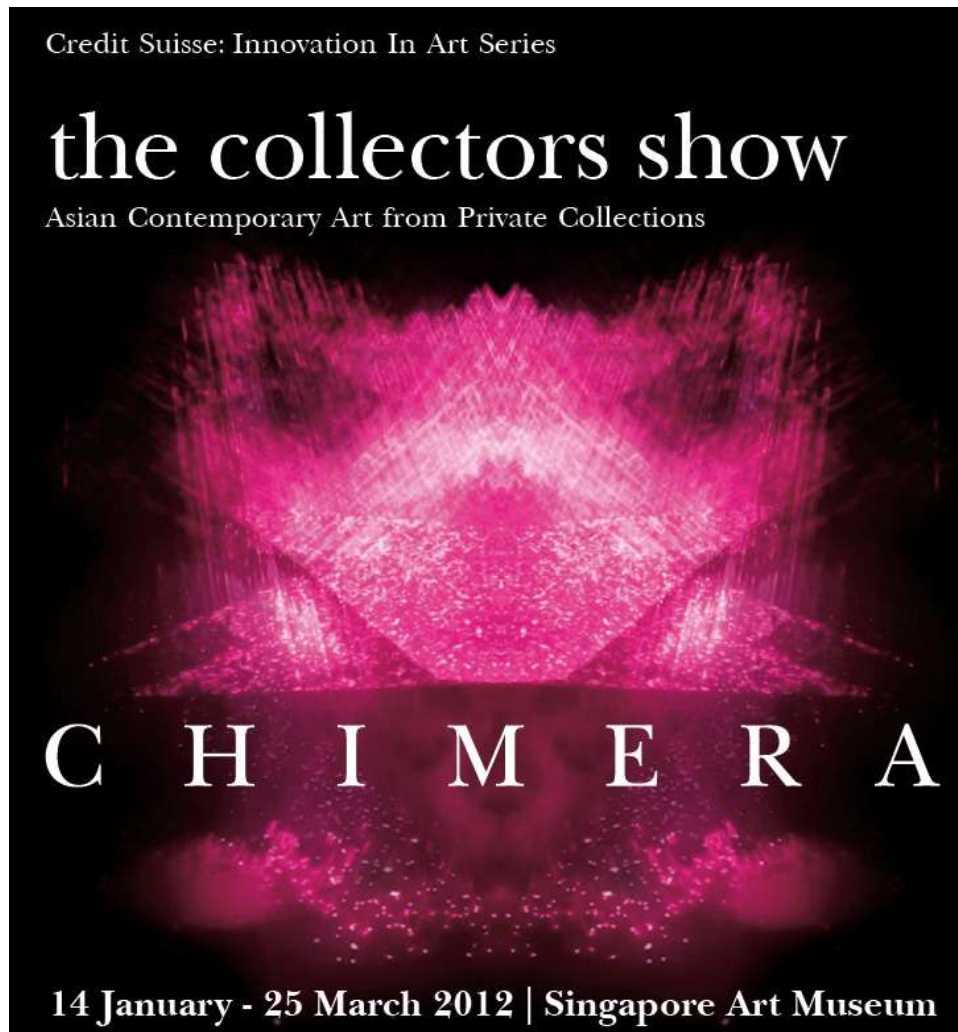


The Collectors Show: Asian Contemporary Art from Private Collections



The Collectors Show: Asian Contemporary Art from Private Collections is an exhibition of artworks from Asia that have been collected by individuals and foundations from around the world. These artworks range from paintings and photographs to light installations and media installations, and are not the typical artworks one would think that collectors would want to acquire.



Go to the lobby and look for this artwork



Stay a few minutes and look (and listen!) to this artwork.

1. Do you look at yourself in the mirror every day?

2. Why do you look at yourself in the mirror?

3. What has the artist done to the mirrors in this artwork?

4. Do you think the artist believes that mirrors reflect the world around us truthfully? Why or why not?



Go to Gallery 1.3

Look for this painting titled *Orange Madonna* by the artist Yasmin Sison.



5. What do you know of the term 'Madonna'? (Hint: The 'Madonna' was often painted in early religious paintings. Ask your teacher if you're not sure what the Madonna looks like.) What does she usually wear in such paintings, and how does she look? And who is she usually posed with?

6. Does the figure in this painting look like a typical 'Madonna' to you? What makes you say that?

7. How does this painting make you feel? Circle the words that describe how you feel below.

- Happy Peaceful
- Chaotic Messy
- Anxious Nervous

8. How do you think the artist has managed to make you feel this way through her painting? Think about the way she has used the paint in this work.



Look for this painting in the same gallery.



Look carefully at this painting, *The Thomasites Were Here*, which consists of three panels placed together side by side, or what is usually called a triptych (pronounced *trip-tik*).

9. What can you tell from the three panels in this painting? What is the setting, and who do you think the people in the painting are?

10. Do you think this painting is showing us scenes from our current time period, or from the past? Why do you think so?

11. Would you like to attend this school that is shown here in the painting? Why or why not?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Thomasites were a group of five hundred pioneer American teachers sent by the United States government to teach in the Philippines in 1901, using English as the medium of instruction, and the subjects in this painting were the students taught by these Thomasites.



Now head to the work that is opposite the painting you just saw

Look closely at these photographs by the Malaysian artist Yee I-Lann, titled *Y-b#1-10*.



12. Do you recognise the objects that she has photographed? What is the background or setting of these objects?

13. Who do you think usually wears these flowers? Why do they wear them?

14. How do the flowers in this corsage look? For example, how do the colours of the flowers affect their appearance? At what stage of growth are they at?



15. What do you think the artist is trying to say by photographing these flowers in this state pinned on politicians' clothes? What is the connection she is trying to make between the two objects?

16. Is it easy for you to view these photographs? How has the artist chosen to place these photographs on the wall?

DID YOU KNOW?

'YB', which makes up part of the title of this artwork, is an abbreviation for the Malay term 'Yang Berhormat' ('The Honourable'), used to address a person of political power or status in Malaysia.



Look for this work in the connecting gallery.



17. Can you count how many panels there are making up this artwork?

18. Look carefully at the patterns on the panels. What are the patterns on the panels made up of?

19. Do these patterns look familiar to you? (Hint: You might have seen them in computer science class!)

20. Do you think the patterns printed on the panels are all exactly the same, or are they different from one another? Why do you say so?

21. Look at the animation that is being shown on the screen now. How does watching the animation make you feel?

The animation was created using an old-fashioned method called stop-motion animation. The artists created the 210 pieces of batik fabric, which were then filmed together to create the animation that you see here, which is very much like the cartoons you see on television.

The '1's and '0's that you see on the panels are actually binary codes, which form the basis of computer codes.

The artists used binary codes as a pattern on the fabric because they felt that it reflects today's culture. In the virtual world, we don't really know if people really are who they claim they are, and as such we cannot really trust these online presences. This animation, which features a pair of eyes staring out at the viewer, makes us feel this distrust.

22. Do your parents allow you to use the Internet at home? If they do, do they ever tell you to be careful with whom you talk to on the Internet?

Before we look at the next artwork, take the time to answer these questions first:

23. Do you go to the seaside often?

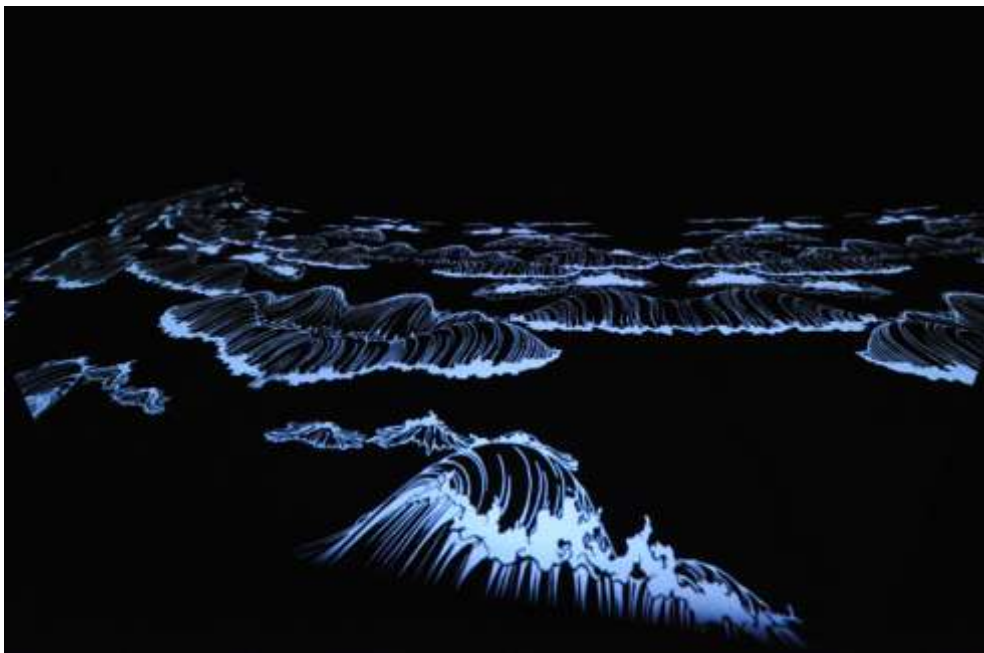
24. When you look out at the sea, how do you feel?

25. What do you think lies below the surface of the sea?



Now, head into the next gallery and look for this artwork. (Be careful as the gallery is very small!)

The work shown here is a hand-drawn animation of a seascape at night created by a Japanese artist named Tabaimo. Spend a few minutes watching this animation.



26. Do you notice anything unusual or eerie about this animation of the sea?

27. How does watching the animation make you feel? Circle the words that describe how you feel.

Hypnotised **Worried** **Scared** **Stressed** **Angry**
Peaceful **Calm**

28. How do you think the artist has managed to make you feel this way?

DID YOU KNOW?

Midnight Sea plays on Japanese metaphors (a literary figure of speech that uses something tangible or real, to represent something that is less tangible or real) of waves and wrinkles: a wave is a metaphor for wrinkles on the surface of aged skin, and in Japan, a wrinkle also represents ripples on the surface of the water.



Go to Gallery 2. 1

Look for this work by the artist Patricia Eustaquio titled *Psychogenic Fugue*.



29. Do you recognise the object(s) in this artwork?

30. Is there anything out of the ordinary about the use of this object(s)?

31. How does this artwork make you feel? Why do you feel this way?

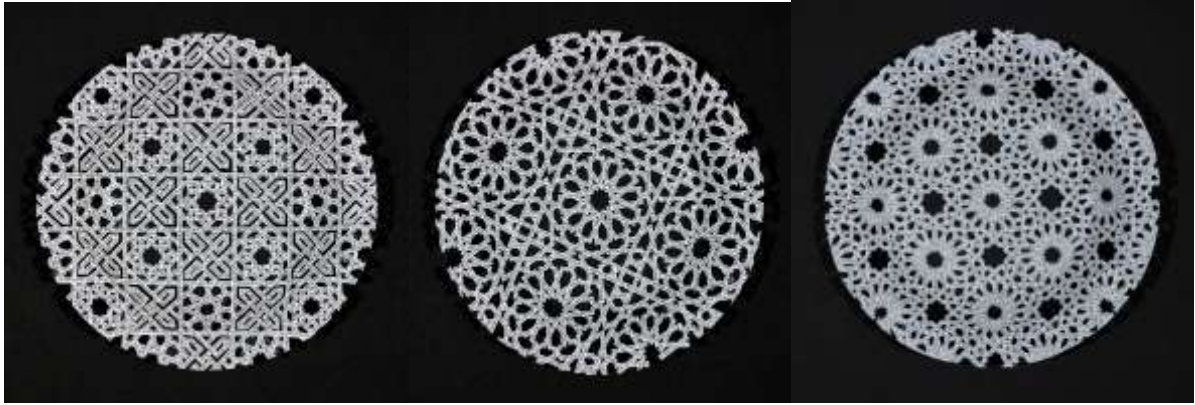
In this work, the artist has painstakingly crocheted a lace piano cover to cover the surface of a piano that is not there – the piano cover in this work acts as a shroud (a cloth that covers or protects an object) for something that has passed on, or is lost.

The title of this work, *Psychogenic Fugue*, refers to a psychological (or mental) disorder where a person who, after embarking on a new life, does not remember his former life at all. The artist thus deals with ideas that deal with memory and loss in this work.



Look for this work in the same gallery.

Look carefully at the plates created by the artist Hamra Abbas. Do the patterns on these plates look familiar to you?



The geometric patterns on these plates are reminiscent of those used in traditional Islamic art, where complex geometrical or repeating patterns were considered beautiful.

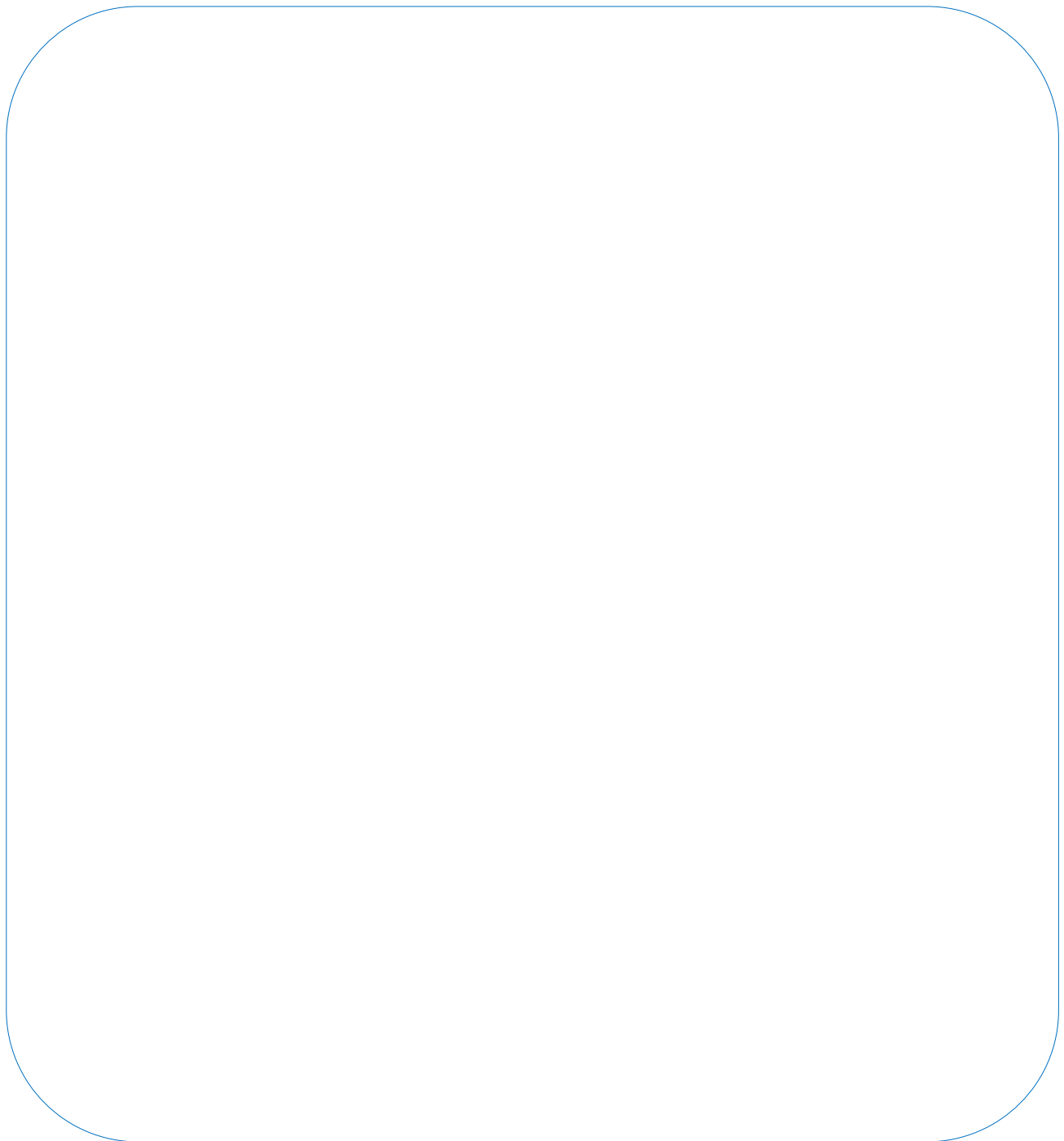
32. How would you describe these plates?

33. Do you think these plates can be used? Why do you say so?

34. Why do you think she has titled this work *'Please Get Served'*, and made plates that cannot be used?

Let's try this!

Try sketching your own geometric pattern below!





Go to the Chapel, Level 2



Enter the Chapel and take your time viewing this artwork by the Chinese artist Li Hui. Li has used technology in the form of lights and lasers to create this work, which has been described as a 'light sculpture'.

35. Look carefully at this work. Why do you think the artist has titled this artwork 'V'?

36. What happens if you or your friends step into the path of the light beams?

This work has been described as 'the stuff of science fiction'. Science fiction is a type of fiction, or story, which deals with imaginary but believable content such as time travel, space travel and aliens.

37. Why do you think the artist's work has been described in this way?

38. Have you read any science fiction stories? Write the titles down here!

DID YOU KNOW?

All the artworks in this exhibition have been collected by people. Can you imagine owning an artwork like this?
How would you showcase this work in your home?

– END –

Glossary

Installation – A type of art that is site-specific and three-dimensional, designed to transform how people look at a space.

My day at SAM...

Complete this page and pass it to your teacher in exchange for a special token from SAM!

Before today, I thought art was...

After today, I know that art is...



3 things I have learnt...



2 things I would like to find out more about...



1 thing I hope I can see more of at the museum...

***For Teachers to note:**

Please collect all the pages as a single bundle and deposit them at the SAM front desk.

Suggested Answers

1. Free response.
2. Free response. E.g. to see if I look presentable, to brush my teeth.
3. He has 'broken' the mirrors by using a loud cracking noise and showing the cracks on the mirrors.
4. Free response. Yes, because people can still see themselves in his mirrors, even though they are broken. No, because the function of the mirror is destroyed by the breaking of the mirrors.
5. In art, a Madonna refers to paintings or sculptures of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and she is usually shown with the infant Jesus. She usually looks solemn/serious, or wears a slight smile, and often wears a scarf over her hair, with long robes covering her body.
6. No, it doesn't, because the figure's legs are not covered, and she is wearing high heels in the painting. The figure in the painting looks very modern compared to the usual ways the Madonna is shown in art.
7. Free response.
8. Free response. The artist has covered the figure in the painting with a lot of white paint, and it looks quite messy, not neat, and this is very different from the background, which is painted with a lot of detail.
9. Free response. E.g. these people in the painting are students in a school, and the boys in the middle panel are boy scouts, as they are wearing uniforms.
10. Free response. E.g. the painting is showing us scenes from the past, because the colours/tones (sepia) used makes it look like an old photograph. The clothes that the students are wearing in the first and third panel also look very old-fashioned, as though they are from a different time period.
11. Free response. No, because the students do not look happy, and the artist has made the school look very dull and a little scary, with the faces of the students on the right panel being cut out and the boy scouts in the central panel wearing clown noses. Yes, because the setting looks interesting.
12. The objects are corsages. They have been pinned onto pockets on shirts.
13. Free response. E.g. politicians, VIPs who are attending a ceremony.
14. The flowers look very vibrant when you first see them, but actually they are starting to wilt, and are drooping and turning brown at the edges.
15. Free response. E.g. the artist is saying that actually these politicians are not as trustworthy as they might seem, because they should be wearing fresh corsages and they are not. Or she is saying that the people wearing these corsages are not as important as they might think they are.
16. No, it is not easy because the photographs have been placed at a higher height than normal.
17. 210 panels.
18. The patterns are made up of ones and zeroes.

19. Free response. No, because I have not seen them before. Yes, they look like digital or binary codes, used in computer science.
20. They are slightly different from one another, as they are required to be so in order to create a moving image, or animation.
21. Free response. E.g. it makes me feel nervous, or uncomfortable, as the eyes in the face are just blinking at me.
22. Free response.
23. Free response.
24. Free response. E.g. I feel calm, happy, curious about what might lie beneath the sea etc.
25. Free response. E.g. sea creatures, coral, plants, etc.
26. Free response. Yes, because the waves look like the back of human heads, and because there are strange creatures lurking in the water, and the creatures sometimes look like human intestines/entrails.
27. Free response.
28. Free response. E.g. the artist has made me feel this way because she has made us wonder what might kind of things or creatures might really lie beneath the sea, as we can't really know what lies beneath.
29. The objects in this work are a lace/crochet piano cover over the shape of a piano.
30. The piano cover isn't actually covering a piano—the piano is missing.
31. Free response. E.g. the work makes me feel a little creepy/erie, and makes the mood around the room haunting, because the piano cover looks like a ghostly presence around the missing piano.
32. Free response. E.g. beautiful, intricate, detailed, neatly patterned.
33. Free response. No, because they are too fragile to be used for food. Yes, if you put something very light on it.
34. Free response. The artist is trying to say that we cannot get served after all, even though she has made these beautiful paper plates.
35. The laser beams/rays create the shape of a 'v' when they reflect off the panel on the floor.
36. The shape of our bodies disappear when we step into the light beams.
37. Free response. E.g. the work feels very futuristic because the artist has made use of technology to create this work, such as the laser beams. The effect created is as though we will get beamed up to space when we step into the laser beams.
38. Free response.