

For immediate release, 17 July 2013

137km North of the Equator: A Story of EAS and the Realist Artists in Singapore

The story of Singapore art has always been told as a byline to Southeast Asian art, which itself is frequently subsumed within the Western art history as part of the “post-colonial” narrative, or “pale copies of existing Western artistic traditions.”

137km North of the Equator seeks to cast light on the exploration of the Realist art traditions by Singaporean artists between the period of 1950s and 1980s. This period marks an important chapter in our local art history, culminating in the formation of the controversial Equator Art Society in 1956, which was subsequently disbanded in the 1970s. With over 30 pieces of paintings on showcase, the exhibition examines the unifying fervor and stylistic pursuit for an authentic regional artistic identity among a significant number of second-generation Singaporean artists. In particular, their creative oeuvres during the period were deeply influenced by the socialist ideals that permeate the works of great European masters such as Eugene Delacroix and Ilya Repin.

The exhibition features works by various prominent second-generation artists including Chua Mia Tee, Lim Yew Kwan, Tan Choh Tee, Siew Hock Ming, Ong Kim Seng, Lee Boon Wang, Koeh Sia Yong and a few others. On showcase is also a ‘retrospective’ section that highlights the stylistic transitions undertaken by many of these artists as they further matured in their aesthetic oeuvres, along with the disintegration of the Equator Art Society in the 1970s.

The exhibition officially opens on 16 August 2013 (Friday), at 7pm. The event will be officiated by Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Koeh Sia Yong. A veteran artist in our local art scene, Mr. Koh also sat as the last president to the Equator Art Society.

Exhibition Opening: 16 August, 7pm
Guest-of-Honour: Mr. Koeh Sia Yong

Exhibition dates: 16 August – 25 August 2013

Venue: artcommune gallery (Address below)

Opening hours: 12 to 7 pm daily

Admission is free

Contact Information:

artcommune gallery

Blk 231, Bain Street. #02-43 Bras Basah Complex S180231

Tel/Fax: +65 63364240, hp: 97479046

www.artcommune.com.sg

Here are images of some artworks that will be on exhibit:



Chua Mia Tee, Street Scene, Pastel on Paper, 1981.

artcommune gallery Pte Ltd 集菁艺社

'The Artist's Choice'



Koeh Sia Yong, Clarke Quay Singapore, Oil on Canvas, 1977

Affordable . High Quality



Tan Choh Tee, Village Scene, Oil on Canvas, 1969.



Siew Hock Ming, Balinese Girl, Oil on Canvas, 1970s.