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PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release – February 2024*

## Storytellers: Mythic Journeys and Modern Realities

Opening Sat 17 February 2024

Exhibition Runs until 10 March 2024



*Fyerool Darma, Screenshot 23-06-2023 at 16:00 PM (XOXO) featuring rawanXberdenyut and Lee Khee San, 2023, 68 x 121 x 3 cm*

Yeoworkshop is pleased to present 'Storytellers: Mythic Journeys and Modern Realities', featuring artists Citra Sasmita, Filippo Sciascia, Quynh Dong, Maryanto, Fyerool Darma, and Anum Mohamed. Through both traditional techniques and innovative mediums, these storytellers weave narratives that connect ancient mythologies, mythic wisdom and contemporary reflections. The exhibition invites viewers to contemplate the intersections of myth, culture and modernity.

We introduce senior Malaysian Artist, [Noor Mahnun Mohamed](#), also known as Anum who presents figurative and watercolour works that seamlessly blend domestic scenes with elements of realism, allegory, and whimsy. Through this, she weaves subtle psychological narratives with dark wit and emotional depth. Shaped by her background in architecture, Anum brings a unique perspective incorporating intricate geometric patterns inspired by both European and Southeast Asian architecture.



Quynh Dong, 0. (Zero Point), 20 min performance, 2022, ink on paper, 200 x 200 cm

Using her own body as a medium to challenge cultural stereotypes, particularly around the exotic notions of Asia, Vietnamese artist [Quynh Dong](#) brings a live performance. Titled '0. (Zero Point)', the performance, first conducted at Asia Now, sees Dong using her hair as a brush to complete a painting with black ink. She references Malevich's Black Square, which in her performative adaptation, brings attention to the 'zero Point' of the female asian body. Critical of the histories that underpin the bodies of others' having collaborated with artists and performers in the past, Dong uses her own body in this instance to question the reading of her work as necessarily autobiographical.

[Maryanto](#), through his evocative works animates the tensions between cultural traditions that revere the sacredness of nature in Indonesia, and the harsh realities of its rapid urban development and uncompromising extraction of natural resources that are fast impinging on its physical and spiritual values. Maryanto has always been deeply invested in bringing greater exposure to the issues of corporatism, environmental devastation, and geopolitics from his home country and the broader region. Using a scratching technique, Maryanto creates powerful monochromatic paintings reminding us of the fast disappearing scenery and beauty in Indonesia engulfed by rapid industrialisation and unthinking ravaging of the land.



Citra Sasmita, *The Birth of Magic Serpent*, 2024, Acrylic on traditional Kamasan canvas, brass hanger, hair, 84 x 58 cm

[Citra Sasmita](#) presents two works with horsehair, stemming from her deeply rooted feminist convictions and her determination to resist what she regards as the overweening patriarchy of a conservative society. Her paintings are frequently dominated by female figures, often portrayed as the heroic protagonist in conjunction with potent symbols that have been selected from the primeval realm of Balinese mysticism.

Presenting works from his *Primitive Morning* series and *Tablet*, [Filippo Sciascia](#) investigates concepts surrounding mankind's development and civilization. Highly conceptual, Sciascia's thematic explorations extend beyond conventional mediums, incorporating organic materials like melatonin powder, amber pigment, and volcanic ash in his works to express the primordial.

[Fyerool Darma](#) mediates Southeast Asian rural and urban culture with our new-age cosmopolitanism, developing object and material experimentations based on an extensive visual vocabulary drawn from popular culture, literature, the archives, the Internet, and his own life. Building on his ongoing *Screenshot* series, he proposes an environment for exploring a type of supra-locality – the cultural currency of textiles from the pre-modern to hyper-real. Drawing equally upon illusion and allusion, Fyerool interlaces and embroiders found images and texts from digital and other archival sources into a series of objects that oscillate between the realms of the digitally foraged and manually produced.

## **ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP**

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. Based in Singapore's Gillman Barracks district, the gallery features the works of cutting-edge Southeast Asian artists. From artists who employ more traditional techniques and mediums to those who tap on new technologies and innovation such as CGI and AI, Yeo Workshop champions a diverse roster of artists whose practices reflect deep engagement with our contemporary socio-cultural landscape, to stimulate dialogue and critical discourse. In addition to its exhibition programming, it actively engages with the global art world through regular participation at international art fairs including Frieze Seoul, Asia Now Paris and Art Dubai. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements that strive to shape the trajectory of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and beyond.

Embodying a collaborative spirit, not only with its artists, Yeo Workshop partners with curators, art foundations and international galleries to showcase and promote its artists beyond its own gallery space and traditional art spaces. Most recently for Singapore Art Week 2024, it presented '*Archiving Landscapes*' with support from the Yenn and Alan Lo Foundation, placing in dialogue the works of Priyageetha Dia and Maryanto to reflect on the region's shifting terrains.

Founded by Audrey Yeo in 2013, the gallery continues to push frontiers in the local and regional scene through community outreach and education, nurturing the next generation of both artistic talents and patrons. It regularly organises talks, workshops, and public programmes to foster deeper understanding and appreciation for contemporary art among wider audiences. Recognized for her achievements and dedication to the Singapore Art Scene, Audrey Yeo was appointed President of the Art Galleries Association (AGAS) in Singapore in 2023. A dynamic force in the regional scene, she has been instrumental in the launch of several noteworthy local platforms including S.E.A Focus art fair as the former Project Director in 2019, and the Julius Baer Next Generation Art Prize for Southeast Asian digital artists.

## **OPENING HOURS**

Tue – Sat, 11am – 7pm; Sun, 12pm – 6pm; Closed Mon and Public Holidays.

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