

An abstract painting of a cityscape, characterized by bold, expressive brushstrokes. The color palette is dominated by vibrant oranges, bright whites, and muted greys, with occasional splashes of blue and yellow. The composition is dense and layered, suggesting a complex urban environment. The overall style is reminiscent of modernist or expressionist urban art.

THE ART OF
Kevin Tan Ngee Chye

GALLERY

1819

ILLUMINE 晖映

THE ART OF Kevin Tan Ngee Chye ILLUMINE 晖映

Our island state is in a constant state of flux, where time flows and light dances with shadows, creating a mesmerizing sequence of images that capture the imagination. Dusk, in particular, is magical, igniting my creative spirit with its enchanting light. Using bold impasto technique, I've sought to preserve the fleeting beauty of light—ever-shifting and revealing the city's true essence and its dynamic growth.

From the ornate pre-war shophouses of the early 1900s to the sleek skyscrapers that define today's skyline, Singapore's transformation is nothing short of remarkable. This city, where light and shadow, tradition and modernity converge, showcases a landscape that is both distinct and ever-evolving. These changes not only tell the story of Singapore's rich past but also reflect its unwavering drive for innovation and progress.

Through my paintings, I strive to capture these shifting shadows and the vibrant energy of the city, offering a glimpse into Singapore's unique allure as I see it.

城市是一个不断变化的舞台，时间在这里流淌光影交织出一幅幅动人的画面，尤其是在黄昏的照耀下，灿烂夺目缤纷妖娆，那迷人的光影，燃起了我创作的激情！通过粗犷厚涂技法的笔触，强烈的色彩对比，我尝试在“昙花一现”间，捕捉光影带来的刹那“芳华”，那种瞬间的美，是我创作的源泉，在这座熟悉的城市间，有我生活成长的故事，这里有我的感悟！

从昔日传统店屋到如今摩天大楼，从过去甘榜小路到现在滨海大道，新加坡经历了翻天覆地的变化在光与影、时间与空间、传统与现代、交融与碰撞中，展现出城市的独特风貌与人文，这些变迁不仅记录了城市的历史轨迹，也体现了其勇于创新、不断发展的生命力。

我的作品致力于捕捉这些瞬息万变、生机勃勃的光影，透过这一视角，展现这个“小红点”的魅力！

Foreword



Kevin Tan Ngee Chye is regarded as an important figure among third-generation Singapore artists for his distinct contribution to the local art scene, especially in his use of abstraction and his exploration of Singapore's evolving landscape and identity. His work often reflects a deep engagement with social, cultural, and urban changes in Singapore, blending local context with broader artistic trends.

As a leading art gallery, Gallery1819 is deeply meticulous in our offerings, celebrating the unrivalled artistic talents found in Singapore. Gallery1819 proudly promotes second and third-generation local artists, honoring their legacy and unique perspectives that contribute to our cultural tapestry. We champion the ambitious voices of artists who are not only trendsetters but cultural weavers, connecting the threads of our country's rich history and its promising future.

Titled 晖映 Illumin, Kevin contributes to shaping modern Singaporean art by pushing boundaries and redefining how artists can represent their environment and experiences.

It's truly spellbinding how an artist can take a simple palette knife and a blank canvas and transform them into mesmerizing depictions of Singapore's stunning architecture. Each stroke captures the soul and vibrancy of the city, leaving audiences marveling at not just the buildings, but the artist's incredible talent.

Zak Lo

Founder, Gallery1819 Pte Ltd

Honorary Secretary, Art Galleries Association Singapore

Curator, Singapore Yellow Ribbon Project 2024

Moving HeARTs in the City, Roving art truck exhibition

Message



The main cities of the third world countries are inevitably identified by towering skyscrapers which form beautiful skylines alluring poets and artists to produce their creative poems and artworks.

Singapore is a city state where all the financial and administrative activities are concentrated in the southern part of the small island where almost all the skyscrapers are located here.

The buildings developed by the financial institutions, the big corporations and the government are in various designs and shapes which together with heritage buildings they formed beautiful and enchanting urban landscapes and hence attracted many artists, including our established artist Kevin Tan Ngee Chye. Kevin saw the beauty of the urban landscape through the changes in the weather and time. He also saw the avant garte and the traditional elements harmoniously blended together forming unusual scenes. He then uses the impasto technique to capture these impressions as he saw it.

Kevin was recently elected as the President of the Society of Chinese Artists, the oldest art society in Singapore.

I would like to wish Kelvin Tan every success in his exhibition entitled illumine.

Dr Ho Kah Leong

Hon Adviser to Singapore Arts Federation






Born in Singapore in 1963. He graduated from the Graphic Design Department of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and worked as an illustrator and art director in the advertising industry for thirty years.

His extensive commercial experience allowed him to strike a balance between creativity and market value. He gained recognition and appreciation in the art world for his series of works depicting personal experiences of night scenes and golden moments. The night scapes and golden hours of Singapore have deeply influenced his artistic direction. Kevin enjoys exploring various mediums such as ink, acrylic, oil, and watercolor, depicting both familiar and abstract subjects. He currently serves as the president of The Society of Chinese Artists. As life member of the Singapore Art Society, NAFA ALUMNI and Club NAFA.


陈义财，1963年生于新加坡，毕业于南洋美术学院平面设计系，并在广告界担任了三十年的插画师及美术总监。他在商业领域的丰富经验使他能够在创造力与市场需求之间找到平衡点。他以一系列夜景与黄金时段作品赢得了艺术界的认可与赞赏，将新加坡的夜色与繁华深深地融入他的创作灵感中。陈义财喜欢在各种媒介中探索，包括墨水、胶彩、油画和水彩，他所描绘的对象既有熟悉的，也有抽象的。

他目前担任中华美术研究会会长。并是新加坡艺术学会，南洋美专校友会及南艺联谊会的永久会员。



Beneath the twilight's glow, the entire scene exudes an aura of mystery and allure. The golden radiance seems to expand the limits of time and space, foreshadowing a splendid future. The Merlion stands tall in the frame, witnessing the city's exceptional culture and profound historical heritage.

在黄昏的光辉下，整个画面展现出一种神秘而迷人的氛围。金色的光辉扩展了时空的极限，仿佛预示着未来的美好景象。画面中的鱼尾狮矗立着，见证了这座城市卓越的文化与深厚的历史底蕴。





City of Gold 黄金之城 90x70cm acrylic on linen


A highly acclaimed landmark in the metropolis, each preserved shophouse in the Golden Land embodies millions in value, making it a cherished place in the city. Here, prosperity and prestige intertwine, painting a mesmerizing picture of golden radiance that captivates the imagination.

大都市中备受瞩目的标志性地段。每一栋保留店屋都蕴藏着千万的价值，成为这座城市中的珍贵之地。在这里，繁华与尊贵交织，金色光辉勾勒出一幅令人心驰神往的画面。

Golden Land 黄金满地 92x92cm acrylic on linen
Private Collection








Pagoda Street was once famous for its “Kwong Hup Yuen” coolie depot, and by 1901, it had as many as 12 coolie houses, earning it the nickname “Kwong Hup Yuen Street.” In 1972, Queen Elizabeth II visited the night market here, bringing it further into the spotlight.

Today, Pagoda Street is a main thoroughfare in Chinatown. Lined with traditional shophouses painted in vibrant colors, the street is filled with Chinese-style and local souvenirs, captivating foreign tourists.

宝塔街早期以其著名的“广合源号”猪仔馆闻名，1901年时，这条街上甚至有多达12间苦力馆，因此被俗称为“广合源街”。1972年，英女王曾造访此地的夜市，使其声名远播。

如今，宝塔街已成为牛车水的主要街道。两侧的传统店屋涂满鲜亮的色彩，街上充满了中国风格和本地的纪念品，深受外国游客的喜爱。





Day in Pagoda Street 宝塔街的一天 65x90cm acrylic on linen

In Singapore, tradition and modernity are not polar opposites, but rather intertwined, creating a unique sense of harmony. Traditional shophouses stand side by side with towering skyscrapers, as if narrating an ongoing dialogue between history and the present. When sunlight bathes these buildings, the golden glow not only illuminates the physical space but also highlights the intersection of tradition and modernity, enriching the city's cultural landscape.

This interplay of light and shadow is not only a testament to Singapore's growth and progress but also a reflection of its cultural diversity and inclusiveness. It is within this diverse and inclusive backdrop that Singapore has been able to preserve its traditions while continuously innovating and advancing toward the future.

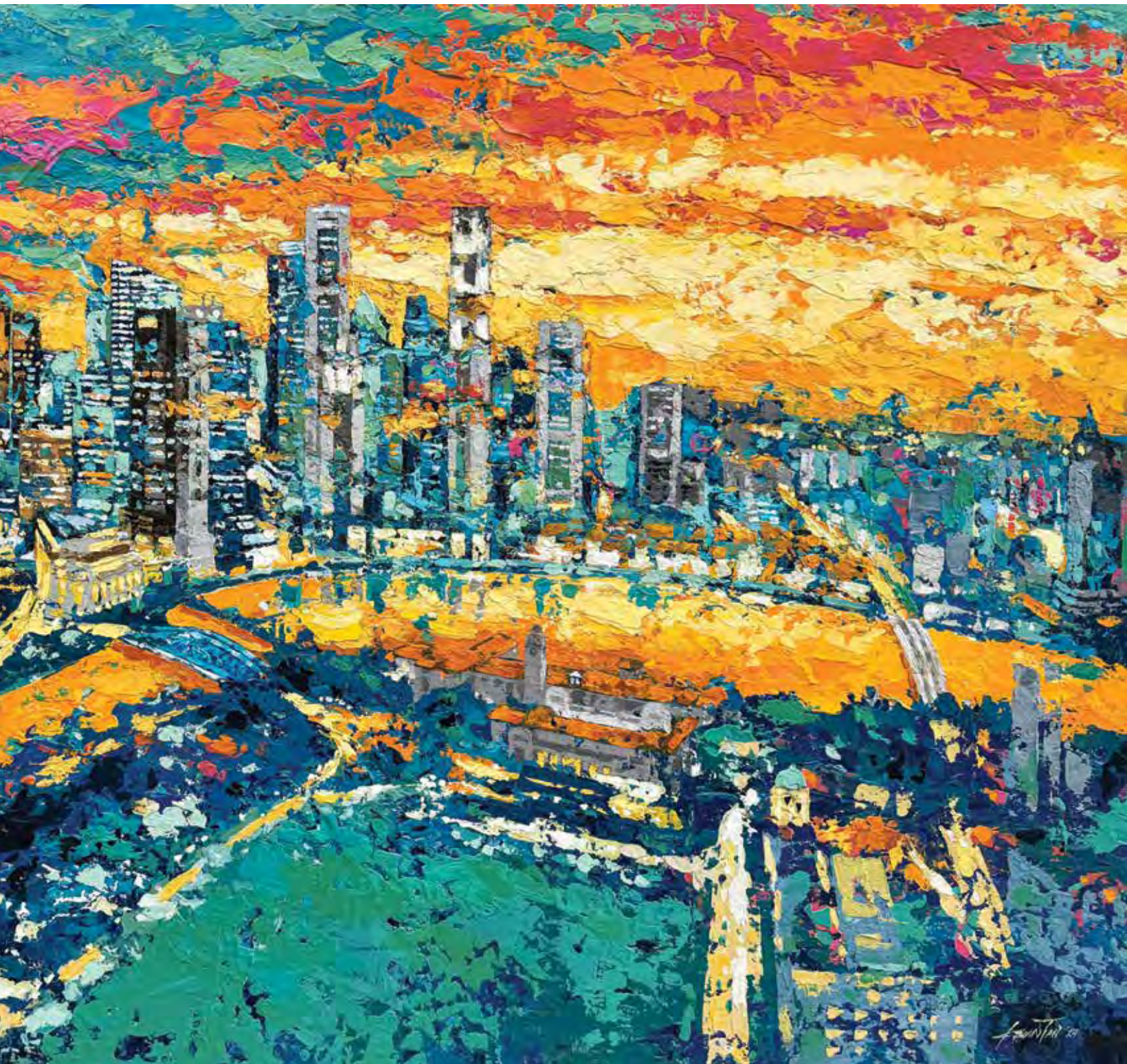
Particularly, when the golden hues of the setting sun blanket the skyscrapers of the financial district, they reflect more than just the fleeting beauty of dusk; they symbolise the city's brilliance and glory in the face of time's relentless passage. Though the twilight is brief, it radiates with a dazzling light, signifying Singapore's magnificent journey, both in its past and future.

在新加坡，传统与现代并非对立的两极，而是相互交融，共同构成了这座城市独特的和谐景观。传统的店屋与现代的高楼并肩而立，仿佛在时间长河中诉说着历史与当代的对话。当阳光洒落在这些建筑上，金黄色的光辉不仅点亮了城市的物理空间，更照耀着传统与现代交汇的时刻，赋予这片土地以深厚的文化底蕴。

这种光影交织的场景，既是新加坡城市成长与进步的见证，也是其多元文化与包容性的重要体现。正是在这种文化多样性和包容的氛围中，新加坡能够在传承传统的同时，不断创新，开拓进取，迈向未来。

尤其是当夕阳的余晖洒满金融中心的高楼大厦时，映照出的不仅是日暮的短暂美景，更象征着这座城市在时代浪潮中的辉煌与荣耀。夕阳虽短，却绽放出耀眼的光芒，昭示着新加坡过去与未来的灿烂篇章。





In Between Reflections 辉映之间 80x120cm acrylic on linen




Under the golden glow of dusk, this riverside reflects the glorious past. It has nurtured numerous painters as precious as gold. Their artistic achievements shine like the sunset, witnessing the exceptional culture and profound heritage of this land.

在黄昏的光辉下，这条河畔映射出昔日的辉煌岁月。这片河畔孕育了无数像黄金般珍贵的画家，他们的艺术成就闪耀如同夕阳的余晖，见证了这片土地的卓越文化与深厚底蕴。






Golden River 黄金河畔 65x90cm acrylic on linen




The Merlion, standing tall by the coast, symbolizes the flourishing prosperity of our tourism industry. Sunlight filters through the gaps between the skyscrapers in the financial district, casting a gentle and serene glow on the sea, bringing a sense of calm to the city after a busy day. The sky gradually transitions from a bright blue to a brilliant orange, resembling a vibrant painting that leaves one in awe.

竖立在海岸边的鱼尾狮象征着我们旅游业的繁荣昌盛。阳光透过金融区的高楼缝隙洒在海面上，为繁忙了一天的城市增添了一份柔和与宁静。天空从明亮的蓝色渐渐过渡到绚丽的橙色，仿佛是一幅色彩斑斓的画卷，令人目不暇接。






Glow of the Merlion 鱼尾狮的光芒 92x92cm acrylic on linen




The street is very much well-known by the locals for Bhai Sarabat Stall and cheap, no frills eating outlet, Kampong Gelam Café.

这条街在当地人中非常有名，因为有 Bhai Sarabat 摊位和一个简单实惠的用餐场所——甘榜格南咖啡馆。






Morning in Baghdad St 巴格达街早晨 65x90cm acrylic on linen




Set against the backdrop of the setting sun's glow casting its light upon the Mother River, this painting portrays a tranquil yet magnificent scene, contrasting the serenity amidst the urban landscape. The golden hues and mirage-like cityscape add a sense of mystery and allure, almost hinting at future visions.

以夕阳余晖照耀下的母河为背景，展现出宁静而壮观的景象，衬托出城市中的一丝宁静。金色光辉和海市蜃楼式景观增添了神秘和迷人的氛围，仿佛预示着未来的景象。





Twilight on Mother River 母河暮色 92x92cm acrylic on linen




Capturing the special glow of dusk, it's a fleeting yet enchanting moment. It depicts the golden rays of the setting sun casting a warm hue over the earth, illuminating the horizon where the sky meets the ground, presenting a tranquil yet magnificent scene. One can almost feel the serenity and mystery amidst the bustling cityscape, while this radiant glory enhances the allure of the entire scene.

捕捉到了黄昏时分的特殊光芒，它是一种短暂而又令人心驰神往的时刻。表现出夕阳余晖洒在大地上的金色光辉，照亮了天空和地面的交界处，呈现出一种宁静而又壮观的景象。仿佛能感受到大都市繁花中的宁静与神秘，而这种高光荣耀使得整个场景更加迷人。





Twilight of Glory 榮耀黃昏 92x92cm acrylic on linen




Twilight is the most poetic moment of the day. As the golden sunset slowly descends in the west, the city, bathed in its warm glow, seems to don a dreamy veil, filled with mystery and anticipation.

Overlooking the entire city, the light of dusk outlines the skyscrapers with remarkable clarity. Sunlight streams through the gaps between buildings, casting a soft and serene glow over the bustling city. The sky gradually transitions from a bright blue to a brilliant orange, and finally to a deep purple, resembling a colorful canvas that leaves one breathless.


黄昏，是一天中最富有诗意的时刻。当金色的夕阳缓缓西沉，城市在那温暖的光辉下，仿佛披上了一层梦幻般的纱衣，充满了神秘与期待。

俯瞰整个城市，黄昏的光芒将高楼大厦的轮廓描绘得格外分明。阳光透过建筑物间的缝隙，洒在街道上，给繁忙了一天的城市增添了一份柔和与宁静。天空渐渐从明亮的蓝色过渡到绚丽的橙色，再到深沉的紫色，仿佛是一幅色彩斑斓的画卷，令人目不暇接。






The Beauty of Twilight 黄昏美景 92x92cm acrylic on linen




Chinatown, a must-visit spot for artists and tourists alike. On a sunny day, travelers start to arrive one after another, and shop owners begin their busy day, arranging vibrant red souvenirs. The durian vendor starts opening up durians, allowing visitors to have a taste. Thus begins another day in Chinatown.

画家都会写生打卡的牛车水旅游景点，阳光普照的一天旅客陆续的抵达，老板们开始忙碌的一天，整理起红红的装饰纪念品，榴莲摊主开始剥开榴莲，让旅客们品尝等等。开启了牛车水的一天。






Day in Chinatown 牛车水的一天 65x90cm acrylic on linen



Lau Pa Sat, built in the 19th century, also known as Telok Ayer Market (with "Pasar" being the Malay word for "market"), has now become a bustling food court offering traditional dishes from various ethnicities. Its unique architecture has long made it a striking landmark in the heart of the city.

建于19 世纪的老巴刹 (Lau Pa Sat, “巴刹” 马来语是 “市场” 的意思) 又名直落亚逸巴刹 (Telok Ayer Market), 现在已经成为食阁, 内有各民族的传统美食, 长久以来以别具一格的外观成为城中一座亮眼的地标。





Lau Pa Sat 老巴剎 92x92cm acrylic on linen

The iconic neon lights of Hong Kong in the 1970s reflected a glorious era. The city at night shone like a bright pearl, universally recognised as the Pearl of the Orient. Unfortunately, they disappeared more than a decade ago, never to return.

70年代的香港經典的霓虹燈，呈現着輝煌的年代。香港夜晚就如明珠一樣發亮，共認為東方之珠。可惜是十多年前已經不復存在。

Hong Kong Neon Lights 霓虹燈下的香港

90x120cm acrylic on linen

Private Collection





福

福臨門

海鮮酒家

金淘金沙

北京酒

北海漁村
NORTH SEA FISHING VILLAGE

金富殿

香港

蘇雀娛樂

銀泉
濟是天下

大福

大福珠寶
LUKFOOK JEWELLERY

全記

謝瑞麟

白利

一

Artist's signature



Cross the sea 过海 50x50cm acrylic on linen

The name "adorable" comes from the fact that it makes a "ding ding" sound whenever it arrives at a stop. Operating since 1904, it has a history of over a century and is a unique mode of transportation in Hong Kong.

"过海"总是会在香港或港剧听到的话，就是渡过香港本島或九龍的意思。这回香港写生行亲身体会了渡轮，冷色素帶出当时冷冷微风的情景。



Tramway 叮叮车 50x50cm acrylic on linen

The name "adorable" comes from the fact that it makes a "ding ding" sound whenever it arrives at a stop. Operating since 1904, it has a history of over a century and is a unique mode of transportation in Hong Kong.

可爱的名稱是因為到站時都會發出叮叮的聲音。從1904年開始營運了，已經有百年歷史，是香港特色的交通工具。



Morning in fruit market 果栏市场的早晨 50x50cm acrylic on linen

The morning at the fruit market is filled with a strong sense of life. Most of the fruits are imported, and the prices are relatively high.

果栏市场的早晨充满了浓厚的生活气息，大部分水果都是进口的，价格相对较高。




Indomitable 不屈不挠 50x50cm acrylic on linen

Under the flyover, an old and worn-out stall emits a rich aroma of peanuts, standing in stark contrast to its surroundings. One can sense a resilient spirit persisting against all odds.

From my Hong Kong friend's account, I learned that these stalls are licensed, but the government no longer issues new licenses. Once the license holder passes away, no new stall will replace it.

天桥底下有一老旧残缺的摊口散发着浓郁的花生香味与周围的环境形成强烈的对比。感觉得到有股不屈不挠的精神坚持着。

从香港朋友口中很知这些摊位是有牌照的，但政府已经不会再发，持牌人死了就不会有。




It's rare to come across pork stalls in Hong Kong, but I believe they are a must-visit for most housewives. The butcher's skilled, rhythmic chopping of the pork caught my attention, and I used warm tones to capture the freshness of the meat in my painting.

在香港难得见到猪肉摊，相信多数家庭主妇必到之处。摊主的刀起刀落熟练砍切猪肉吸引着我，采用暖色调画出新鲜的肉。




Pork stall 猪肉摊 50x50cm acrylic on linen



During my sketching stay in Hong Kong, I fully immersed myself in the city's unique culinary culture. Whether dining in tea houses or famous roasted meat restaurants, every meal was a delight, never once disappointing. This experience strengthened my belief in the saying "Food is the paramount necessity of the people" and became a source of inspiration for my artwork. Hong Kong's culinary paradise has become the theme, highlighting the importance of food in people's lives and the cherished memories it brings.

在香港几天的写生逗留中，也尽情品味了香港独特的美食文化。无论是在茶餐厅还是著名的烧腊餐馆，每一顿饭都回味无穷，从未失望过。这段经历使我深信“民以食为天”，并将其视为画作的灵感来源。香港的美食天堂之成为了创作的主题，展现了食物在人们生活中的重要地位和美好回忆。





Paradise on food 民以食为天 92x92cm acrylic on linen Private Collection

Most artists choose to sketch at famous spots. This riverside has nurtured many artists' stories. Returning here to sketch each year brings back faint memories, almost as if one can see the scenes of past masters painting. Over time, artists' techniques continue to evolve.

大多数画家都会选择一些著名景点进行写生。这条河畔孕育了许多画家的故事，每年再来此地写生，总会浮现隐隐的回忆，仿佛看到前辈们在这里作画的情景。随着时光的流逝，画家的技法也在不断变化。




Riverside Tales 河畔故事 65x90cm acrylic on linen

As the National Day month approaches in Singapore, the entire city gradually dons its festive attire. Streets and alleys are brightly decorated, and households proudly hoist the national flag, a symbol of the nation's pride. The vibrant red and white colours flutter in the breeze, infusing the familiar city with new energy and vitality.

每年到了新加坡的国庆月份，整个城市逐渐披上了节日的盛装。大街小巷，处处张灯结彩，家家户户纷纷挂起了象征国家荣耀的国旗。鲜艳的红白两色随着微风飘扬，为平日熟悉的城
市注入了别样的活力与生机感。




A Festive City 喜迎国庆 65x90cm acrylic on linen



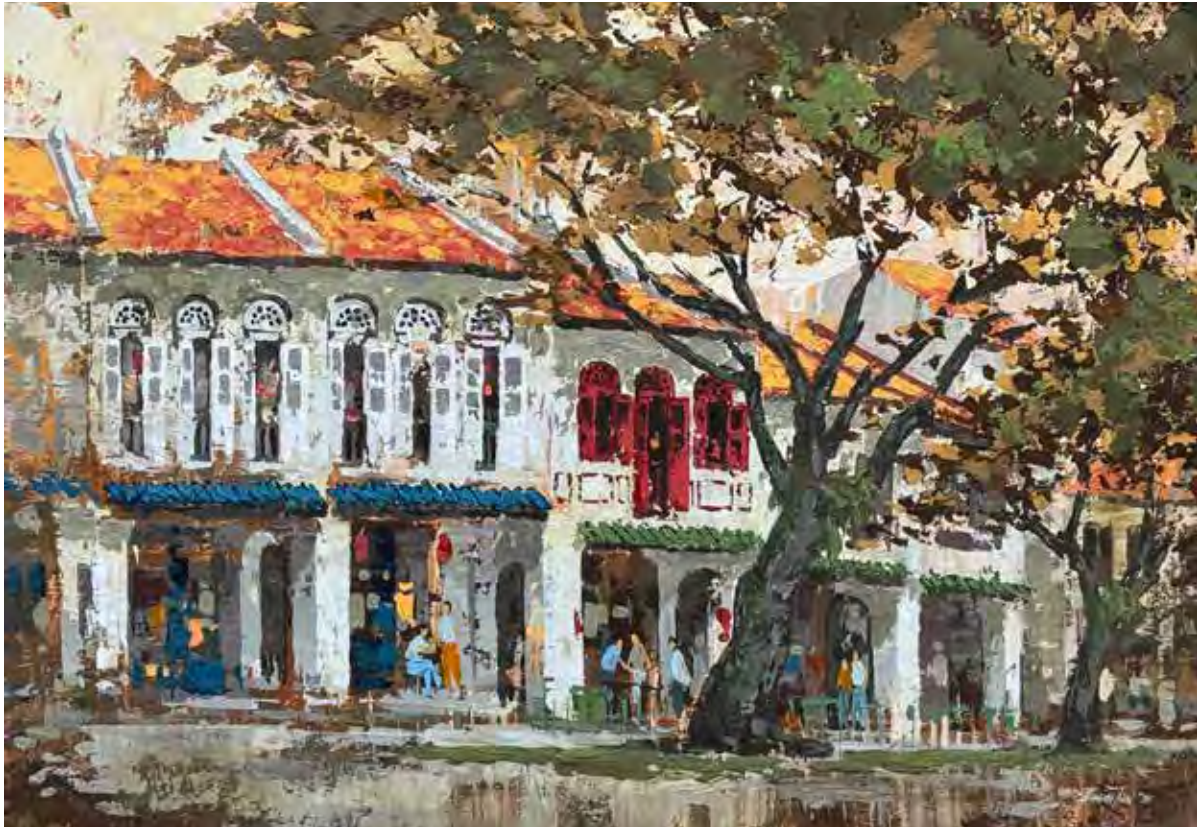
The towering trees around Duxton Hill left a deep first impression on me. These majestic trees bring a sense of tranquility to the area, while people around are busily preparing for the day ahead. The calmness under the shade of the trees contrasts with the energy in people's footsteps, creating a scene that is both peaceful and full of vitality.

This juxtaposition allowed me to feel the harmonious coexistence of nature and urban life, inspiring my creative thoughts about this unique place.




达士敦山周围的大树给我留下了深刻的第一印象。高大的树木为这片区域带来了一种宁静的氛围，而同时，周围的人们正忙碌地准备新一天的工作。树荫下的静谧与人们脚步中的活力交织在一起，形成了一幅既安详又充满生机的画面。

这种对比，让我感受到自然与都市生活的和谐共存，也激发了我对这片区域的创作灵感。




Morning in Duxton Hill 早安达士敦山 65x90cm acrylic on linen






In the bustling and lively Chinatown, there lies a serene area—Ann Siang Hill—like a tranquil oasis in the heart of the city. Stepping into this place feels like a journey through time, back to the lives of early immigrants in Singapore, carrying with it a rich history and countless stories.

在繁华喧嚣的牛车水，有一片宁静的区域——安祥山，仿佛是城市中的一片静谧绿洲。走进这里，仿佛穿越时空，回到了新加坡早期移民的生活中，承载着丰富的历史和故事。





Ann Siang Hill 安祥山 65x90cm acrylic on linen




The concept of Nanyang Old Coffee dates back to the early 1940s, when coffee shops would roast coffee beans in their own backyard and grind them for daily use. This traditional method not only gave the coffee a unique flavor but also carried a deep cultural significance.

Today, Nanyang Old Coffee recreates that nostalgic charm by offering friendly service in a cozy setting. Customers can enjoy not only great coffee but also a rich cultural experience filled with tradition and warmth.

南洋老咖啡的概念源自40年代初期，那个年代的咖啡店常常在自家后院手工烘焙咖啡豆，再磨碎供日常使用。这种传统方式不仅赋予了咖啡独特的风味，也承载了深厚的文化底蕴。

为了让顾客重温过去的美好时光，南洋老咖啡致力于在舒适的环境中提供朋友般的服务，让每一位顾客都能感受到亲切的待客之道。在这里，人们不仅能品尝到美味的咖啡，还能体验到丰富的文化氛围，怀旧的情感，以及南洋传统的魅力。





Nanyang Old Coffee 南洋老咖啡 65x90cm acrylic on linen

Singapore's city night scape is like a brilliant starry sky. Each light tells a story of struggle, life, dreams, and growth. At dusk, the orange and purple hues illuminate the skyscrapers, and as the lights gradually turn on, they reflect the hard work of the people. As night falls, the neon lights flash, and the bustling traffic mirrors daily life. These lights also record the growth of young individuals. Together, these stories create the vibrant night scape of Singapore.

新加坡的城市夜景，如同一片璀璨的星空。每一盏灯光都诉说着拼搏、生活、梦想和成长的故事。黄昏时，橙紫的光辉映衬着高楼大厦，灯光渐次亮起，讲述着人们的辛勤工作。夜幕降临，霓虹灯闪烁，车流如织，映照出人们的日常生活。灯火中燃烧着梦想，记录着年轻人的成长轨迹。这些故事交织在一起，造就了新加坡繁华的夜景。





Starry Night#13 星空#13 65x90cm acrylic on linen



Starry night #10 92x92cm acrylic on linen



Starry night #11 92x92cm acylic on linen

GALLERY
1819

315 Outram Rd, #02-04
Tan Boon Liat Building, Singapore 169074



Gallery 1819 Singapore, was established in the year of 2019 to commemorate 200 years of founding of Modern Singapore by Sir Stamford Raffles.

In December 1818, Raffles left Calcutta in search of a new British settlement to replace Malacca. Raffles arrived in Singapore on board the Indiana on 28 January 1819. Accompanied by William Farquhar and a sepoy, he met Temenggong Abdul Rahman to negotiate for a British trading post to be established on the island. On 6 February 1819, Raffles signed an official treaty with Sultan Hussein and the Temenggong and on this day, the Union Jack was officially hoisted in Singapore.

Gallery 1819 Singapore features Southeast Asian artworks from established artists across the International region. Ranging from Chinese Ink to Oil and Gouache paintings, Gallery 1819 offers a versatile acquisition of collectible works with a strong emphasis on promoting Singapore's culture and art talents.

The collection of mostly established local artists' works showcases familiar scenes dear to the hearts of Singaporeans.

"Their quality is just as good as that of overseas artists, and I want to provide them with a platform and promote them around the world. The masterpieces by famous artists are usually a testament to the time they lived in and that's what we look for in our Artists: do they represent the country? Or the themes that define the century they live in?"

- Zak Lo,
Gallery Director
Gallery1819 Pte Ltd


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