

PRESS RELEASE

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STEPHANIE JANE BURT

What is the current that presents a behaved waist

14 March – 19 April 2020



Design of Banner by Studio Vanessa Ban

Opening Day: 14 March 2020 (Sat), 6 – 9 PM

Artist Talk with Curator Samantha Yap: 28 March 2020, Saturday

Exhibition Dates: 14 March – 19 April 2020

Exhibition Venue: Yeo Workshop, 47 Malan Road #01-25 S(109444)

Opening Hours: Tuesdays – Saturdays, 11 AM – 7 PM

Sundays, 12 – 6 PM

Closed on Mondays

“What is the current that makes machinery, that makes it crackle, what is the current that presents a long line and a necessary waist. What is this current.”

- Gertrude Stein, Tender Buttons

Following her previous large-scale installation in 2016, Yeo Workshop is pleased to present *What is the current that presents a behaved waist*, the second solo exhibition by Singaporean artist Stephanie Jane Burt. The young artist presents an exciting new installation, once again transforming the gallery space into an immersive artistic experience.

Adapted from Gertrude Stein’s poetry, the title prefaces a shared inquiry into the conditions that enable specific ways of looking and behaving to surface. What is this current, Stein asks without a question mark, suggesting a question that has not yet sought its resolution. Burt takes up this similar question, considering the very currents that prescribe images of ideal womanhood and how these scripts can be refracted and divested of power.

The exhibition continues her interest and engagement with film and fiction and considers the key but often eclipsed character of Judy at the heart of Alfred Hitchcock’s *Vertigo* who becomes a shadow to the fictitious ideal of Madeleine. *Vertigo* follows detective Scottie as he investigates and grows obsessed with his friend’s wife, Madeleine, eventually coming to the realisation that she never existed beyond Judy’s performance. The later part of the film documents Scottie’s desperate attempts to resurrect the image of Madeleine through Judy who gives in to his desires.

Burt envisions the gallery as a *mise-en-scène* that stages a parallel fiction where Judy’s interiority can be contemplated and complicated. Through a material language that plays with the integration and disintegration of various materials such as metal, wire, ribbon, and lace, Burt choreographs how the unyielding costume of Madeleine that Judy wears can be made vulnerable and yield to other possibilities of becoming.

Artist Talk

Artist Stephanie Burt and curator Samantha Yap will share more about the premise of the exhibition and the various film and text sources that contributed to its becoming.



Artist Stephanie Jane Burt

About the Artist

Stephanie Jane Burt is an artist whose practice spans from sculptural installations to fictional prose. She completed her studies at Glasgow School of Art, where she received her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Painting and her Master of Fine Arts. Her work invites the viewer to explore dialogues between her installations and their settings through a fictional narrative at times referencing film and literature. Her research looks across feminism, gender, an analysis of girl culture and the nouveau roman. She recently completed a residency at ISCP New York in 2019 and has started a research project, *A Stubborn Bloom*, which explores representations of femininity within fashion, film and material culture.

About the Curator

Samantha Yap (b. 1993) shuffles between writing and project management across the fields of art and design. She curated at second sight (2019) at Coda Culture and her writing was featured in the poetry anthology *My Lot Is a Sky* (2018). As a writer, she works with poetry, fiction, and is especially attached to ekphrastic modes of writing. Currently, she is in the final term of her degree in English Literature and Art History at the Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, where she is researching on vulnerability and writing.

About the Gallery

Yeo Workshop is a contemporary art gallery that produces a series of exhibitions, represented artists projects, and gallery-based programmes such as talks, symposiums and guiding research. Every few years the gallery undertakes an archival research project on a pioneer generation artist that is relevant to our reading of contemporary art, having recently held the first major retrospective for Singaporean figurative artist Solamalay Namasivayam. The gallery's aim is to promote the work of contemporary local and international artists with a strong artistic practice, and engage with the Singaporean and visiting audience. It puts emphasis on education via programmes surrounding its exhibition.

Other projects of the gallery include *TWENTY TWENTY* presented by The Singapore Arts Club in conjunction with Singapore Art Week. The project transforms a former ship repairs workshop and warehouse at 2 Cavan Road into a pop-up art destination. Read more about it [here](#). Audrey Yeo, Founder of Yeo Workshop, was also the recent Project Director for S.E.A. Focus – An STPI project, boutique art fair showcasing Southeast Asian Galleries in its first edition, and continues to work on its VIP and education programmes.