

19 October 2015

Singapore

For Immediate Release

Lee Wen: Songs Unsung – an exhibition of drawings, paintings and fine art photography from 1990 - 2015

Preview: Tuesday, 27th October 2015, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Exhibition period: 28th October – 21st November 2015 (open to public)



Lee Wen, This Blue Again, 2015, 150 x 123 cm
Colour pencil on canvas

Singapore – iPRECINATION is pleased to present a second solo exhibition of Singapore’s foremost multidisciplinary artist Lee Wen from 28th October – 21st November 2015. Following on from his successful inaugural solo exhibition at Art Basel Hong Kong 2014, “Songs Unsung” is a selection of works and ideas that reveal the hidden, intimate and lesser exposed productions of the artist’s wide ranging repertoire. These works reflect the processes related to his famous performances or installations and ephemeral works within the post-modern and currency of contemporary art trends.

This exhibition will showcase works from 1990 – 2015 that includes drawings, paintings and limited edition fine art photography taken from Lee’s performances in Kyoto (1995) and Chicago (2013). Lee Wen’s repertoire of works consists of very few paintings. In this exhibition, there are two rare paintings titled “Crucifixion” and “Hard Rain” where Lee’s performative gestures are rendered through the act of painting that is expressive and fraught with personal commentaries. The paintings were executed in thick quick brushstrokes, as a means of communication and exercise in manifesting the metaphysical. When interviewed, Lee Wen shares that each piece is its own creation, he is not bound by a particular style or what has been done before in his artistic practice. Viewing these 1990 paintings against his new paintings and drawings of today, one would notice that the artist has not wavered in his distinctive style of hand-crafted work that is characteristically spontaneous, pure and child-like.

“Songs Unsung” is about works and ideas that have been hidden in the recesses of the artist’s mind and unexposed to the world, but now have been taken forward for sharing by the artist. These works were curated in a deliberate attempt to break against the grain of curatorial trends, the performances were born out of personal experiences which touched upon his humanity and this presentation is a humble desire to share and reach out with open sincerity based on inner reflection as well as external explorations of social repercussions. With this understanding of Lee’s artistic practice and beliefs, these simple but strong ideas are testament to Lee’s standing in the history of Singapore’s art development and a true pioneer of contemporary and performance art in Singapore.

Born in 1957, Lee Wen is a Singaporean multidisciplinary artist. After leaving a banking career in 1989, he enrolled at LASALLE College of the Arts, graduating with a Masters of Fine Art in 2006. Lee Wen is a member of The Artists Village and the Black Market performance collective. He was co-organizer of Future of Imagination, an international performance art event in 2003, and also

initiated R.I.T.E.S.-Rooted in the Ephemeral Speak, a platform to develop and promote performance art, discourse, and discussion in Singapore in 2009. He has held numerous solo exhibitions and participated in various international group shows, biennales and festival. He was the recipient of Singapore's Cultural Medallion in 2005. Lee Wen has exhibited widely, with his most recent at "START Art Fair 2015" at Saatchi Gallery, London, "The Roving Eye" at ARTER Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey, "Prudential Singapore Eye" at Art Science Museum, Singapore, "Lee Wen: Solo Exhibition" at Art Basel Hong Kong in 2014, "The Breath of a Blade" at the Jendela Visual Arts Space Esplanade, Singapore in 2013 and "Lee Wen: Lucid Dreams in the Reverie of the Real" a dedicated retrospective at the Singapore Art Museum in 2012.

For more information on "Lee Wen: Songs Unsung", please refer to Annex A attached.

This Blue Again

This Blue again

Tell me what it's about?

We got Mother Nature on the run

We took the silver seed to the sun

Sail away on the milky way

Make it with the stars above

That's another road to the source

This Blue Again

This Blue Again

This Blue Again

This Blue Again

Tell me what it's about?

Looking for a home of the brave

No ghosts and shadows in a cave

Looking for nothing yet finding something

Inside this side of your mind on time

Back out of them old left and right

This Blue Again

This Blue Again

Tell me what its about?

This Blue Again

This Blue Again

~ Original poem by Lee Wen, 2015

About iPreciation

Established in Singapore since 1999, iPreciation is a fine art company that embodies an exquisite showcase of Modern and Contemporary Asian Art with an exhibition space of 5,300 square feet. Heralded as an ardent supporter of the Arts, iPreciation constantly propels the best of Modern and Contemporary Asian Art to the forefront. Since its inception, iPreciation has successfully created a legion of avenues for artistic exposure. The gallery provides a well-recognised platform for promising artists, meticulously cultivating and introducing them and their works to the most discerning art enthusiasts and collectors. Many artists represented by iPreciation have been widely exhibited and collected by public institutions, private and international corporations both in Singapore and internationally.

Equipped with significant, in-depth knowledge and specialty expertise in giving prominence to Contemporary Chinese, Singapore and South-East Asian art, iPreciation is a provider of professional art consultancy services to both individual and corporate entities. A few notable permanent public art acquisitions include Azia Centre in Pudong Shanghai, The Exchange in Tienjing, Gandaria City in South Jakarta, Menara Standard Chartered in Kuala Lumpur and The Exchange Square in Hong Kong. In Singapore, iPreciation has successfully installed public art works for United Square, The Metropolis, Keppel Harbour Front, One-North and CapitaGreen.

iPreciation also organizes large scale public art projects in Singapore and internationally. In 2015, Ju Ming's monumental sculptures enjoyed a four-month exhibition at Singapore Botanic Gardens and are currently on a travelling exhibition across China's four cities: Chengdu, Chongqing, Dalian and Shanghai. Managing Director of iPreciation, Helina Chan, was the recipient of the coveted New Tourism Entrepreneur of 2005 by the Singapore Tourism Board, acknowledging the entrepreneur whose company has made major contributions to the tourism industry in Singapore.

For more information please visit www.ipreciation.com

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Gallery Opening Hours:

Mon – Fri: 10am - 7pm

Sat: 11am - 6pm

Sundays and Public Holiday
by appointment only

Annex A

Highlights from “Lee Wen: Songs Unsung”

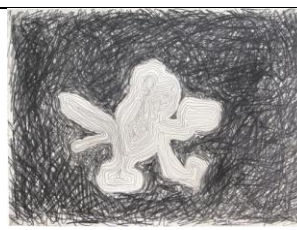
Drawings

A core part of this exhibition focuses on the artist’s recent drawings created in 2014-2015. These works on paper are abstract in nature, delicate and brilliantly-coloured, exposing a very intimate side of Lee’s practice and his obvious love for the medium. In this large body of brightly-coloured drawings, the artist revisits the simplicity of form and colour. The strong colours suggest subjects, ideas and moods that are otherwise not distinctive in their abstract forms. Viewed together, they look like an aggregate of thoughts extracted from the artist’s sub-conscious mind and slices of his visual memories.

In the dark-coloured *Prayala* series (2002), the artist says, “The series of drawings were done with random scratches, scrawls and whorls, which find their own distinct form in the midst of chaos. Each mark is an echo of the previous one; each stroke makes a decomposition of the preceding composition. Style is generally equated with eccentricity, individuality and originality. These drawings are intended to move in the opposite direction, toward generality, anonymity.”



Flowers of Evil – Karachi
2014-2015
109.5 x 79 cm
Colour pencil on paper



Prayala Series No.2
2002
29.8 x 42 cm (48 x 60.5cm framed)
Graphite on paper

Paintings 1990 - 2015

These paintings are early works by Lee before he began his performance art practice. These paintings were executed in thick and quickly executed brushstrokes, as a means of communication and exercise in manifesting the metaphysical.

Lee Wen’s new paintings will officially premier at the exhibition opening itself.



Crucifixion
1990
88 x 61 cm
Acrylic on canvas



Hard Rain
1990
87 x 60 cm
Acrylic on canvas

Blue Drawings

This Blue Again is a series of 13 new drawings were rendered during the artist's residency at CCA in 2014 - 2015. Accompanied with a poem, these abstract works seem like extensions of the artist's dreams or sub-consciousness. The distinct blue colour tones conjure dreamlike-scapes in the drawings, evoking a sense of freedom and fluidity, morphing into and around unrecognizable shapes and elements.



This Blue Again No.1

2014

33 x 23 cm

Color pencil on paper

This Blue Again No.7

2015

33 x 23 cm

Color pencil on paper

Fine Art Photography

These photographic prints are a means of documentation; to record and archive the creative experience of an ephemeral medium that is performance art. The ability to translate the live work into a material form that endures these images visually startling and rich with social, historical and cultural nuances. The impacts of these performances are carried forward in present time and represent significance in itself as part of Lee's oeuvre.

In his 2013 performance, *Call of the Red*, the artist observed and expounded on the poignancy of love's separation and longing, referencing the ancient Japanese celebration of "Tanabata" (a folklore of the cow-herder and the maiden), to the modern culture of globalization and urban migration separating lovers of every race. The performance took place in Chicago, USA, Lee was dressed in red and in long hair, and the performance work was a warm tribute to the artist's mother: "The song I sing is the voice of the widow who lost her husband while young and nubile. After having single-handedly bringing up her children, she suddenly realized age catching up with her. Her song is one of anxiety..." This beautiful image from the performance has been turned into a life-size fine art photography print that captures the tension of both the aesthetic and agony of emotional moments.



The Call of the Red


2013, Edition 1/5

112 x 216 cm (without framing)

Giclee print on cotton rag paper

Fine Art Photography

In 1995, Lee Wen participated in a workshop in Kyoto with artists Katsura Kan and Paradix K. During this stint in Japan, Lee did a performance of "Yellow Man" in the gardens which was attended by members of the public.

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| <p>Harvesting Beauty in the Fields 1995, Edition 1/5 86 x 124 cm (without framing) Giclee print on cotton rag paper</p> | |