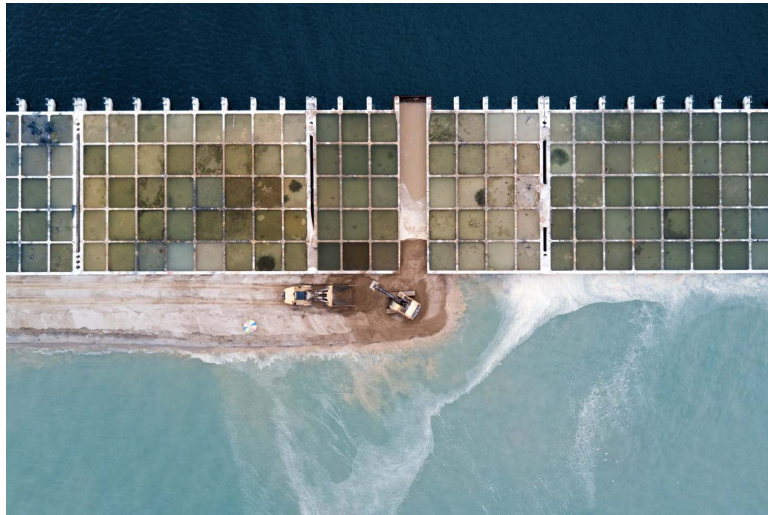


## Press Release

### ***The Lie of the Land***

Kray Chen | Zul Mahmud | Donna Ong | Ong Si Hui | Sim Chi Yin | Ian Woo



SIM Chi Yin, *Shifting sands #2*, 2017, Inkjet on cotton rag paper, H24 x W36" (image),  
Edition of 10 + 2 AP

---

#### Exhibition Period

07 August – 17 October 2021

#### About the Exhibition

To understand the lie of the land, we often need to conduct surveys and make assessments, both physical and metaphysical.

Like an aerial surveyor, selected photographs from Sim Chi Yin's *Shifting Sands* (2017-ongoing) document the reclamation project of the new container port at Tuas. Seen from high above, the construction site becomes a textured abstract in one photograph and a graphic grid in another; divorced from the grit and dust of the massive effort below. 195 years after Sir Stamford Raffles approved the first reclamation project for the new commercial centre of his new port, trade continues to be Singapore's *raison d'etre*.

We had always found ways to use what the earth proffers, be they to extend our coastlines, adorn ourselves with precious stones, or create artworks, like Ong Si Hui's geometric Bianco Carrara marble sculptures. They were meticulously carved by hand and honed to a perfectly smooth finish. Each rests on specific points of their structures. Precarious but in absolute balance and stillness; they are both apropos and antithetic to the current state of global affairs.

With land scarcity and competing priorities in this city-state, not least one touted to be a "garden city", both urban and landscape planning are of utmost importance in policy-making. The 'constructed landscape' is sometimes brought to the fore in semi-public spaces too. Donna Ong's photographs (*My Forest Has No Name* series) of a gushing waterfall and a tropical forest are really located in the Botanic Gardens and the Singapore Zoo.

---

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

Telephone 65 6694 3080  
E-mail [info@fostgallery.com](mailto:info@fostgallery.com)  
Website [www.fostgallery.com](http://www.fostgallery.com)

/Gallery  
/Education  
/Advisory



---

Kray Chen's video *A Parade for the Paraders* of former Singapore Armed Forces military band members playing in a decommissioned school building, hints not just at nostalgia and memory since all began their music careers in school, but at the continual redevelopment and repurposing of buildings. Apt too since military displays are so much a part of the annual National Day celebrations, postponed this year because of Covid restrictions. And now that most of the glass office skyscrapers are mostly empty because of work-from-home mandates, the tinkering sounds made by Zulkifli Mahmud's sound installations *No Substance (Trunk)*, pings more hollow than before. Yet flags and bunting still flutter, like Ian Woo's *Flag-installation* painted on thick plywood structures with a sloping surface; dynamic yet steadfast.

As Singapore celebrates her 56-year of independence in the midst of a pandemic, we remember what this land holds for us.

---

#### About the Artists

**Kray CHEN** (b. 1987, Singapore) completed his MA in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore (in partnership with Goldsmith's College of Art). Chen's practice largely deals with the lived experience and body politics, reflecting on the body and the Self within the economical machine, observing the fissures and ruptures of the psyche arising from the parallel quests to progress and to conserve.

His solo exhibitions include *Hot Temple*, FOST Gallery, Singapore (2020), *5 Rehearsals of a Wedding*, Objectifs Chapel Gallery, Singapore (2018), *It's a Set Situation*, Grey Projects, Singapore (2016), *1-Prize*, The Institute of Contemporary Art Singapore (2013). Group shows include the *Singapore Biennale* (2019), the inaugural *Bangkok Art Biennale* (2018), *China Remixed Initiative*, Indiana University Bloomington, USA (2017), *The Pleasure of Improbable Placements*, La Casa De Cultura Des Bernardes, Spain (2014), *Paradis Sans Promesse*, FRAC Des Pays De La Loire, France (2015).

Chen has participated in the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Residency (2016) in Singapore, the FRAC Des Pays De La Loire residency in Nantes, France (2015), and the Hangar residency in Barcelona, Spain (2014). In 2017, he won the *Young Artist Award*, conferred by the National Arts Council, Singapore, to encourage the development of young artistic talents in Singapore. It is Singapore's highest award for young art practitioners, aged 35 years and below in the year of the award, whose artistic achievements and commitment have distinguished them among their peers.

Chen lives and works in Singapore.

---

---

**Zul Mahmud** (b. 1975, Singapore) is one of Singapore's leading sound artists. Zul has been at the forefront of a generation of sound-media artists in the country's contemporary art development – one of the genres of international contemporary art-making that has been garnering interest for its interdisciplinary approach and experimental edge. He has built a reputation for integrating three-dimensional forms with 'sound constructions' and 'sound-scapes', often crossing genres and working in collaboration with other artists.

Zul has exhibited extensively in Singapore, Thailand, Germany, Japan, Vietnam, Italy, Moscow, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Norway and Finland. Zul represented Singapore with a sound art performance at the *Ogaki Biennale* in 2006, a sound sculpture at the Singapore Pavilion of the *52nd Venice Biennale* in 2007. In 2017, he was part of *Singapore: Inside Out*, a showcase of creative talents which travelled to in Beijing, London, New York, and Tokyo; and *SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now* at the Mori Art Museum.

Other notable achievements include the commission of industrial-sound inspired soundtrack in conjunction with an Antoni Tàpies exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum in 2005; the appointment as trophy designer for the inaugural Singtel F1 Grand Prix Night Race; and winning the *Straits Time Life! Theatre Award* in 2010 for Best Sound Design (RPM by Kafai/Theatreworks). In early 2017, Zul was awarded the special honorary award, the *Soichiro Fukutake Prize* by Benesse Holding Inc for *SONICreflection*, commissioned for *Singapore Biennale 2016: An Atlas of Mirrors*. He was commissioned to install the site-specific public sound sculpture *Sonic Pathway* at Mapletree Business City in 2017.

Zul lives and works in Singapore.

---

**Donna ONG** (b. 1978, Singapore) is an installation artist from Singapore, best known for her evocative and thought-provoking environments made from furniture, found objects and original artwork. She has exhibited at the inaugural Singapore Biennale (2007), Jakarta Biennale (2009), Kwandu Biennale (2008), 2<sup>nd</sup> Moscow Biennale (2007), Moscow Biennale of Young Art (2014), Thailand Biennale (2018) and the Children's Biennale at the National Gallery Singapore (2019).

Her installations have appeared in museums and institutions worldwide, such as the Singapore Art Museum, National Museum of Singapore, Hara Museum (Japan) and the Djanogly Art Gallery in Nottingham University (UK). In 2009, she received the Singapore National Arts Council Young Artist Award. In the same year, she also won the People's Choice award for the President's Young Talent Competition. While pursuing her Bachelor's degrees in Fine Art and Architecture at Goldsmith's College (UK) and University College London (UCL) respectively, she was conferred several awards

---

---

and prizes such as UCL's Singapore Undergraduate Scholarship, the Shell-NAC Undergraduate Scholarship and the Architectural Theory Prize. She recently completed a Masters degree in Fine Art at Lasalle College (Singapore) where she graduated at the top of her cohort.

She has participated in several prestigious art residencies such as Arts Initiative Tokyo (Japan), Koganecho Bazaar (Yokohama, Japan), Singapore Tyler Print Institute (Singapore), Kunstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin, Germany) and Krinzinger Projekte (Vienna, Austria). In 2018, she presented a major new work *My forest is not your garden* (2016-2018), in collaboration with Singapore-based artist Robert Zhao Renhui for the 9- Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (Australia).

Ong lives and works in Singapore.

---

**ONG Si Hui** (b. 1993, Singapore) is a visual artist based in Singapore. She is a trained sculptor from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore, and a recent graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts.

Working extensively in stones, she explores the spirit of the medium through slow and meticulous hand carving processes. The geometric forms and text-oriented works are often manifestations of her stream of consciousness.

Recent solo exhibitions include *To Stay Tender*, Comma Space, Singapore (2021), and *LUCKY show*, an experimental solo-collective presentation at Lucky Plaza, Singapore (2018). Selected group participations include *Intent*, Incline, I\_S\_L\_A\_N\_D\_S, Singapore (2020), *Session #9: Ong Si Hui + Racy Lim*, Peninsular, Singapore (2020), *The Fabric of Sympathy*, Brother Joseph McNally Gallery, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore (2020), and *ONLY CONNECT OSAKA*, ONLY CONNECT, Creative Centre Osaka, Japan (2019).

---

**SIM Chi Yin** (b. 1978, Singapore) is an artist from Singapore whose research-based practice includes photography, moving image, archival interventions, and text-based performance, focusing on history, conflict, memory, and extraction.

An exhibition of selected works from *One Day We'll Understand* debuted at the photography festival *Rencontres d'Arles 2021*. Recent solo exhibitions include *One Day We'll Understand*, Landskrona Foto Festival, Sweden (2020), *One Day We'll Understand*, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong (2019), *Most People Were Silent*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore (2018), and *Fallout*, Nobel Peace Museum, Oslo (2017). Her work has been included in group shows, such as *Most People Were Silent*, Aesthetica Art Prize, York Art Gallery,

---

---

UK (2019); *UnAuthorised Medium*, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2018); *Relics*, Jendela (Visual Arts Space), The Esplanade, Singapore (2018); and the 15<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial, Turkey (2017). In 2017, Sim was commissioned as the Nobel Peace Prize photographer. In 2020, she was also nominated for the Vera List Center's Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice, and shortlisted as a finalist for the Tim Hetherington Trust Visionary Award.

Sim lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

---

**Ian WOO** (b. 1967, Singapore) is an artist influenced by forms of modernism, perceptual abstraction and the sound structures of music improvisation. His paintings, painted objects and drawings are characterised by a sense of gravitational and representational change. Each work often bears signs in which the function of image is seen as a diagrammatic guide towards consciousness. His use of frames, axis and invisible grids as starting points to build upon his work has led to the development of his 'compartments and systems' approach to understanding a painted space as activated time.

Woo's work is in the collection of major institutions such as ABN AMRO, Singapore Art Museum, The Istana Singapore, National Gallery Singapore, Suzhou Center, UBS and the Mint Museum of Craft & Design, USA. His paintings are featured in the publication *Art Cities of the Future: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Avant-Gardes*, a publication by Phaidon in 2013. Since 2016, he has been part of *Impermanent Durations: On Painting and Time*, an artist collaborative with Beth Harland, David Thomas and Laura Lisbon.

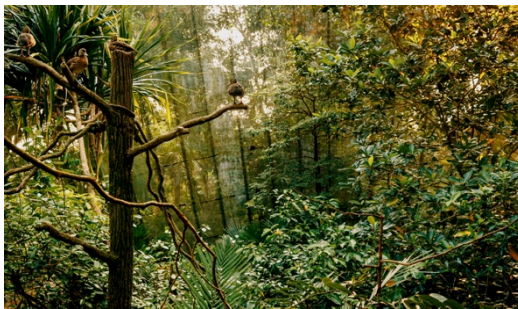
Woo lives and works in Singapore.

---

---

**Selected Images**


Kray CHEN  
*A Parade for the Paraders*  
 2018  
 3-channel video (synchronized)  
 00:14:00 / 16:9  
 Edition of 3 + 1 AP (video still)



Donna ONG  
*My Forest Has No Name (xxxiv)*  
 2014 (Ongoing)  
 Diasec print  
 H35 x W60 x D3.2 cm  
 Edition of 3 + 1 AP



ONG Si Hui  
*Moth (that flies by day): Like clockwork*  
 2018  
 Bianco Carrara marble  
 Ø7 x L65 cm



Zulkifile Mahmud  
*No Substance (Trunk) 1*  
 2014/2019  
 Solenoids, science apparatus, microcontroller,  
 midi player and metal (00:10:00)  
 Dimensions variable; H100 x W85 x D50.5 cm  
 (trunk)



Ian WOO  
*(Flag - Installation) Curtain*  
 2019  
 Acrylic on wood  
 H53.5 x W43.5 x D5.5 cm

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>             | FOST Gallery<br>1 Lock Road<br>#01-02, Gillman Barracks<br>Singapore 108932                 |
| <b>MRT</b>                  | Labrador Park   |
| <b>Bus</b>                  | Opposite Alexandra Point: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e, 100, 166, 175, 963 or 963e               |
| <b>Gallery Hours</b>        | Tue-Sat: 11am-7pm<br>Sun: 11am-6pm<br><br>Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment                  |
| <b>Admission</b>            | Free  |
| <b>Visitor Registration</b> | <a href="http://www.fostgallery.as.me/schedule.php">www.fostgallery.as.me/schedule.php</a>  |
| <b>Enquiries</b>            | Call +65 6694 3080 or e-mail <a href="mailto:info@fostgallery.com">info@fostgallery.com</a> |