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Release Immediate

Press Release

1998

Ian Woo



Ian Woo, *Finger food*, 1998, Acrylic on canvas, H77 x W102 cm

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| Exhibition Period | 20 May – 22 July 2023 |
| Opening Reception | Saturday, 20 May 2023, 4 – 7 pm The Artist will be in attendance. Registration essential. RSVP with info@fostgallery.com |
| Talk | In Conversation: Ian Woo and Sherman Sam Saturday, 03 June 2023, 3 – 4 pm |
| About the Exhibition | FOST Gallery is delighted to present <i>1998</i> , featuring the early works of Ian Woo leading up to his first solo show at LASALLE Gallery in 2000. |

The idea stemmed from a conversation between Woo and the artist Sherman Mern Tat Sam over an early painting, *Finger food* (1998), which Woo chanced upon in the midst of a studio renovation. Looking at the painting, Woo found himself intrigued by the idea that he was both a stranger and a friend to the work and his younger self. Moves, he thought, that have been forgotten, colours that now seem unusual in its pairings; more important is the almost flat ground relation to the appearance of a sequence of things, hovering, never quite congealing as form.

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/Gallery
/Education
/Advisory



The works in the show span a five-year period, 1997-2001, when Woo returned to Singapore from England, and before embarking in 2006 on his doctorate between Singapore and Melbourne. We could regard these paintings as bearing the gestures of a young painter in transition, marks that, Woo now thinks, reveal the intimacy of anxiety, doubts and forms presented as sets of questions to the viewer. Is it a painting about pictures? Are they things in a house? Can we call them still lifes? Is the artist making a picture about what he cannot explain and see?

These early paintings provide an insight into the development of Woo's thinking around abstraction.

The selection of paintings and exhibition essay are by Sherman Mern Tat Sam.

About the Artist

Ian Woo is an artist working in the language of abstraction. Influenced by forms of modernism, perceptual abstraction and the sound structures of music improvisation, his work is characterised by a sense of gravitational and representational change. He often uses the term 'picture making' when describing his position and approach, maintaining the discipline of painting as a vehicle for pictorial reflectivity.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Joy of a preverbal dispenser* at FOST Gallery, Singapore (2020), *Emotional Things* at The Esplanade Tunnel, Singapore (2018). Selected group exhibitions include *Strange forms of life* and *On time* at STPI Creative Workshop and Gallery, Singapore (2020/2021).

His works are in the collection of major institutions such as ABN AMRO, Singapore Art Museum, The Istana Singapore, The National Gallery Singapore, Suzhou Center, UBS, and the Mint Museum of Craft & Design, USA.

Woo's paintings have been featured in the publication *Art Cities of the Future: 21st Century Avant-Gardes*, published by Phaidon in 2013.

Woo lives and works in Singapore.

Selected Images

Ian Woo
Earthquake interiors
1998
Oil on canvas
H91.5 x W102 cm



Ian Woo
Fluctuations
1999
Acrylic on canvas
H120 x W120 cm

Location

FOST Gallery
1 Lock Road
#01-02, Gillman Barracks
Singapore 108932

MRT

Labrador Park

Bus

Opposite Alexandra Point: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e, 100, 166, 175, 963 or 963e

Gallery Hours

Tue–Sat: 11am–7pm
Sun/Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment

Admission

Free

Enquiries

Call +65 6694 3080 or e-mail info@fostgallery.com

NB: More images can be furnished upon request.