

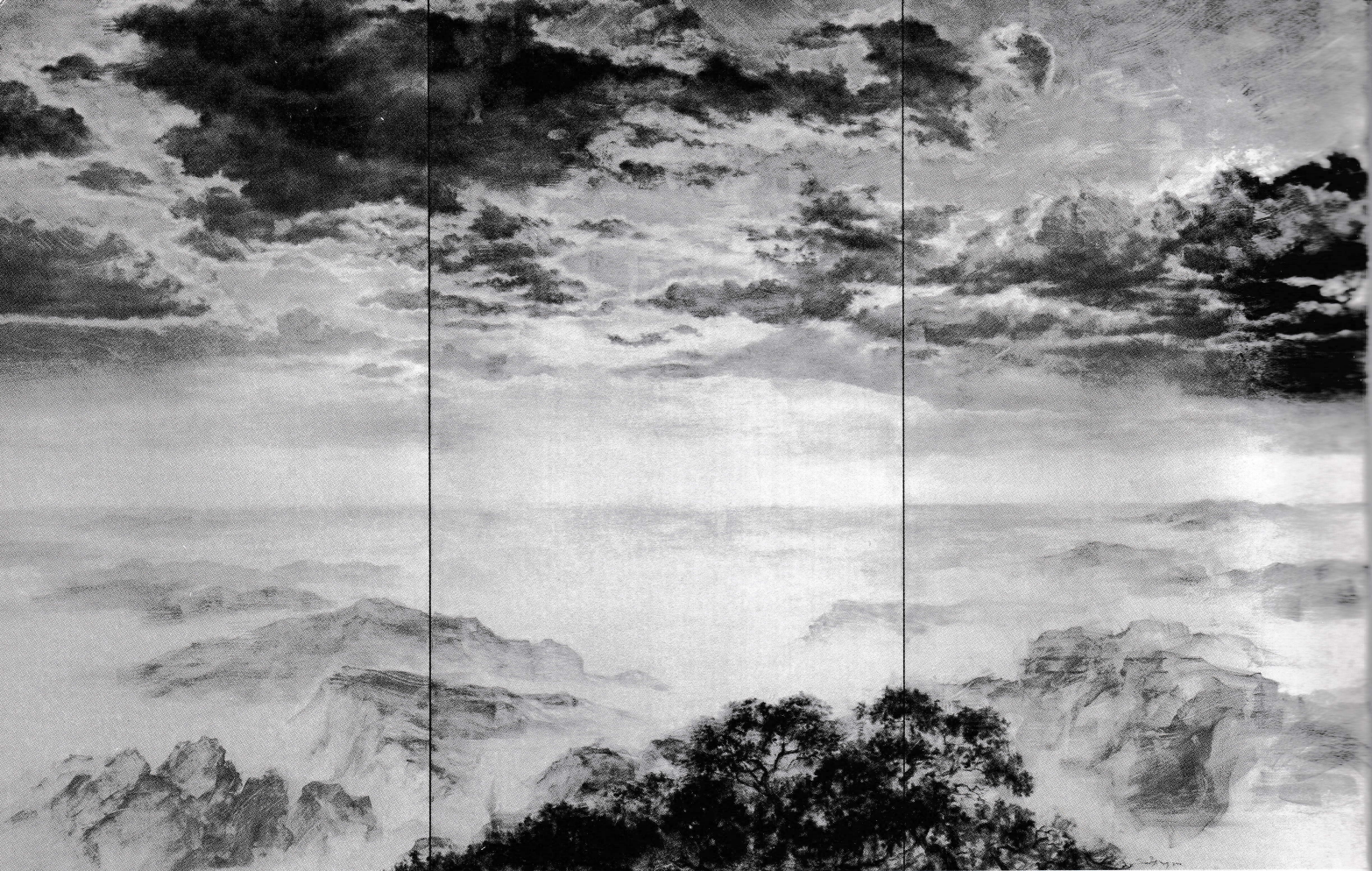


張秀英
新作品展

New Works by
Chong Siew Ying

vwfa

ART HK 12
ASIA ONE, Booth 1X13

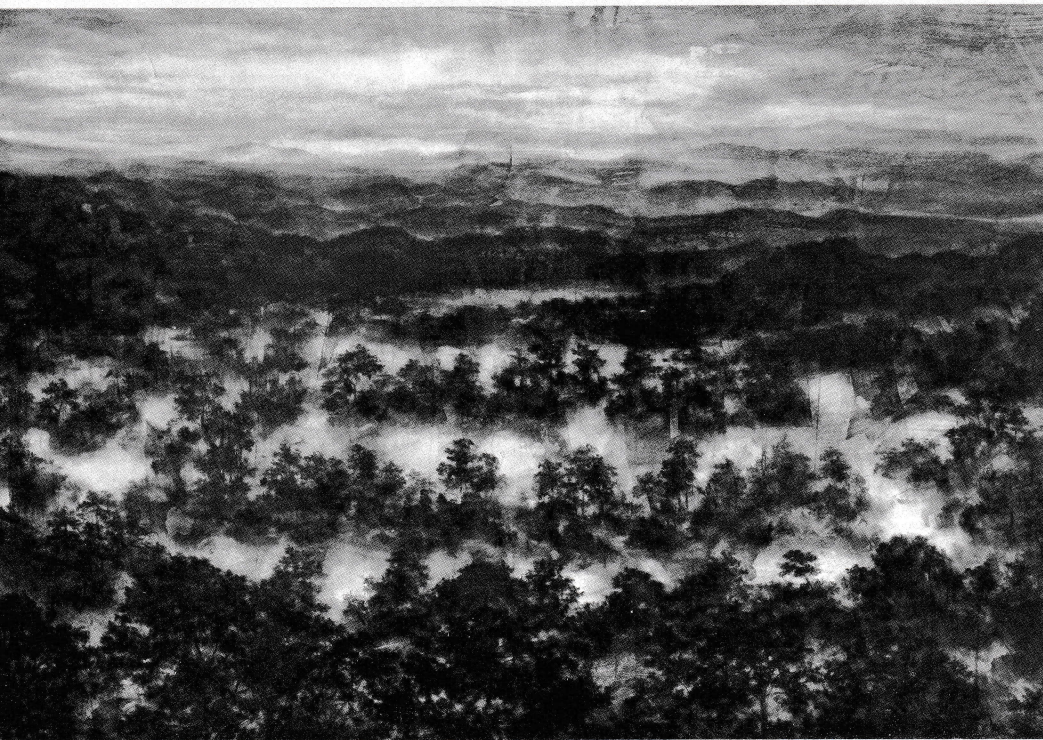


无极 . Infinity
2012

Charcoal and acrylic medium on paper mounted canvas
260 x 138 cm each x 3 pcs

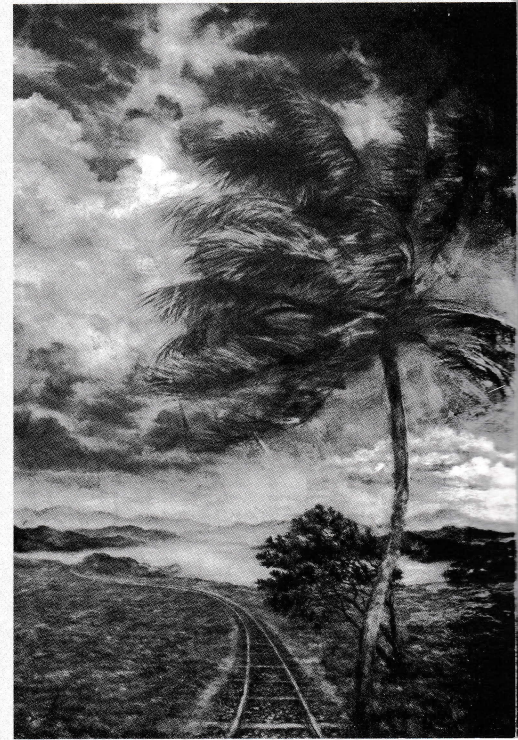
黎明 . Dawn
2012

Charcoal and acrylic medium on paper mounted canvas
138 x 200 cm



过客 . Passage
2012

Charcoal and acrylic medium on paper mounted canvas
200 x 138 cm





三百年 . 300 Years

2012

Charcoal and acrylic medium on paper mounted canvas

158 x 260 cm

Introduction

Valentine Willie Fine Art Kuala Lumpur is proud to present the latest body of work by celebrated Malaysian painter Chong Siew Ying. Following on from her solo *Infinity* at Valentine Willie Fine Art Singapore, in 2011, Siew Ying shares with audiences her continuing interrogation of landscape, memory, space and place. Informed by both traditional Chinese ink painting and European sensibilities, she creates imagined charcoal mindscapes that play with texture and formal composition to communicate the infinite qualities of landscape. These sites of meditation, inspiration and drama present a stage for the philosophical consideration of Man's place and purpose in the world.

Her technique is unusual, in that she attaches large-scale paper-mounted canvases to her studio walls, and after she has drawn her imagery, laden with grainy textures from her plaster backdrops, she places her work on the floor to layer it with a clear emulsion. Whilst wet, she sweeps brushes across the surface and immediately pulls and lifts the canvas, merging charcoal and emulsion. The result of this labour-intensive process is an animated and atmospheric surface that has similarities to the fluid and meticulous strokes of ink painting. The influence of this traditional medium and its philosophical subject matter act as a type of image inventory for Siew Ying to create her own imagined scenes and compositions, whether isolated trees, grand forests or vast skies. Triggering memories of places we have been, dreamt of, or simply yearn to experience, her work represents the power of nature to prompt self-introspection, conflict, freedom and ultimately peace.

Her previous series dealt with the human form and landscape, however, here, human presence is inferred only through absence. As such, she provides better vantage points into her landscapes, allowing audiences the opportunity to place themselves within them. This is one of the instinctual appeals of landscape as a genre, the ability to imagine oneself as part of what is seen, to envisage the physical experience of the land. This is further heightened by a sense of mystery and desire to explore and discover the possibilities of these places. Stirring the imagination, the viewer is swept away by visual passages of natural beauty romantically revisioned for philosophical inquiry and liberation.

Although her scenes are esoteric places and spaces, a reading of the work is not complete without a reference to the personal biography of the artist. Previously, dividing her time in between Paris, where she studied to become an artist, and Kuala Lumpur, the city of her birth, Siew Ying's life has been a constant negotiation of East and West. This 'metisage', a French term for hybridity, continues to repeat itself in many forms throughout her work. Is she creating a personal landscape of desire and longing for her own Malaysian/Chinese identity now that she has relocated back to Kuala Lumpur? One conclusion could be, that in the past, her multi-centred existence created a constant state of transit and flux, whereas now there is a self appointed shift towards a more rooted sense of being.

Through darkness and light, movement and stillness Chong Siew Ying presents formally sophisticated landscapes charged with personal emotion. Her large scale romantic and rhythmic canvases also allow audiences to reflect on their own desires and fears through the personal, historical and philosophical. Developing over a period of three years these imagined places highlight the artist's commitment to practice and experimentation of technique. Ultimately, she showcases the ability of Art to capture the intangible and profound infinite qualities of Nature and its inspiring qualities for personal growth and transcendence.

By Eva McGovern

Head of Regional Programmes

Valentine Willie Fine Art



家 . Home
2012
Charcoal and acrylic medium on
paper mounted canvas
138 x 200 cm

Cover
南海 . Southern Sea
2012
Charcoal and acrylic medium on
paper mounted canvas
200 x 138 cm

CHONG SIEW YING, (b. 1969 Kuala Lumpur) left Malaysia in 1990 to pursue her studies in arts in Paris, France. She returned to Malaysia in 1998, holding her first solo show in Kuala Lumpur that year. She was selected as artist-in-residence at Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia in 1999 and was a recipient of the Freeman Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Centre in the United States in 2001. She was also a finalist for the Sovereign Art Prize in 2005. Her career has spanned a large number of solo and group exhibitions in Asia, as well as across Australia, Europe and the USA.

Chong Siew Ying remains a dedicated aesthete, grounded in the painterly traditions of both East and Western sensibilities. Well known for her strong gestural brush strokes and expressive compositional arrangements, Siew Ying continues to develop new techniques and approaches to subject matter that communicate a distinct visual poetry. A lyrical and elegant painter, her work is profoundly emotive, embracing broad themes such as nature, human psychology and emotions. As a multi-centred artist, travel and place continue to be an important influence on her practice. A true grand voyageur, she has conducted epic journeys overland from Europe to Asia, absorbing the cultures and landscapes of multiple places along the way that emerge in her work through a strong understanding of space and the human condition.

Her selected solo exhibitions include: *Infinity*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore, 2011; *Idylle (Part II)*, Galerie Deprez-Bellorget, Paris, France, 2010; *Frame of Mind*, Ernst & Young Asian Art Outreach Exhibition, Singapore, 2009; *Idylle*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2008; *Chong Siew Ying*, Galerie Deprez-Bellorget, Paris, France, 2006; *Many Splendoured Things*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2006; *Mirror's Edge*, The Substation Gallery, Singapore, 2004 and *Going Away Coming Home*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2002.

Selected group exhibitions include: *Jejak*, Galeri Nasional Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2007; *Footsteps*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2004; *Of Shadows and Images*, Kunst Museum, Malmo, Sweden and Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain, 2003; *The Young Contemporaries Award Exhibition*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2002; *Through Our Eyes*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1999; *9th International Biennale of Print and Drawing Exhibition*, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taiwan, 1999 and the *4th Triennale Mondiale d'Estampes Contemporain*, Chamalieres, France, 1997.

Exhibition dates: 17 – 20 May 2012

Exhibition venue: ART HK 12, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

vwfa

valentine willie fine art

1st Floor, 17 Jalan Telawi 3, Bangsar Baru, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: +603 2284 2348 :: Fax: +603 2282 5190 :: Email: info@vwfa.net

Monday – Friday 12 noon to 8 pm. Saturday 12 noon to 6 pm.

Closed on Sunday and public holidays.

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