

PRESS RELEASE

STPI
CREATIVE WORKSHOP & GALLERY

Brand New Project *Re_* Continues at STPI Gallery with *Satire as Commentary*

Humour and irony with prominent Asian artists



Re_

Opens to Public

8 August – 5 September 2021

On-site at STPI Gallery (Private Room)

Online on [STPI website](#) and Artsy

(available through STPI website)

Re_ by STPI is a series of multi-platform viewing rooms. It brings together a selection of works from STPI's inventory, placing them in new constellations for us to relook at them in fresh contexts. With a different focus for each iteration, the presentations will be refreshed regularly throughout the year. Having concluded our first three runs at ArtSpace@ HeluTrans, we are pleased to be bringing the next few editions back to STPI's own premises.

We invite you to come down, or visit us online, to Re_Visit, Re_View and Re_Connect with us.

Please direct press enquiries and requests for press images and interviews to:
STPI Communications | communications@stpi.com.sg



Kim Beom, *A Floor Plan for Public Toilet* (detail), 2016, Cyanotype on paper, 59.5 x 84 x 2.5 cm (framed).
© Kim Beom / STPI.

Re_Play

Satire as Commentary: Heri Dono, Kim Beom, Manuel Ocampo, Ronald Ventura

Satire—the use of humour, wit, irony and exaggeration to reveal the shortcomings of its subject matter—is a widely-used mechanism by artists to articulate their concerns. Incisively delivering pertinent critique behind its comical veneer, satire is a potent tool that is at once engaging and accessible, yet revelatory and analytical in its examination of the issues at hand. At STPI, past residency artists have similarly employed this technique in the works created during their time here, of which a selection is presented for *Satire as Commentary*.

In his print and paper explorations, Indonesian artist **Heri Dono** creates a whimsical world of distortions and humour, populated by components from *wayang kulit* (shadow puppetry) and pop culture to produce fantastic and absurd narratives. Behind this playful satire are commentaries on socio-political issues and human behaviour, which the artist skillfully presents on canvas to great emotive effects.

Korean artist **Kim Beom** uses playful imagery to compel the audience away from taking things at face value via his characteristically comic and subversive style. Through assigning his cyanotypes and Vandyke prints (the former depicting an architectural blueprint and the latter, the architectural subject itself) with humorously absurd titles like *Residential Watchtower Complex for Security Guards* and *A Floor Plan for Public Toilet*, Kim uses humour to raise penetrating questions on surveillance, the “public” and more.

Philippine artist **Manuel Ocampo**’s often chaotic and violent composition responds to a global culture of image production and consumption in flux. At STPI, he brings together an amalgamation of signs and symbols that, when placed together, elicits a dark humour which critiques identity and versions of culture, particularly the global culture of image production and consumption in flux.

Bringing his bold and dynamic aesthetic sense to STPI, Philippine artist **Ronald Ventura** explored the overarching theme of nature and its depleting resources through layering pop culture and classical painting references with signifiers of destruction. Through these paradoxical pairings, one is at once bemused by the ironic use of such iconographies while at the same time, punctured by the gravity of the artist’s message.

Deftly encapsulating the depth of their enquiry into concise visuals and concepts, the works by these artists invite us to join in the joke before astutely pulling the curtains back.

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.