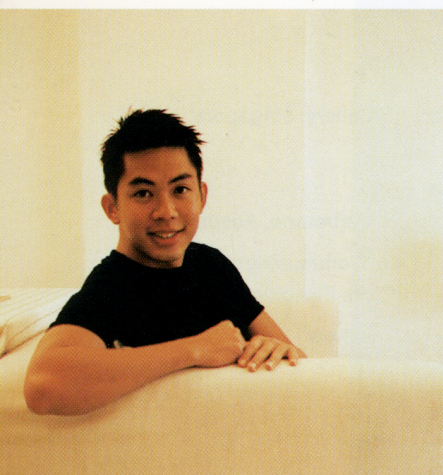




eric chan solo exhibition

The Diffused Lens



Malaysian-born artist Eric Chan is one of Singapore's emerging stars. Already fast-gaining recognition within the Singaporean art scene, Eric is perhaps one of the finest painters of his generation. Precociously accomplished yet harbouring a distinctive sensibility, Eric's vision and confidence surpasses his nascent yet promising career.

Trained at LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art, Eric has just recently completed a Masters in Fine Art programme with Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and he is currently lecturing at LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts.

Eric's painting addresses the image and the impression, how we register objects or remember the fleetingly glimpsed. His colours and skilful technique in diffusing the image recall the evocative paintings from the Impressionist era. While his work can be read as a continuation of impressionistic exploration, they are deeply powerful and compelling in the way they capture a brief passing moment, the ephemeral shifts between presence and absence, ingeniously suspending time with sophistication and style.

At first glance, one is reminded of the visual language of Richter, Polke, de Stael and even early Mondrian. Yet this is where the association stops. In contrast, Eric's focus is very much centered on surface narrative. His subject matters are arbitrary - the images are based on Eric's collection from a plethora of lifestyle magazines (which would have earned Martha Stewart's stamp of approval) as well as his personal collection of photographs.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Eric's work lies in his ongoing negotiation for equilibrium in the dichotomies present in his work. Each canvas emanates impeccable style and sensuality while the emotions and approach is highly controlled. It can be read as Eric's deliberate intention or ambivalent attempt to lure and simultaneously detract our attention away from any vestige of vulnerable and emotional involvement invested in them. Each piece resembles filmic images viewed through a diffused lens, resonating mystery, quiet romance and languor; the severe edges of the artist's meticulously flawless canvas interrupt the moment, remaining coolly aloof - almost denying one of the opportunity of being naively swept off by the visual feasts.

Watching Eric at work offers clearer insight into his working process. Under the modish contemporary facade lies a classical working approach recalling traditional painting techniques fashioned by the Old Masters. The bare canvas is prepared with a red ground. Following that, he begins to plot out rough outlines using earth tones, *terra verte* and burnt sienna. Then the magic begins. The initial layers are applied with rapid-fire urgency and playful intuition. The energy and force applied onto the canvas are subsequently stretched and forced to slow down, almost crashing to a halt, trapping the pulsating energy from within. The latent energy and tension reverberate. Each canvas is suspended in a state of flux. When asked for an analogy that best describe this style, I offered, "like stretched lycra waiting to bounce back".

This Malaysian premier will prove to be his greatest challenge thus far. Apart from being placed under public scrutiny and critique from a new audience, Eric is forced to confront and resolve the prevailing issues surrounding his work. We will see his attempt to fuse contrasting directions addressed in his work as he seeks out and continues to push the fine boundary between

cover:
between likenesses
2001
oil on canvas
120 x 120 cm

abstraction and representation. While his earlier works possess the vibrant sheen of self-assurance and wit, this new series sees a new development - a growing maturity, exposing a tinge of vulnerability while conveying deeper emotional resonance. The paintings are more haunting, lonely and contemplative than ever before, the sense of absence/presence more riveting. His signature palette of grey-greens and earth tones is now making way for shots of electric pink and cerulean blue.

Eric Chan Solo Exhibition in many ways is a reflection of human experience. The layers of contradiction and turbulence, the absence and presence, suggesting and denying, emphasising and de-emphasising, control and balance of tradition with the contemporary, laced over by aesthetic beauty are key to the emotional connection one feels for in his work. Armed with an extraordinary talent and the keen ability to compel the senses, Eric Chan's artistic development is definitely one to keep an eye on.

Adeline Ooi, Curator

Born 28th March 1975, Kuala Lumpur

Education

- 1999 - 2000 Master of Fine Art (Painting)
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore
- 1996 - 1997 Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Painting) with Distinction
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore

Solo Exhibition

- 2000 Flaunting - Paintings by Eric Chan, Art Forum Gallery, Singapore

Selected exhibitions

- 2001 RMIT Master of Fine Art Graduate Show
Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore and SPAN Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2000 Imagined Boundaries - Looking at New Model Communities
Marine Parade Theatre Festival 2000 (Visual Arts Exhibition), Singapore
Between - LASALLE School of Fine Art Faculty Show
Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore
- 1999 SUARA IV - LASALLE Alumni Art Exhibition
Caldwell House, CHIJMES, Singapore
PRAXIS - LASALLE School of Fine Art Faculty Show
Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore
- 1998 New Generation Singapore Artist Exhibition, Art Forum Gallery, Singapore
SEMIOSIS LASALLE School of Fine Art Faculty Show
Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore
A Refusal To Be Aware Of All Options; Looking Into Contemporary Painting
The Subsation Gallery, Singapore
Suara III - LASALLE Alumni Art Exhibition
Caldwell House, CHIJMES, Singapore
VISUAL + - 5 Installation 5 Artist, LASALLE Gallery, Singapore
- 1997 Drench - 4th RMIT Fine Art Graduate Exhibition, Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore
President's Charity Show, Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore

Selected Awards and Scholarships

- 1997 Outstanding Achievement Award, Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Painting)
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)
LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore
- 1996 Art Bursary for Bachelor of Arts Studies
LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore

Selected Collections

National Heritage Board, Singapore; Professor Arthur Lim; Les Amis Restaurant; Dr Sylvia Desazars de Montgailhard; Kamal Bigg; Albano Daminato; Mr. Jeff Guasco; Ms. Helen Chesbrough; Majorie Chu, Art Forum, Singapore; Mr. Chandrasekaren; Dr. K.S Ong; Damon Chua

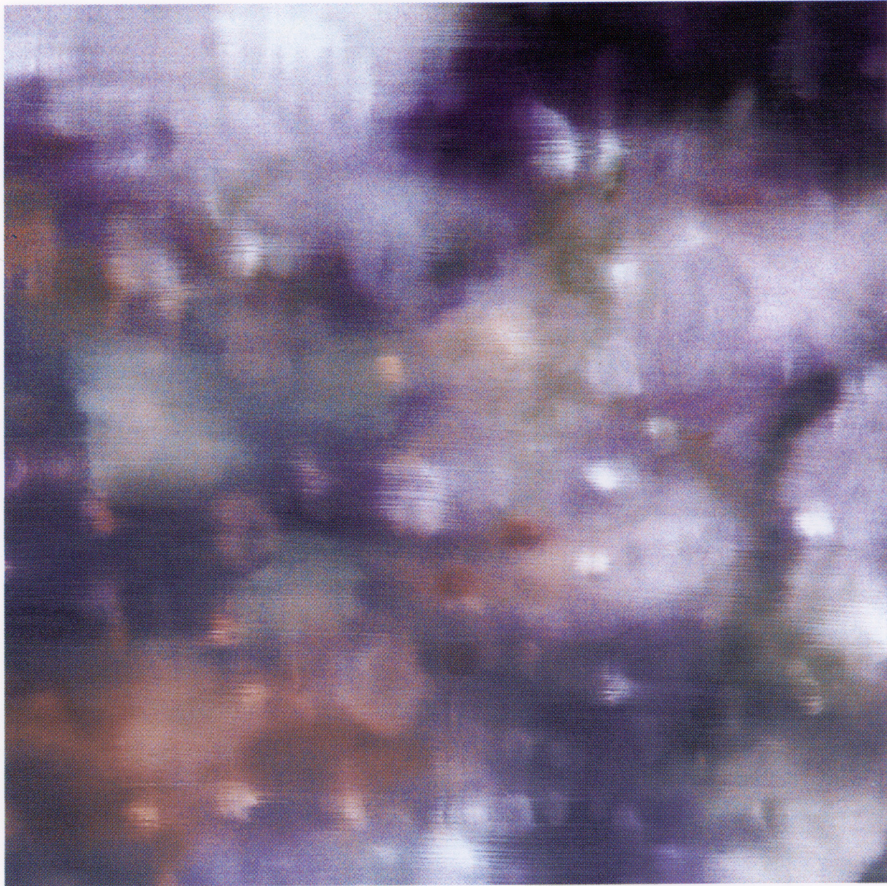


fluttering again

2001

oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm



ground show

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm



white spots and eternity

2001

oil on canvas

94 x 94 cm



blow

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm



the remains
2001
oil on canvas
90 x 90 cm



let it slide between the two

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm

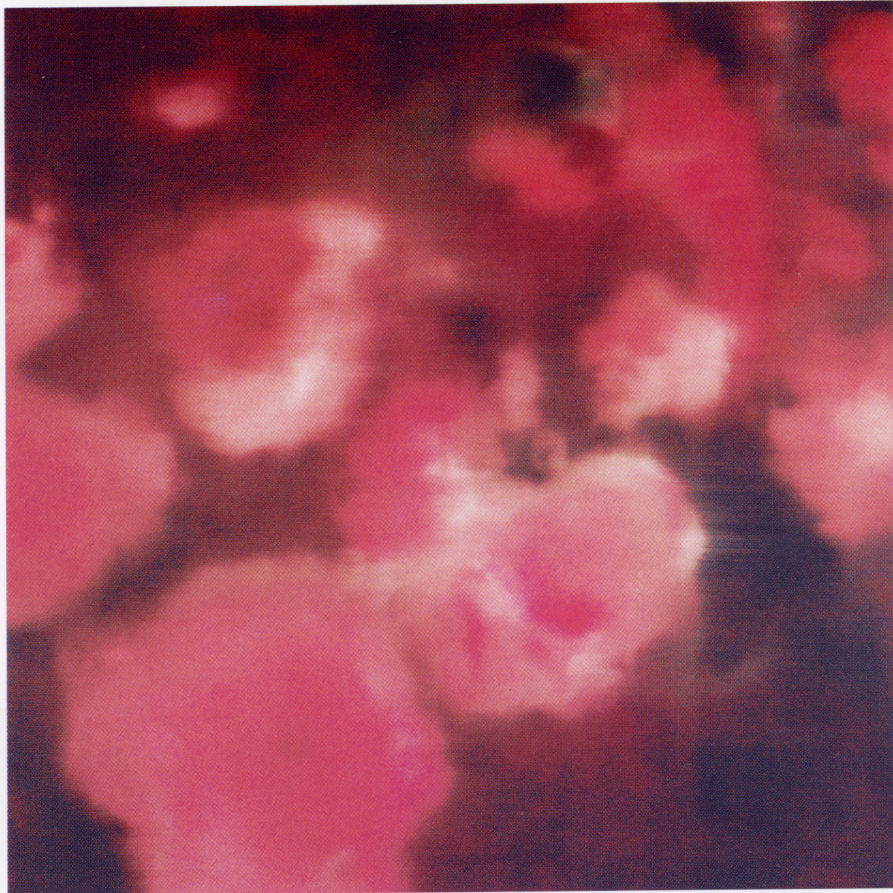


for the longest time

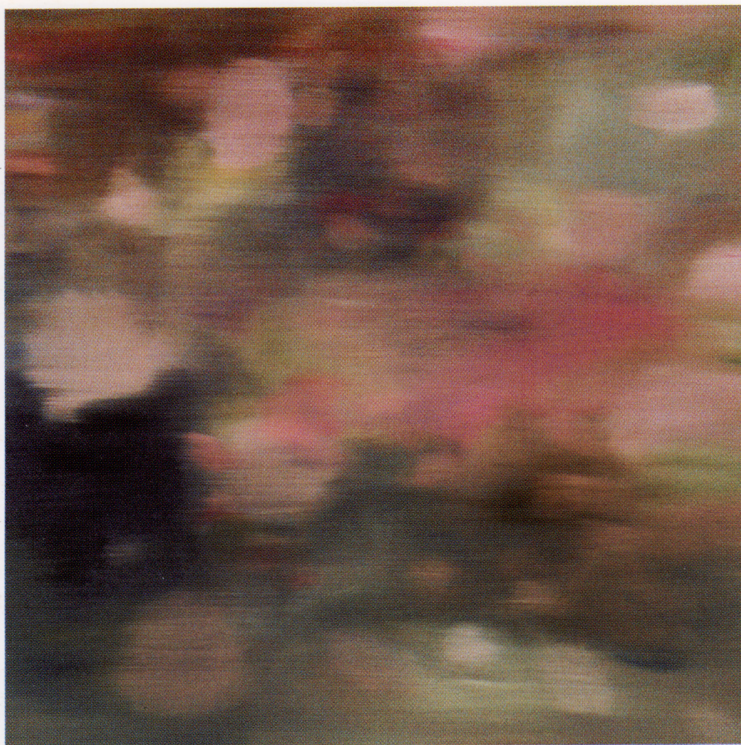
2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm



field
2001
oil on canvas
90 x 90 cm



other places

2001

oil on canvas

74 x 74 cm



it's there, it's still there

2001

oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm



it must be this place
2001
oil on canvas
120 x 120 cm



moving gazes
2001
oil on canvas
74 x 74 cm



it must have been something I took
2001
oil on canvas
40 x 80 cm (diptych)



it was left behind

2001

oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm



picture's edge

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm



i spy with my eyes

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm



margins of desire

2001

oil on canvas

90 x 90 cm

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Siemens, corporate citizen, sponsor of the arts

Siemens is a respected corporate citizen throughout the world. We safeguard our people's future through training and continuing education. Integrity guides our conduct towards our business partners, colleagues, shareholders and the general public. Cultural differences enrich our organization.

Why should a high-tech company be involved in arts and culture?

Artists and engineers have a lot in common. Both are creative, both want to initiate change and both must be highly professional to succeed. The arts are an important gauge of the development of society. Technological innovations facilitate such development. If artists and high-tech managers are curious and open, each can learn from the other.

Siemens has a two-fold approach to its support of arts and culture, both looking to encourage the health of the arts in the countries it invests in, and to foster an appreciation of the arts among Siemens employees and linking the worlds of art and work with one another.

Siemens has made contributions to local arts and culture, both at its home base in Germany and around its worldwide operations, in as varied locations as Hungary, Turkey, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa, in the form of art collecting, scholarships, competitions, music and theatre programs, among other activities.

In Malaysia, Siemens has incorporated a custom-designed gallery within its premises, which aims to provide a showcase for local contemporary art as part of its program. In conjunction with Valentine Willie Fine Art, Siemens is pleased to sponsor *Eric Chan: Solo Exhibition* at this gallery, promoting the work of a very promising young artist with much to offer in the development of local art practice, and to host this exhibition at The Gallery at Siemens, Kuala Lumpur in June this year.

VALENTINE
WILLIE
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(24 May to 9 June 2001)

Valentine Willie Fine Art
1st floor, 17 Jalan Telawi 3
Bangsar Baru
59100 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

tel: 60 3-22 84 2348

fax: 60 3-22 82 5190

valentine@artsasia.com.my

<http://www.artsasia.com.my>

(19 June to 14 July 2001)

The Gallery
Siemens Malaysia
Level 1 Reception, CP Tower
11 Section 16/11
Jalan Damansara
46350 Petaling Jaya
Selangor
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tel: 60 3-79 52 5074

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This exhibition has been sponsored
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