

Pae White: *Friendship is Magic*

An ode to chance occurrences and
creative collaborations forged in Singapore

Opens to Public

8 August – 5 September 2021

STPI Gallery

Free Entry



Pae White, *MOTHERFLOCKER UPPERCASE A-Zed*, 2018, Screenprint, multi-colour flocking, 27-part installation, 63 x 63 x 3.8 cm each, edition of 3, 1 AP. © Pae White / STPI.

We are pleased to present a solo exhibition by prolific Los Angeles-based artist **Pae White**. Having arrived in Singapore for an STPI residency in 2018, the artist allowed herself to be guided by the space, people, food, presented opportunities and Singapore itself. These factors informed the multiple series of works realised through chance and collaboration with the Creative Workshop team. Such encounters and relationships provided her with a profound experience whose effects carry forward till today. It is this connection and closeness that forms the basis of *Friendship is Magic*.

Taking reference from her large-scale three-dimensional thread installations spelling out words, White's **flocked alphabet and numerical works** are an exercise in exploring space in the two-dimensional realm. The typeface itself is a custom design developed in the artist's studio, titled *GHOST FACE*. In an optical illusion-like manner, the dazzling prism effect created by the multicoloured flocking technique suggests a certain volume that seemingly jumps out from the paper. The fibre from the flocking itself creates a real solidity and depth by a microscopic amount—measurable by the millimetre—to complicate the idea of occupying space. And alluding back to the sentiments behind *Friendship is Magic*, the flocked work **UNLOST** (2018) speaks to her time spent wandering all around Singapore. Though it being her first time here, there was hardly any sense of being lost but rather of feeling right at home.



Pae White, *Grayscale Double 8*, 2018,
Handstitched cotton and rayon yarn on paper, 64 x 94.5 x 4.2 cm. © Pae White / STPI.

The **GRAYSCAPES** series (2018) similarly examines space. Using threads to create space on a two-dimensional plane, the material was expertly, almost surgically, sewed onto paper with the support of the workshop team. This created the same prismatic effect seen in her flocking words. Put together side by side, the undulating landscapes of floating letters and numbers impart a sense of lyricism, rhythm and movement. At the same time, there is the tension of struggling to come together, both within the canvas and from one *GRAYSCAPE* work to another.

Heavily utilising the embossing technique on bronze, cream and silver papers for her **Hearing Things** series (2018), the works evoke a feeling of a certain something, perhaps a sound or some small chaos, going on yet being indiscernible, which the artist likens to an “afterimage”. The use of a simple, commercially produced paper stock that uses a mirror metallic coating suggests the elevation of a basic object to something elaborate and extraordinary – and in this case, almost ornamental and jewellery-like in nature.

Her **accordion books** recall the artist’s own inclinations toward designing and collecting books, as well as her love for stained glass. The paper materials themselves connote the idea of strength and fragility. Inserted into the sturdier frame are untreated mulberry papers (bleached and unbleached) and lettuce papers made largely from lettuce and a binding agent. Through this kind of translucency and malleability in being, the work holds open the space for change and transformation to occur over time.

Especially relevant in times of social distancing and a lesser degree of human interaction, *Friendship is Magic* reminds us of the unexpected yet especially rewarding—and for White, magical—outcomes that can occur when we are given the space to connect and find inspiration from one another.

Artwork Images



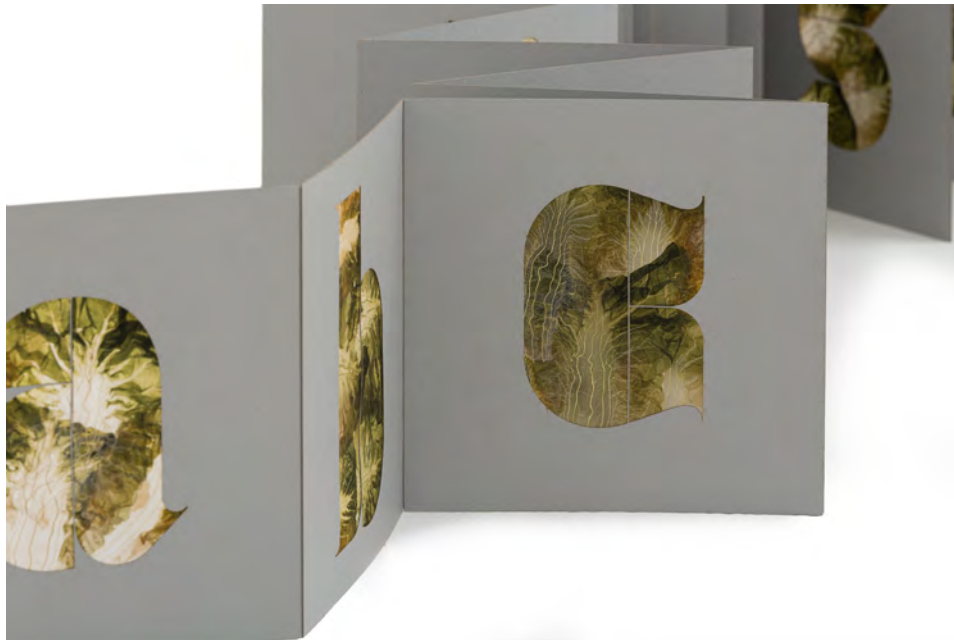
Pae White, *UNLOST*, 2018, Screenprint, multi-colour flocking, 6-part installation, 63 x 63 x 3.8cm each.
© Pae White / STPI.



Pae White, *MOTHERFLOCKER ALBINO*, 2018/2019, Screenprint, multi-colour flocking, 27-part installation,
63 x 63 x 3.8cm each. © Pae White / STPI.



Pae White, (left) **Hearing Things, fireflies (copper)**, (right) **Hearing Things, sallies (Touché)**, (both) 2018, Embossing on coated paper, 72.7 x 51.5 x 3.8 cm. © Pae White / STPI.



Pae White, **A Popeye Story** (detail), 2018, Laser-cut paper with lettuce insert.
 Alphabets: 23 x 596 cm (opened), 23 x 23 x 3 cm (closed), Numbers: 23 x 229 cm (opened),
 23 x 23 x 1.5 cm (closed) © Pae White / STPI.

Artist

Pae White



Pae White (b. 1963 Los Angeles) makes artwork that emerges from material experimentation, an approach that often pairs high tech and artisanal craft to ephemeral objects and quotidian subjects. Over the past decades she has created an expansive body of work that includes sculpture, painting, site-specific installation, furniture, architecture and graphic design. Her subjects and imagery might include smoke, colour, popcorn, time, plants, moonlight, birdcalls, bugs and clip art—elements that inspire her “exploration of the neglected, the forgotten, the spaces between things.” Common materials are often used to uncommon ends, for example in the way the artist has made artworks with neon, ceramic, string, birdseed and glass. As well, White has adapted centuries-old techniques with 21st century digital

technology as with her recent series of tapestries. “For a number of years,” White explains, “my practice has focused on an exploration of the neglected, the forgotten, the elusive, the spaces between things, even the things between things. I am equally drawn to the temporary, the fleeting, to the ephemera of everyday life.”

Recent solo exhibitions include: Friendship is Magic, STPI, Singapore (2021); ~ ~ ~v2, neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2021); Noisy Blushes, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose (2020), Beta Space: Pae White, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose (2019); Presumptive Close, greengrassi, London (2018); Small World, Galería Elvira González, Madrid (2018); Motherflocker, neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2018); Saarland Museum, Saarbrücken, Germany (2017); Fondazione Cini, Venice (2017); Demondaine, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, Milan (2017); Qwalala, Le Stanze del Vetro, Venice (2017); Command-Shift-4, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle (2015); ORLLEGRO, MAK—Österreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst / Gegenwartskunst, Wien (2013); In Love With Tomorrow, Langen Foundation, Neuss, Düsseldorf (2013); Too Much Night, Again, South London Gallery, London (2013); and Material Mutters, The Power Plant, Toronto (2011) among many others. Additionally, her work has been included in significant exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial, the Venice Biennial, and the Glasgow International. White has created major public art works for the Oslo Opera House, Norway; Collaborative Life Science Building, Portland, Oregon; Los Angeles Metro Rapid, North Embarcadero, San Diego; and Los Angeles International Airport. Her works are part of prominent public collections such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Tate Modern, London; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Art Institute of Chicago; and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

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.