

SHARED LANGUAGES OF ART: FROM FRANCE TO SINGAPORE (ALLEN TANG)

31 May, 2016 by ANASTASIA ONG



Allen Tang with Monsieur Dubetret

Allen is one of those rare talents that has a true love for his craft. Born in Singapore, this artist has been playing with the oil, Chinese ink and watercolour mediums on acrylic sheets. The team at intersection sits down with him on his participation in the exhibition, Shared Languages of Abstract : From France to Singapore.

As the only Singaporean Artist, how do you feel being part of this exhibition?

I am incredibly honoured and I think that this is a great opportunity to showcase my work to other cultures. I was joined by 3 other French artists – Aisen Chaisin, Ben Rosenblum and Guillaume Roche. Even though they are French and I am Singaporean, we all share a common love for the art of abstract – and I think that the exhibition is an interesting one to look at.

Judging by the mediums that you work with, they seem pretty traditional. Why do you classify your art as Abstract?

I learnt these 3 types of techniques and I create my own art – which is abstract art. I don't want to use canvas so I use acrylic sheets on oil, and it has watercolour and Chinese ink as well. My works are really a mixture. When I paint, I try to visualise the story that I want to express. For example, I can be at home – I get inspired by a song and suddenly this gives me a great gush of inspiration and I will go to my art studio in Eunos. I reside in the West and my studio is in the East, so you can see the sort of motivation I get from my inspirations...

Why art?

When I was younger, I already had this innate passion for art. I would get some paper to draw and I really loved carving. My family wasn't rich and they couldn't understand what I was doing. I worked a side-job and from there, I saved to get myself educated by a professional art teacher. I finally got one after my national service. For the first 2 years, I studied oil painting, after that I branched out.

In the past, most Singaporean artists were famous for painting sceneries. I wanted to be different and I think I chose well. Abstract art is very popular these days and it typically suits the whole "Zen" designs that modern interiors are looking for.

What roles does the artist have in society?

I think that people can learn a lot from art. Looking at my paintings here, today you may see a lobster because you are hungry and it resonates with the colour red. Tomorrow, the abstract artwork can personify fire – it shifts all the time. Art is a great medium of expression and it can help to calm you down, it also gives us a voice – creatively. To paint the things that are happening in this world.



Forgotten Society, 180cm x 123cm, Oil on Perspex Sheet © Allen Tang Allen derived inspiration during a trip in rural China. The square shards represent paper and the stick, a pen. Allen is depicting the lack of resources, education and poverty that the children in rural China faced – forcing them to write with a stick in sand.

What else can we expect from you?

I have another exhibition coming up in July, here at Miaja Gallery. I think that it will be a good opportunity to show more of my works, so do feel free to come down and look at them.



Secluded Dream, 105cm x 92cm, Acrylic on Perspex Sheet © Allen Tang



The Deep, 153cm x 122cm, Mixed Media on Perspex Sheet © Allen Tang



Quiet, 64cm x 64cm, Oil on Perspex Sheet © Allen Tang



Awaken of Creation, 123cm x 153cm, Mixed Media on Perspex Sheet © Allen Tang