

YEO WORKSHOP  
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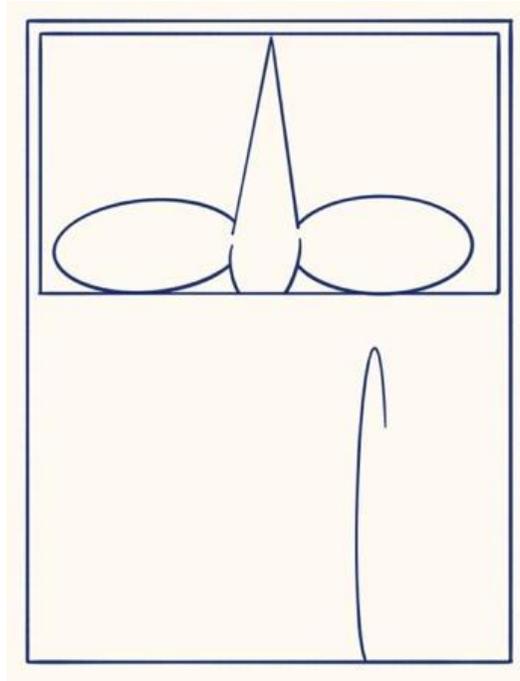
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Press Release: INNATE 9 September 2021



*"Every mark made – it comes from within"*

INNATE is a dialogue in the gallery that takes the pulse with five cognitive artists - Aki Hassan, Fyerool Darma, Filippo Sciascia, Jonathan Nichols, and Xue Mu - who create across various mediums and who have maintained a continual process-driven studio practice throughout the pandemic times. In this pluralistic exhibition, they articulate their latest findings and ideas in gestural movements present in the works that indicate the unseen processes that made them possible, highlighting the relationship between their works and themselves, or between the marks on the surface and their minds and bodies as the driving force behind them – the most indelible artist's signature.



*Image caption: Aki Hassan, Stiff, a slouch, 2021. Screenprint on paper  
with process cyan ink, framed in ash wood. 25 x 35 cm.*

*"[My] process is painstakingly repetitive ... After multiple exercises of intuitive form and word searching, I sit with these sketches and carefully pick out what I resonate with the most."*

- Aki Hassan

With emphasis on the rendering as well as the rendered, the concepts presented here are mostly in monochrome or muted colours and executed in a wide range of scales and techniques. Aki Hassan's sculptural ruminations of the state of existence extend from the walls to point towards a yet-to-be-seen conclusion; taking cues from poetry or verbal sketches of the artist's thoughts, the twisting metalworks seem to be in perpetual state of reconfiguration in accordance to what makes them feel some form of comfort or safety. Fyerool Darma's *Sajak* drawings are a continuous

interrogation into language through mark-making. Through a unique treatment, Jonathan Nichols' mannequin subjects are brought to life, challenging the traditional view of painting and portraiture as an act of mere depiction. The outward burst of charcoal tracks in Xue Mu's large-scale *Black Diamond* drawings are literal traces of her energetic movements and Filippo Sciascia's latest objects in his *Primitive* series examines drawing as an instinctive way of making sense of our world, from an artistic and a scientific stance.

Whether drawn, scratched, printed, painted, cut, welded, pasted or stitched on, every line and element in these works is imbued with intention, personal meaning, and the endeavor to understand and suggest the various dimensionalities of reality from the perspectives of different artists.



Image Caption: Filippo Sciascia, *Primitive Learning*, 2021, Digital print on aluminium, 90 x 60cm, edition 1 of 1

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Versions available also as a Non Fungible Token (NFT) and a digital video artwork:

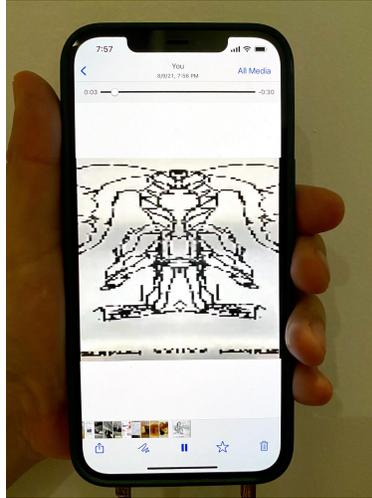


Image caption: *Filippo Sciascia, Primitive Learnings, 2021, NFT, 32 seconds, edition 1 of 1*  
[Available on Opensea](#)



( TV mockup from <https://www.freepik.com/photos/mockup> Mockup photo created by rawpixel.com - [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com))

Image caption: *Filippo Sciascia, Primitive Learnings, 2021,*  
*Still from video artwork, 4 minutes 32 seconds, edition of 1 + 1AP*

*"I'm constantly looking for new ways to experiment.  
I don't just want to make paintings"*

- Filippo Sciascia

## OTHER WORKS IN THE SHOW



Image Caption: Xue Mu, GFH Symphony, 2020, charcoal on paper edged with paper tape, 240 x 240cm.

*“This transcendental joy of activating all the perceptual senses, dancing while “seeing,” and drawing, a complex mechanism of searching and expressing, exceeds the range of spoken language and is impossible to share.”*

- Xue Mu

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Image Caption: Jonathan Nichols, *Single Cross*, 2019, Oil on machine-made paper, 42 x 44cm

*" I often visited the galleries at the National Gallery dedicated to the work of Wu Guangzhong. Wu's work was a revelation to me."*

- Jonathan Nichols

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*Image caption: Fyerool Darma, A Pantoun: Overwrite 'A Famous Pantun', 2021, Still from video artwork, 4 minutes 7 seconds, 1080 x 1920, edition 1 of 1*

*“ They are exercises in locating poetry through the present day lens, be it digital or in-real-time. These dualities had always existed within a multiverse. ”*

*- Fyerool Darma*

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Aki Hassan is a multi-disciplinary artist who shifts between drawing, printed matter, sculpture and installation. They see the process of making as a tool, to navigate and reflect on lived experiences and support systems, to locate strength, shifts and imbalances in exchange. They have taken part in both local and international exhibitions, such as Maybe We Read Too Much Into Things (T:>Works, 2021), An Exercise of Meaning in A Glitch Season (National Gallery Singapore, 2020), Pig Rock Bothy Residency & Exhibition (Scottish Gallery of Modern Art, 2019) and SCOUT: Emerging Art Practice, Singapore (Gillman Barracks, 2015). Aki has recently been selected for Singapore Art Museum's first artist residency programme, in which they will be engaged for the months of October 2021 to March 2022. >> [READ MORE HERE](#)

Fyerool Darma graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2012. He continues to live and work in Singapore. These object and material experimentations are based on an extensive visual vocabulary drawn from popular culture, literature, the archives, the Internet and the artist's own life. He has presented his projects through group exhibitions such as As the West Slept, Silver Art Projects; Transient Museum of a Thousand Conversation: LIR at ISCP (International Studio and Curatorial Program), both in New York, United States; Lost and found: Imagining new worlds, Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (all in 2019) and An Atlas of Mirrors, Singapore Biennale (2016), and his long-term project After Ballads, NUS Museum, Singapore (2017-18). He was Artist-in-Residence (1 October 2019 – 28 April 2020) at NTU - Centre of Contemporary Arts where he presented Vivarium (wiifl∞w w/ l4if but t4k£ ø forms, ♥) at the Centre's Vitrine >> [READ MORE HERE](#)

Filippo Sciascia (b. 1972, Italy) is an Italian artist based in Bali, Indonesia. He studied art at the Institute of Art, Nordio, Trieste and Fine Arts Academy, Florence, in Italy. His most recent exhibition with Yeo Workshop was 'All We Have' in 2021. He has had solo exhibitions in various venues in Italy, USA and Southeast Asia such as Sarang I, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2016); National Archaeological Museum of Naples, Italy (2013), Museum Castel Dell' Ovo, Naples (2012); Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta (2011); 54th Exposition Venice Biennale (2011); National University of Singapore Museum (2010); Galleria Poggiali Firenze in Pietrasanta and Milan (2010); Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur (2009). >> [READ MORE HERE](#)

Jonathan Nichols is an artist, independent curator and writer born and raised in Canberra and based in Melbourne. He began painting in the early 1990s after studying sculpture at the ANU and the University of NSW. Jonathan's paintings are based on figure arrangements that he finds in photographs he has taken himself or found online, or that he collages from memory. He is concerned with a painting's painterly character and its particular history. He builds a muted palette—tonal browns and greens, blue greys and shades of pink—and his works on paper, canvas and fabric are generally small scale. >> [READ MORE HERE](#)

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Xue Mu (b. 1979 Nanjing, CN) is a Visual Artist based in Amsterdam NL and Nanjing CN. She is an alumni at de Rijksakademie Voor Beeldende Kunsten (2011-2012), Gerrit Rietveld Academie (2009) and Dutch Art Institute (2006). Between 2013 and 2015 her projects were presented in art institutions at de Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, de Appel Arts Centre, He Xiangning Art Museum Shenzhen and AMNUA Nanjing. Mu has been commissioned several times for public art projects in the Netherlands from 2009 to 2012. Bypassing the conventional perception of value imposed by the modern world, Mu's often abstract artworks are the result of a process of reflection that associates today's existence. >> [READ MORE HERE](#)

### About Yeo Workshop

Yeo Workshop is a leading art gallery based in Gillman Barracks, Singapore since 2013. It shows innovative practices of contemporary artists. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagement.

Opening Hours: Tuesdays to Saturdays – 11am - 7pm, Sundays – 12pm - 6pm

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