



Gillman Barracks
47 Malan Road #01-25
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PRESS RELEASE *For immediate release – December 2023*

SAW 2024 | OFF-SITE PROGRAMME

**PRIYAGEETHA DIA & MARYANTO:
ARCHIVING LANDSCAPE**

63 Kim Yam Road, Singapore 239364

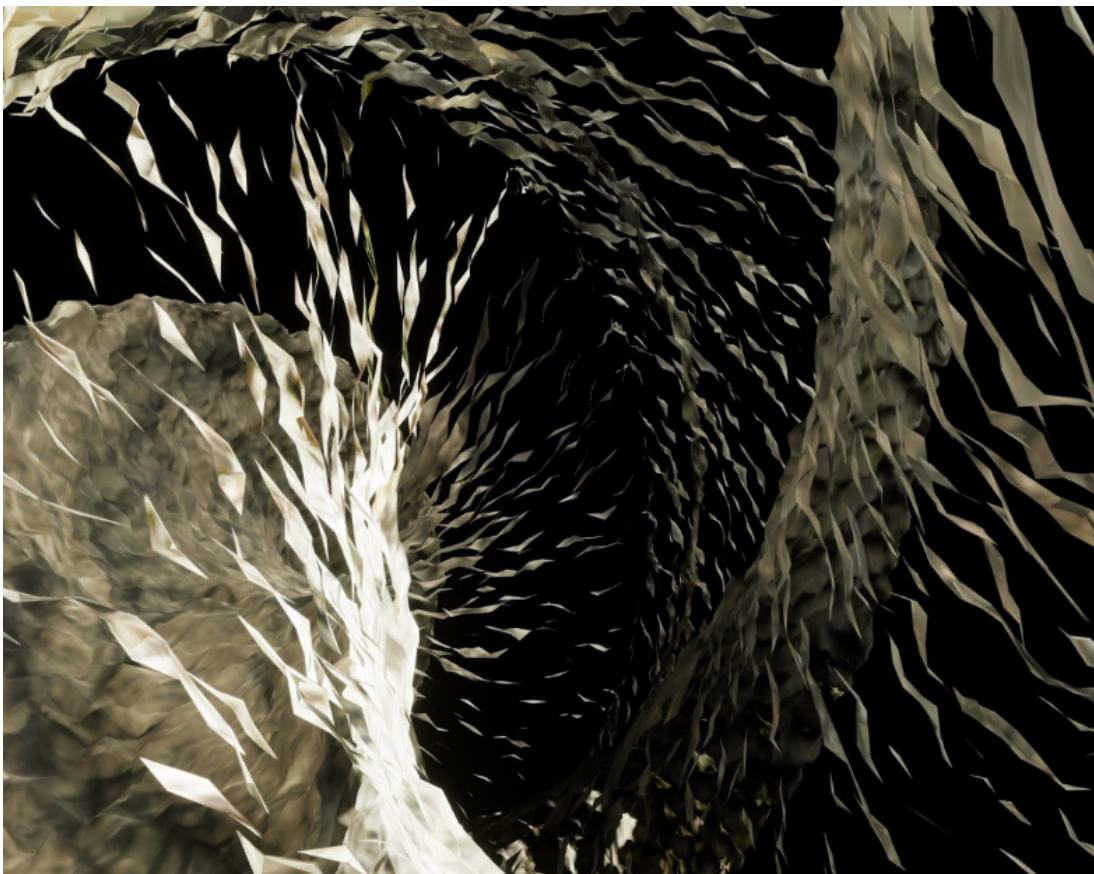
Opening Wednesday 17 January 2024, 3-7pm

Artist in Dialogue Friday 19 January 2024, 10am

Exhibition Dates: 17 - 28 January 2024, Open Daily except Mondays

Supported by Yenn and Alan Lo Foundation

**An Exhibition Exploring Southeast Asia's Environmental
Narratives in a Shophouse
for Singapore Art Week 2024**



Priyageetha Dia, *TURBINE TROPICS*, 2023, film still.



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Tucked away in a shophouse on Kim Yam Road, *'Archiving Landscape'* unveils untold narratives around the natural environments in Southeast Asia that call to our attention various socio-political concerns. It opens with a short documentary through the lens of Maryanto, who takes us on his expedition around Mount Merapi, revealing the extent of human negligence and destruction done unto the forests and volcanoes. Deeply alarmed by the relentless pillaging of land in Indonesia, the artist has long been investigating various industries complicit in destroying these natural landscapes. He weaves local mythologies, chronicles and personal experiences to animate these often overlooked yet grave issues—from volcanic sand mining to oil dredging—in his monochromatic paintings and drawings. Alongside the documentary film, earlier works emblematic of his practice punctuate the space, offering moments of meditation for a more hopeful and utopian hereafter.

As one meanders through the shophouse, they'll arrive at Priyageetha Dia's spellbinding video work, *TURBINE TROPICS*. Playing on the visceral qualities of rubber tapping itself, she transports us to an almost otherworldly dimension that spirals infinitely into the unknown. Initially shown at Frieze Seoul 2023, *TURBINE TROPICS* is part of Dia's current research around Southeast Asian plantation histories, in particular rubber plantations. Drawing unsettling parallels between data extractivism of our current digital epoch and the colonial plantation system, Dia brings our activities, choices and behaviours as Internet users to urgent introspection. While the forms of exploitation differ, both the colonial plantation system and data extractivism revolve around similar principles: the extraction of resources, power imbalances, dependency, and opacity. As the digital age advances, addressing these exploitative practices becomes paramount to avoid replicating colonial injustices in new forms.

While both artists address different forms of violence, nature acts as a crucial motif to locate and distinguish these geopolitical and post-colonial nuances that persist in the structures of contemporary society. Framed within Singapore's cosmopolitan jungle, this exhibition posits the duality of being an oasis and a passage. It seeks to spark a sense of journeying through the past to make sense of our present reality, as we consider and conceive the possibilities of an ever-precarious future.



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Maryanto, *The Tower*, 2015, Ink on paper.

Programming

Opening Reception Wed 17 January 2024, 3-7pm

Artists In-Conversation Fri 19 January 2024, 10 am
Limited spaces, breakfast RSVP required here info@yeoworkshop.com



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Artist Biographies

PRIYAGEETHA DIA (Singapore) works with time-based media and installation. Her artworks offer speculative narratives on Southeast Asian plantations, which she views as sites for recovering stories of resistance. Her research interests also include building nonlinear narratives through digital semiotics, migrant histories, and our relationship with the non-human.

She has been exhibited internationally at Frieze Seoul (2023); Singapore Art Museum (2023); Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala (2022–2023); La Trobe Art Institute, Australia (2022); National Gallery Singapore (2020) and ArtScience Museum, Singapore (2019). She was the recipient of the IMPART award by Art Outreach in 2019. was an Artist-in-Residence at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore in 2022 and the SEA AiR—Studio Residencies at the Jan van Eyck Academie in the Netherlands in 2023. She was also the recipient of the IMPART award by Art Outreach in 2019. She will be in the upcoming Diryah Biennale.

MARYANTO (Indonesia) creates powerful monochromatic paintings and monumental installations that dissect socio-political structures through the depiction of landscapes. His works investigate the impact of technological development, industrialisation, pollution, and resource exploitation on the natural world, reflecting the harsh realities in his home country. Through fable-like and theatrical settings, Maryanto's landscapes present deeply urgent concerns around the encroachment of the environment, both physical and cultural.

Selected solo and group exhibitions include: *Meru / Fractured Paradise*, Tabula Rasa Gallery, London (2023); 16Albermarle, Sydney (2023); MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Thailand (2021); Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta (2020); Yeo Workshop, Singapore (2019, 2017 and 2015); the 2nd Industrial Biennale, Labin, Croatia (2018); Koganei Art Spot Chateau, Tokyo (2018); Setouchi Triennale, Naoshima, Japan (2016); Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide; the Asia Culture Centre, Gwangju; the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (2017); Singapore Art Museum (2015); Jakarta and Jogja Biennales, Indonesia (2015); Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, Amsterdam; Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam; ArtAffairs, Amsterdam; and Heden, Den Haag (2013). His works are in the public collection of Kadist Foundation, Tropen Museum (Netherlands), Macan Museum (Indonesia), among others. He will be in the upcoming Istanbul Biennale 2024.



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About Yeo Workshop

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. Since 2013, It has been based in Gillman barracks. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements.

About Yenn and Alan Lo Foundation

Established by the Hong Kong and Singapore-based husband-and-wife arts patrons Yenn Wong and Alan Lo, the foundation is committed to nurture the development of Asia diasporic artistic practices globally and foster dialogue with the artistic community in Singapore and the region. It is the founding sponsor of the Singapore Art Museum SAM S.E.A Focus Art Fund, a new initiative launched in January 2023 to recognise iconic works of contemporary Southeast Asian art and to ensure their longevity for current and future generations by facilitating their entry into the Singapore Art Museum (SAM)'s collection. The fund has enabled the SAM to acquire works by artists Agung Kurniawan and Tan Zi Hao. The foundation has supported numerous international institutions including Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (MOCA LA) and Princeton University Art Museum. Alongside the art fund, their generous offer of space for art projects and support on this occasion of SAW 2024 reflects their keen interest in catalysing a ground-up art movement in Singapore.

Singapore Art Week SAW 2024

From 19 to 28 January 2024, SAW 2024 will present an array of over 130 art events featuring new works and transnational collaborations across the island and online. In its 12th edition, the ten-day celebration of the visual arts will showcase two dynamic art fairs, S.E.A. Focus and the inaugural ART SG; the Southeast Asian premier of The 5th VH AWARD Exhibition; a diverse range of practices that will present new ways of living and sharing; as well as a vibrant Light to Night in the Civic District. SAW is helmed by the National Arts Council (NAC).

SAW
SINGAPORE **ART** WEEK