



鄭木彰 個展

A Solo Exhibition by 展

Tay Bak Chiang

FRAGMENTS
OF LIFE

生活碎片

E-Published specially for

Fragments of Life 生活碎片 | **A Solo Exhibition by Tay Bak Chiang**

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iPRECATION 誰先覺
ipreciation.com

50 Cuscaden Road

HPL House #01-01

Singapore 249724

T: (65) 6339 0678

www.ipreciation.com

enquiry@ipreciation.com

 www.facebook.com/ipreciation.com

 www.instagram.com/ipreciation

 <https://www.youtube.com/ipreciation>

 WeChat ID: iPreciation

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Front Cover Image: Tay Bak Chiang - Light Through the Cracks 夾縫裏有光,
2024, 170x170cm, Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

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Foreword

Helina Chan

Fragments of Life 生活碎片, an exhibition that delves into the multifaceted essence of life's inherent complexities. Recent works by renowned Singapore artist, Tay Bak Chiang, whose exceptional talent in de- and re-constructing forms of nature in Chinese ink has captivated audience worldwide for over two decades.

Returning from his detour to the delectable and whimsical Flavours of Life 五味雜陳 in 2022, Tay is revisiting his rock series, alongside a deeper contemplation on the nuances of human experience. In this exhibition, amidst the backdrop of post-pandemic uncertainty interwoven with individuals' ordinary day-to-day, Tay has life, and its myriad fragments laid bare on the canvas, inviting us into a world where the mundane and unassuming hold profound meaning.

Through his deft brushstrokes and masterful use of form, colours and narratives, viewers are transported into the depths of Bak Chiang's soul and vision. As you walk through these seemingly placid works, you will be pulled by the rich tapestry of emotions.

To name a few, the exuberant "Purple Robe Dragon King" (紫衫龍王) born out of spontaneous inspiration, the celebration of a universal value in "Equal" (平等) and the poignant commentary of "Enclosed" (圍牆) and "Nibble Like a Silkworm, Swallow Like a Whale" (蠶食鯨吞).

Juxtaposing these contrasting narratives with startling clarity, Tay challenges us to confront the harsh realities and contradictions of our world, all while revealing that he has found redemption through his trusty paint brush.

As you embark on a journey of discovery, I urge you to take your time, let the colours wash over you and allow rays of joy, sorrows, regrets or anything else that resonates with you to shine through the empty spaces. Thoroughly soak yourselves in the pool of fragmented narratives that shape our being, societies and world. For in these fleeting moments on canvas, we may uncover some truths of humanity, the stories of resilience, and perhaps, find solace in the enduring power of creative expression.

前言

陳薈妃

「生活碎片」是一個探究生活內在複雜性和多面性的展覽，展示新加坡知名藝術家鄭木彰的最新作品。過去二十多年來，才華橫溢的他通過水墨精妙地解構和重構自然形態，深受世界各地觀眾的喜愛。

從「五味雜陳」（2022年）的探索中回歸，木彰在這些展品中對石頭系列有了新的一番審視，以及他對生命有了更深層的思考。隨著後疫情時代的到來，這充滿不確定性的局勢與個人平凡的日常生活交織，木彰將生活的無數碎片攤開在畫布上，讓觀者踏入一個看似平凡無奇卻蘊含諸多深意的世界。

通過他靈巧的筆觸、對形式、色彩和敘事的巧妙運用，木彰將觀眾帶入他的靈魂和思想深處。當你走過這些看似平靜的作品時，你會不自覺被其中豐富的情感所牽引——「紫衫龍王」

的熱情奔放、「平等」中對這個普世價值的頌揚，以及「圍牆」和「蠶食鯨吞」對社會的隱諱批判。

當這些畫作並排在一起時，它們生產了一種極其鮮明的對比，木彰這是要讓我們直面殘酷的現實，看清這個世界所存在的矛盾，同時揭示了身為藝術家的他早已經通過手中的畫筆找到救贖。

當你踏上這段探索之旅時，我想請你放慢腳步，讓色彩在心中漸漸暈染，讓喜悅、悲傷、遺憾或任何能引起你共鳴的東西空隙中穿透而出。在這些的碎片中，徹底沉浸於各種塑造我們個人、這個社會和世界的敘事。畫布上捕捉到的這些稍縱即逝，或許能夠讓我們發掘有關人性的真相、人在面對現實的堅韌，又或許，在藝術的表達中找到慰藉。

Artist Statement

Life is composed of many unspeakable fragments, there are past, there are stories that are happening now, there are joy, sadness and regrets, and slowly piecing together into one's life.

The paintings on display this time are inspired by memories that have been stored in the heart for a long time, and some of them are fragmentary feelings in daily life, and the resonance generated in the moment forms the colorful picture in the mind. For creation, unexpected touches are often more surprising than long-planned deliberations.

One day, when I went to buy acrylic colors and saw a gorgeous purple. My mind immediately thought of the work "Purple Robe Dragon King 紫衫龍王" that had been stored in my heart for a long time that I wanted to paint, and I vaguely visualized the glamorous purple and gold figure described in Jin Yong's 金庸 novel in my mind. I bought the color and was eager to capture what was in my mind.

With the color in sight, I might as well make the color more vibrant, so I painted "Equal 平等", which composed of stones of different colors, symbolizing that everyone is born equal, regardless of their social backgrounds.

There should be more of these wonderful feelings in life, but brightness and darkness often coexist.

Tay Bak Chiang

Though the war is far away, at the other side of the world, the images of the disasters brought by the war to the civilians are often presented in front of our eyes, if not for the diversity of the modern media, how can we see the true nature of such matters?

"Enclosd 圍牆" explores today's civilized society, there is still a place where an invisible wall has been erected, dividing the world into two. And "Nibble Like a Silkworm, Swallow Like a Whale 蠶食鯨吞" depicts the naked plundering and occupation of the weak.

The history of the world is always repeating itself, hypocrisy and greed are just merely changing masks.

Whether someone in life can truly portray different images on different occasions, and when alone can revert to one's true self?

The work "Masks and the True Self 假面與真我" question that such a person may one day find that under the mask, they no longer have a clear sense of their true self.

The world is still turbulent, and I used the brush on my hand to release the unsettled emotions on the canvas, to capture the priceless calm and happiness of life.

藝術家宣言

人的生活都是由許多不可言明的碎片組成，這裏面有過去式，也有當下正在發生的故事，有喜悅有悲傷有遺憾，最終慢慢拼湊成自己的人生。

這回展出的畫，靈感來源有存放在心裏已久的記憶，有些是日常中零零碎碎的感受，瞬間產生的共鳴讓心裏就有了畫面和顏色。對創作而言，往往不期而遇的觸動，比蓄謀已久的推敲更讓自己驚喜。

某日去買顏料，看到一種帶豔麗的紫色，思緒馬上聯想到存放心裏已久卻還未動筆的作品《紫衫龍王》，腦袋裏隱隱約約看到金庸小說裏描述的美豔紫色身影，買了顏色迫不及待想趕快試試看顏色效果和捉住這想要畫的衝動。

眼中有了色彩，不妨就讓色彩更斑斕，所以又畫了《平等》，由不同顏色石頭組成，象徵每個人人生而平等不分貴賤。

生活中應該多一些如此美好的感受，但光明與黑暗往往是同時存在的。

鄭木彰

這世界的戰事在遠方，但戰火帶給平民的災難畫面卻不時呈現在眼前，若不是現代媒體的多元化，我們如何能辨識事情的本質。

《圍牆》說的是在文明社會的今天，仍然有着這樣一個地方被砌起一道牆，分割成兩個世界。而《蠶食鯨吞》就是赤裸裸對弱者的掠奪和侵佔。

世界的歷史一直都在重複，偽善與貪婪只是換了面具。

生活中是否真有人可以在不同場合演繹出不同的形象，而獨處的時候又能做回真實的自己？

作品《假面與真我》想要質疑的是這樣的人或許有一天會發現面具之下的自己早已不再擁有清晰的面孔。

這世界依舊動盪，我依靠手上的畫筆把不安情緒消耗在畫布上，並捕捉生活中難能可貴的平靜與幸福。



美人痣

Beauty Mark

2024

100x100cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

Flutter

2024

100x100cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas





初戀

First Love

2024

100x100cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

Silent Longing

2024

100x100cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas



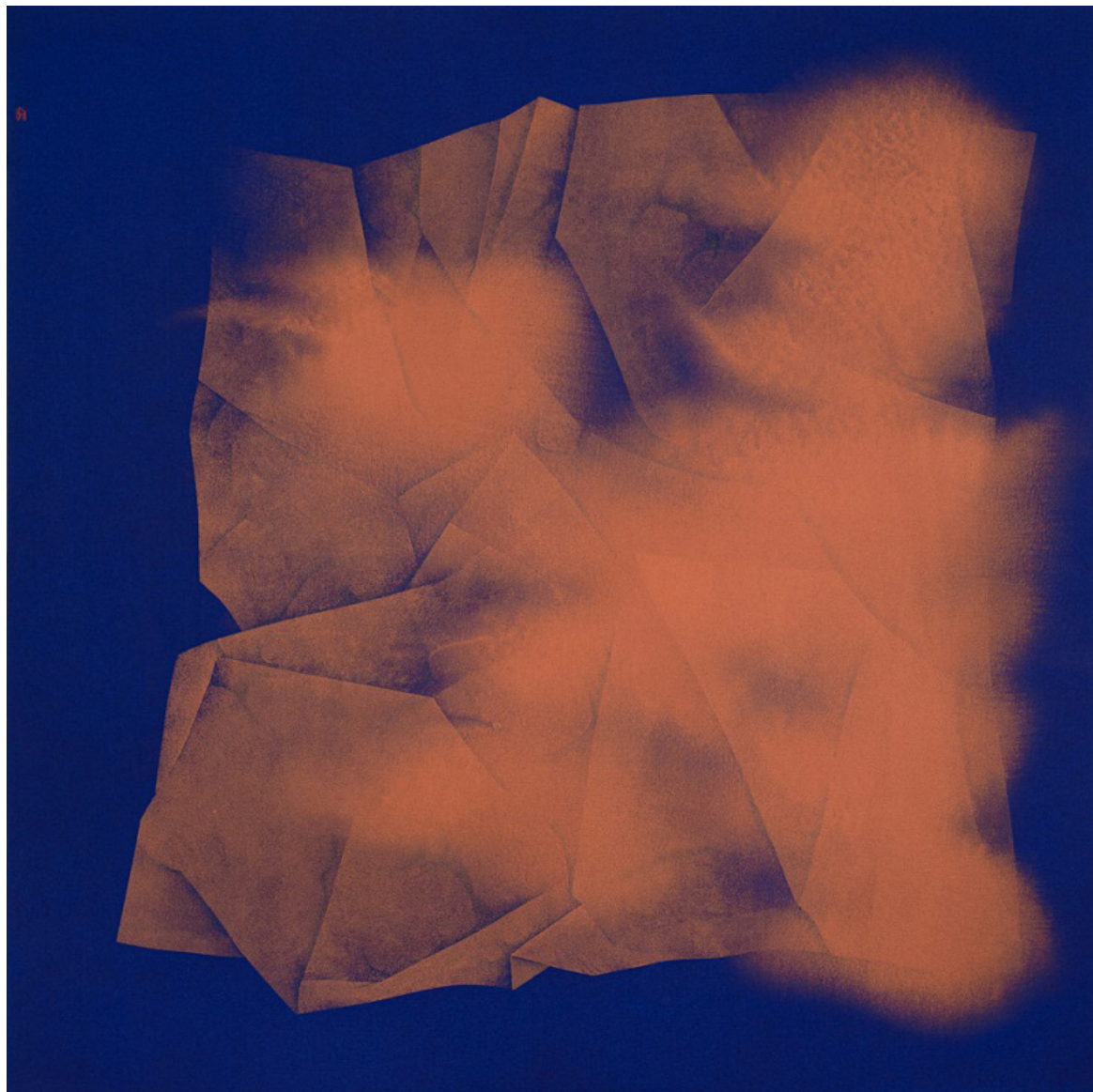
Reading You

2024

120x120cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas





一切浮雲

Fleeting

2024

140x140cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

From Now On, Flowers for Myself

2024

140x140cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas







夾縫裏有光

Light Through the Cracks
2024
170x170cm
Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

Nibble Like a Silkworm, Swallow Like a Whale
2024
170x170cm
Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas



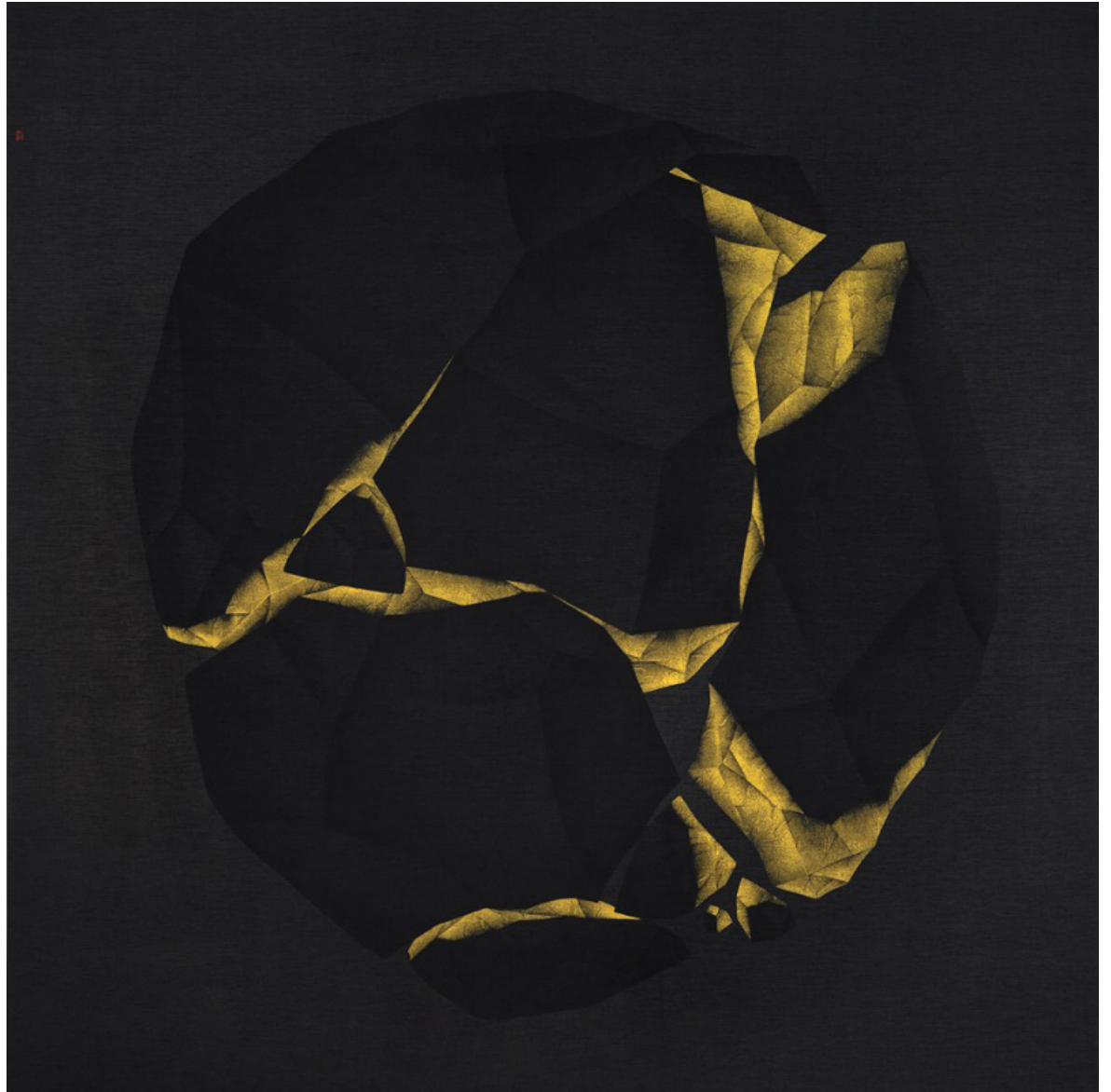
Enclosed

2024

180x160cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas







生
活
碎
片

Fragments of Life
2024
70x200cm
Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas



平等

Equal

2024

100x220cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas



紫衫龍王

Purple Robe Dragon King
2024
160x220cm
Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

The Tiger Roars

2017

160x140cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

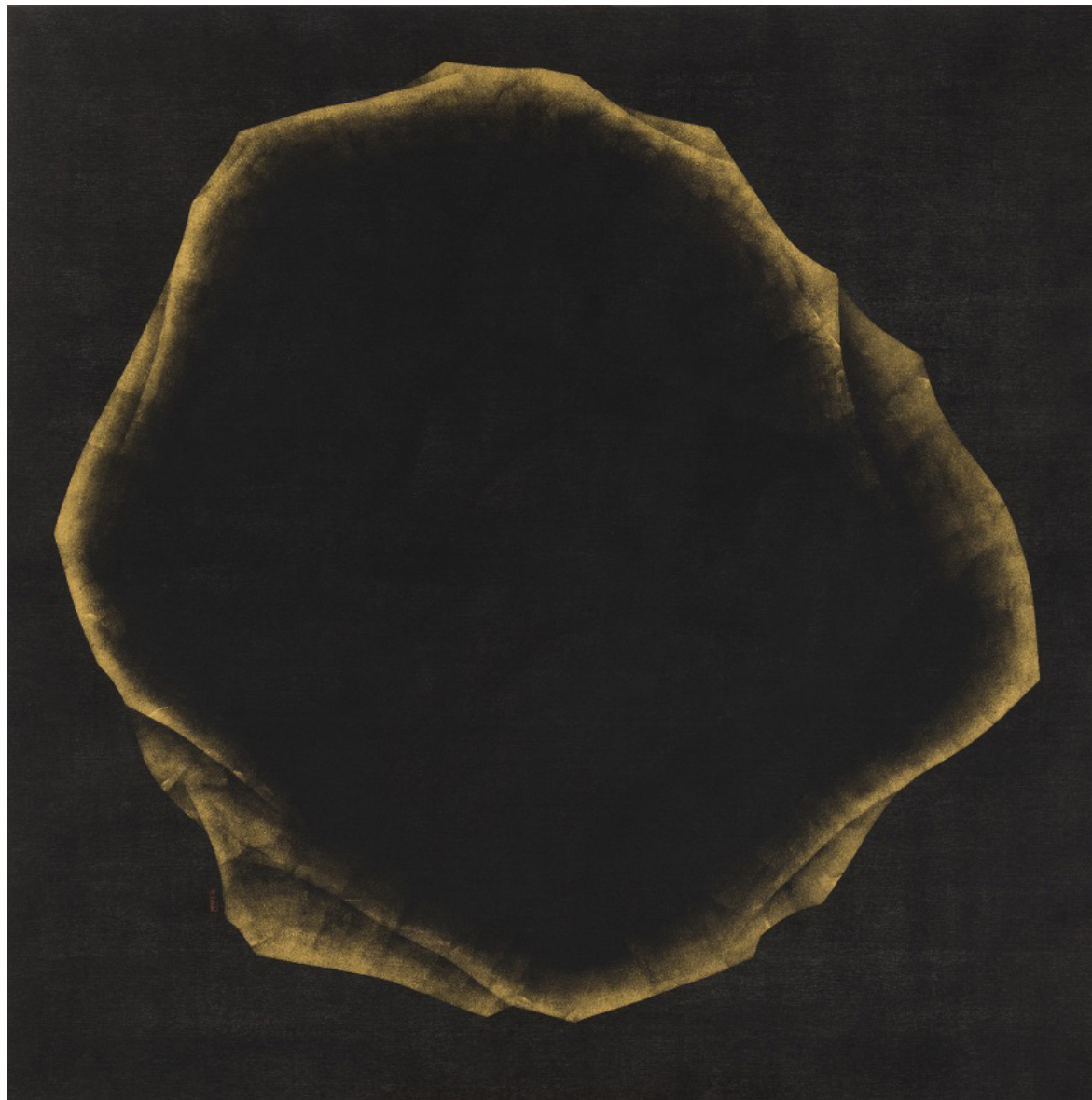


A Faraway Time

2019

140x140cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas





月下之门

Lunar Gate

2023

160x140cm

Acrylic and Pigments on Canvas

Tay Bak Chiang (b.1973, Singapore)

Education

1998 | Graduated from China Academy of Fine Art, People's Republic of China

1995 | Diploma in Fine Art, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 | 《生活碎片》Fragments of Life, iPreciation, Singapore 2022 | 《五味雜陳》Flavours of Life, iPreciation, Singapore 2018 | 《漁樵問答》The Fisherman and the Woodcutter, iPreciation, Singapore / 《積石成山》From Stone to Mountains, Cube Gallery, London, UK 2016 | 《隔帘看月•隔水看花》From A Distance, iPreciation, Art Basel Hong Kong / 《回鸣, 艺典空间》Revisit, Yidian Space, Beijing, China 2015 | 《青花•朱印》BlueWhite Vermilion, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore / 《俠之大者》The Chivalrous Hero, Serindia Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand 2014 | 《頑石》Sentience, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore / 《石頭記》The Story of the Stone, Art Projects Gallery, Singapore / 《斧劈皴》Cleavages Fractures Fold, iPreciation, Singapore 2013 | 《劍氣》The Breath of A Blade, Jendela, Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay, Singapore 2012 | 《且聽風吟》Hear the Wind Sing, Art Projects Gallery, Hong Kong 2011 | 《天工》Ingenuity, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore 2010 | 《呼吸之間》Between Breaths, Artfolio Gallery, Singapore 2003 | 《法自畫生》Fa Zi Hua Sheng, Plum Blossoms Gallery, Singapore

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 | Art SG 2024, Singapore 2023 | The Good, the Bad & the Ugly Show, 7879 Gallery, Singapore / 《嘿, 篆刻还可这样玩!》Carving Possibilities, de Suantio Gallery, SMU, Singapore 2019 | 《台北当代艺术博览会》Taipei Dangdai, Taiwan 2018 | 《喚風》Beckoning of the Breeze, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore / 《岩石裂縫》In the Cleft of the Rock, Pontone Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan / 《磊》Moving Mountains, Artsembly, The Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, Singapore 2017 - 2018 | Art New York, USA 2017 | 《墨意》Ink and Mind, NAFA Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore / Singapore - Japan Ink Painting Exchange Exhibition, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore / 《印•象——嘯濤篆刻展》Impressions, Oriental Art & Cultural Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia / 80by80, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, Singapore / Edinburgh Art Fair, Scotland, UK / Art Miami, USA 2016 - 2017 | 《迷你迷你小品展》Ini Mini Mini Mo, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore 2016 | Art Stage, Singapore 2015 | Art Paris, France / Art Silicon Valley, iPreciation, Singapore / Portable Art Week, iPreciation, Singapore / Southeast Asian Abstraction: A New Dialogue, Sotheby's, Singapore 2014 - 2015 | Art Taipei, Taiwan 2014 | Art Southampton Art Fair, New York, USA / 20/21 International Art Fair, London, UK / Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London, UK / Inkpression, Hakaren Art Gallery, Singapore 2013 - 2014 | Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong 2013 | Cascadence - Singapore Redux, iPreciation, Singapore / A Thing of Two About the Bed, FOST Gallery, Singapore / Made in Singapore - Three Quarters of a Century, NAFA Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore 2012 | Cityscapes Unbound, OCBC Centre, Singapore / Crisis of Monumentality,

Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore / 《诗琴画艺》 Poetic Charm, Esplanade Recital Studio, Singapore / 《墨》 Mò, Jendela, Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, Singapore 2011 - 2014 | Affordable Art Fair, Singapore 2011 | Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair, Grand Hyatt Seoul, Korea, National Museum of Gwang-Ju, Korea / Art for the Heart - Perpetual Spirit, in support of Mercy Relief, Helutrans, Singapore 2010 | Live Our Dreams Community Paintings, The Arts House, Singapore / Celebrating Asian Art, Artfolio Gallery, Singapore / Space + Imagination, Korea Singapore Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition, Jeollanamdo Okgwa Art Museum, Korea / Now and Next - Modern Arts of Korea, Japan, Singapore, National Museum of Gwang-Ju, Korea 2009 | Nanyang - 70 Years After, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore / Nanyang in Paris, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore 2005 | Singapore Art Fair, Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore / Singapore Art Show, Singapore Management University, Singapore 2004 | Siaw-Tao Chinese Seal-Carving Calligraphy and Painting Society Exhibition, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia / SingArt - A Brush with Lion - Public Art Exhibition, Singapore / Internationale Cite des Arts, Paris, France 2003 - 2009 | International Chinese Ink Painting Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan 2003 | International Chinese Ink Painting Exhibition, Hangzhou, China / Singapore Creative Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition, Chengdu and Shanghai, China 2002 - 2012 | Teochew Art Exhibition, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore 2002 | Urban Artists 2002, MICA Building Atrium, Singapore 2001 | Ten Contemporary Singapore Artists Joint Exhibition, MICA Building Atrium, Singapore / Nokia Singapore Art, Singapore 2000 | AD2000 Kaohsiung 14th International Art Interchange Exhibition, Taiwan 1999 | Nokia Singapore Art, Singapore 1997 – 2000 | NAFA Alumni Association Art Exhibition, Singapore / Singapore Art Society Annual Art Exhibition, Singapore 1995 - 2017 | Siaw-Tao Chinese Seal-Carving Calligraphy and Painting Society Annual Exhibition, Singapore

Talk

2017 | An Evening with Singaporean Painter Tay Bak Chiang, presented by the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations in New York and Asia Society, 9 March

Awards

2003 | First Prize (Traditional Chinese Medium Category), 22nd UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore 2002 | Young Artist Award for Visual Arts, National Arts Council, Singapore / Distinction Award, Chinese Painting Category, Dr Tan Sze Chor Art Award, Singapore 2000 | First Prize, Traditional Chinese Medium 19th UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore 1999 | First Prize, Singapore Turf Club Art Competition / Distinction Award, Chinese Painting Category, Dr Tan Sze Chor Art Award, Singapore 1995 | 16th Shell Discovery Art Award, Singapore

Selected Permanent Collections

The Istana, Singapore | Mandarin Oriental, Singapore | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore | Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations, New York | Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore | National Arts Council, Singapore | National Gallery Singapore, Singapore | OCBC Bank, Singapore | Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore | Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard, London, UK | Simmons & Simmons Contemporary Art Collection, Singapore | Singapore Turf Club, Singapore | SingTel, Singapore | SC Global Developments, Singapore | Swiss Re, Singapore | United Overseas Bank, Singapore

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