

Press Release

TRUTH BE TOLD: Recent thotz abt painting ppl

Yeo Tze Yang



Yeo Tze Yang, (L) *Lovers On The Train*, 2021, Oil on canvas, H152 x W122 cm; (R) *Sleeping Dog*, 2022, Oil on canvas, H122 x W92 cm

Exhibition Period 21 May – 23 July 2022

Opening Reception Saturday, 21 May 2022, 4 – 7pm
The Artist and Curator will be in attendance. Registration essential.

About the Exhibition FOST Gallery is delighted to announce a solo exhibition by Yeo Tze Yang, featuring 17 works on paper and 20 paintings made in the last two years. *TRUTH BE TOLD: Recent thotz abt painting ppl* marks the tenth year of the self-taught painter's professional art practice whereupon he reflects candidly on the beginnings of his artistic journey, as well as a review of where he stands at this very moment.

Tze Yang's reputation as an artist who is able to convey the sublime in the everyday has often led his viewers to expect a level of truthfulness in his street scenes of ordinary people, places and objects. But portraiture during a pandemic requires some deft conjuring on the part of the artist, even if his past paintings have never been merely mimetic of reality. So instead of seeing limitations, Tze Yang seized the opportunity to be playful within the realm of Realism. Thus some faces are based on composites from his photographs (surreptitiously taken) of masked strangers and random faces he found by searching the internet; and some bodies have limbs visually stitched from another person. As a representational painter, he contemplates if such paintings might still be considered "portraits"? And how far can the truth be stretched for the viewer?

Like the ironic main title of the exhibition, the semi-standardised abbreviations of "thoughts", "about" and "people" in the sub-title convey the same tongue-in-cheek humour. It references "textisms", spelling conventions used in SMS text messaging; the quintessential form of communication today. The "textisms" belie the fact that the people and places depicted in Tze Yang's paintings are the

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antithesis of the glamorous (often fabricated) lives people tend to post on social media. The dishonesty in the sub-title continues since the paintings in the exhibition are not just about people, there are paintings of animals and objects.

The exhibition as a review of his practice thus far, is alluded to by the juxtaposition of his works on paper from his sketchpad and his larger paintings, like a train of thought still in motion. And interspersed amongst the artworks throughout the exhibition space are notes, quotes and colloquialisms collected over the years, in English, Chinese and Malay, all of which Tze Yang is fluent in.

Stephanie Fong, Founding Director of FOST Gallery, states:

“I am very pleased to be finally working with Tze Yang. I have been watching his practice ever since he won the Silver Award at the UOB Painting of the Year in 2016. His paintings of everyday life evoke a gamut of human emotions, which go beyond who we are and where we come from.”

Yeo Tze Yang says in 2019:

“I [want] a simplicity to the approach of my paintings, one that didn’t require a deep knowledge of art and art history to understand, but only required the heart; to feel, as that was the very way I approach the paintings too.”

About the Artist

YEO Tze Yang (b. 1994; Singapore) is a visual artist with a primary focus on representational painting. He was conferred the Silver Award, UOB Painting of the Year in 2016. He graduated from the National University of Singapore in Southeast Asian Studies in 2019.

Tze Yang makes art about the human experience through depictions of the unnoticed; observing people, places and objects in his immediate surroundings. A self-taught painter, he allows his ideas to emerge self-reflexively with the focus on “getting the work done” first.

As a painter of daily life, Tze Yang takes his cues from art movements like Realism in painting, film, photography and literature. The artist sees his practice as an opportunity to explore, question and toy with the orthodoxies and expectations of him as a figurative painter.

Painting is the trunk of the tree that is Tze Yang's artistic practice, from which he branches into non-painting mediums such as electronic media and writing. The result of such a process is an accumulation of images, thoughts, emotions, stories and memories that in turn become allegories of both the artist's life and the stories that his audiences weave into his works.

Tze Yang's works have been exhibited extensively in Singapore, including The Substation, the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and has shown regionally. His works are part of the National University of Singapore collection and the UOB collection as well as private collections in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Selected Images


YEO Tze Yang
Maggi Mee
2022
Oil on canvas
H76 x W76 cm



YEO Tze Yang
Roast
2020
Watercolour, marker, pen, ink and highlighter
on paper
H21 x W29.7 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: 11 am–7 pm
Sun/Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment

Admission

Free

Visitor Registration

www.fostgallery.as.me/schedule.php

Enquiries

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

NB: More images can be furnished upon request.