

SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2019

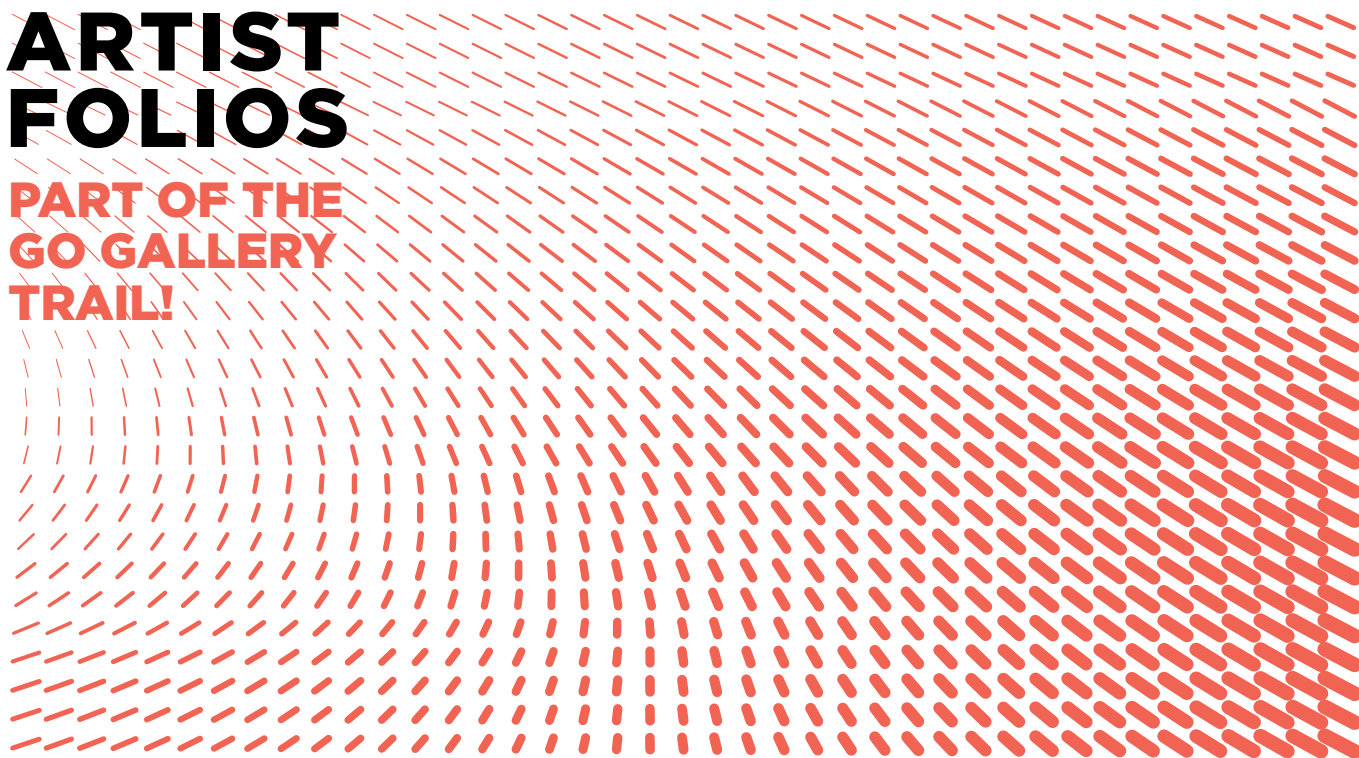
22 Nov 2019 –
22 Mar 2020

EVERY
STEP
IN THE
RIGHT
DIRECTION

EDUCATION KIT

ARTIST FOLIOS

PART OF THE
GO GALLERY
TRAIL!



SHARON CHIN

*IN THE SKIN OF A TIGER: MONUMENT
TO WHAT WE WANT (TUGU KITA)*

2019

MALAYSIA

ORGANISED BY



COMMISSIONED BY



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THE ARTIST
SHARON CHIN

- (b. 1980, Malaysia) A visual artist, performance artist and writer living in Port Dickson; a seaside town a two hour drive away from Kuala Lumpur.
- Completed her Foundation Year at Elam School of Fine Arts, Auckland, New Zealand, and her B.A. in Fine Art (Sculpture) at Victorian College of The Arts, Melbourne Australia.
- Chin works across a variety of media to address environmental and political issues in her native country Malaysia.



DID YOU KNOW?

Chin was also part of the Singapore Biennale 2013 where she presented her *Mandi Bunga* art project—a participatory work inspired by Malaysia’s Bersih movement.

Participants wore specially designed yellow costumes adorned with flowers, like what Chin wore at a rally in Kuala Lumpur in April 2012, and bathed in water infused with fragrant flowers such as roses, orchids, frangipanis, jasmine and ylang-ylang.

THE ARTWORK

IN THE SKIN OF A TIGER: MONUMENT TO WHAT WE WANT (TUGU KITA)
2019

13 banners made from reclaimed fabric

Dimensions variable | Singapore Biennale 2019 Commission

- **MEDIUM:** Site-specific large-scale woven banners made from political party flags collected after Malaysia’s 14th General Election in May 2018, hung from ceiling of City Hall Courtyard at National Gallery Singapore.
- **TECHNIQUES / PROCESSES:** The artist did an open call for volunteers to help her with this project; sewing 13 plain geometric banners made from recycled flags at Balai Seni Negara (BSN), the National Visual Arts Gallery in Kuala Lumpur. Participants were invited to sit with the flags, think about ‘what they wanted’ and sew something on them. On the first day, the performance ended with participants climbing the circular ramp of BSN and unfurling the banners from the railings. The next day, they took the banners on a street parade around BSN.
- **IDEAS / INSPIRATIONS / CONTEXT:** The artwork is the artist’s response to the results of Malaysia’s historic 14th General Election which generated an imaginary of a blank blue sky in her mind. It inspired her to create the “soft monument” banners made from the flags of the political parties; flags which she collected mostly near her home in Port Dickson to form new primary shapes and fields of colours. The artist referenced Jose Saramago’s novel, ‘Seeing’—a story in which the residents came out to sweep the streets when their government abandoned the city—as she thought of the gift which Malaysians have made for each other, a new government. She also regards sewing as the tender labour of our hands that determines and achieves the desires of our hearts.

STEP BY STEP

SECONDARY:

ART / ENGLISH / MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGES

STEP 1 :: PRE-VISIT

RESEARCH & PRESENT:

- Participatory Art, a form of art that directly engages the audiences in the creative process so that they become participants in the event (Tate, 2019).
- Malaysia's 14th General Election in May 2018, and why it was considered a watershed event in their political history.



STEP 2 :: AT THE ARTWORK

SEE—THINK—WONDER:

- Take a closer look at the installation (possibly from different angles and levels) and discuss the artworks from different viewpoints:
- Is the technique/process of making the artwork important? Would the meaning change if volunteers did not participate in the art-making?
 - Would the meaning change if the artwork is presented in a different scale (e.g. if the banners were much smaller)?
 - Is the location of the art-making process and the way it is displayed important? How would the artwork be received if it was exhibited in a different context?



STEP 3 :: POST-VISIT

REFLECT & RESPOND 1:

- Think about a cause that you feel passionate about (Environmental, social, etc.)
- Come up with a proposal for a participatory artwork that helps express your ideas / champions your cause
- Submit a proposal to your school's management and gather support for it to be realised!

For reference:

- <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/bishan-court-gets-a-facelift>
- <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/the-role-of-the-arts-in-making-a-nation-home>
- <https://singaporemagazine.sif.org.sg/curating-shared-experiences>

REFLECT & RESPOND 2:

Together with your friends, sew a banner made up of small geometric squares for your class/CCA/hobby/event.



FIND OUT MORE

THE ARTIST

- <http://sharonchin.com/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TheSharonChin/>
- <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/cover-story-sharon-chin>
- <http://www.mackerel.life/conversations-with-sharon-chin-zedeck-siew>

THE ARTWORK

- <https://www.star2.com/culture/2019/08/15/sharon-chin-community-project-tugu-kita-national-art-gallery/>

OTHERS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3cPvHYbpnE>
- <https://www.chanhorl.com/localflora>
- <https://www.star2.com/culture/2019/02/15/sharon-chin-exhibition-drawings-hom-art-trans-gallery/>
- <https://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/art-events/exhibitions/singapore-biennale-2013>

REFERENCES

- Tate (2019). *Art Term: Participatory Art*. Available from: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/p/participatory-art>