

PRESS RELEASE, updated 14 Feb 2023

## Sarah Choo Jing *Dancing Without Touching*

IRL Gillman Barracks Extended Until Sunday 12 March 2023

Programme Finissage Thursday 9 Mar 2023

(Virtual) Decentraland Galleries featuring previous installations of the artist [here](#)

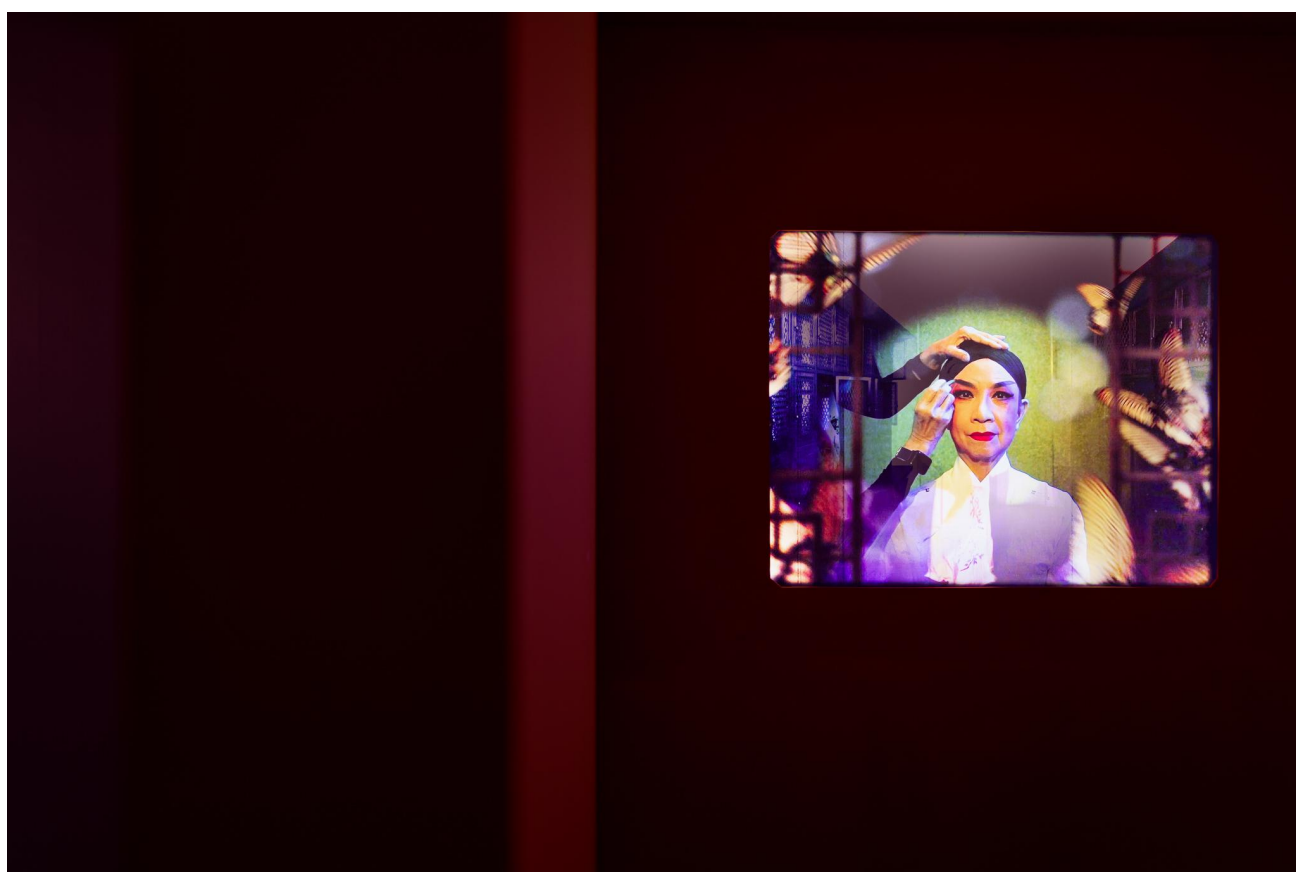
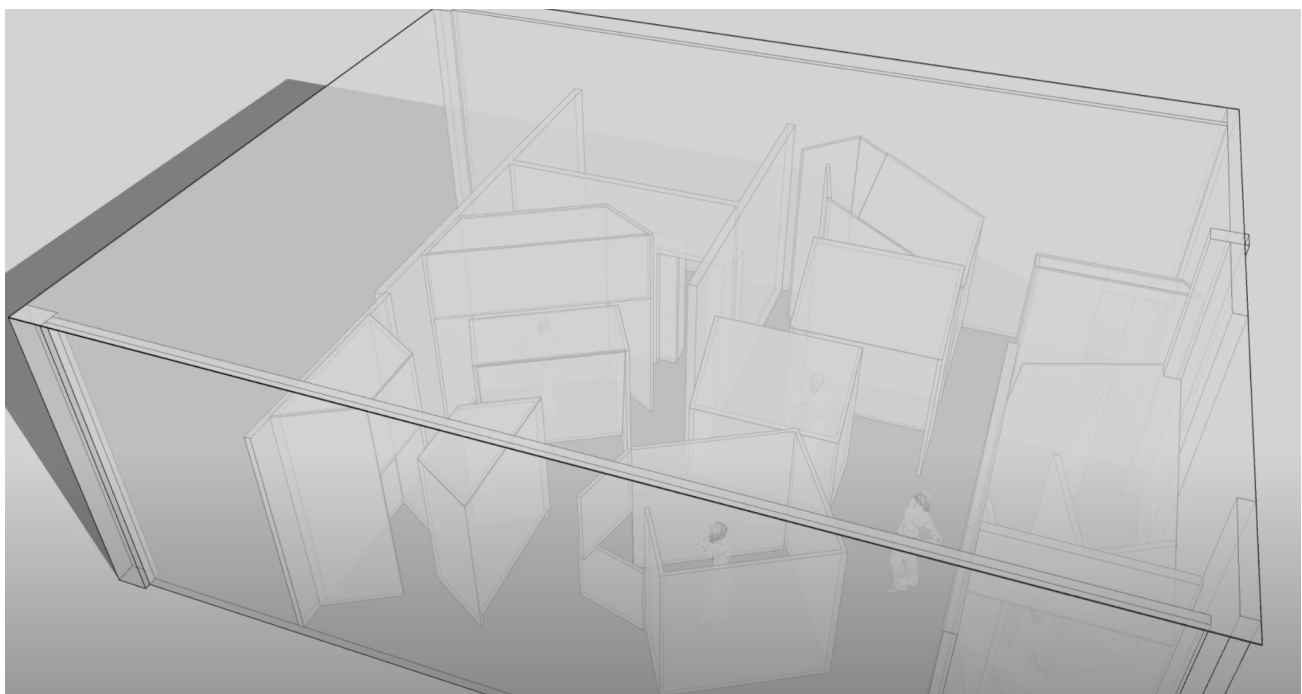
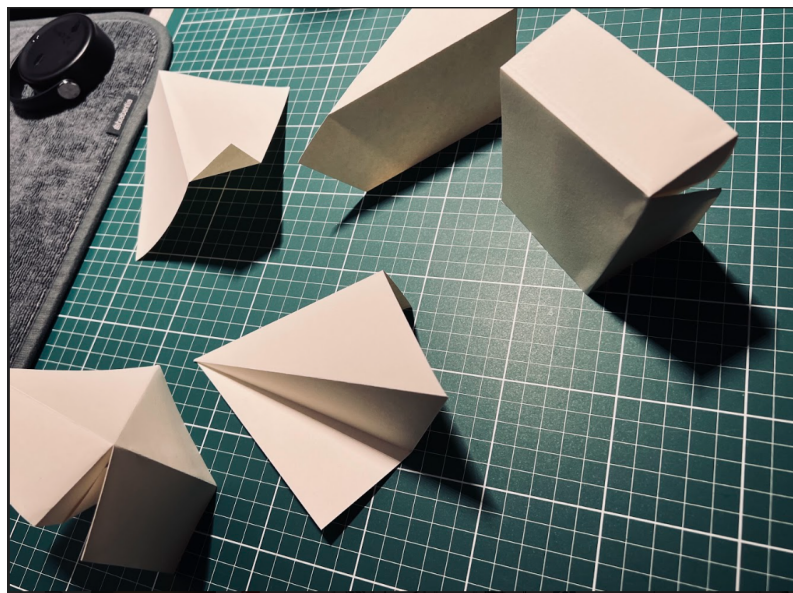


Image Caption: Installation Image, One of Five Portraits, Sarah Choo Jing, *Only nearer than half a world apart*, 2022

2023 — Yeo Workshop will spotlight Singaporean artist Sarah Choo Jing with an immersive presentation of new works for her solo exhibition at the gallery. The exhibition explores an alternative discourse of movement and dance in the context of Singapore's 20th century 'Entertainment Worlds' – amusement parks that offered the public diversion through athletic

contests, performances, games, rides and food fairs. Choo presents her subjects plucked from these worlds and immersed in deliberately constructed situations, allowing them to interpret, respond, and perform within the site. Playing with notions of performativity and chance in the process of creating these works, Choo offers her performers the opportunity to challenge traditional and preconceived stereotypes associated with their respective historic characters: a Chinese opera performer, singer, cabaret girl, boxer, and jester. Staged at a moment when the world is still working through physical separations, personal anxieties, and the social strangeness of increased distancing enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic, this work offers a hallucinatory resemblance to our current reality. The isolation of the characters combined with their range of movements from confident and controlled to introspective, pitiful, and awkward creates an uneven rhythm that offers a view of their unreality in perpetual pure repetition.



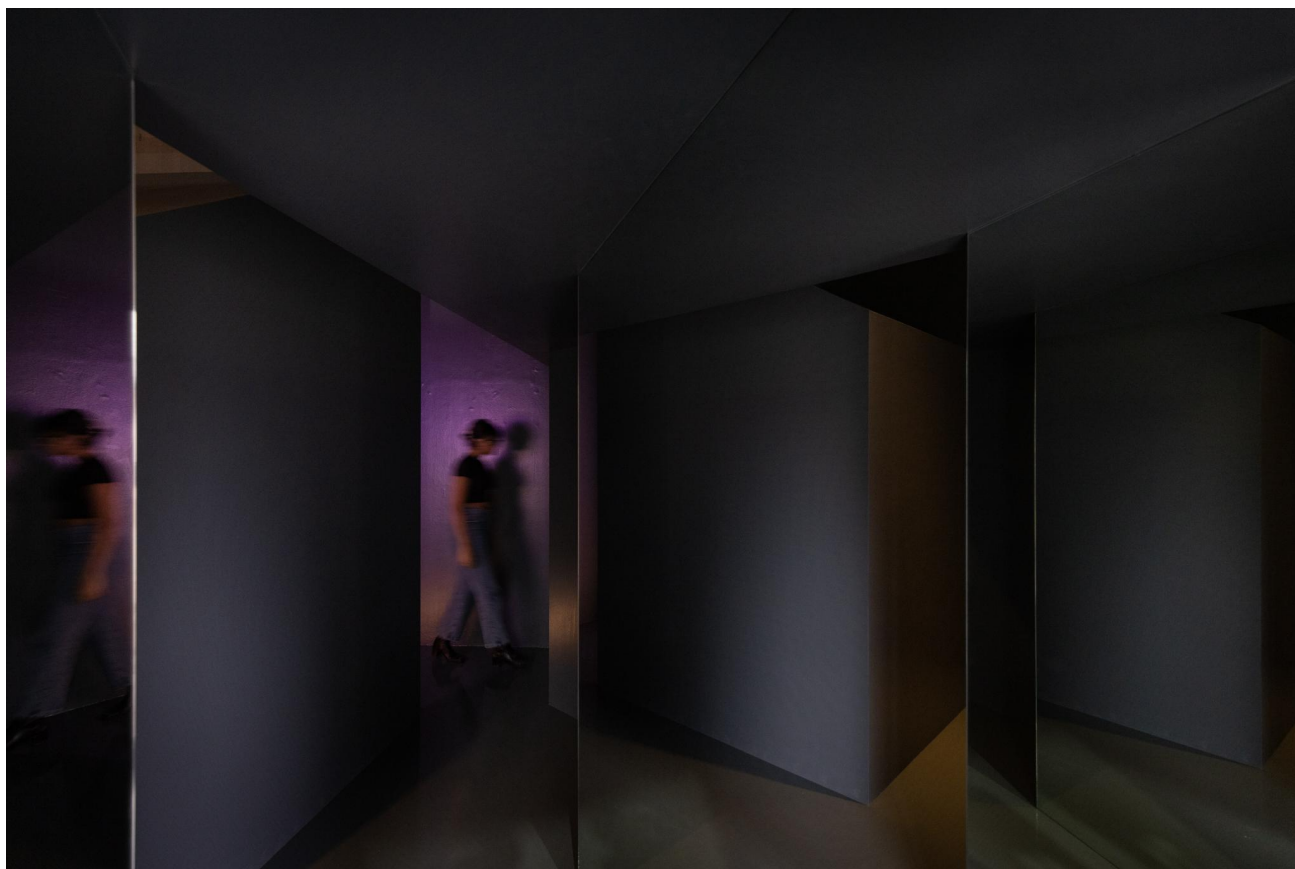


Image Caption: The gallery was designed by placing origami in the space

Sarah Choo Jing's practice purposefully activates image-making and photography that teases the boundaries between historical truth and speculative fiction. Often juxtaposing and interspersing staged, found, and borrowed media to uncanny sensibilities, she brings novel perspectives on society and history through her earnest observation of human behaviour and relationships. This project explores fantasy and reality through a contemporary interpretation of what Entertainment Worlds previously offered as alternatives, escapes, and wonderlands. The work materialises at the intersection of technology and analogue mediums through an immersive architectural sound and video installation that takes an innovative format comprising a video sculpture, digital prints and NFTs of the performers.

Works are available for sale, prints & video sculptures with price range SGD 9,200 - SGD 25,000. Please contact gallery for more information.

Finissage Programme Thursday 9 March 2023, 7pm

Join us for a closing programme beginning with a conversation about the diverse creative processes behind *Dancing Without Touching* with artist Sarah Choo Jing and curatorial advisor Dr Karin G. Oen.

The artist's research, staging, and vision for the five video works and the exhibition's architectural environment have allowed visitors to immerse themselves in a carefully constructed experience. One goal of creating this experience was to incite reactions and invite reflections on our own relationships to the contemporary entertainment worlds we all inhabit, dominated by screens and the ever-finer line between the real, the unreal, and the surreal.

In addition to hearing from the artist and discussing the work on view, the programme will include sharing and reflections by several members of the exhibition's public who submitted creative responses after viewing the show. Marking the end of the exhibition, this programme hopes to instigate future conversations inspired by the subjects, atmosphere, and open-ended possibilities of the show. To be part of the discussion, please submit your own creative response by 1 March 2023 to [info@yeoworkshop.com](mailto:info@yeoworkshop.com)

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



SARAH CHOO JING (b.1990, Singapore) is known for her interdisciplinary approach to photography, video and installation. Her work depicts identifiable moments and characters within contemporary urban society suggesting a plethora of private and often solitary narratives. The artist is concerned with the gaze of the flaneur, voyeurism and the uncanny. Choo was recently shortlisted as a Finalist for the Audemars Piguet Art Commission for Art Basel 2020 and invited to present her practice at Le Brassus, Geneva in Switzerland and is a Finalist in the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2020. She clinched the Gold Award in the 2019 PX3 Prix de la Photographie Competition, the 2017 Perspectives 40 under 40 Award and came in First Place in the 2015 Moscow International Foto Awards. Choo was also awarded the ICON De Martell Cordon Bleu Photography Award and Kwek Leng Joo Prize of Excellence in Still Photography Award in 2013.

## ABOUT THE GALLERY

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. This year, the gallery is focused on bringing greater prominence to local artists with several Singaporean artists joining the roster and promoting them internationally. To that end, the gallery attended the inaugural Frieze Korea Seoul with Singaporean Fyerool Darma in September 2022.

Opening Hours:

Tue – Sat, 11am – 7pm; Closed Sun, Mon and Public Holidays.

>>[Instagram](#) >>[Facebook](#) >>[Twitter](#) >>[LinkedIn](#)

## RELATED ARTIST NEWS



### 1. DECENTRALAND (VIRTUAL)

Join us in the Metaverse where you can see three series of Sarah Choo Jing's works *Zoom Click Waltz* (2020), *Art of the Rehearsal* (2017), and *Accelerated Intimacy* (2018).

Location [here](#)

For more info on events [contact us](#).



### 2. CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM (USA)

11 Nov 2022 - Feb 2023

'BEYOND BOLLYWOOD: 2000 YEARS OF DANCE IN ART' featuring Sarah Choo Jing's *Art of the Rehearsal* (2017) and *Portrait Series* (2017).