

Green Zeng

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

“My fascination with the historiography of Singapore and South East Asia has led me to investigate how history is scripted, perceived and disseminated. As such, my current art practice explores the construction and manipulation of Singapore’s national narrative and how the history-making process has shaped national identity. I am interested in the untold parts of history, the fragments that have been left behind, passed over or forgotten. In my quest to do so, I have looked at areas which are significant to me, such as alternative histories, the deconstruction of propaganda, language and its politicization, student activism, social dislocation and the social-cultural understanding of landscape.

Malayan Exchange: Studies of Notes of the Future is a series that examines the construction of national narratives and the scripting of history through the images found on currency. It presents a set of re imagined Singaporean currency, consisting of six designs for denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$1000 in various configurations. The digital prints feature images of forgotten activists and politicians, important buildings, maps, flags, natural history drawings, significant dates and texts.

The notes are mostly printed on both sides like real currency, thus creating a situation where the viewer can only look at one side at a time - the suggestion being that history is made up of the multiple perspectives and of the complexity/impossibility of understanding it completely.”

Artist Biography

Green Zeng Singapore

Green Zeng is a Singapore based multi-disciplinary artist whose work encompasses visual arts, theatre and film. Green's current practice explores concerns related to Singapore's history and national identity.

He was a member of the performance art group, Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, and performed with the company in Singapore and Japan from 1996 - 1999. He is currently the Creative Director of Singapore film production company, Mirtillo Films. He has directed many films that have been selected for various international film festivals such as the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. His film, Passenger, was also awarded the Encouragement Prize at the Akira Kurosawa Memorial Short Film Competition in Tokyo 2006.

In 2011, Zeng held two solo visual arts exhibitions, Malayan Exchange, at the Arts House and An Exile Revisits The City at The Substation in Singapore. Malayan Exchange also traveled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a solo showing in the same year. His latest solo exhibition Chinese School Lessons was held at Chan Hampe Galleries in 2012. He was also shortlisted as a Finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012 in Hong Kong.

Zeng has also participated in several notable group shows in Singapore such as the well-received Singapore Survey series by Valentine Willie Fine Art Gallery in 2010, 2011 and 2012. He also took part in Don't Sit On Me, in collaboration with artist Cheo Chai Hiang in Melaka, Malaysia in 2012. Zeng was invited to participate in OH! Open House 2012: Tiong Bahru where he created a site-specific installation. In 2013, he took part in Campaign City, a poster exhibition that was organized by the National Library of Singapore. Recently he was commissioned by the Singapore Land Transport Authority to create the artwork for one of the train stations in the Thomson Line Art Programme.

Zeng also regularly conducts talks and workshops for students in secondary schools, colleges and tertiary institutions, as he believes in sharing his knowledge and art practice with the next generation of artists.

Education

- 2000 – 2002 Advanced Diploma in Film Production (Directing), Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore.
- 1991 – 1994 Diploma in Fine Arts (Painting), LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 Chinese School Lessons, Chan Hampe Galleries.

- 2011 Malayan Exchange, The Arts House Gallery.
An Exile Revisits The City, Substation Art Gallery.
- 1999 Malayan Exchange, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur.
Of Erocriticism, Substation Art Gallery.

Group Exhibitions

- 2013 Currency Crisis, Whitespace Gallery, Thailand.
Between Conversations, Yavuz Fine Art.
Campaign City (Life in Posters), National Library Building.
- 2012 100 Friends, 100 Artists, 100 Dreams 2012, The Connoisseur Concerto “The Gallery”.
Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012, Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre.
Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012, The Rotunda, Exchange Square, Hong Kong.
Mother Tongue, OH! Open House 2012, Tiong Bahru Estate.
Don't Sit On Me, NUS Tun Tan Cheng Lock Center for Asian Architectural and Urban Heritage, Malaysia.
Cut 2012: New Photography From Southeast Asia (Politics), Valentine Willie Fine Art. Singapore Survey: Strange New Faces, Valentine Willie Fine Art.
- 2011 Singapore Survey: Imagine Malaysia, Valentine Willie Fine Art.
- 2010 Making History, Esplanade Jendela Visual Arts Space.
Singapore Survey: Beyond LKY, Valentine Willie Fine Art.

Filmography

1. BLACKBOARD WHITESHOES

- 2008 Official Selection, Hisar Kisa Film Festival, Turkey.
- 2006 Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival, France.
Official Selection, Jordan Short Film Festival, Jordan.
- 2005 Official Selection, Asian Film Festival, Italy.
- 2004 In Competition, 19th Isfahan International Festival of Film and Video for Children and Young Adults, Iran.

2. ISLAND

- 2006 Official Selection, SHORTbl Moviefest, Russia.

Official Selection, Jordan Short Film Festival, Jordan.

2005 Official Selection, Bradford Film Festival, England.

2004 In Competition, Borges En Curt International Short Film Festival, Spain.

3. PASSENGER

2008 In Competition, Euganea Movie Movement, International Festival of Short Films and Documentaries, Italy.

Official Selection, Vladivostok International Film Festival, Russia.

2007 Received the Excellence Award, JVC Tokyo Video Festival, Japan.

In Competition, Inventiva un Film, Lenola International Short Film Festival, Italy.

2006 Received the Incentive Award, Akira Kurosawa Memorial Short Film Festival, Japan.

4. SENTOSA

2009 Screening, 22nd Singapore International Film Festival, Singapore.

Official Selection, Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Indonesia.

5. BLANK ROUNDS

2010 In Competition, Lenola International Short Film Festival, Italy.

2009 In Competition, Tehran 14th International Short Film Festival, Iran.

Official Selection, 22nd Singapore International Film Festival, Singapore.

Official Selection, 5th InDPanda International Short Film, Hong Kong.

Awards

Finalist, The Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Hong Kong, 2012.

Excellence Award, JVC Tokyo Video Festival, Japan, 2007.

Encouragement Prize, Akira Kurosawa Memorial Short Film Festival, Japan 2006.

Certificate Of Recognition, Phillip Morris Asean Art Awards, 1997.

Highly Commended, UOB 12th Painting Of The Year, 1993.

Art Commissions

2012 Thomson Line Art Programme, Havelock Station, Land Transport Authority (Singapore).