

Nordiyana Binte Omar

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Human displacement, forced or otherwise, in terms of exile, dispersion, expulsion and migration, has been prevalent throughout human history. In this contemporary world, the process of the displacement of people in terms of migration transnationalism has been accelerated due to technological mobility among many other factors, beyond the diasporic dispersion of people as a result of Western colonialism. Steven Vertovec pointed out that in new migrant transnationalism, the advances in the 'technology of contact' have powerfully affected the extent and intensity in which migrants continue to retain strong bonds of emotion, loyalty and affiliation with families and traditions in their homelands.

Grandma and I (Weaving and Wake) relates to the overarching idea of transnationalism through the exploration of physical distance and emotional proximity between the artist and her grandmother. The video of the artist was captured in the UK, away from home, while the video of her grandmother in Singapore was captured through Skype. The imageries of the artist and her grandmother engaged in daily rituals – pounding onions, combing hair, folding clothes, fanning, peeling potatoes and reading newspaper – appear side by side in which the two occupied different space and place. The imageries of the two doing similar daily rituals suggest emotional proximity, and that the weaving of the imageries is a form of connecting the place and space between the artist and her grandmother. The departure of the weaves of one space indicates the failure of amalgamation of spaces.

The wake, a symbol of geographical transnationality where one is suspended between two different places, connotes the idea of being away from home and is a metaphor for contemplation. The existence of the wake together with the domestic rituals within home blurs the boundaries between the inside and outside world, is the norm of the contemporary world.

Artist Biography

Nordiyana Binte Omar
Singapore

b. 1986, Singapore

Educational/ Professional Qualifications

- 2013 Master of Art in Fine Art (with Distinction), Winchester School of Art (WSA), University of Southampton
- 2009 Bachelor of Arts (Education), Nanyang Technological University/ National Institute of Education, Second Class Honours (Upper Division)
- 2004 Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level), Nanyang Junior College
- 2002 Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level), Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School

Working Experience

- October 2013 to date Subject Head of Aesthetics (Internal), Ministry of Education (Singapore)
- January 2011 – August 2012 Art Coordinator, Ministry of Education (Singapore)
- June 2009 – Dec 2010 Art and Mathematics Teacher, Ministry of Education (Singapore)

Other relevant experience

- (17th January – 20th May 2005) Relief Teaching at Loyang Secondary School for Art and English
- (1st June – 19th June 2009) International Student Teacher Exchange Programme between
The University of Reading and The Ministry of Education (Singapore) at Maiden Erlegh School Art Department

Exhibitions

- 2009 *Degree Show*, National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

- 2010 *Alumni Show*, Art Gallery, Nanyang Junior College, Singapore
- 2012 *Journey*, Winchester School of Art, United Kingdom
MA Fine Art Open Studio, Winchester School of Art, United Kingdom
- 2013 *Bigger Than a Book*, MA Interim Show, Winchester School of Art, United Kingdom
Squeeze, Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf, Southbank, London, United Kingdom
Summer Exhibition, MA Degree Show, Winchester School of Art, United Kingdom

Seminar

- 2013 *Far Away from Home*, Winchester School of Art, United Kingdom

Prize

- 2009 On-The-Spot Istana Art Painting Competition (Open Category), 2nd Prize