



arts

Suzann Victor explores new media for her latest show



http://www.todayonline.com/sites/default/files/styles/photo_gallery_image_lightbox/public/21247014.JPG?itok=SlqpnFZt

Suzann Victor's *Cloud Without Tears* is one of the artworks featured in her exhibition, *Imprint: New Works*.

Her exhibition Imprint: New Works is also a return of sorts for the artist

[View all 0 comments](#)

Like Share 10

 0

Tweet 7

BY [BRUCE QUEK](#) (/AUTHORS/BRUCE-QUEK)

features@mediacorp.com.sg

<mailto:features@mediacorp.com.sg>

PUBLISHED: 9:35 AM, JANUARY 21, 2015

SINGAPORE — While Art Week features a staggering array of arts events — bolstered, perhaps, by the frenzy of SG50-related reflections and celebrations — you won't want to miss the Singapore Tyler Print Institute's (STPI) offering, *Imprint: New Works* by Suzann Victor. As the title suggests, the exhibition features a bevy of new works by one of Singapore's most distinguished artists — Victor is the only woman, to date, to represent Singapore at the Venice Biennale. The cherry on the pie is that she's working in print and paper media not typically associated with her practice. You can also catch her work at Art Stage Singapore: At the STPI booth and her seminal swinging chandelier *Contours Of A Rich Manoeuvre* is a public artwork in collaboration with Gajah Gallery.

It's potential that Victor sees in that lack of familiarity. To her, it is the "blindness and innocence to the process that's quite terrifying — but at the same time, that fear is very attractive". She added: "You get past it and work with it by getting into the material — discovering that it's quite fun — and then your instincts takes over."

It wasn't all gut feeling at play, with Victor poring over the outcomes of past residencies to see how they tackled an unfamiliar medium. The potential trap, in her mind, was that what someone new to a medium might consider a novel approach might very well be anything but. Despite that unfamiliarity, the show is a return for Victor in more ways than one. Firstly, the medium used is a return to her early days as an abstract painter, particularly in the series *Twice Upon A Juliet*, in which she painted acid onto copper plates used to print the series.

This sense of return, though, doesn't involve Victor returning to re-tread well-established ground. Instead, the artist embraces a spontaneous approach to the precise, pre-planned nature of printmaking. In the case of *We Cloud*, a multi-perspectival, modular artwork, the artist was very interested in how paper could be more than merely "a surface to receive marks and pigments". "In this case, the paper pulp is actually used as a pigment (and) used to paint onto these modular disks," she elaborated. "Effectively, the paper, which is usually the surface, is now both figure and ground, because the disks which are supposedly the ground, are quite transparent."

It's also a temporary return to Singapore for the Sydney-based artist and this is best seen in the series *I Was Like That Myself ... We All Held Each Others Hands*. In it, nostalgic images of old Singapore, embellished by Chinese New Year floral decorations, are obscured by a scintillating layer of Fresnel lenses, rendering it impossible to make out the underlying image with any real clarity. Based on the artist's own sense of dislocation — and perhaps our own rose-tinted view of old Singapore — Victor noted: "It left a very strong impression on me — in the amnesia of the changing landscape of Singapore, because it's constantly renewing itself, as though it's ageless — as though it's constantly, forever 21. I don't mean to trivialise it, but it's a shortcut to how I think."

And what does the artist think of how resources and exhibition platforms for artists have grown over the years? Has the abundance of such resources coddled the arts scene?

"It's a very romantic notion, you know?" she said. "To say that, 'Okay, did you suffer? Did you go through any adversity?' If art is about prospecting new grounds in the way we think — and about daring to think; then, yes, it could create a kind of complacency."

Imprint: *New Works* by Suzann Victor runs from Jan 18 to Feb 21, 10am to 7pm on Tuesdays to Fridays and 9am to 6pm on Saturdays at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 41 Robertson Quay. Closed on Sundays and public holidays. Free.

Art Stage Singapore runs from Jan 22 to 25 at Marina

Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre. For details, visit <http://www.artstagesingapore.com/> (<http://www.artstagesingapore.com/>).

[View all 0 comments](#)

Like Share 10 g+1 0 Tweet 7



Add a comment...

Also post on Facebook

Posting as
Singapore Tyler
Print ▾

[Comment](#)

Facebook social plugin

Awesome Presentation Tool

emaze.com

Create outstanding presentations with emaze. Free Trial!

Around the Web



Health Xchange - Singapore's Trusted Health & Lifestyle Portal

5 Symptoms of The Most Common Cancer Among Men in Singapore

Recommended by

Inside Today

[WORLD \(/WORLD\)](#)



[\(/world/china-censures-11-officials-over-shanghai-new-year-stampede\)](/world/china-censures-11-officials-over-shanghai-new-year-stampede)

[China censures 11 officials over Shanghai New Year stampede \(/world/china-censures-11-officials-over-shanghai-new-year-stampede\)](#)

[State of Union speech released online for the first time \(/world/americas/state-union-speech-released-online-first-time\)](#)

[An impasse in Paris, a gamble in Athens: how Greece returned to crisis \(/world/impasse-paris-gamble-athens-how-greece-returned-cri-sis\)](#)

[Turkish parliament votes against corruption trial for ex-ministers \(/world/turkish-](#)

[BUSINESS \(/BUSINESS\)](#)



[\(/business/central-bankers-lurch-whatever-it-takes-whatever-next\)](/business/central-bankers-lurch-whatever-it-takes-whatever-next)

[Central bankers lurch from 'whatever it takes' to 'whatever next' \(/business/central-bankers-lurch-whatever-it-takes-whatever-next\)](#)

[Asian shares buoyed by ECB easing hopes, BOJ hold lifts yen \(/business/asian-shares-buoyed-ecb-easing-hopes-euro-soft\)](#)

[Singtel overhauls its customer service \(/singapore/singtel-introduces-new-changes-customer-service\)](#)

[BOJ cuts inflation forecast, expands loan scheme instead of QOE \(/business/boj-cuts-inflation-forecast-expands-loan-](#)

[SPORTS \(/SPORTS\)](#)

[\(/sports/tennis/top-seeds-former-champions-march-melbourne\)](/sports/tennis/top-seeds-former-champions-march-melbourne)

[Liverpool's rested Sterling proves Rodgers right \(/sports/football/liverpools-rested-sterling-proves-rodgers-right\)](#)

[Chinese company to own 20% stake in Atletico Madrid \(/sports/chinese-company-own-20-stake-atletico-madrid\)](#)

[Sterling equaliser keeps Liverpool in the hunt \(/sports/football/sterling-equaliser-keeps-liverpool-hunt\)](#)

[Williams, Djokovic ease into second round \(/sports/tennis/williams-djokovic-ease-second-round\)](#)

[ENTERTAINMENT \(/ENTERTAINMENT\)](#)



[\(/entertainment/arts/arts-reviews/suzann-victor-explores-new-media-her-latest-show\)](/entertainment/arts/arts-reviews/suzann-victor-explores-new-media-her-latest-show)

[Suzann Victor explores new media for her latest show \(/entertainment/arts/arts-reviews/suzann-victor-explores-new-media-her-latest-show\)](#)

[Ex-pro wrestlers sue WWE over concussions, serious brain injuries \(/entertainment/television/ex-pro-wrestlers-sue-wwe-over-concussions-caused-injury\)](#)

[Gilbert & George: Old but gold \(/entertainment/arts/gilbert-george-old-gold\)](#)

[FX Harsono bags Freedom of Art](#)

[parliament-votes-against-corruption-trial-ex-ministers\)](#)

[At least two commuters stabbed on bus in Tel Aviv \(/world/least-two-commuters-stabbed-bus-tel-aviv\)](#)

[scheme-instead-qge\)](#)

[Brent crude inches above \\$48, but outlook remains weak \(/business/oil-prices-edge-early-trading-outlook-remains-weak\)](#)

[award \(/entertainment/arts/fx-harsono-bags-freedom-art-award\)](#)

[Gordon Ramsay loses court battle over S\\$1.3M rent on London pub \(/entertainment/celebrity/gordon-ramsay-loses-court-battle-over-s13m-rent-london-pub\)](#)

[ABOUT TODAY](#) | [APPS](#) | [NEWS ALERT](#) | [RSS](#) | [SITEMAP](#) | [SYNDICATION](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [ADVERTISE WITH US](#) | [TERMS & CONDITIONS](#) | [ABOUT MEDIACORP](#)

Copyright 2015 © MediaCorp Press Ltd. All Rights Reserved. MediaCorp News Group