

13.11.21-09.01.22



LIZZIE WEE  
SHAYNE PHUA  
STEPHANIE JANE BURT  
QUYNH DONG  
SANTI WANGCHUAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Ornamental* · 瓊**  
13 November 2021 - 9 January 2022



Lizze Wee

Still from *Honey Trap* (2021), Multi-media Installation, 5 min

Yeo Workshop is pleased to present ***Ornamental* · 瓊** (xiāng), a group exhibition featuring local and regional artists: Quyhn Dong, Santi Wangchuan, Lizzie Wee, Shayne Phua and Stephanie Jane Burt.

The exhibition highlights an attentiveness towards the physicality of art works as 'objects', where artists in the show re-materialise various forms of domestic, cultural and political constructs to transcend the notion of utility in favour of aesthetics. Personal and collective memories pervade the space in ways that are recalled and revitalised into an ornate, dreamlike environment. It deliberates on the 'decorative' as critical, whilst echoing a belief that art is bound to nothing but its own essence. As one navigates through familiar portrayals of the home, history, or post-colonial; the divides between the public and private, home and state, conscious and subliminal become increasingly blurred.

***Ornamental* · 瓊** is an invitation back into the physical space and experience of art, away from the nebulous realm of the virtual and immaterial encounters. Within this sanguine choreography of pink – one that is seemingly imposing yet intimate, the viewer becomes an embodied spectator rather than a 'disembodied eye'. Beyond what these artworks necessarily signify and decode, there is a greater sense of probing into what these objects and their forms can set in motion for the viewer. Taking the form as the departure of inquiry, these artists explore the shifting goalposts of wherein the body and object borders between tradition and rejection, objectivity and fetishism.



Yeo Workshop is committed to contemporary art in Singapore and supporting innovative practices of contemporary artists. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements.

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Opening Hours:  
Tuesdays to Saturdays - 11am - 7pm  
Sundays - 12pm - 6pm  
Closed on Mondays

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*Catch more flies with honey*



Quynh Dong  
Still from *biển đen với cá vàng* (black sea with goldfish), 2018-2020  
Video Installation, 10 min



Employing motifs of the hyper-real and kitsch through performance and video, **Quynh Dong** articulates the struggles of the Vietnamese diasporic experience. As the body politic continues to be invariably tied to the home, **Santi Wangchuan** weaves elaborate 'garlands' of flowers, balloons and traditional masks in two new works, *Flowers Goddess* and *Flowers Rain*, against the backdrop of a rapidly urbanising Thailand. **Shayne Phua** decodes symbols from East Asian culture to bridge the past with the present in imaginative and intuitive ways, challenging the objectivity of history in otherwise romantic and delicate forms. Transporting us to an otherworldly, sensuous rhapsody,

**Lizzie Wee** reflects on how the objectification of women has gradually becomes commonplace in *Honey Trap*, which cross-references vintage magazines like Penthouse and Playboy gathered from her father's youth as well as female archetypes in Asian television series and movies. Likewise, **Stephanie Jane Burt** creates sculptural installations that references film, literature and fashion to unpack such narratives around feminism, girl culture and nouveau roman. Featuring archival images from romance comic anthologies, *Romance Report Letters* was developed in hopes of recasting the heroine of these stories who seem to be in a state of constant peril.







Stephanie Jane Burt, with her works presented at *"What is the current that presents a behaved waist"*, 2020, Yeo Workshop, Singapore.

## About the Artists:

# Stephanie Jane Burt Quynh Dong Shayne Phua

**Stephanie 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.

**Shayne Phua** uses ceramic as the main medium in her practice, which explores the notions of form and functionality in relation to historical and cultural narratives as informed by religion, literature and tradition. She graduated with a BA (Honours) in Communication Design from The Glasgow School of Art. Her works were exhibited in Chan + Hori Contemporary, Gajah Gallery, and Your Mother Gallery. In 2019, Phua was an Artist in Residence at Zentrum für Keramik in Berlin and Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center in Denmark. In 2020, she had her debut solo, *'Sehnsucht'* exhibited at Coda Culture.

**Quynh Dong** creates hyper-real video works to provide an innate platform upon which she deliberately challenges cultural stereotypes. Her practice extends to also include performance and sculpture. She studied Fine Arts at Bern University of the Arts and completed her MA in Fine Arts at Zurich University of the Arts. Dong's work has been exhibited internationally, notably including the Kunsthalle Bern, Galerie Perotin in Paris, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam, and Galerie Bernhard Bischoff & Partner in Bern. She has further performed her works at Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique Paris; Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne in Switzerland; LISTE 17, the Young Art Fair in Basel, Switzerland; the Emily Harvey Foundation in New York, USA; and YAP'15, The Twinkle World, Exco 1F, Deagu, in South Korea.



# Lizzie Wee & Santi Wangchuan

**Lizzie Wee** is a Singaporean multidisciplinary artist, designer, illustrator, art director and video editor. She received her Bachelor's in Fine Arts from New York University Steinhardt, and Master's in Fine Arts awarded by Goldsmiths, University of London from LASALLE College of the Arts. Her present practice-based research investigates notions of identity and belonging through an examination of archetypal female roles found in Southeast Asian pop culture and visual media. Her works are expressed through video, performance, and writing for performance. Apart from her artistic practice, Wee has worked with Sotheby's Hong Kong and Kitchen Hoarder, a woman-run production team focused on lifestyle and food culture.

**Santi Wangchuan** makes hand-woven works inspired by his family's traditions, reflecting an integration of religion, stories, equipment, and tools that are native to his hometown in Thailand. Born into a family of traditional weavers, he acquired the skill at a young age from his grandmother; and through his mixed media work, he resourcefully preserves an art technique that is soon to be lost, continuing the conservation of his culture. Wangchuan earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Thai Art (Second Class Honors) from the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, and recently graduated with an MFA in Visual Arts, the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok. He was awarded the "3rd Honoured Bronze Award" at the 61st National Exhibition of Art, Bangkok, Thailand in 2015 and has participated in multiple art exhibitions, such as the 35th Bualuang Painting Exhibition, The Queen's Gallery, Bangkok in 2013, and the Amata Foundation's 'Art Awards'.



Santi Wangchuan, Sketches for *Flowers Goddess* (2021) and *Flowers Rain* (2021)



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