



In the olden days, letter writers played the important role of helping our illiterate migrant forefathers write letters to their loved ones back in China. The letters often conveyed the feelings of homesickness and loneliness. Letter writers also doubled as calligraphers for Chinese New Year and religious affairs.

YIP YEW CHONG
SOMETHING
SOMEWHERE
SOMEWHEN

12 JAN - 14 MAR 2021
ART PORTERS GALLERY

A Refreshing Oasis

A truly flourishing art scene is one that is able to distinguish itself from the others with its own distinctive cultural and historical identity. Can we say the same for our own? It is intriguing to learn what comes to mind when one speaks of Singaporean art. Do we think of art that is produced by Singaporean artists, or art that reflects Singapore, or both?

Yip Yew Chong's first gallery solo exhibition, *Something, Somewhere, Somewhen* is more important than it seems. In my opinion, the exhibition perfectly demonstrates the essence of Singaporean art.

Despite significant efforts by our government to create a blossoming arts hub with the Renaissance City Plan in 2000, a notable increase in vibrancy of our art scene through the years and championing outstanding local artists who are capable of thinking critically and producing brilliant, convention-breaking works, Singapore today is still ironically considered a 'cultural desert'.

It is possible that this peculiar condition may stem from an underlying condition involving our nation's growth.

Singapore is a young nation and therefore lack long cultural history. However, one may also argue that this cultural limbo we experience is in part caused by the rapid progress and development of our country. As new infrastructure is built, old landmarks are replaced, at a pace so transient that it is difficult to form any lasting cultural impression or memory. What we are left with then are fragments of intangible nostalgia which grows blurry with memory, trapped within a continuous cycle of cultural displacement in favour of pragmatism.

With this in mind, I am affirmed to claim that an artist like Yip Yew Chong is incredibly important to our art scene and country. His practice of capturing the ordinary Singapore everydayness on street murals **preciously preserves our very own distinctive cultural and historical identity** that is constantly lost in an increasingly urbanised Singapore.

What is also particularly admirable about Yew Chong is that he is completely self-taught, driven by his love and passion for local stories derived from childhood memories. This intrinsic motivation to do art without being incentivised is the quintessential quality for an organic art scene built from the ground-up. If Singapore is a 'cultural desert', then Yew Chong is one of the miracle workers creating a refreshing oasis.

Yew Chong's murals are easily recognisable and accessible to all Singaporeans, residents and visitors. In *Something, Somewhere, Somewhen*, the intangible nostalgia is now made tangible as the artist transfers the heartwarming Singaporean slices of life onto canvases and objects, comprising a total of nine triptych paintings, and 15 sets of painted objects. One is bound to find something familiar in the exhibition, whether having seen that something on a mural, an old photo, or in one's memory. This apparently simple yet down-to-earth exhibition is an important contribution to creating Singapore's distinctive cultural identity.

The exhibition is also a timely gift to Singapore currently adapting to the new normal post-lockdown. The quarantine period had been exhaustingly difficult for many of us, leaving most feeling displaced, lost and wondering what the meaning of home is. There is no better time than now to revitalise the Singaporean spirit, and what a great start it is to the new year to celebrate the exhibition of a Singaporean artist whose art is about and for Singaporeans.

Something, Somewhere, Somewhen opens here at Art Porters, situated at the charming neighbourhood of Spottiswoode Park, which is not only ours but Yew Chong's as well. Our gallery's mission is *sharing happiness with art*, and it is really special to be able to do so with our neighbour for the public at large.

Melvin Sim, artologist

¹ Terence Chong, "Arts Education in Singapore: Between Rhetoric and Reality," *Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 32, no. 1 (2017): pp. 107-136, <https://doi.org/10.1355/sj32-1d>.

² TJ Sidhu and Ashleigh Kane, "Singapore and the Realities of Growing a New Contemporary Art Scene," *Dazed*, March 21, 2019, <https://www.dazeddigital.com/art-photography/article/43563/1/singapore-reality-growing-contemporary-art-scene-sarah-choo-su-en-wong-art-week>.



一月 JAN 1979

SUN	7	14	21	28	
MON	1	8	15	22	29
TUE	2	9	16	23	30
WED	3	10	17	24	31
THU	4	11	18	25	
FRI	5	12	19	26	
SAT	6	13	20	27	

星洲日報

推广讲华语运动

NOTE BOOK

SOMETHING

(CATALOGUE - OBJECTS)





Tiong Bahru Bird Corner

2020

Acrylic on Blinds

H180 x W180 cm

Unique



Reunion Dinner

2020

Acrylic on Laminated Table Top

H76 x W120 x L2 cm

Unique



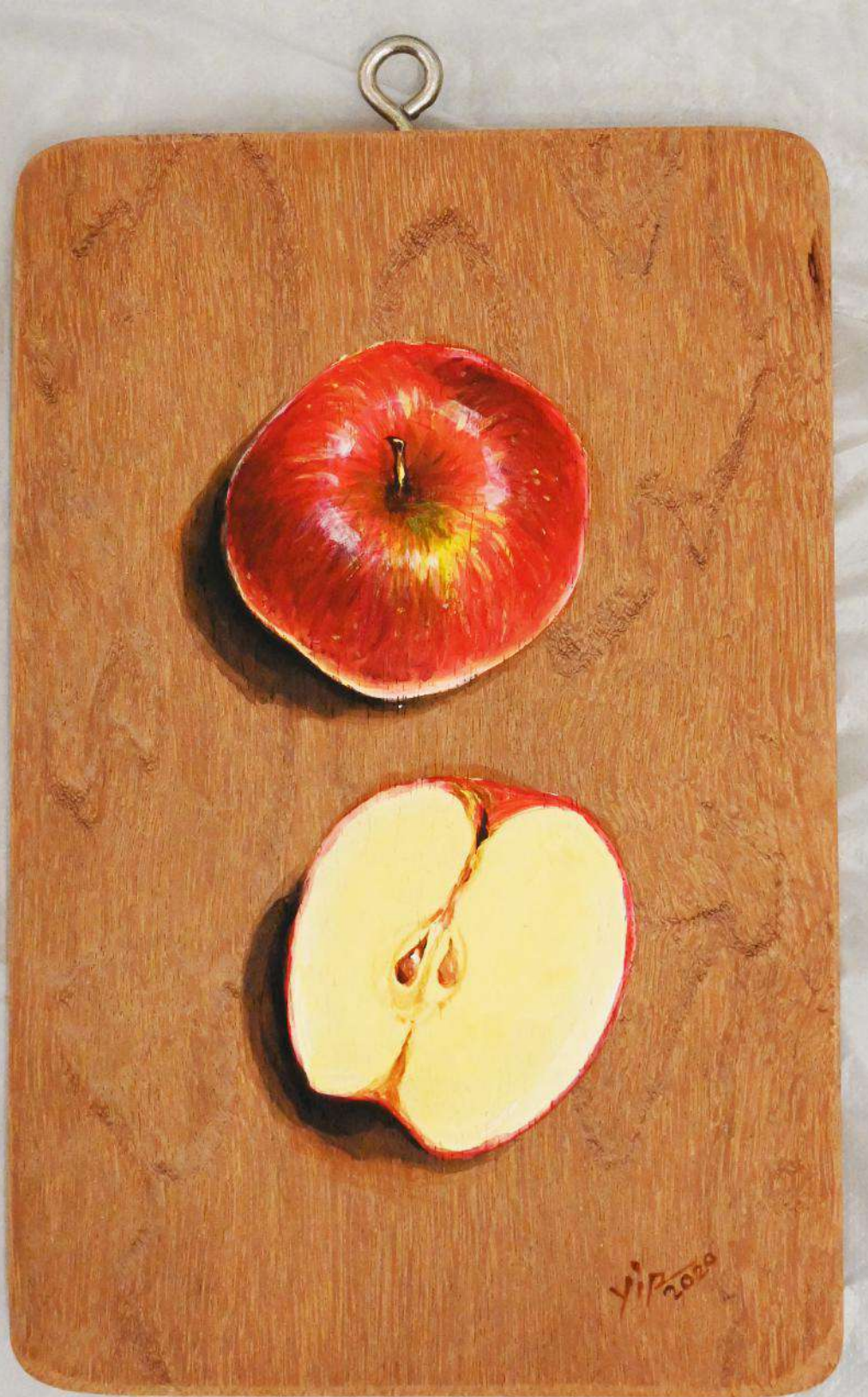
Kampong Rooster

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H40 x W30 cm

Unique



Apple

2020

Acrylic on Chopping Board

H27 x W18 x L3 cm

Unique



Batik Sarong
2020
Acrylic on Wash Board
H42 x W28 x L7 cm
Unique



Putu Mayam
2020
Acrylic on Enamel Plate
D26 x L4 cm
Unique



Nasi Lemak

2020

Acrylic on Enamel Plate

D26 x L4 cm

Unique



Letter & Handphone

2020

Acrylic on Wooden Stool

D30 x H40cm

D30 x H40cm

Unique (Set)

*At buyer's wish, artist will add the addressee/message on the envelope/ handphone screen



Cat and Fish

2020

Acrylic on Wooden Chair

D40 x H56 cm

Acrylic on Enamel Plate

D16 x L3.5cm

Unique (Set)



Fruit Stall

2020

Acrylic on canvas

D30.5 cm

(Comes with basket frame H39 x W39 cm)

Unique (Set)



Roti Prata

2020

Acrylic on Canvas on Enamel Plates

D20 x L3.5 cm

D26 x L4 cm

Unique (Set)



Satay

2020

Acrylic on Canvas on Enamel Plates

D26 x L4 cm

D18 x L3.5 cm

D16 x L3.5 cm

Unique (Set)



Dessert Stall

2020

Acrylic on Canvas on Enamel Plates

D20 x L4 cm

D20 x L4 cm

D20 x L4 cm

Unique (Set)



Traditional Kuehs and Pastries

2020

Acrylic on Canvas on Enamel Plates

D18 x L3.5 cm

D18 x L3.5 cm

D18 x L3.5 cm

Unique (Set)



Traditional Cakes

2020

Acrylic on Cake Coaster Paper

D22 cm

D22 cm

D22 cm

D22 cm

(In frame W50 x H50 cm)

Unique (Set)



Traditional Cakes and Biscuit

2020

Acrylic on Canvas

H60 x W40 cm

D40 cm

3 oval paintings H13 x W18 cm

H20 x W20 cm

Unique (Set of 6 paintings)



Dumpling Festival
2020
Acrylic on Enamel and Aluminium
D50 x L6 cm
D25 x L6 cm
Unique

SOMEWHERE
SOMEWHEN
(CATALOGUE - CANVAS)





Inspired by the mural "Amah" located at 40 Everton Road, Singapore

Amah

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H46 x W61 cm (Right)

Unique



Amah

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Amah

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Amah

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Inspired by the mural "Coffee Story" located at 29 Sultan Gate, Singapore

Coffee Story
 2020
 Acrylic on canvas
 H61x W61 cm (Left)
 H46 x W46 cm (Middle)
 H46 x W61 cm (Right)
 Unique



Coffee Story

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Coffee Story

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Coffee Story

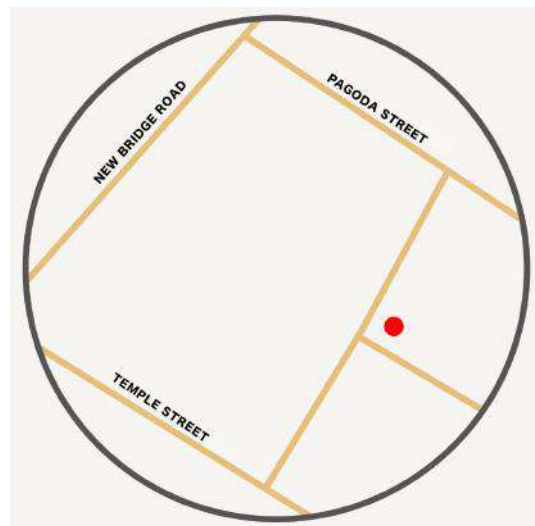
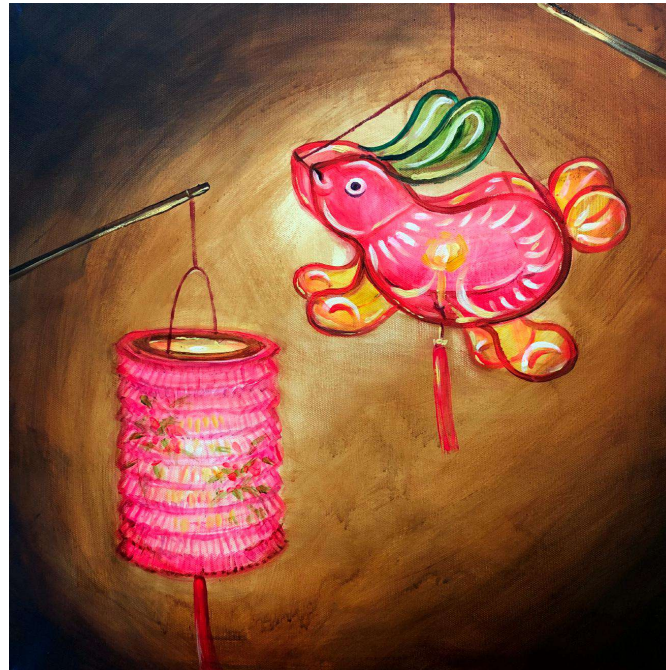
2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Inspired by the mural "Mid-Autumn Festival - 庆中秋" located at 83 Pagoda Street, Singapore

Mid-Autumn Festival

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H46 x W61 cm (Right)

Unique



Mid-Autumn Festival

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Mid-Autumn Festival

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Mid -Autumn Festival

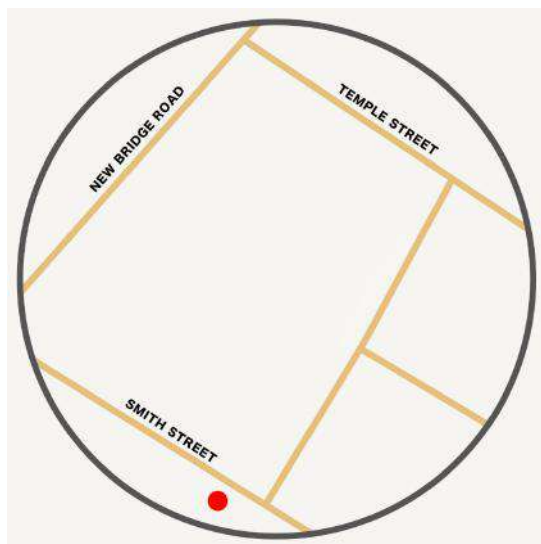
2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Inspired by the mural "Letter Writer - 寫信佬 . 妙手揮春" located at 336 Smith Street, Singapore

Letter Writer

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H46 x W61 cm (Right)

Unique



Letter Writer

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Letter Writer

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Letter Writer

2020

Acrylic on canvas

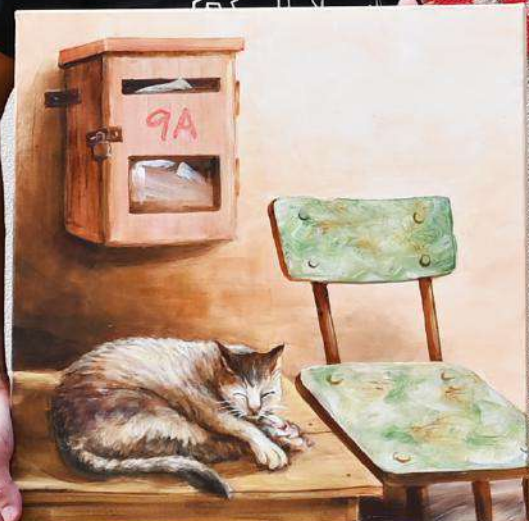
H46 x W61 cm

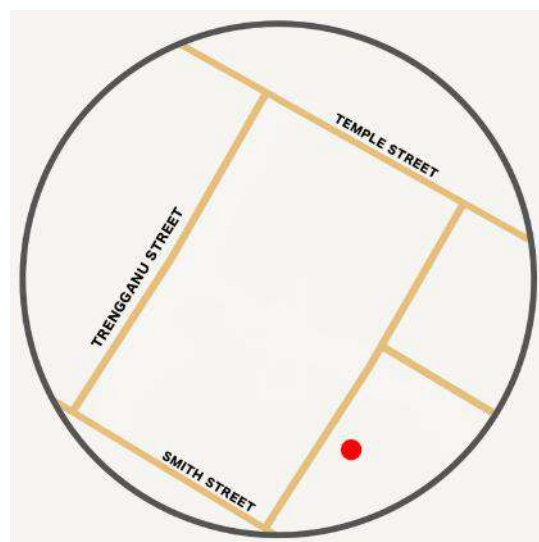
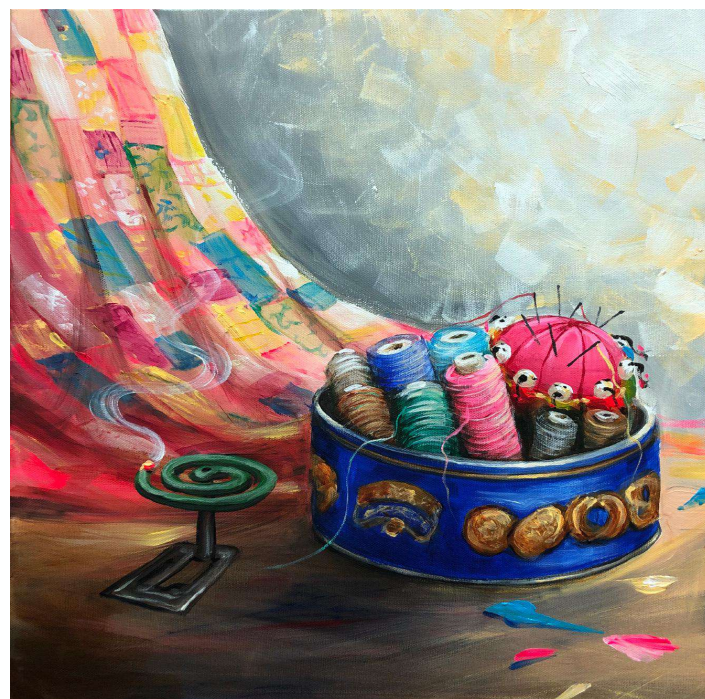
Unique (Comes in Triptych)



黃耀宗

Yip Yew Chong
Yip J W
Yip S M
Feb 2018
yipyc.com





My Chinatown House

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H46 x W61 cm (Right)

Unique

Inspired by the mural "My Chinatown House - 我家牛车水" located at Smith Street, Singapore



My Chinatown House

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



My Chinatown House

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



My Chinatown House

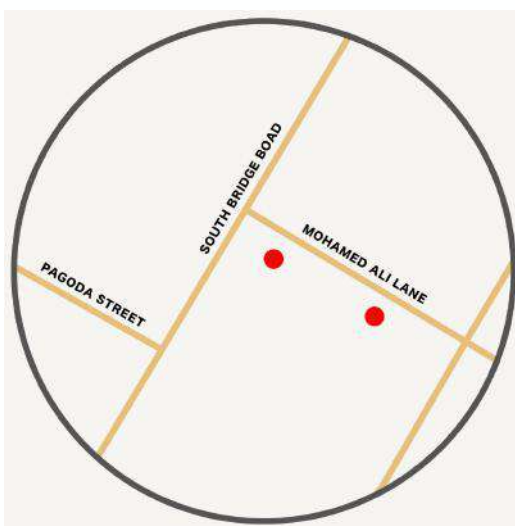
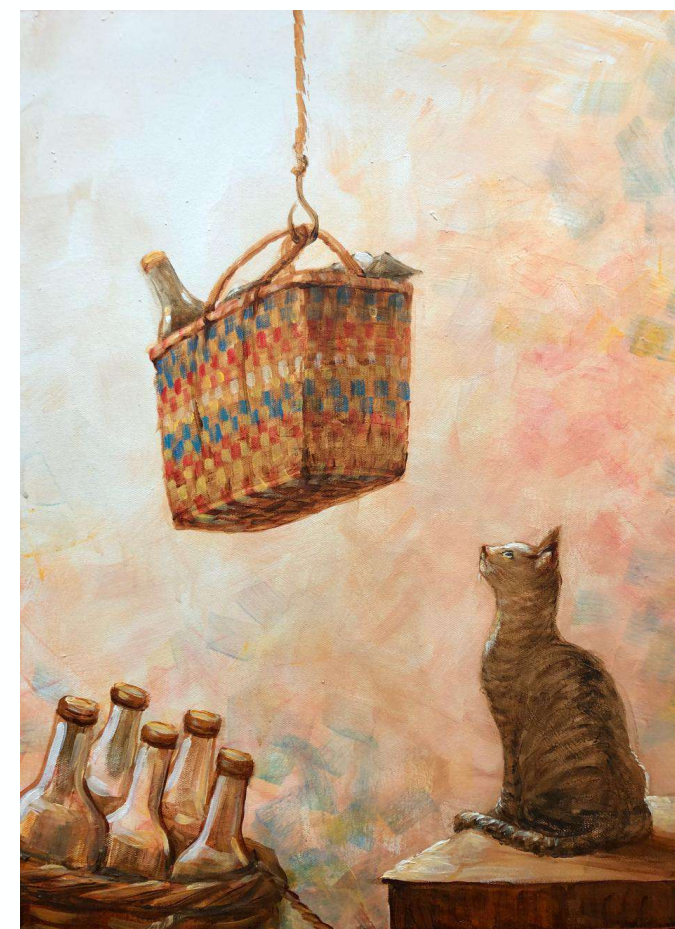
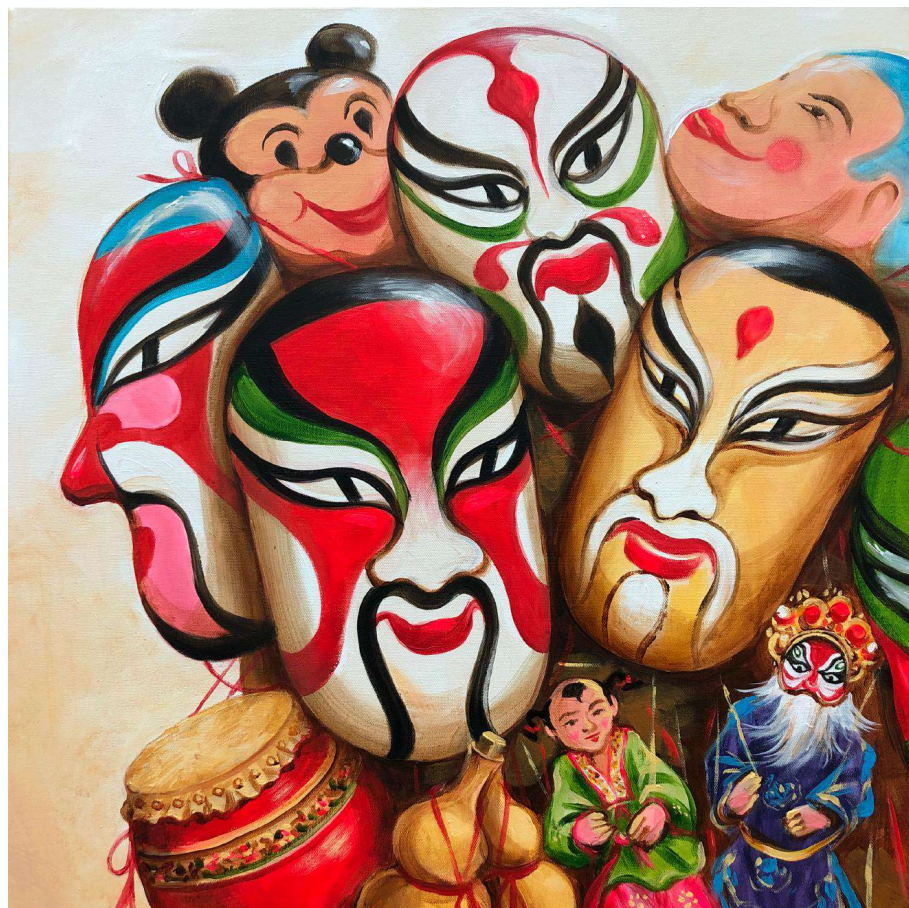
2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Mask Seller & Lion Dance Head Maker

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H61 x W46 cm (Right)

Unique

Inspired by the mural *"Mask Seller"* & *"Lion Dance Head Maker"* located at Mohamed Ali Lane, Singapore



Mask Seller & Lion Dance Head Maker

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Mask Seller & Lion Dance Head Maker

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Mask Seller & Lion Dance Head Maker

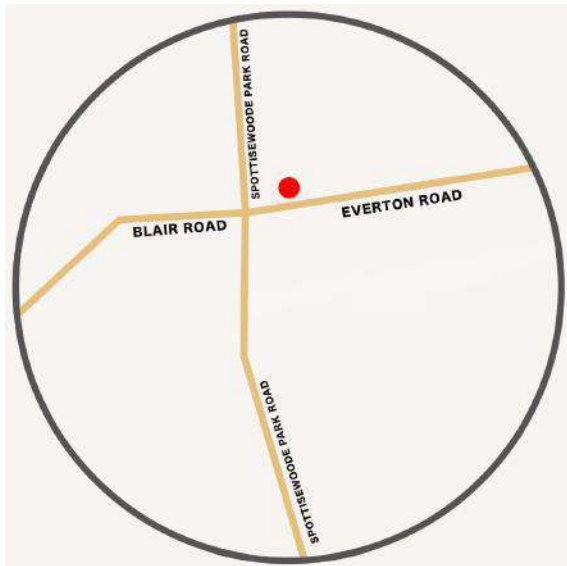
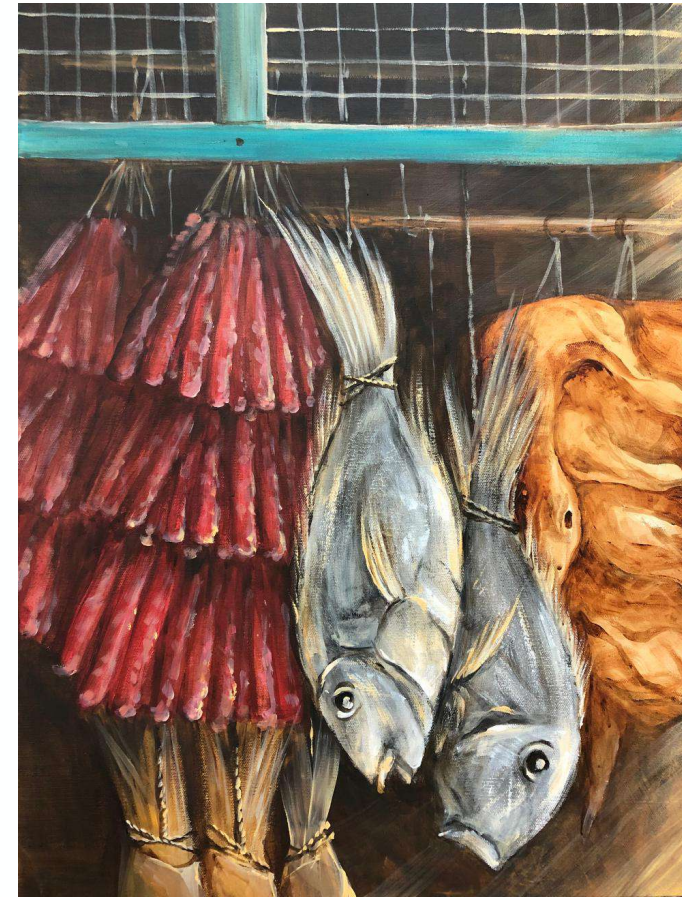
2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Inspired by the mural “Provision Shop” located at Everton Road, Singapore

Provision Shop
 2020
 Acrylic on canvas
 H61x W61 cm (Left)
 H46 x W46 cm (Middle)
 H61 x W46 cm (Right)
 Unique



Provision Shop
2020
Acrylic on canvas
H61x W61 cm
Unique (Comes in Triptych)



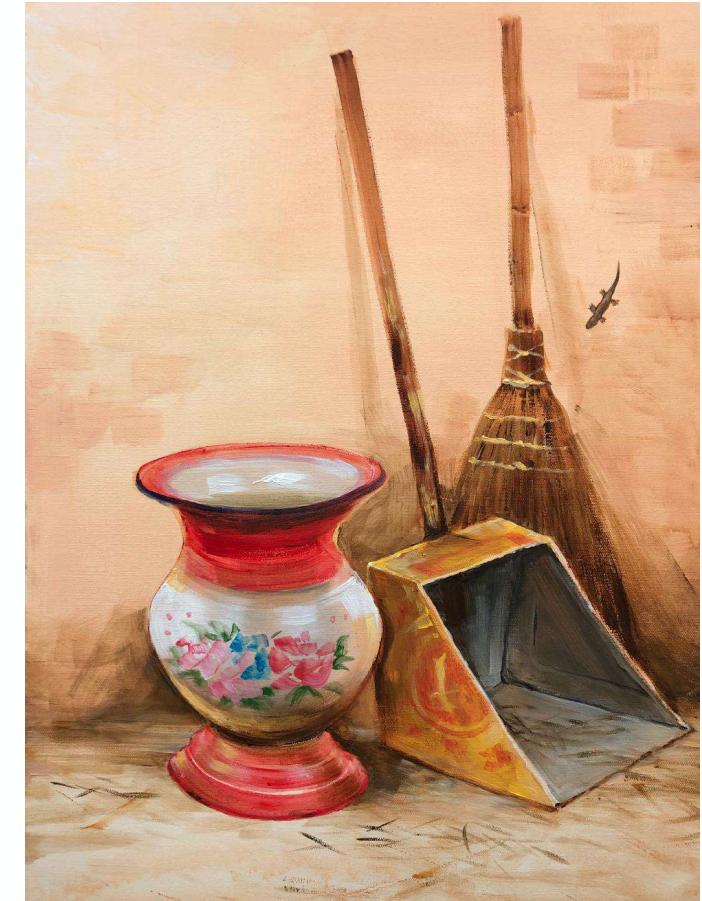
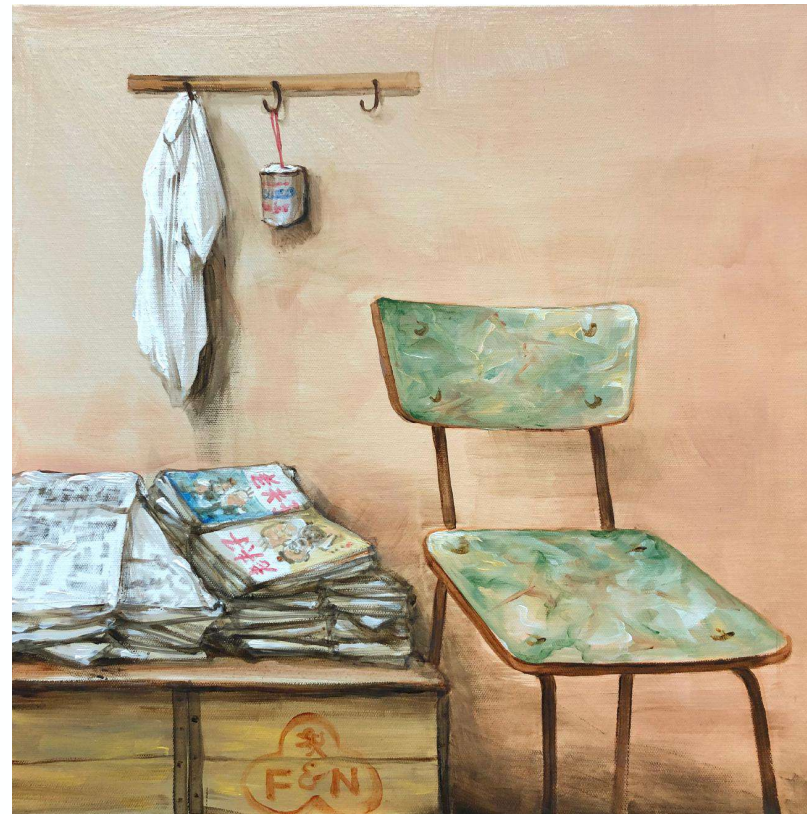
Provision Shop
2020
Acrylic on canvas
H46 x W46 cm
Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Provision Shop
2020
Acrylic on canvas
H61 x W46 cm
Unique (Comes in Triptych)

惠安雜貨





Inspired by the mural “*Barber*” located at 40 Everton Road, Singapore

Barber

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H61 x W46 cm (Right)

Unique



Barber

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Barber

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Barber

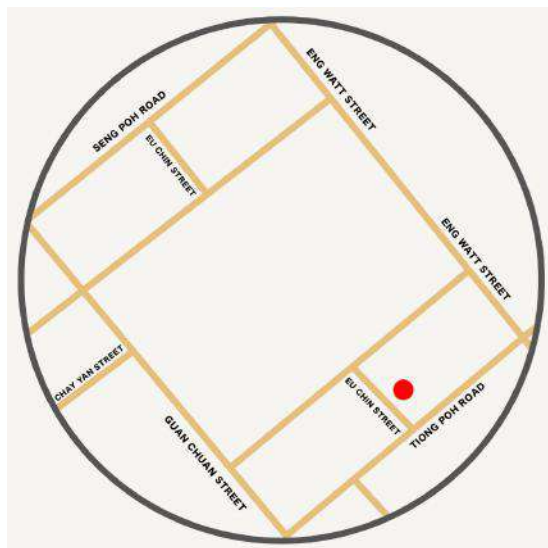
2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)





Inspired by the mural “Home” located at Eu Chin Street, Singapore

Home (Tiong Bahru)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm (Left)

H46 x W46 cm (Middle)

H61 x W46 cm (Right)

Unique



Home (Tiong Bahru)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61x W61 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Home (Tiong Bharu)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H46 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Home (Tiong Bahru)

2020

Acrylic on canvas

H61 x W46 cm

Unique (Comes in Triptych)



Acknowledgments

By Yip Yew Chong

When I painted my first street mural *Amah* in Aug 2015, I did not dare dream that five years later, I could hold my first solo exhibition in a gallery.

Actually, I had always dreamt of having my own art exhibiting way back in the early 2000s. I've always loved art, however I was too busy building my accounting career and couldn't find the time to practice painting. Between 1995 to 2015, I probably painted only five paintings! For this exhibition alone, which took about four months of preparation, I painted 27 canvases and 15 sets of objects!

This would not be possible if I hadn't painted my first mural, if the public didn't appreciate it, if my family didn't support my decision to quit my job to become an artist, or if my friends and neighbours at Art Porters didn't sound off the opportunity during the Circuit Breaker! I want to sincerely thank all of them! I hope you will enjoy viewing the exhibition.

Thank you!



Yip Yew Chong — b. 1969, Singapore, lives and works in Singapore

Yip Yew Chong is a Singaporean artist who practises different visual mediums including murals, canvas, sketches and installations. A self-taught artist, Yew Chong draws inspirations from his own childhood and everyday life experiences, telling stories of Singapore, especially its past, on walls all over the city and now on canvases. He started painting murals in 2015, as a hobby while pursuing his career as an accountant. In response to the praises and acclaim he received, he became a full time artist in 2018. Since then, Yew Chong has been beautifying Singapore one mural at a time. Currently, he has done over 50 murals located at different heartlands and cultural locations such as Chinatown, Kampong Glam and Everton Road, the location of his first mural, near where the artist resides and where Art Porters Gallery is located.





GALLERY INFO

Art Porters Gallery, 64 Spottiswoode Park Road, Singapore 088652
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Daily from 10.30am to 7.00pm (Monday by appointment)

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