

SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2019

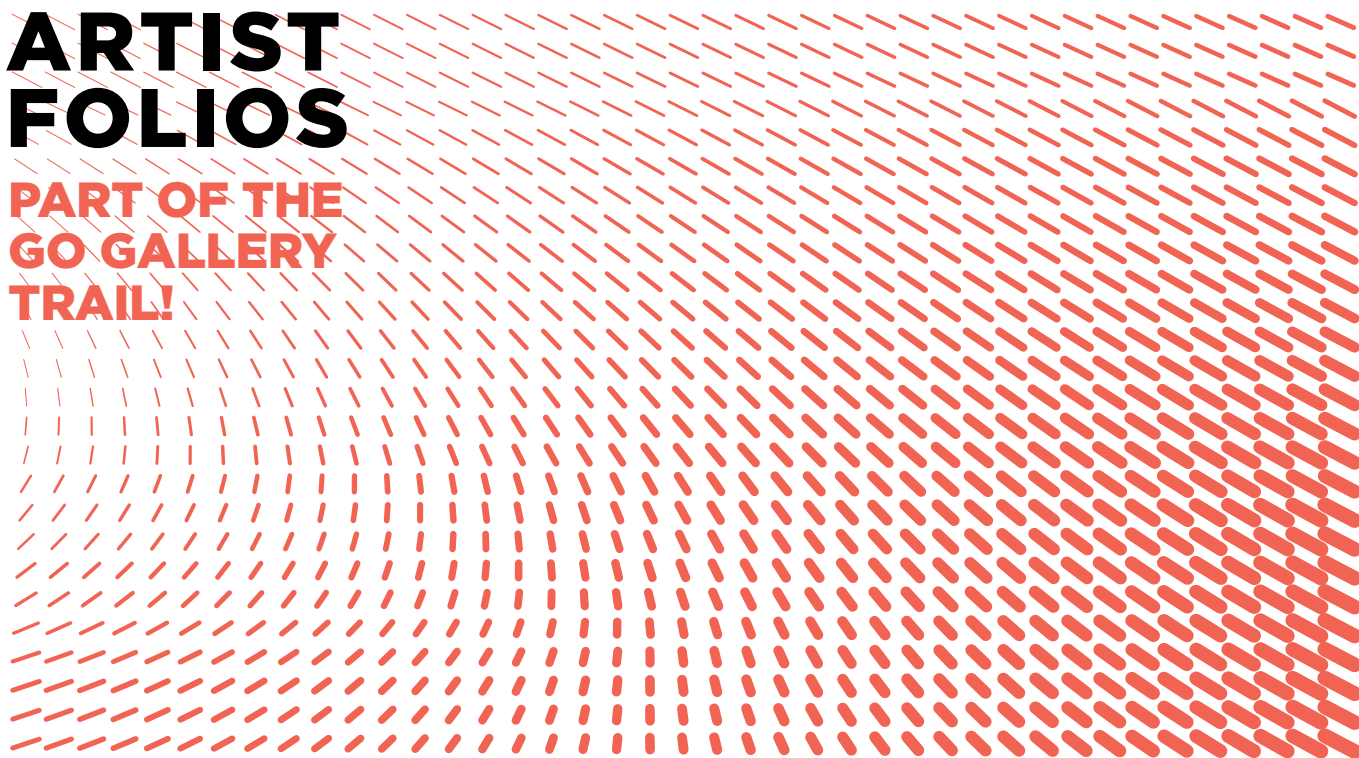
22 Nov 2019 –
22 Mar 2020

EVERY
STEP
IN THE
RIGHT
DIRECTION

EDUCATION KIT

ARTIST FOLIOS

PART OF THE
GO GALLERY
TRAIL!



MIN THEIN SUNG

TIME: DUST

2017-2019

MYANMAR

ORGANISED BY



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THE ARTIST
MIN THEIN SUNG

- (b. 1978, Myanmar) A multi-disciplinary artist who works with new media, installation, performance and soft sculpture. Currently, the artist is living in Yangon and Mawlamyine, Myanmar. He received his B.A in painting from the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon, Myanmar in 2001.
- In his artistic practice, Min Thein Sung draws on the wealth of the imagination, whether in terms of subject matter, presentation or process. Childhood memories, mental images and ideas materialize through *mise-en-scenes** following a trial-and-error process combining new media, performance, installation and soft sculpture using natural fibre materials in shades of ivory and brown.
- His work has been exhibited internationally at the 8th Asia Pacific Triennial, Brisbane, Australia, 2015; the 5th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Japan, 2014; H Project Space, Bangkok, Thailand, 2011; Kunstverein Bad Aibling, Germany, 2010.

*“mise-en-scène” refers to the arrangement of everything that appears in a frame—actors, lighting, décor, props, costume, a French term that means “placing on stage.”



THE ARTWORK
TIME: DUST
2017-2019

Dust on canvas and cotton, 29 pieces | Various dimensions
Singapore Biennale 2019 Commission

- **MEDIUM:** *Time: Dust*, is a series of paintings which the artist worked with the indeterminate forces of nature such as time, light, humidity and dust as a medium.
- **TECHNIQUES / PROCESSES:** The artist explored a collaborative creative process between man and nature where he took a playful and facilitative approach to the relationship, rather than to resist or disregard nature in directing the outcome of the paintings presented in this series. The dust used in each artwork would contain different kinds of dust taken from different cities.
- **IDEAS / INSPIRATIONS / CONTEXT:** In creating this series of paintings, the artist was interested to find out answers to the question, “If the elements and forces of Nature were to paint, what images might they create?”



DID YOU KNOW?

Apart from Min Thein Sung, other contemporary artists also work with time as a medium. One of them is Teh-Ching Hsieh, a Taiwanese artist. You can find out more about Teh-Ching Hsieh’s durational performance pieces at <https://www.tehchinghsieh.com/doing-time>.



STEP BY STEP

SECONDARY:

ART / ENGLISH / MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGES

STEP 1 :: PRE-VISIT

Share any dust-related poems you know with your class.

STEP 2 :: AT THE ARTWORK

DESCRIBE:

Describe what you see in this series of 29 'paintings'. How do you think the various shades in each 'painting' were created?

INTERPRET:

What do you think the artist is trying to convey through this series of paintings.

EVALUATE:

If you are the artist behind this series of 'paintings', would you use a different medium to convey the intention behind your artwork? Why would you do so?

STEP 3 :: POST-VISIT

EXPAND:

Research on one other contemporary artist besides Min Thein Sung and Teh-Ching Hsieh who makes use of time as a medium in their artwork. Create a table that compares the similarities and differences in the way time is being presented in the artworks of these three artists.

EXPLORE:

Try writing a Haiku* relating to dust in Singapore.

*A **haiku** is a traditional Japanese poem that has three lines, each with seventeen syllables, and is written in a 5/7/5 syllable count. Often focused on images from nature, **haikus** emphasize simplicity, intensity and directness of expression.



FIND OUT MORE

THE ARTIST

- http://www.osagegallery.com/Artists/Bio/Bio_1391.pdf

OTHERS

- <http://ntu.ccasingapore.org/residencies/min-thein-sung/>
- <https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/apt8/artists/min-thein-sung>
- <https://flyingcircusproject2013.wordpress.com/2012/12/21/min-thein-sung/>
- <https://blueprint.onemega.com/tag/min-thein-sung/>