

# 39+ ART SPACE

## PRESS RELEASE

### Singapore Art Week (SAW) 2024

#### **Özer Toraman: The Ocean in my Heart** **39+ Art Space at ART SG 2024**

*17 - 28 January 2024*

In 2023, 39+ Art Space had participated in 2 art fairs, exhibited in the gallery 5 international artists solo shows and a 2-part group show of 17 Singaporean artists. The year gave us in return, a splendid invigoration to continue our work providing a platform for promising emerging artists to be introduced to the local arts ecosystem.

Come SAW 2024, we are commemorating 39+ Art Space's 2nd year anniversary with our return to ART SG. Our presentation is a selection of works by intercontinental, all-female, contemporary artists: Anna Valdez (USA), BeChanida (Thailand), and Liang Manqi (China). Showing at the gallery first solo exhibition in Singapore, by Berlin-Istanbul based Turkish artist Özer Toraman: *The Ocean in my Heart*.



Installation view of *Thinking About Abstraction, Part I*

## Exhibition Overview

### **Özer Toraman: The Ocean in my Heart**

19 January - 17 March 2024

39+ Art Space is excited to host Özer Toraman's 1st solo exhibition in Singapore, *The Ocean in My Heart*.

Özer Toraman (b.1989) is a painter living between Istanbul and Berlin. He is known for his unique approach to landscape and portraiture, which sits between the figurative and the imaginary. Using photographs that he has taken while travelling the world as inspiration, Toraman creates works that are 'windows' to another realm. The artist's signature use of flat colour planes, combined with meticulously detailed features, shuns fixed meaning and invites viewers to impart personal significance onto each scene.

*The Ocean in my Heart*, invites viewers into a world where imagined landscapes blend with reality.

Inspired by photographs taken in different countries around the world, Toraman's paintings combine the imagined with the figurative, creating what the artist considers to be windows to another realm. Strolling figures and idyllic beach scenes become surreal in their isolation, while languid grassy picnics and intimate portraits become untethered to the limits of reality.

Through his focus on beach and sea-side scenes, Toraman's recent series draws on both his own travels and connection with the ocean, as well as the geography of Singapore itself. His palette is particularly fitting in that he opts for pastel hues as an instinctive link to his own childhood memories, with blue being particularly dominant across his works. For Toraman, blue allows him to "dream without limits," and further positions these vignettes as windows or glimpses into a dreamscape.

The exhibition is on view from 19 January to 17 March 2024.

#### **OPENING RECEPTION**

##### **In the presence of the artist**

Friday, 19 January | 4pm – 8pm

39+ Art Space, #03-01, 39 Keppel Road,  
Tanjong Pagar Distripark,  
Singapore 089065



Özer Toraman, artist image



Özer Toraman, *Whispering Sentiments 4*, 2022, oil on canvas, 35 x 45 cm



Özer Toraman, *Untitled*, 2023, oil on canvas, 130 x 225 cm

## 39+ Art Space at ART SG

18 - 21 January 2024



**Anna Valdez**  
**BeChanida**  
**Liang Manqi**

### **FUTURES, Booth FC08**

39+ Art Space is excited for our return to the second edition of ART SG showcasing a group presentation featuring **3 intercontinental female contemporary artists**: Anna Valdez (b. 1985, USA), BeChanida (b. 1975, Thailand), Liang Manqi (b. 1986, China) at **Booth FC08** in the **FUTURES** section at the second edition of ART SG. The show will comprise of paintings on canvas of gestural abstraction, geometry, and maximalist still life.

The presentation places the female artists in communication with their contemporary methods of abstraction painted through the lens from their inner expressions. Jointly, their work contextualises the broad ranging agency of women. Through moments of the familiar and act of being, the group show centres on their creative freedom: the discovery of it, and the actualisation to claim it.

Anna Valdez (b. 1985, USA) is a multi-disciplinary artist who examines the relationship between objects, cultural formation, and collective consciousness. Her still life pictures carefully composed by her surroundings, are heightened by saturated hues and surprising scale, offering viewers a respite into a joyful inner world.

BeChanida (b. 1975, Thailand) is a expressionist painter who developed through years of hearing what the heart truly desires. Now unbounded, the artist recaptures a playful and curious energy through her quick gestural brushstrokes in harmonizing complimentary hues. An unexplicable spontaniety in each gesture places the abstraction draws a narrative of renew in each layer.

In parallel, Liang Manqi (b. 1986, China) takes the geometrical shape and colour as a method to understand herself and her surroundings, as well as the passage to embrace the psychological uncertainty, contradiction, and conflict. The seemingly logical visual symbols on canvas are balanced through the artist's abundant sensibility and emotional order.



**VIP PREVIEW (BY INVITATION ONLY)**

Thursday, 18 January | 2pm – 5pm

**VERNISSAGE**

Thursday, 18 January | 5pm–9pm

**OPEN DAYS**

Friday, 19 January | 12pm – 7pm

Saturday, 20 January | 11am – 7pm

Sunday, 21 January | 11am – 5pm

Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre

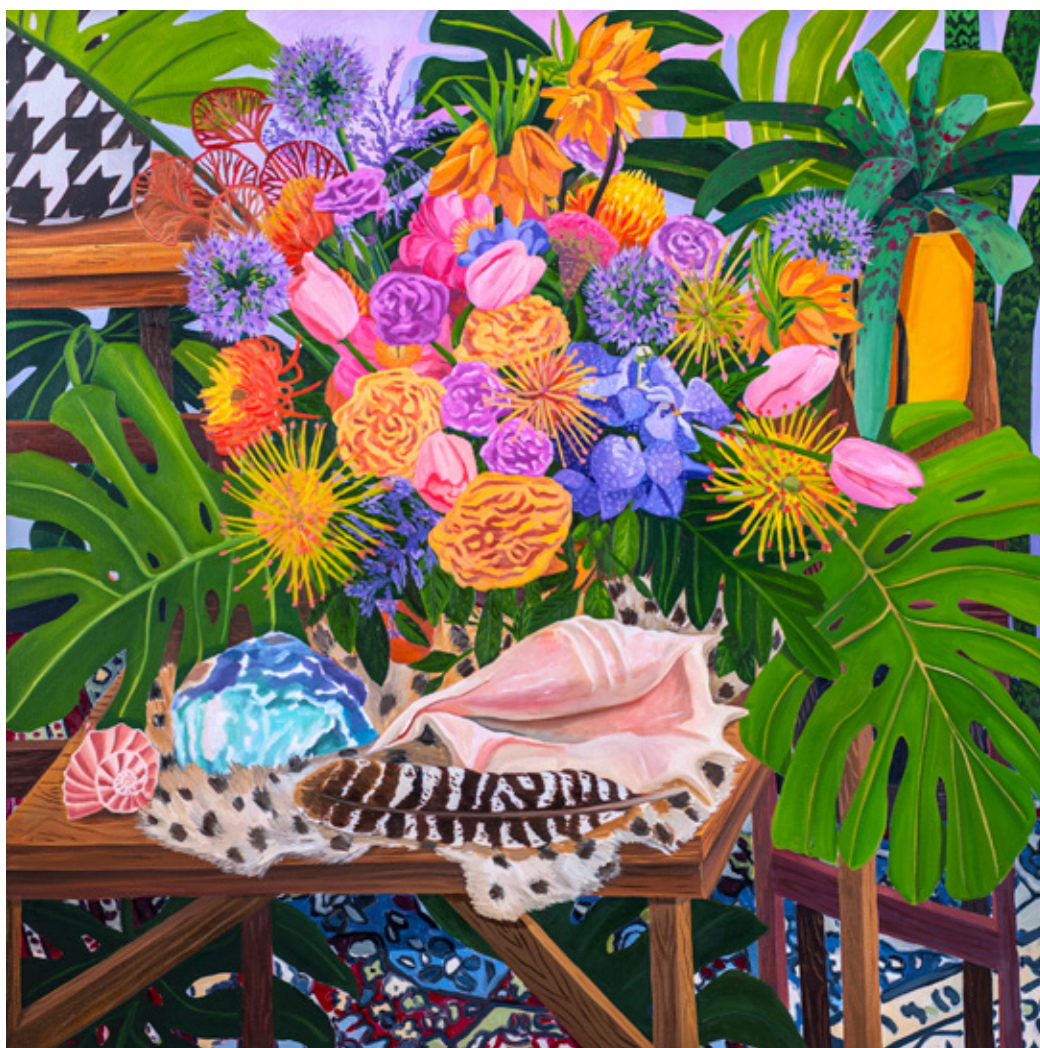
10 Bayfront Ave

Singapore 018956

For more information about the programme, please [click here](#).

Photo credit: Courtesy of the artist and 39+ Art Space

Text credit: Courtesy of 39+ Art Space



Anna Valdez, *Amelia's Flowers in March*, 2023, oil on canvas, 152.4 x 152.4 cm



Anna Valdez, *Ollie's Shrine*, 2023, oil on canvas, 152.4 x 121.9 cm



Anna Valdez, *Pond Landscape*, 2023, ceramic, 44.5 x 27.9 cm





BeChanida, Painting 15, 2023, acrylic and oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm



BeChanida, Painting 4, 2023, acrylic and oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm



Liang Manqi, *The Shape of Light*, 2018, oil on canvas, 200 x 160 cm



Liang Manqi, *The Conception of Parallel Event No.15*, 2023, 120 x 120 cm



## About the Gallery

39+ Art Space is a Singapore-based art gallery that focuses on showcasing internationally-established and emerging contemporary artworks and collections.

“We see 39+ Art Space as a nouveau platform to introduce and promote international artists across Asia, and to springboard Asian artists to the global stage - as well as to be a player in the secondary art market. We are delighted to collaborate with these artists to feature contemporary art pieces, as part of the opening premiere to new possibilities and engagement in art in Singapore from 39+Art Space.”

- Liu Ying Mei, Founder and Director of 39+ Art Space.

For more information about the programmes, please email [info@39-plus.com](mailto:info@39-plus.com)  
For hi-res images of all the programmes, please [click here](#).

**39+ ART SPACE**

39 Keppel Road, #03-01  
Tanjong Pagar Distripark  
Singapore 089065

Tuesday - Friday: 11–7pm; Saturday & Sunday: 12–6pm  
By appointment only: Monday & Public Holidays

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