

PRESS RELEASE

STPI
CREATIVE WORKSHOP & GALLERY

STPI Gallery's upcoming exhibition, *Strange Forms of Life*, converses in slow forms and elicits an exercise of close looking in a time of disruption and change

Opens to Public:

Saturday, 5 December 2020 – Sunday, 31 January 2021

STPI Gallery

Free Entry



Featuring works by

Genevieve Chua

Han Sai Por

Jane Lee

Kim Lim

Zul Mahmod

Sherman Sam

Jeremy Sharma

Guo-Liang Tan

Suzann Victor

Ian Woo

STPI is delighted to announce the opening of its upcoming group exhibition, *Strange Forms of Life*, slated to run from 5 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

An exhibition that presents a “novel way of being” in a critical time within the local art ecology

The exhibition is part of a wider project titled “Proposals for novel ways of being”. An initiative spearheaded by National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum, it seeks to support the local art community by bridging institutions, independent art spaces, curators and artists based in Singapore. STPI’s proposal for the initiative will span an exhibition and related programming in response to how life has evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how one might move forward from it.

STPI has appointed artist Guo-Liang Tan as the guest curator for *Strange Forms of Life*. This exhibition seeks to bring together works by ten Singaporean artists to explore ideas of liveliness and questions of form, in relation to abstraction as a mode of engaging with different aspects of being. With a selection of prints by the late Singaporean-British artist **Kim Lim** acting as points of reference throughout the exhibition, works by past STPI collaborators **Genevieve Chua, Han Sai Por, Jane Lee** and **Suzann Victor** are brought into dialogue with works in a range of media by local artists **Zul Mahmud, Sherman Sam, Jeremy Sharma, Guo-Liang Tan** and **Ian Woo**, expanding on the notion of the interconnectedness of form, material, idea and experience. The presentation examines, more widely, the role of abstraction in our world today, and what it might offer us in these strange and challenging times.

On the gallery’s involvement in the wider project, STPI Gallery Director Rita Targui states:

“STPI Gallery is immensely proud to be a part of ‘Proposals for novel ways of being’. Living in unprecedented times, it is crucial for institutions in Singapore to unite and provide meaningful opportunities for those whose livelihoods are deeply intertwined with the arts.

We are pleased to be working with Guo-Liang Tan on this meaningful project. Our contribution to the initiative, *Strange Forms of Life*, proposes abstraction as a method for us to consider the natural, emotional, technological, and temporal facets of our existence. Our exhibition seeks to bring qualities of empathy and transience to the fore and encourage audiences to stage conversations with one another in times of isolation.

Not only does the ‘Proposals for novel ways of being’ initiative allow STPI Gallery to collaborate closely with and show our support towards the local arts community, it also highlights how contemporary art empowers us in this time of flux. Furthermore, it further provides the opportunity for us to recognise, celebrate and critically position the diverse talents of artists, curators and other cultural workers in Singapore.”

On the significance of *Strange Forms of Life* and the collaboration with STPI Gallery, curator and artist Guo-Liang Tan shares:

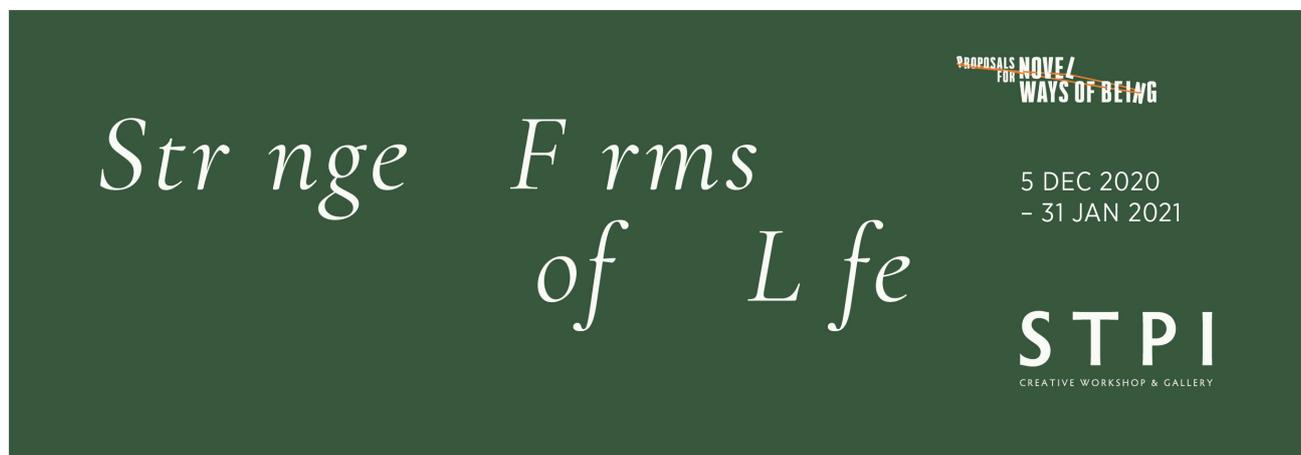
“This is a strange time for many of us. I wanted to use the exhibition as an opportunity to ask what we might want out of looking at art when there’s such a pressure for artists and their works to ‘speak’ and to ‘act’ in the face of the unprepared and the unknown. What I’ve found from talking to these artists and thinking about their work over the past few months is that our sense of being is deeply entwined with one another and in the midst of an unfolding situation, art can perhaps help us think about how we may want to reorientate ourselves to the world differently.”

Note to Editors

Please contact the STPI Gallery Communications team at communications@stpi.com.sg for more details and interview requests.

About the Guest Curator

Guo-Liang Tan (b. 1980, Singapore) is a visual artist working primarily in the field of painting, from which works in other mediums such as text, collage and video sometimes emerge. In his work, surfaces, painterly or otherwise, become a space for performing gestures of affect and conjuring a haunting that converses with the ghosts of abstraction. Tan completed his MFA at Glasgow School of Art and was also a guest student at The Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and an artist-in-residence at NTU CCA Singapore. Recent exhibitions include 'Ghost Screen' (2017) at OTA Fine Arts, 'Depths: Others, Land, Selves' as part of Elevation Laos (2018) and 'Reformations' (2019) at NTU ADM Gallery. Alongside his own work, Tan also writes and collaborates with other artists on various publication and curatorial projects. Most recently, he co-curated 'State Of Motion 2020: Rushes Of Time' for Asian Film Archive.



Notice: All visitors entering STPI premises must don a face mask, complete a temperature screening exercise and a health declaration form, and practice social distancing upon entry. STPI reserves the right to deny entry to any visitor(s) not donning a face mask, showing signs of illness or having a temperature of 38.0°C and above. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

About STPI

STPI Gallery fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international art fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its residency artists as well as the mediums of print and paper.

STPI is a creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper, making it one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.