

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Launch: Jalan Besar Salon (Cycle III) **THE DRY BAR: Conditioning & Constructs** at Emporium of the Modern Man, 60 Somme Road, #01-03

This year, the Jalan Besar Salon presents critical responses from our Open Call on placemaking and identity formation. The programme seeks to investigate the ways we foster a sense of place and belonging, coping with change and aging, examining how and where we develop social relations beyond our homes and immediate family. We turn to creative placemaking to activate and reactivate domains of shared memory and public spaces to transform them into spaces with the capacity to connect communities and grow ideas.

THE DRY BAR is a play on the “beauty parlors” flanking the Jalan Besar Salon, as we see our neighbours performing care services to any and everyone willing to venture into their spaces. The Jalan Besar Salon also continues to take inspiration from the Salons of 17th-18th Century France, where many ambitious women gathered to exchange ideas, receive and give criticism, present their work, and discuss the ideas and pieces of other intellectuals. The salon was a key institution in which women rose to positions of power and influence, departing from being mere hosts to agents. In contrast to the aristocratic leanings of earlier salons, the Jalan Besar Salon depend on the principles of equality, of opinions being valuable and up for discussion rather than debate. Our programme seeks to create a nurturing and creative environment to enable friendships and relationships to be forged as people connect, have conversations in the space and incubating new ideas.



THE DRY BAR 2019

In the last quarter of 2019, we present **Yun Teng SEET** (SG), **Jenny KIM** (KR), as well as, **Rachael CHEONG & Sheryll GOH** of **AWKWARD PARTY** (SG). In October, we see Yun Teng weave found objects gathered around and donated by the community from our Stage 3 Gentrifying Neighbourhood, as she attempts to negotiate and present the narratives and diverse economies surrounding our space through the eyes of a non-resident.

In November, Jenny re-presents the childhood fairytale as an adult female, picking apart themes of intimacy and identity formation through the motif of hair, dissecting how the fairytale, as one of the first social and cultural influences in a child's life, later manifests in one's adult consciousness.

We then close our programme this year with an **AWKWARD PARTY** by Rachael and Sheryll. The duo will be creating an atmospheric installation responding to time and space indefinitely hurtling forward by loudly shutting it down with a party reminiscent of the uncomfortable family gatherings from our childhoods. The team will utilize bespoke furniture coverings, food display and old-school jams to nudge us through an oddly familiar domestic setting, to think about how the built environment can assist in cultivating home and place, as well as, how memorable childhood experiences in the public realm can be transformational in community building.



JALAN BESAR SALON CYCLE III: Conditioning & Constructs

[Yun Teng SEET](#) (4th October 2019 - 20th October 2019)

Artist, curator and writer Seet Yun Teng works in various capacities, always with a keen interest in artistic research and critical discourse. Her curatorial practice is concerned with alternative formats of exhibition-making and transdisciplinary collaborations, whilst her artistic work engages with material forms, with a focus on weaving and its entanglements with the body. She has exhibited at venues including Stamford Arts Centre, Singapore (2019), Seelab, The Hague, Netherlands (2019) and Hoxton Basement, London (2017). She has also worked at Constance Howard Gallery, London (2018-17), Singapore Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy (2017), Something Human, London (2017-16), among others. Yun Teng is currently Curatorial Assistant for Residencies at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore.

About *warp and weft/as long as it is wide*

Prompted to consider the unique site of Jalan Besar, and stemming from ongoing investigations in the artist's practice into urban sites, embedded histories and material culture, '*warp and weft / as long as it is wide*' is a new site-responsive installation that engages with the physical traces of the location and the (non-)collective memory of its inhabitants. Through the construction of a temporary structure out of scaffolding tubing, alluding to the constant demolition and (re-)construction of the physical landscape in Singapore, it forms a framework for the weaving of tapestries incorporating a multitude of materials gathered from the artist's self-imposed residency within the neighbourhood.

It speculates: how can one begin to understand a place through the objects, traces and materials that are accumulated from the people who inhabit it? Within a neighbourhood as diverse and shifting as Jalan Besar, how can one trace the changes in its physical and social landscape? How much agency do we have to define the identity of the community we inhabit, and how much of it is controlled by top-down policies and place-making agendas? Can we produce a different understanding of identity and place through a collective act of creation?

Throughout the exhibition, the installation will continue to evolve, encouraging contribution from visitors and participation through weaving, and initiating a material understanding of the neighbourhood.



Jenny KIM (1st November 2019 - 17th November 2019)

Born in Hong Kong, Jenny Kim lives and works in Seoul. Her work has been included in a number of group exhibitions worldwide, including Through the Looking Glass, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York, USA (2018); Group Show: Featuring Bronx-Based Artists, 6BASE, Bronx, USA (2017); Close, But Not Touching, Biggercode Gallery, New York, USA (2017); Ah! Sun-flower (three antecedents): Jack Smith, Francis Picabia; “The Bar at the End of the Night” (II), David Lewis, New York, USA (2015); Flat File Exhibition, GRIN Gallery, Rhode Island, USA (2014); Meet US, Circolo degli Artisti, Rome; Tinte Fresche; and Moment, Is Gallery, Seoul (2011).

About *Imaginary Landscapes*

Rapunzel’s counterpart was not the prince but Frau Gothel. Gothel, the name which alludes to Mother Nature (a different word for Gaia) in Greek mythology, and according to American writer William Irwin Thompson, “bright god (goth-el) in ancient Greek,” owned a mystical garden whose rampion (rapunzel) initiates the story for the Brothers Grimm’s fairy tale. Historically, gardens are considered spots of earthly paradise created by God as a safe enclosure. Gardens are also commonly considered feminine and symbolize fertility. The mystical garden brought Rapunzel to Gothel, who mothered, treasured, and obsessed over her. In Imaginary Landscape, the exhibition space is subverted and rendered into a pseudo-garden, where a strand of hair acts as a guidance/path-finder for viewers. “The garden” will place the audience inside the fairy tale and at the same time symbolically womb their presence.



[Rachael CHEONG & Sheryll GOH \(AWKWARD PARTY\) 20th December 2019](#)

PARTY DETAILS

Date: 20th December

Time: 7:30pm - 9pm

Strictly by RSVP only

Exhibition of residue runs from 21st December 2019 to 19th January 2020

Rachael Cheong (b. 1994, Singapore) graduated from the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague with a Bachelors in Fashion Design. She still has a 100 years of sleep debt to pay off. Being the hardworking fashion slave she is, she has swept the floor for designers such as A.F. Vandevorst and LVMH prize winner Marine Serre. Always tired but will work for a matcha latte, Cheong works under the artist name *Closet Children* where she explores her fascination with the dark side of human nature, the distortion of the familiar and comfortable.

Sheryll Goh (b. 1993, Singapore) graduated from the Glasgow School of Art, with a Bachelors in Textile Design and poisonous jellies. Sustained on an artist diet of £3 Tesco meal deals, she has organised the toolbox for Glasgow-based design curatorial unit *Panel* and professionally delivered invites across London for 2018 BFC/Vogue Fashion Fund winner Molly Goddard. Goh works under the studio name *PANDAN DREAMS* where she delves into the drama of messy nostalgia, everyday ceremonies and home cooking.

About [AWKWARD PARTY](#)

70's Aerobics Classes. 80's Corporate Functions. 90's House Warmings. Awkwardness - it's hard to shake it off.

Just in time for the festivities, Goh x Cheong bring you AWKWARD PARTY. Join in the fun, where being awkward is 100% socially acceptable.

Goh x Cheong are socially awkward partners in crime exploring material histories, cultural kitsch and the art of people watching.



JALAN BESAR SALON CYCLE III (Team)

[Wanyu LI \(Curator\)](#)

Wanyu Li is trained in Landscape Architecture and her interest lies in craft and design - in particular, the traditional and fast-disappearing crafts of Asia. She is also adept at fashion and jewellery design and her insights in the fashion and retail business. Wanyu has also acted as both a producer and assistant curator in art exhibitions, as well as, artist residencies internationally in Hong Kong, Korea, Poland and Taiwan.

[Shawna CHIA \(Producer\)](#)

Shawna/*throbbingpixels* is a visual artist from Singapore. Her installations and writing focus on scrutinising poverty and survival in Singapore. *Throbbingpixels* also works on documenting the ontological band NADA. Her works have been featured in SAM at 8Q, Chan Hampe Galleries, The Substation and Okuno Room 306. Shawna is currently the arts manager for local artist Rizman Putra and was also the visual arts coordinator for the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival.

[Si Thu HEIN \(Intern\)](#)

A printmaking student from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and a self-taught independent artist with a passion for body-art and illustrative macabre designs.

[Melvin KANG \(Intern\)](#)

"I am not an artist, writer, teacher, nor poet; simply a man who drew, wrote, taught, and admired good poetry by even better people."



JALAN BESAR SALON CYCLE III (Collaborators & Sponsors)

[About Emporium Of The Modern Man](#)

Emporium Of The Modern Man (EoMM) is a multi-label retail and lifestyle brand based in Singapore that explores the modern person's lifestyle. It aims to be a retail platform for creative and original products sourced from all across the world, particularly from Asia. We seek quality products that show passion and ingenuity in its design, with distinctive characteristics backed by a strong sense of heritage and craftsmanship. EoMM also aims to inspire and collaborate with different brands and makers, acquainting people with good design values.

[About pre-post design \(Shannon LIM\)](#)

pre-post is a design practice based in Singapore focusing on the printed and digital means of communication, establishing a rational relationship between form and content. With equal consideration of context and objectives, they work towards developing intelligent, appropriate and effective forms of design.

[About kki sweets](#)

Kki Sweets (est. 2009, Singapore) makes handcrafted confectioneries for hungry hipsters, young and old. Their goal is to put a smile on people's faces through craft, culture and community.

[About GUSH!](#)

Conceptualised and formulated by a passionate group of innovators from Singapore who have strongly believe in sustainable living and production methods, alleviating indoor air pollution and giving back to the community.



About [HUMID HOUSE](#)

This Humid House is a botanical design studio established in Singapore. Their intention is to develop a language for their tropical imaginarium composed of flora and foliage, from here and there; rampant, unconforming and fecund. A living vocabulary inspired by an endless summer.

About [Lingying CHONG \(Co-Curator for JBS 2019 literature\)](#)

Chong Lingying is the manager of Asiapac Books Pte Ltd and its associate publisher. Established in 1983, the company publishes comics and illustrated books on a diverse range of subjects including Asian history, philosophy, culture, and classic literature.

About [Ethos Books](#)

Established in 1997, Ethos Books aims to create books that capture the spirit of a people and reflect the ethos of our changing times. As an independent publisher of literary fiction, non-fiction and poetry, Ethos gives a voice to emerging and exciting writers from diverse backgrounds to help foster an environment for the arts to thrive.

About [Basheer Graphic Books](#)

Basheer Graphic Books is a staple specialised bookstore in Singapore, with an extensive collection of design books and magazines related to Architecture, Interior Design, Landscape Design, Graphic Design, Animation, Product Design, Fashion Design, Art & Craft, Typography, and Photography.

