

Ru Yi Tan

Returned – The Stars Seem So Different

Site specific installation and exhibition

at GANENDRA ART HOUSE (Shalini Ganendra Fine Art)

January 21 – March 30, 2016

Ru Yi Tan's Stars

Ru Yi Tan has resided at SGFA for 8 weeks as an awardee of our Vision Culture Artist Residency and as a represented artist. She arrived with large boxes of bright clothing clips from Japan and a tabula rasa brief for project specs and details. Her 'return' offered her the valuable opportunity to create on site without distraction.

Ru Yi's practise centers on the use of accessible materials with which she creates the fantastic and beautiful.

She began her process at SGFA through an audience workshop, in which participants created installations using the clothes pins. Participants ranged from young children to adults, and all were totally engaged with the process and challenge of creating three dimensional, secure forms, with these clips. This audience interaction is a requisite to Tan's process and informs the artist not only through conversations but through observations. How do people react to the process; the frustrations of unhinging and instability; the final product? These installations were then later dismantled by the artist to develop and incorporate into her own work.

Tan's methodology is meticulous, thoughtful and deceptively simple. (Scaffolding was erected to facilitate creations off balcony and rails. She climbed into and up the landmark Gallery Residence wind chimney, over 100 ft to install another piece.) In addition to the installations woven into the exterior and interior spaces as blending, colourful organisms, she has created two dimensional works and a piece of video art. Simple materials, sophisticated processes and elegant results. She shares that in Japanese, there is a word for the space between 'yes' and 'no', which silence is also about knowing. It is that space that Ru Yi Tan tries to occupy.

Ru Yi initially trained as an illustrator at a leading Malaysian art and design institution and thereafter worked with an advertising firm in Singapore before pursuing a full time art career. She went on to study sculpture in Japan at Nagoya Zokei University of Art & Design and in Japan she stayed. Her professional career is largely based in Japan, with international shows and numerous accolades from there and elsewhere.

For her project involving the temporary return to her birth country, Malaysia, and she has appropriately selected the thoughtful title *Returned – the stars seem so different*. She explains: *"I put two familiar man-made objects together to produce something unknown. But I don't want to make something artificial. I'm not a painter, I don't mix red and blue and make purple. I want to maintain the organic state of what I use for my work and make something new."*

And this indeed is why the stars seem so different – with her thoughtful and precise methodology of trying to discover the 'knowing', Ru Yi Tan can make these stars new.

RU YI TAN

b.1973 Malaysia



Award winning Malaysian artist, Ru Yi Tan, has straddled and lived the 'look east policy' for over 14 years, since moving from her native Malaysia to Japan. Working in numerous media, including collage, readymade sculpture installation, photography and film, she has embraced experimentation throughout a distinctive and explorative artistic career.

After completing study in painting in Malaysia, Tan worked as the creative director of a leading advertising firm in Singapore. She then pursued further study in Sculpture and Experimental Art, at Nagoya Zokei Graduate School of Art & Design, Japan. Her public art has been exhibited throughout Japan and abroad, including notably at *SENSUS – Luoghi per l'Arte Contemporanea*, Florence, Italy. She is published in the *Malaysian Eye* and is a winner of the NCC Shizuoka Award in 2015.

Her works are in numerous private collections and she will present her first solo exhibition in Malaysia, through the Shalini Ganendra Fine Art Gallery.

“My work is focused on environment and human reactions; it is especially a critique of the fixed idea and of symbolic matters in social structure and flow of daily life.” Ru Yi Tan 2016

Select Bio

Publications

2014 Malaysian Eye, Contemporary Malaysian Art

Recent Awards

2015 NCC Shizuoka 2015, CCC, Shizuoka

2013 *ARTS CHALLENGE 2013* - Aichi Arts Center, Nagoya

2005 *TOBIKAI Award*, Nagoya Zokei University of Art & Design TOBIKAI

Solo Exhibitions

2016 *Returned – The Stars Seem So Different*, SGFA, KL

2015 *Ru Yi Tan*, SGFA @ Heritage Row, KL

2013 *The Growth Project — New Creature to NANA*, Mie Center for the Arts, Tsu Japan
Female Male FemaleMale, Mie Center for the Arts, Tsu,

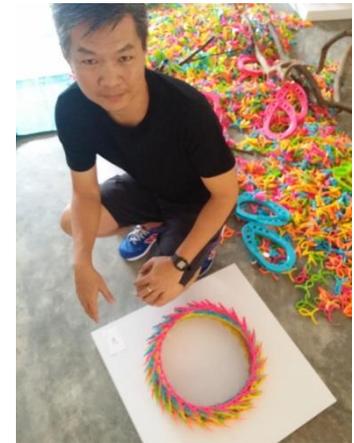
2009 *Tan Ru Yi – Rouji*, CAS, Osaka

2008 *Space +*, Konan, Aichi, Japan

2007 *U8projects*, Komaki, Aichi

2006 *Sakurayama studio*, Nagoya

The process begins. Workshop.

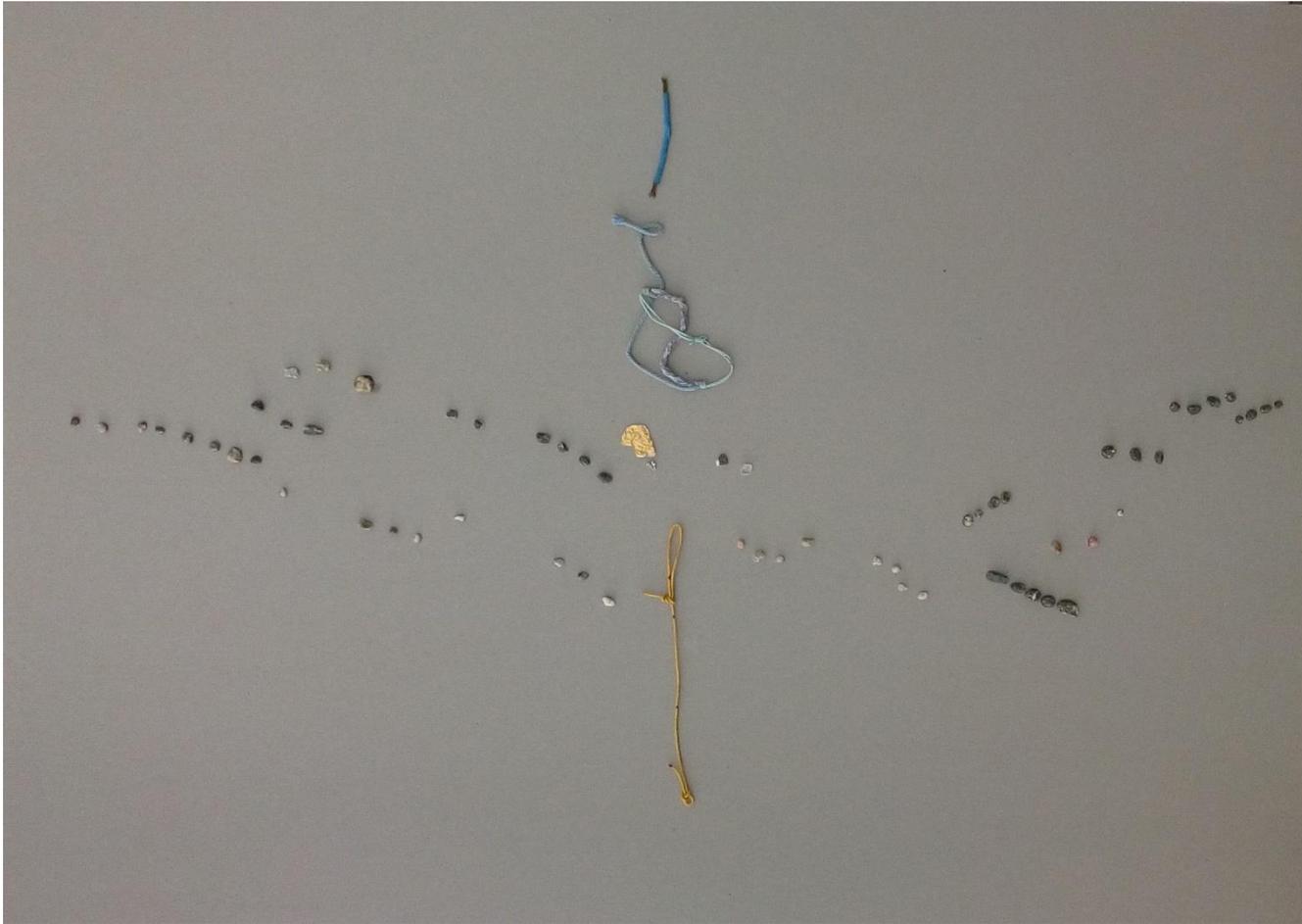


Project development. Investigation. Focus. Review. Effect.





Grow in the stool, 2016
Clothes peg on existing stool, h91x110,w53cm



It speaks, 2016
W110xh79cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads, glue, found objects on grey board



Under the sea, 2016

W110xh79cm

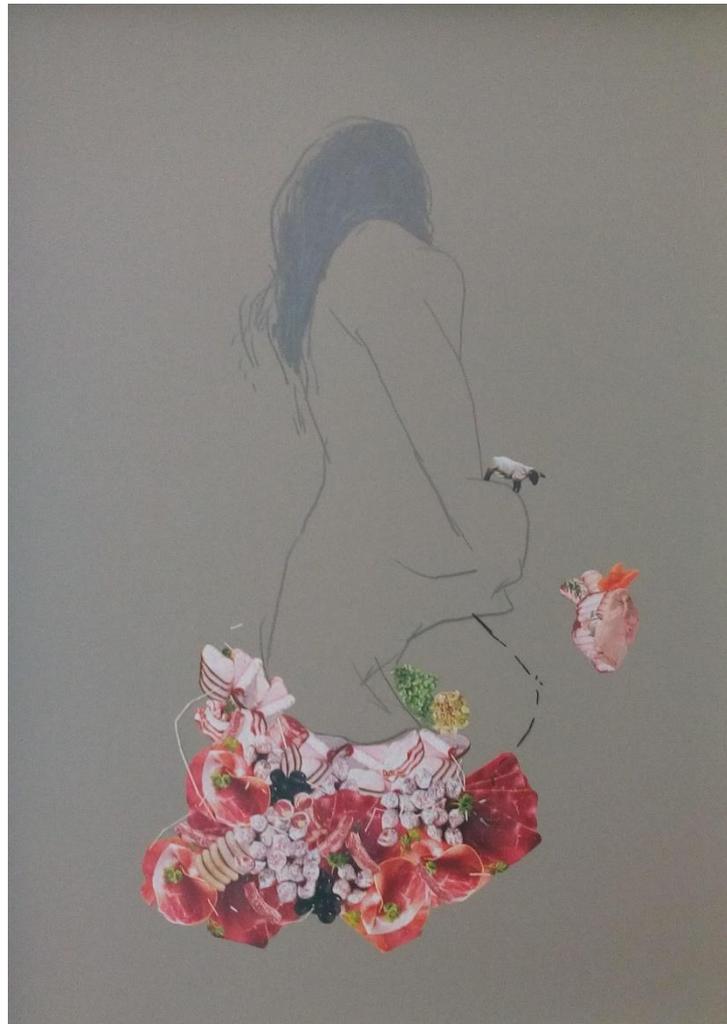
Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil, found objects on grey board



Shine without light, 2016

W110xh79cm

Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil, found objects, mirror-cube self adhesive on grey board



The beautiful person, 2016

W79xh110cm

Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil on grey board



The hair & shrimp, 2016
W110xh79cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil on grey board



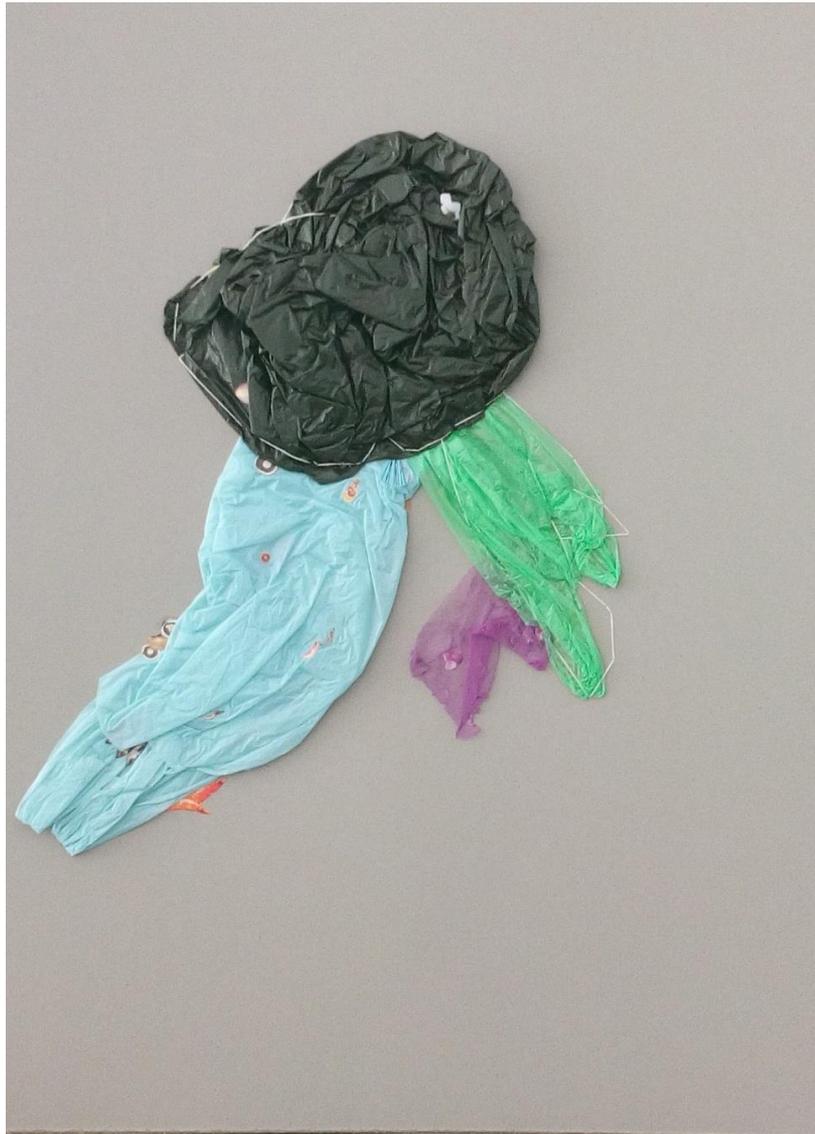
*In the air, 2015
w79xh110cm,
cut-outs, sewing threads, found objects on grey board*



Bright in the dark, 2015
W110xh79cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads, found objects on grey board



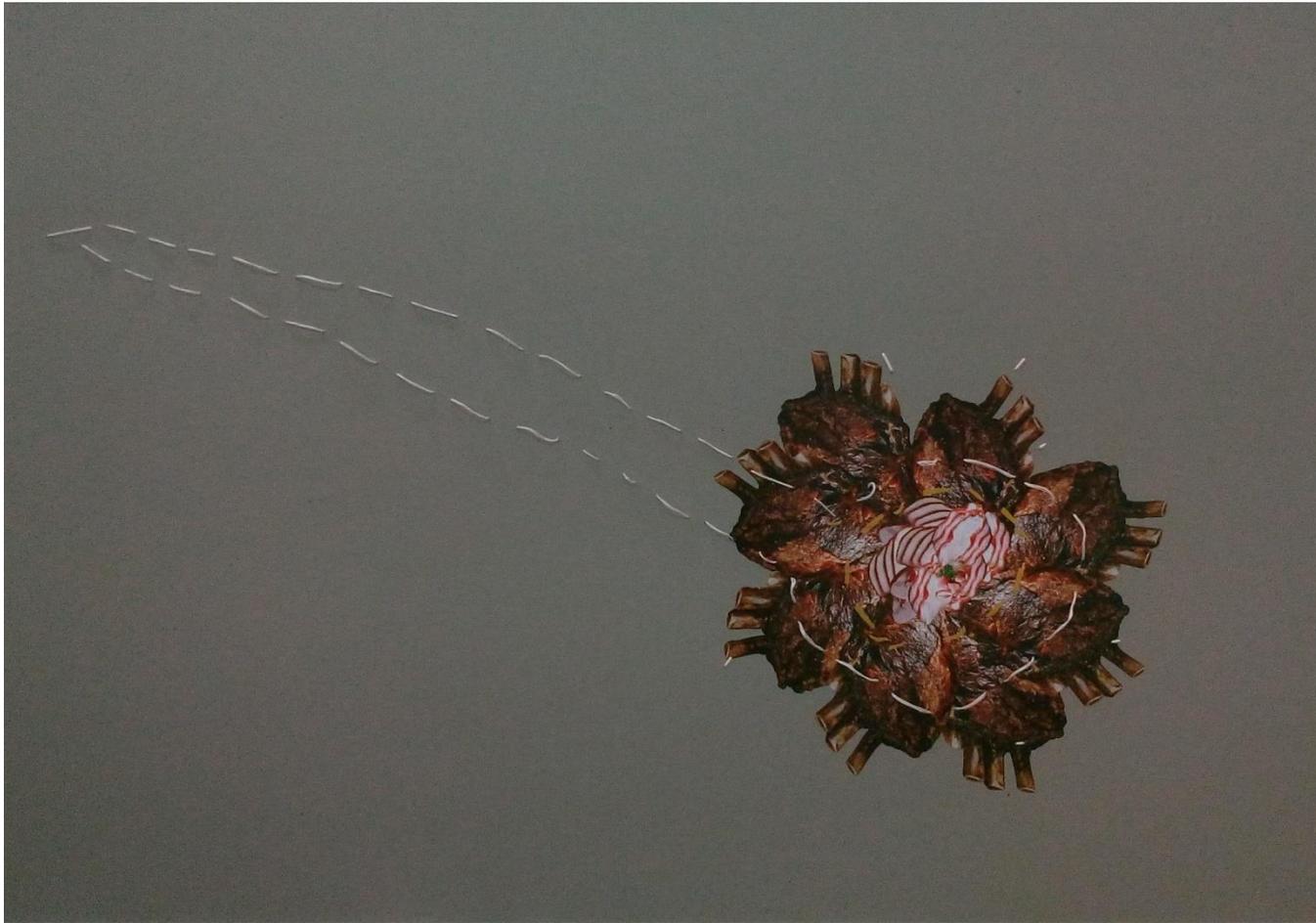
The onion dropped into sea, 2016
W110xh79cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil, found objects on grey board



Fresh the world, 2015

W79xh110cm

Cut-outs, sewing threads, pencil, found objects on grey board



*Meteor, 2016
W110xh79cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads on grey board*



Bunches, 2015
37.7x37.7cm
Cut-outs, sewing threads, plastic bag on paper



*Habit is poison, 2015-2016, 4 minutes video loop
H.264, found objects(plastic bags and rubber ring)*

This video art work was filmed by the artist in her Gallery Residence room. She noticed the light refracting through the blinds, early morning at 7:30am, and mesmerised by the silent rhythm, she created an installation work combining a loop of this real time recording with a bright collection of wet-market plastic bags. The familiar is brought closer for us to appreciate.



Grow in the corner, 2016
Clothes pegs, installation size



Grow on the wall, 2016
Clothes pegs, installation size



Grow in the corner, 2016
Clothes pegs, installation size



*Grow on the balcony, 2016
Clothes pegs , installation size*

SHALINI GANENDRA FINE ART GALLERY

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