

Justin Lim

Everyday saudade

Detail of Everyday saudade (2023)



Introduction

Richard Koh Fine Art presents “*Everyday saudade*”, a solo exhibition by Malaysian artist Justin Lim.

“*Everyday saudade*” will consist of 8 paintings of various sizes, painted in Lim’s signature colourful palette. It will also feature bright pink walls, and vinyl on the floor depicting traditional Colonial Peranakan floor tiles that are often seen in heritage buildings in Malaysia. There will be plastic stools in the booth, that served as the models for a few of the paintings.

The word “Saudade” depicts an emotional state of melancholic or profoundly nostalgic longing for a beloved yet absent something or someone. It is often associated with a repressed understanding that one might never encounter the recipient of longing ever again. It is a recollection of feelings, experiences, places, or events— often illusive —that cause a sense of separation from the exciting, pleasant, or joyous sensations they once caused. It derives from the Latin word for solitude.

After the Covid-19 pandemic, life changed as we know it. As Lim emerges from the pandemic, he often reflects upon the time that he had spent under lockdown during those past 2 years. Those strange times spent with himself and his paintings has led him to continually look inwards, to be more aware that one is never really in control of one’s life and that the world is constantly in flux and changing rapidly everyday.

During those times, Lim had spent many hours sitting and painting on old plastic stools. He wanted to take this common everyday object and use them as characters placed in different environments. Lim wanted to present them in uniformity and thought it would work in

a presentation where various chairs of different stature and ‘class’ would all be facing in the same way. He feels that this reflects today’s society where we are all moving in the same direction, we use the same social platforms, watch the same programs, consume the same media, took the same vaccines and seem to have much more shared experiences today than ever before and yet it seems that we are only getting more segregated by class, race and religion. Have we gotten any better in understanding and accepting each other even though we have much more in common than before? In this age of hyper-connectivity and instant gratification, we all look in one direction as quickly as we change to look at another.

Most of the environments in this body of works are then painted in and composed from various photographs. Each space does not exist in reality as they are collaged and spliced together. Lim wanted to create a sense of ambiguity, as if painting serves as an unreliable documentation. Composing each scene acts as a way for him to stitch together an imaginary world. He selects objects and items that to me convey and contribute to a mood of the picture. It is more of a psychological exercise, like a flower arranger or botanist would do to create an arrangement. It allows him to ponder and to look inward, to make sense of his place in the modern world. He finds himself always in pursuit of a feeling. And the best word to describe this particular feeling, is “Saudade”.

In a world that is always on the move, Lim reminds us to at times detach ourselves from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and to sit down, contemplate and dream a little.



Id

2022
Acrylic on canvas
35.2 x 27.2 ^{cm} (work)
37.8 x 30 ^{cm} (framed)

Super ego

2022
Acrylic on canvas
35 x 27.7 ^{cm} (work)
37.8 x 30.7 ^{cm} (framed)



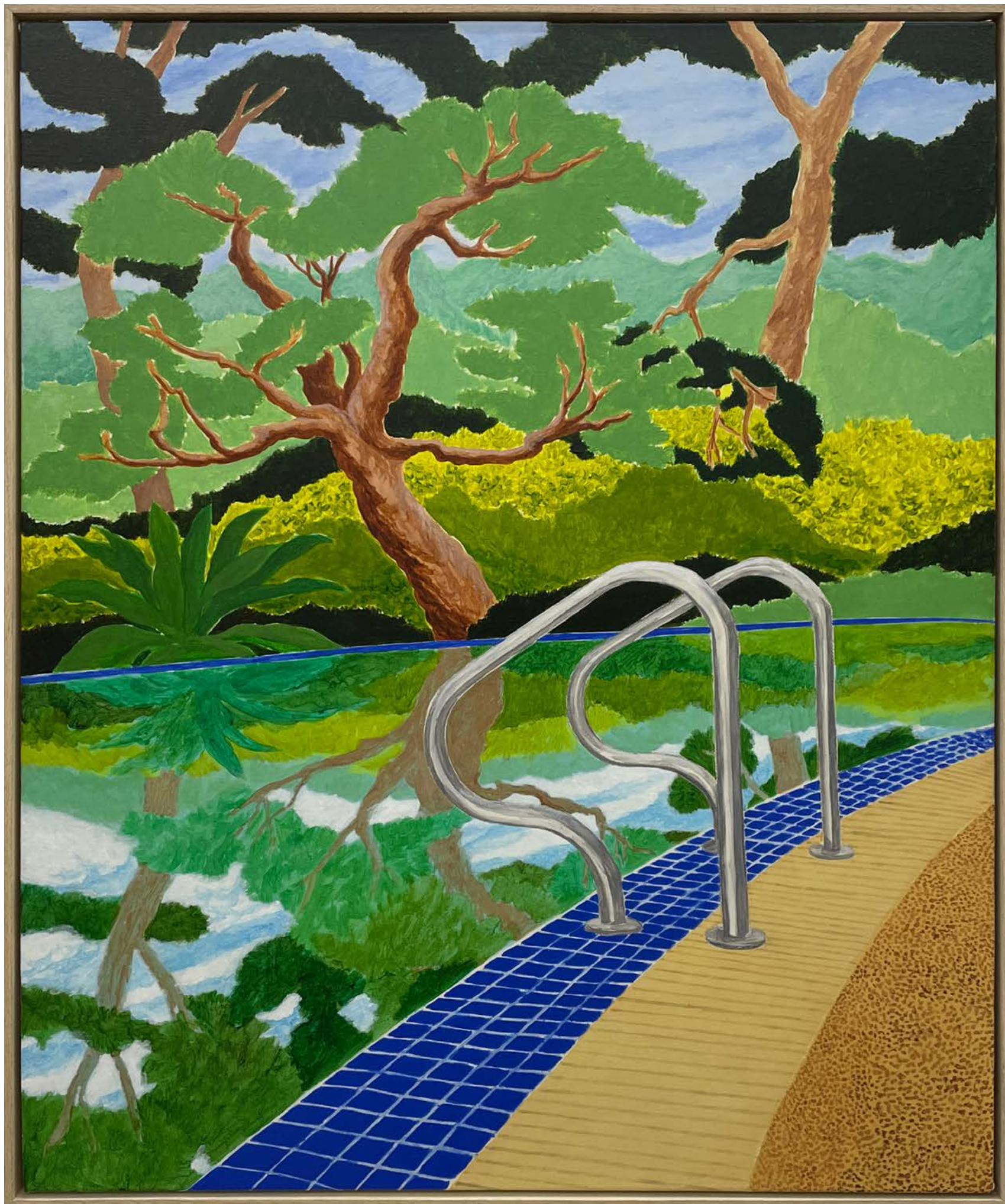
A daydream a day

2022
Acrylic on canvas
91.5 x 175 cm (work)
93.6 x 177.2 cm (framed)



Voyager

2022
Acrylic on canvas
91.5 x 175 cm (work)
93.6 x 177.2 cm (framed)



The cosmos

2023
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm (work)
77 x 62 cm (framed)



Let forever be

2023
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm (work)
77 x 62 cm (framed)



Everyday saudade

2023
Acrylic on canvas
180 x 160 cm (work)
182 x 162.2 cm (framed)



Universal fortune

2023
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm (work)
77 x 62 cm (framed)



At home inside my head

2023
Acrylic on canvas
75 x 60 cm (work)
77 x 62 cm (framed)



Tell me everything #1

2022
Acrylic on canvas
76 x 61 ^{cm} (work)
78.4 x 63.1 ^{cm} (framed)



Tell me everything #2

2022
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 61 cm (work)
52 x 63.1 cm (framed)

Tell me everything #3

2022
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 61 cm (work)
52 x 63.1 cm (framed)



Justin Lim (b.1983, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) completed his postgraduate studies in 2006 with the Master of Art (Fine Art) programme by The Open University UK conducted at Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore after obtaining a BA(Hons) Fine Art majoring in painting. He has exhibited widely in Southeast Asia in various solo & group exhibitions and was the recipient of the 2008 Malaysia-Australia Visual Artist Residency at Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia. He has since held residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, US (2011 - Asian Artist Fellowship/ Freeman Fellowship), Red Gate Gallery, Beijing (2013 - Khazanah Nasional Artist Residency) and The Tasmanian College of the Arts, University of Tasmania, Australia (2016 - International Artist in residence).

Selected group exhibitions include the *Asian Art Biennale: Viewpoints & Viewing points*, Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (2009), *Modern Love*, Earl Lu Gallery / Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore (2015), *Asia Young 36 / Asia Contemporary, a survey of contemporary Asian art practices*, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonju, South Korea (2016) and *Contemporary Chaos*, curated by Demetrio Paparoni, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway (2018).

He currently lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Education

- 2006 Master of Art (Fine Art), Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore/Open University UK, Singapore
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Painting, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Untitled Art Miami Beach 2023*, Miami Beach, Florida, US (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2022 *A daydream a day*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2021 *Sometimes I'd rather talk to flowers*, ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, Shanghai Exhibition Center, China (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Sanctuary*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
- 2019 *Planet Shangri-La*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2017 *HONEY TRAP ARCADIA*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2015 *Modern Absurdity and the Superficial Abyss*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 *There is No Other Paradise*, Southeast Asian Pavilion, Art Stage 2014, Singapore
- 2013 *Arcane Fantasies for the Flesh and the Sublime*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 *Asian Artist Fellowship Residency Show*, Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, US
- 2010 *Secret Identities*, TAKSU, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 *Gods, Heroes & Myths*, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
- 2007 *Agents, Actions & Consequences*, TAKSU, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 *Momentum*, TAKSU, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Institutional Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *The Colour Of Life: Exploring Kaleidoscopic Narratives* (Virtual Exhibition), Galeri Khazanah, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 *Contemporary Chaos*, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway
- 2016 *Asia Young 36 / Asia Contemporary 2016*, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonju, South Korea

- 2015 *Modern Love*, Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore
- 2011 *Asian Artist Fellowship*, Vermont Studio Centre, Vermont, US
- 2009 *Asian Art Biennale: Viewpoints and viewing points*, Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Tai-chung, Taiwan
- 2007 *Singapore Art Show*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2006 *MFA Degree Show*, Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore
- 2005 *Balthus Bemused by Colour*, Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore
- Urban on Urban*, Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, Shanghai Exhibition Center, China (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Art Basel Hong Kong 2023*, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), Hong Kong, China (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Art Basel Hong Kong 2023*, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), Hong Kong, China (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- ART SG*, Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2022 Hotel Art Fair, The Standard, Bangkok Mahanakhon, Bangkok, Thailand (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Art Jakarta*, Jakarta Convention Centre (JCC Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Gestures of Landscape*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
- The Back Room Shop*, The Back Room, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2020 *In Our Own Frame: 15th Year Celebration*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- S.E.A. FOCUS*, Gillman Barracks, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
- 2019 *Art Expo Malaysia*, MATRADE Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- HAF*, Bangkok, Thailand (with Richard Koh Fine Art)

- 2018 *VOLTA14*, Basel, Switzerland (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Artstage Singapore* (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- Art Central*, Hong Kong, China (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2017 *The Artling Pop Up*, Helutrans, Singapore
- 2016 *Artstage Singapore* (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2015 *Malaysian Art: A New Perspective*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
- I am Ten*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 *Artstage Singapore* (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2013 *Young Artist Discovery : Art Taipei*, Taiwan Southeast Asian Pavillion, Beirut Art Fair, Beirut Artstage Singapore (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2012 *Snapshots*, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
- Collective Alternatif*, Malaysian Art Expo, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Artstage Singapore* (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2011 *18@8 Save the planet*, Wei Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Culture Vulture*, Taksu, Singapore
- Garden of Hidden Desires*, Wei Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Rogue wave*, Taksu, Singapore
- 2010 *BOLEH!*, Taksu, Singapore
- 1Malaysia Contemporary Art Festival (MCAT)*, Galeri Seri Perdana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Survival*, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
- Tiger Show*, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Locals only!*, Taksu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 *Iskandar Malaysian Contemporary Art Show (IMCAS)*, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
- Tanah Air*, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
- Peninsula & Island*, Taksu, Singapore
- 2008 *Shifting Boundaries*, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
- 2007 *ARTSingapore*, Suntec convention center, Singapore
- 2006 *Rage Against the Dying of the Light*, La Libreria, Singapore
- The New Messengers*, TAKSU, Singapore

Awards & Residencies

- 2023 The 2023 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Shortlist
- 2016 International Artist in Residence, Tasmanian College of the Arts, University of Tasmania, Australia
- Visiting Artist in Residence, Artspace, Sydney, Australia
- 2013 Khazanah Nasional Artist Commissioning Programme, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2011 Asian Artist Fellowship (Freeman Fellowship), Vermont Studio Center, US
- 2008 Malaysia-Australia Visual Artist Residency, Rimbun Dahan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 Taksu Artist Residency Programme (TARP), TAKSU, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 Lasalle-SIA College of the Arts Scholarship

Public & Corporate Collections

- Jeonbuk Museum of Art, South Korea
- Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Malaysia
- Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia
- Zain Azahari Collection, Malaysia
- Aliya & Farouk Khan Collection, Malaysia

Selected Bibliography

- 2022 *Justin Lim: In Our Own Frame*, Richard Koh Fine Art
- 2019 *Hati & Jiwa: The Zain Azahari Collection*, Galeri Z
- 2014 *Malaysian Eye: Contemporary Malaysian Art*, edited by Serenella Ciclitira, Skira editor
- 2013 *Today and Tomorrow: Emerging Practices in Malaysian Art*, edited by Adeline Ooi, Beverly Yong and Rachel Ng, Adaptus Publishing
- 2010 *Malaysian Contemporary Art: The Aliya & Farouk Khan Collection*, edited by Leila Khan, AFK Collection

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Introduction by Jack Kenneth Tan
Design by Nor Harith

Untitled Art Miami Beach 2023
05.12.2023 - 10.12.2023

Booth C10 Richard Koh Fine Art
Ocean Drive and 12th Street,
Miami Beach 33139, Florida, US

Cover page: Detail of *Universal fortune* (2023)

Untitled Art

Untitled Art is the leading independent art fair taking place annually on the sands of Miami Beach. Guided by a mission to support the wider art ecosystem, Untitled Art offers an inclusive platform for discovering contemporary art and prioritizes collaboration in each aspect of the fair.

Participants are selected for their curatorial integrity and international reach, with several galleries coming from outside mainstream art hubs. Emerging artists, young galleries and non-profit organizations are supported through Nest, a new sector that offers subsidized booths to mitigate traditional entry barriers associated with art fair participation. The first to launch an online art fair, Untitled Art continually invests in new technologies to make contemporary art collecting more accessible to new audiences and is dedicated to advancing responsible culture by actively using its platform to amplify under-represented voices.

Through critical educational programming, Untitled Art attracts contemporary art collectors, art historians, curators, and students. It also carefully considers the context in which it is held, ensuring leading galleries from Miami are represented and local institutions are engaged. As part of its efforts to reduce its environmental impact, Untitled Art works closely with the City of Miami Beach to ensure a zero-impact presentation, reusing its custom-designed tent for each edition and donating furniture to local schools.

Untitled Art 2023 will take place during Miami Art Week from Wednesday December 6 through Sunday December 10, with a VIP and Press Preview on Tuesday December 5. The fair coincides with Art Basel Miami Beach, held from Friday December 8 to Sunday December 10.

VIP & Press Preview

5 December (Tuesday) 12pm - 7pm

Public Days

6 December (Wednesday) 11am - 7pm
7 December (Thursday) 11am - 7pm
8 December (Friday) 11am - 7pm
9 December (Saturday) 11am - 7pm
10 December (Sunday) 11am - 5pm



 www.rkfineart.com

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Founded in 2005, with spaces in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Singapore, Richard Koh Fine Art is committed to the promotion of Southeast Asian contemporary art on regional and international platforms. Centred around a core belief in developing an artist's career, the gallery looks to identify understated, albeit promising practices, and providing it opportunities to flourish. Through its regular exhibition cycles, print & digital publications and cross-border gallery collaborations, Richard Koh Fine Art engages the art community with the aim of developing regional and intercultural dialogue.

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