

For immediate release, 13 March 2013

Memoirs of Our Island: Oil Paintings by Tong Chin Sye

Featuring over 25 pieces of oil paintings by Singaporean artist Tong Chin Sye, this show takes you on an enthralling journey through a series of nostalgic scenes and iconic streets that contributes to the vibrant landscape of Singapore. Most of the works are being exhibited for the first time, including Tong's rendition of Kampong Bulok in 1963, Tanjong Rhu in 1988 and Chinatown in 1989. The collection constitutes the artist's memoirs of an island in transition as the face of Singapore became increasingly modernised since the 1980s.

Born in 1939, Tong Chin Sye is a prolific multi-media artist who was trained in both Western and Chinese art. He took the first prize in the *Port of Singapore Authority Open Art Competition* in 1987, and has participated in a number of exhibitions both locally and abroad. In 1998, the artist was a representative for Singapore at the Flemish Watercolour Days held at Zaventem, Europe. Earlier in his career, Tong was also a part-time lecturer in Western Art at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore.

While better known for his watercolour works, Tong boasts a dynamic oeuvre that also includes the oil and acrylic medium, as well as Chinese ink painting and calligraphy. *Memoirs of Our Island* promises an insightful and refreshing visual experience, as this is the first oil exhibition ever held by the artist. In addition to the bright and vibrant palette, Tong's oil paintings often exhibit expressive and elegant Chinese brushworks, displaying his interesting synthesis of East-West painting techniques.

Exhibition dates: 5 – 21 April 2013

Venue: artcommune gallery (address below)

Opening hours: 12 to 7 pm daily

Admission is free

Contact Information:

artcommune gallery

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www.artcommune.com.sg

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Here are some selected works from the exhibition:



Tanjong Rhu, 36 x 46cm, 1988



Chinatown Festival, 88 x 62cm, 1963

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Punggol Fishing Village, 102 x 86cm

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