place, 2021

Opening Reception:

Thursday, 5 October, 4-7pm

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 of the Part II of Thinking About Abstraction can be found on our website [here](#).

More information of the Part I of Thinking About Abstraction can be found on our website [here](#).
All media assets may be found [here](#).

Thinking About Abstraction - Part II is **on view until 3 November 2023**.



For further information, interviews and images
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Opening Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 11am - 7pm
Saturday - Sunday: 12pm - 6pm

By appointment only: Monday & Public Holidays
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