

For immediate Release - 12 Aug 2025

Yeo Workshop Turns 12

SINGAPORE GALLERY MONTH

Celebrating 12 years of championing contemporary art
in Gillman Barracks, Singapore and beyond— a continued journey of becoming

Holding (Space)
30 August – 2 November 2025

Opening Reception and Gallery Anniversary Celebration

 Saturday 30 August 2025

 3 - 7 pm

Satay BBQ

 Yeo Workshop, Gillman Barracks

Featuring works by:

Aki Hassan (SG), Justin Loke (Vertical Submarine) (SG), Marcin Dudek (PO), Maryanto (ID),
Noor Mahnun (Anum) (MY), Xue Mu (NL/CN)



Justin Loke, *Unarmed Chair: Explaining the Broken English of Butcher Ding*, 2025, Wooden chair, new and used choppers, 95 x 90 x 128 cm. Image courtesy of the Artist.

Marking its twelfth anniversary, Yeo Workshop unveils ***Holding (Space)***—a group exhibition bringing together six artists ranging across painterly and sculptural mediums, each with a unique connection to Yeo Workshop. Some have sustained long-standing representation with the gallery since the beginning, while others are in dialogue for future collaboration—affirming the gallery’s enduring commitment to fostering new conversations in contemporary art.

Across drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media and installation, these artists interrogate systems, both seen and unseen, that shape contemporary existence. Scraping away at the veneers of dominant frameworks, they expose the fractures within and reimagine new ways of inhabiting these gaps. Meaning, place, and the self are continually renegotiated in these works. In each artist’s hands, material, gesture, and gaze become quiet but powerful tools to unravel and reconstruct the notions of support, kinship, connection, and resistance.

Tracing the intimate pulse of lived memory, **Aki Hassan** (b. 1995, Singapore) layers handwritten letters in powder pigment across wooden panels. Words are written, rubbed away, and re-inscribed until they seep into the grain, turning language itself into a slow heartbeat of shared experience. First shown at Liste Art Fair Basel earlier this year, these drawings were conceived as love letters during a tumultuous time for the queer and trans communities. They hold space for tenderness and charged emotions, honouring the kinships that sustain a life.

Xue Mu (b. 1979, China)’s energetic abstract creations work at the threshold between image, space, and perception. Mu’s projects unfold as shifting constellations of form and meaning—installations, photographs, and spatial interventions that invite viewers to inhabit a landscape where memory, material, and the act of seeing are in constant negotiation. In her abstract forms, images loosen to reveal their concealed causes, dissolving hierarchies and tracing the ever-circulating life of things as a complex, indivisible whole.

Rendered on a grand scale, **Maryanto’s** (b. 1977, Indonesia) monochromatic landscapes also function as quiet acts of resistance. With painstaking technique, he scratches away darkness to uncover ecosystems that no longer survive. Each forest revealed exposes the wounds inflicted onto our lands by extraction, colonisation, and capitalism. His paintings serve as both an archive and warning, urging us to confront the realities we erase or neglect.

A spindly ladder-like installation, **OHP** presents lower rungs that are splintered and uneven while the upper reaches resolve into cleaner, more solid planes. The structure looks as though it might collapse under the first step, yet it gains strength the higher it climbs—a deliberate inversion that mirrors **Marcin Dudek’s** (b. 1979, Poland) ascent from a hooligan growing up in post-communist Poland to an established artist. Each salvaged component carries the scars of its prior life; climbing becomes both confession and redemption, the shaky origins never erased but visibly supporting the stability achieved above.

Justin Loke (Vertical Submarine) (b. 1979, Singapore) presents *Unarmed Chairs*. Drawing from Goya's painting of war as a public spectacle, Loke reflects on how violence is consumed today—filtered through screens, and re-mediated from the comfort of an armchair. In this distanced spectatorship, even the uncanny becomes palatable. Rendered through mimicry and AI-generated references, his graphite drawings and sculpture show armchairs pierced, collapsed, or surrounded by debris. These wounded domestic scenes recall the “living room war,” where violent images on TV ease discomfort through familiarity and distance. Referencing Byung-Chul Han's notion of *Shanzhai*, Loke treats mimicry as transformation—the reproduced image turning inward to critique both its source and its reception. In doing so, *Unarmed Armchairs* reveals the structures that instruct not only what we are shown, but how we've learned to look, opening space for new ways of seeing.

Finally, the quiet *Straw (pink)* by **Noor Mahnun** (b. 1964, Malaysia) stems from her still life series depicting domestic and everyday objects, often with a dash of humour. *Straw (pink)* subverts the classical still life tradition by replacing perishable subject matter (like food or flowers) with a disposable plastic takeaway cup, an emblem of synthetic permanence. This shift challenges the genre's historical celebration of materiality and mortality, prompting reflection on modern consumption, waste, and ecological impact. Through meticulous rendering, Noor Mahnun elevates a mundane, mass-produced object, inviting viewers to reconsider notions of value and beauty in the everyday.



Aki Hassan, Performance and activation and reading at Liste Basel, 16-22 June 2025. Photography Courtesy of Alexander Paul Englert.

Holding (Space) is a showcase for artworks across sculptural and painterly mediums but also a metaphorical space for deeper questions about the systems we live in and reimagine. At the same time, the gallery looks back on its many milestones and achievements over the last decade: from launching the late Solamalay Namasivayam's first comprehensive monograph to

its inaugural participation in new international fairs such as Liste Basel and Frieze New York this year; spotlighting emerging artists from Singapore and the region, to a steadfast programme of artist talks, patron dinners and tours for the local community. An invitation to all to celebrate this momentous occasion, the gallery also looks ahead with renewed purpose in cultivating bold artistic voices for contemporary art in Singapore.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

ONLINE ARTIST TALK

Touchpoints: Supporting Artists from Studio to Spotlight

Artist-Gallery Relationships
Aki Hassan with Audrey Yeo, Art Patron Roopa Dewan
Moderated by Yvonne Wang



4 September 2025 | Zoom | Free with registration

In conjunction with Singapore Gallery Month, Yeo Workshop presents an online conversation featuring emerging artist Aki Hassan (he/they), reflecting on their debut at Liste Art Fair Basel 2025. Hosted by the gallery, this session offers insight into the role galleries play in supporting early-career artists—from visibility and institutional support to critical dialogue and international exposure. The session includes exclusive footage from Aki's booth presentation and will foster discussion on the value of sustained artist-gallery relationships in today's global art ecosystem.

ABOUT SINGAPORE GALLERY MONTH



Singapore Gallery Month is a nationwide celebration of contemporary art across the island's leading galleries. Taking place from 15 August - 14 September 2025 it offers exhibitions, events, talks, and curated walks that highlight the richness and diversity of Singapore's visual arts scene. Find out more on <https://agas.org.sg/sgm/>.

ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP

Yeo Workshop is a contemporary art gallery based in Singapore's Gillman Barracks, dedicated to showcasing Southeast Asian artists who push the boundaries of visual culture. From traditional painting and sculpture to cutting-edge digital media, the gallery fosters a bold and diverse program that engages with pressing socio-cultural issues, encouraging critical dialogue and fresh perspectives.

Yeo Workshop regularly participates in leading international art fairs, most recently including ASIA NOW Paris, Frieze Seoul, Frieze New York and Liste Basel. This year Yeo Workshop has launched a year-long calendar of events aimed at deepening art appreciation and collecting. Highlights include a landmark monograph, intimate life drawing sessions, artist talks, and panel discussions, all designed to connect collectors, artists, and the wider creative community. Committed to fostering artistic growth through education and outreach, the gallery continues to nurture the next generation of talents and patrons.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Marcin Dudek

Marcin Dudek's (b. 1979, Krakow) practice builds from autobiographical experience and expands to explore the broader phenomenon that shaped it, including rituals of subculture, DIY economy and crowd dynamics. Often working with found, salvaged or repurposed materials, Dudek constructs objects, installations, painting and performance, touching upon questions of power and aggression in the context of sport and cultural spectacle. His paintings incorporate an obsessive work ethic, meticulously slicing and manipulating medical tape, rubbing images into the cloth and building up a painting through collage.

Aki Hassan

Aki Hassan (b. 1995) is a Singaporean visual artist, whose work is concerned by the varying forms of dependencies evolved within trans* kinships and solidarity. Primarily working through sculptural installations and experimental comics, Aki speculates on nonbinary bodily (con)sequences, as they reflect on the present dilemmas with cultural and systemic forces. They see their practice as a tool to locate strengths, resistance, precarity and imbalances in exchange, whilst carefully disentangling normative imaginaries of support and care.

Justin Loke

Justin Loke (b. 1979, Singapore) is a multidisciplinary artist and curator. He is the director of Vertical Submarine, an art collective based in Singapore. Loke's accolades include the President's Young Talents Award (Singapore) and the Japan Foundation Arts Award in 2009. His works have been exhibited internationally at major institutions, museums, and biennales, including National Gallery Singapore, Singapore Art Museum, Saatchi Gallery (London), Arter (Istanbul), Arndt Gallery (Berlin), and Richard Koh Fine Art (Singapore-Bangkok). He also participated in ROUNDTABLE, the 9th Gwangju Biennale, in 2012.

Maryanto

Maryanto (b. 1997, Indonesia) creates powerful monochromatic paintings and monumental installations that dissect socio-political structures through the depiction of landscapes. His works investigate the impact of technological development, industrialisation, pollution, and resource exploitation on the natural world, reflecting the harsh realities in his home country. Through fable-like and theatrical settings, Maryanto's landscapes present deeply urgent concerns around the encroachment of the environment, both physical and cultural.

Noor Mahnun

Noor Mahnun (b. 1964, Malaysia), also known as Anum, is recognized for adapting the traditional technique of oil painting into a style that has been praised for its simplicity and meticulousness. Beneath their guide of naivety and delicacy are carefully crafted compositions that weave subtle psychological narratives with a droll attitude towards the unusual, even when it's banal.

Xue Mu

Xue Mu (b. 1979 Nanjing, CN) is a Visual Artist based in Amsterdam NL and Nanjing CN. She is an alumni at de Rijksakademie Voor Beeldende Kunsten (2011-2012), Gerrit Rietveld Academie (2009) and Dutch Art Institute (2006). Between 2013 and 2015 her projects were presented in art institutions at de Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, de Appel Arts Centre, He Xiangning Art Museum Shenzhen and AMNUA Nanjing. Mu has been commissioned several times for public art projects in the Netherlands from 2009 to 2012.