

PRESS RELEASE

STPI
CREATIVE WORKSHOP & GALLERY

Galleries Curate: RHE STPI presents Suzann Victor: *Of Waters*

Opens to Public:

25 April – 9 May 2021

STPI Gallery

Free Entry

Out of the anxieties of COVID-19, how has the art world banded together to find fluidity and an inspired way forward?



Suzann Victor, *Strike (representation)*, 2021. Water/rainwater, glass vessels, strikers, stainless steel wires, dimensions variable.

© Suzann Victor. Photo courtesy of the Artist and STPI.

STPI Gallery is pleased to announce *Of Waters*, a solo exhibition by prolific Singaporean artist **Suzann Victor** and curated by **Marc Gloede**. *Of Waters* is presented as part of Galleries Curate: *RHE*.

In the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic, an informal group of contemporary galleries from around the world came together to discuss how to navigate the new challenges of the crisis as it affected our artists, staff and businesses. This community was a source of support during the difficult period of the global pandemic, and an international ground-up network was formed despite being physically confined in our countries. As an expression of this unity, the group initiated **Galleries Curate**, a collaborative exhibition by twenty-one galleries to express the dynamic dialogue between our individual programmes. STPI is glad to work with local artist Suzann Victor for this project to present the artist on an international platform.

The exhibition *Of Waters* brings together three seminal works by the artist which highlight the artist's interest and investigation into the element of water. With two gallery installations (where one is also presented online) and one print work, the exhibition invites the audience to experience the multifaceted practice of the artist and dive into an immersive experience.

Of Waters explores the different (sound) qualities that water contains. The physical installation and online presentation of *Fire Water* (2021) (in collaboration with Martin Kirkwood) offers a dark room in which the audience oscillates between different readings of the sound source. In stark contrast, *Strike* (2021) offers an archipelagic landscape of crystalline water containers that visitors can turn into a Glockenspiel. Finally, *Portwine - Romance included* (2015) is an encounter with the visual dimension of the element and this resonates with the artistic process.

With these three corresponding components of the exhibition, *Of Waters* allows a deeper understanding of the artist's continuous interest in the element. Furthermore, the exhibition encourages the visitors to recalibrate their senses, reflect on their own preconceptions of water, and experience the multiple potentialities that are embedded in the element.

The online presentation of *Fire Water* on the Galleries Curate: RHE website will be available from 27 April to 9 May 2021 at galleriescurate.com.

Note to Editors

For further details and interview requests, please contact STPI Gallery's Communications team at communications@stpi.com.sg.

About the Artist



Suzann Victor. Photo by Toni Cuhadi. Image courtesy of STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore.

Suzann Victor is a prolific Singaporean artist whose practice spans over 20 years, from an award-winning abstract painter in the 1980s to being Singapore's first female representative at the 49th Venice Biennale.

At STPI, Suzann Victor responded to and inverted traditional printmaking in experimental ways, creating new methods of performing materiality and ideas that resonate long after the aesthetic encounter. These innovative strategies resulted in architecturally-presented paintings with paper pulp, whilst her gestural acid paintings were the largest copperplate etchings ever produced at STPI in 2015. Her reconstruction of the postcolonial cultural/family unit were fronted by Fresnel lenses whose perceptual effects confounded the act of seeing, all of which are unusual additions to her practice consisting theatrical devices, kinetic mechanisms, performance-installations, experimentations with the body, light, water and natural phenomena such as the meteorological where she induced double rainbows to appear inside the National Museum of Singapore.

Victor's works have graced international platforms such as the 6th Havana Biennale, 2nd Asia-Pacific Triennial (Queensland Art Gallery), Adelaide Biennale (2008), *Sunshower* Exhibition, Tokyo and the 5th Seoul International Media Art Biennale, Korea. She was a recipient of the 2009 Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship and a special residency from the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in 2017. In 2019, her iconic performance, *Still Waters*, was honoured as the theme of the international theatre showcase M1 Singapore Fringe Festival.

About the Guest Curator



Marc Gloede. Photo by Wei Leng Tay.

Marc Gloede is a curator, critic and film scholar. His work focuses on the relationship between images, technology, space, the body, and the dynamics between art, architecture and film.

From 2008 to 2014 Gloede was senior curator of Art Film, Art Basel's film programme. Other film curatorial projects were the A+ Online Festival of Video Art (2020), the film programme for the exhibition "Siah Armajani: Spaces for the Public. Spaces for Democracy," at NTU CCA, Singapore, or his guest curation for the Experimenta Festival 2007 in Mumbai/Bangalore. Furthermore he has curated numerous exhibitions including "STILL/MOVING/STILL - The History of Slide Projection in the Arts" (Knokke/Belgium) or more recently "Progressive Disintegrations" at Objectifs and "To Draw a Line" at the ADM Gallery in Singapore.

Gloede authored the book *Farbige Lichträume/Colored Space of Light* (2014), and was co-editor of *Umwidmungen* (2005) and *Synästhesie-Effekte* (2011). His writing has been published in *The Impossibility of Mapping* [Urban Asia] (2020), *The State of Motion 2019: A Fear of Monsters*, and publications such as *Fantom*, *Texte zur Kunst*, *OSMOS*, *Parkett*, and *Art in America*, among others.

He received his PhD at the Free University of Berlin and since 2017 is Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the MA in Museum Studies and Curatorial Practices at NTU/ADM.

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.