

Sam Siren

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

The piece is inspired by human anatomy, more specifically the human heart, as well as the banyan tree. The concept and idea behind the piece is a calculative experimentation of the manipulation of wood varnish and mix media as well as the fascination with the human heart. The human heart is complex and this is likened to the roots of a banyan tree that dwells deep underground. Some view the banyan tree and the human heart as mystical or sacred, a bystander that observes what is around. The banyan tree and human heart both grow into the paths they are situated at or placed in, that of a place for a banyan tree and that of a person for the heart.

In this art piece, each medium is representative of something different. The wood represents neutral standing - the use of sepia tones gives the wood the effect of deterioration and the coming-of-age, yet the varnish coating on the piece signifies its suspension in time, creating the illusion of a temporal pause. Some of the natural tones of the wood are preserved, and these accents and highlights represent life pouring into the heart and bringing it to light.

The illustration of the heart represents the need to express movement and feeling. The outer darker, thicker strokes of the piece represent the strength and perseverance of the heart which meld slowly into the wood, with the soft smudges within the inner strokes of the thicker darker strokes that becomes the shadow for the finer detailing inside the heart where the intertwining fine lines are a representation of meetings with other individuals or events that occurred in ones path. It is also representative of all the individual paths and roads taken by the artist herself to reach a certain destination. Along the way, these paths intertwine with others, creating more paths and roads.

The varnish is layered deliberately to the point where it seems to be like a mirror. The work thus becomes a piece of mobile art that can be placed anywhere to mirror the reflections of the audience and their surroundings, thus creating another dimension in which the heart and the audience cross each other's paths and become one lifeline.

Artist Biography

Sam Siren

Dayangku Hajah Nurul Hayatee
Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Badaruddin
Brunei

b. 1984

Excerpt from Gallery Catalogue 'EXPRESSION'

A certain feeling of darkness cloaks each of Sam Siren's work. Whether illustrative or abstract, each piece of work produced by Sam Siren exudes a certain mystery, and although some images are instantly recognizable they still manage to radiate an enigmatic atmosphere and energy. Flitting from one form to another and utilising countless types of media, her work encompasses both figurative works and abstract, reflecting her many personalities. It is without a doubt that this sense of the arcane as well as her experimentation with all forms of media is her trademark, and how one can identify a work as typically Sam Siren.

In "Expression," one part of Sam's works reimagines characters from one of her favourite stories - Alice in Wonderland, presenting them in her own unique way. On the other side of the spectrum she presents works that trend toward abstract, using layers and lines to express her experiences of 'synesthesia,' (when a person sees colours when hearing sounds). As with all the other artists in the exhibition she also expresses personal experiences and emotions in a veiled way. Her anatomy works, depictions of parts of the skeleton and muscles like the brain or heart in an atmospheric space speak about the physical and the cerebral. There is the sense of the physicality of people and how we are but flesh and bones, but also conveyed is the more insubstantial and indefinable part of humanity.

Art Exhibitions and Residencies

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| 2014 | Expression. Kaleidoscope Studio. Brunei Darussalam |
| 2013 | Radisson Charity Art Showcase. Radisson Hotel. Brunei Darussalam |
| 2012 | Give them a sofa. Brunei International Airport. Brunei Darussalam
Rimbun Dahan Residency. Rimbun Dahan. Kuala Lumpur
Heritage Seni Art Exhibition. Warisan Art. Brunei Darussalam
Fracophonie Week 2012 Art Exhibitions. Alliance Francaise. Brunei Darussalam |
| 2011 | Brunei Art Forum. Waterfront Gallery. Brunei Darussalam
Les Choses Dans Noir Art Exhibition. Alliance Francaise. Brunei Darussalam
Outdoor Installation and Contemporary Dance Francophonie week.
Alliance Francaise De Brunei
Pas De Compromie. Melbourne |

Commissions

2013 Give them a sofa. Brunei International Airport. Brunei Darussalam