

39<sup>+</sup> ART SPACE

**Ian Tee (b. 1994)**

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Ian Tee's practice is concerned with abstraction as a social space. For him, it is a method of thinking about formal qualities and its relationship with various cultural contexts. He works across a range of materials such as collage, aluminum, and textiles. The different bodies of work all take the history of painting as a point of reference. This could be collapsing quilting and geometric abstraction in the Fire Blanket series; or combining the sensibilities of gestural painting and comic book aesthetics in the Moby Dick works. The goal is to propose new ways of understanding aesthetic narratives and the field of painting. It has to do with the experience of seeing as well as how we "read" a painting.

The notion of youth is another aspect of Tee's practice, particularly in relation to themes of rebellion, vulnerability, and identity. They manifest in the energy and visual language of youth subcultures, that appear across his body of work. The attitude carried is a statement about power, defiance, and possibility. This interest in youth has also taken form in his curatorial project 'We're Young Once' (2022), a group exhibition that gathers key early works by Singapore artists across generation. It is premised around the experience of being a young artist at different points of time, and considers a non-hierarchical mode of framing Singapore art history.

Tee graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2018. His work has been exhibited in exhibitions across Singapore, Sydney, Jakarta and Tianjin, such as at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Grey Projects, and The Private Museum. He was a recipient of the Ngee Ann Kongsi scholarship and winner of the 2017 Cliftons Art Prize for Singapore. Recently, he received an Honourable Mention at the 2023 IMPART Awards, in recognition for his curatorial project 'We're Young Once' (2022). In addition to his studio practice, Tee is also Associate Editor at Art & Market (A&M). A&M is a online journalistic platform focused on modern and contemporary art from the vantage point of Southeast Asia.

Tee is represented by Yavuz Gallery.

## Ian Tee (b.1994)

### EDUCATION

2015-18 LASALLE College of the Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts

### SELCECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *MOBY DICK (I AM THE DEVIL IN YOUR HEART)*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2021 *KILL YOUR DARLINGS*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2019 *SWEET DREAMS*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 *The Unfaithful Octopus*, curated by Roger Nelson, MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai, Thailand

2023 *The Unfaithful Octopus*, curated by Roger Nelson, NTU ADM Gallery, Singapore

2023 *Thinking About Abstraction Part II*, curated by Dr. Charles Merewether, 39+ Art Space, Singapore

2023 *Artist Conference (1)*, Comma Space, Singapore

2022 *chance constellations*, S.E.A. Focus Curated, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2022 *We're Young Once*, Art Agenda @ 63 Spottiswoode, Singapore

2021 *hyper-horizon*, S.E.A. Focus Curated, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2021 *Flesh and Spirit: Selections from the Linda Neo and Albert Lim Collection*, Primz Gallery, Singapore

2020 *Closer than they appear*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2020 *A Decade Apart/ Together*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore

2020 *Coda Culture Opening Party Show*, Coda Culture at 67 Aliwal Street, Singapore

2020 *Emerging: Collecting Singapore Contemporary – Selections from the DUO Collection*, The Private Museum, Singapore

2019 *Sydney Contemporary*, Yavuz Gallery, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia

2019 *Art Jakarta*, Yavuz Gallery, JCC Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia

2019 *Art Fair Philippines*, Yavuz Gallery, Makati, Philippines

2018 *SPACES*, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

2018 *The Direction I Rub One Matters*, Grey Projects, Singapore

2018 *To leave home is already half the journey*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore

2017 *Cliftons Art Prize Exhibition*, Singapore

2017 *Tomorrow Is An Island by Jason Wee*, NTU CCA Residency Studios, Gillman Barracks, Singapore

2016 *Group Exhibition of ASEAN-China Academies of Fine Arts*, Art Gallery of Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, Tianjin, China

- 2016 *Angelico Art Award Exhibition (Finalist)*, Triple.Two Artspace, Singapore
- 2015 *DRIVE Public Art Festival*, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
- 2014 *NOISE Singapore Festival*, Ion Orchard, Singapore
- 2012 *REDRESS: Stop the Traffic Art Exhibition and Auction*, Ion Art, Singapore
- 2010 *Is That A Temple?*, Evil Empire Gallery, Singapore

## REVIEWS/PRESS

- 2023 Singh, Tanya. "Artist Spotlight: Ian Tee explores themes of rebellion and identity in his multi-dimensional work" *Time Out*. 1 April 2023.
- 2023 Yusof, Helmi. "Mining the past for artistic inspiration" *The Business Times*. 16 March 2023.
- 2023 Sim, Arthur. "Next-generation art curators get recognition for their work" *The Straits Times*. 15 March 2023.
- 2022 Yusof, Helmi. "Defining Trends of Singapore Art Week" *The Business Times*. 20 January 2022.
- 2022 Keng, Yang Shuen. "Singapore Art Week 2022 Highlights" *FEMALE*. 10 January 2022.
- 2022 Yusof, Helmi. "Art makes a roaring return." *The Business Times*. 7 January 2022.
- 2021 Yusof, Helmi. "Art for all. Prominent collectors turn art advocates to promote Asian talents." *The Business Times*. 5 February 2021.
- 2021 Yusof, Helmi. "Millennials are Taking Over Art – and They Don't give a Shit About Your Fuddy Duddy Values" *Plural Art Magazine*. 29 January 2021.
- 2021 Moldan, Tessa. "S.E.A. Focus Connects Southeast Asia with Hybrid Format" *Ocula Magazine*. 26 January 2021.
- 2021 Yusof, Helmi. "Up close and personal with art" *The Business Times*. 21 January 2021.
- 2021 Uttam, Payal. "In Singapore, galleries are coming together to celebrate art – in person" *Art Basel*. 20 January 2021.
- 2020 Yusof, Helmi. "Young, bold voices at Gillman Barracks" *The Business Times*. 11 September 2020.
- 2020 Ng, Siang Ping. "80及90后艺术家联展 用艺术语言对话" *Lianhe Zaobao*. 5 September 2020.
- 2020 Ho, See Wah. "'A Decade Apart / Together' at Richard Koh Fine Art" *Art & Market*. 26 August 2020.
- 2019 Yee, Marcus. "With Scars: On 'Sweet Dreams' by Ian Tee" *Art & Market*. 4 March. 2019.
- 2018 Inandiak, Elisabeth. "Singapura-Muarajambi: Timbal Balik" (Singapore-Muara Jambi: A Reciprocal Journey) *Tempo* (Indonesia) 18 February 2018: 64-65.

## CATALOGUES/TEXTS

- 2022 Tee, Ian. *Origin Stories*. Singapore: Art Agenda S.E.A., 2022. Catalogue published in conjunction with 'We're Young Once'
- 2020 Tan, Siuli. *Flesh and Spirit*. Singapore: Primz Gallery, 2020. E-catalogue published in conjunction with 'Flesh and Spirit: Selections from the Linda Neo and Albert Lim Collection'
- 2020 Tan, Euginia. *What We Make of Time*. Singapore: Richard Koh Fine Art, 2020. E-catalogue published in conjunction with the group exhibition 'A Decade Apart / Together'
- 2020 Tsui, Denise, ed. *et al, Collected Writings by Artists on Artists*, 2020. Hong Kong: Cobo Social, 2020. Essay 'In Memory of My Feelings, on Jasper Johns' on pp 94-99.
- 2020 Fam, Andrea. *Emergent Connections in an Interlocked/ing Art Ecosystem*, 2020. Singapore: The Private Museum, 2020. Exhibition catalogue published in conjunction with the group exhibition 'Emerging: Collecting Singapore Contemporary – Selections from the DUO Collection'
- 2019 Grey Projects. *The Direction I Rub One Matters*. Singapore: Grey Projects, 2019. Exhibition catalogue with text by Jason Wee and artist talk transcript.

## AWARDS

- 2023 IMPART Art Prize, Honourable Mention (Curator)
- 2018 LASALLE Award for Academic Excellence
- 2017 Cliftons Art Prize (Singapore)
- 2017 Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship
- 2016 LASALLE Scholarship

# 39+ ART SPACE

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

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Tuesday - Friday: 11–7pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 12–6pm  
Closed on Monday & Public Holidays

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