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DOMINIC KHOO'S
28th Février



PAINTINGS | PHOTOGRAPHY | FURNITURE | SCULPTURE

Cover

3D Joe and Max (2011)

Entry in the Guinness Book of World Records

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THE GALLERY

The urban art gallery *28th Février* showcases a dynamic mix of paintings, sculptures and furniture pieces. It is integrated in the OOZI building, a pre-war British officer's mansion with a black and white façade, located in the green surroundings behind Orchard Road.

28th Février creates an environment that enables the individual identification with art. We allow emotions, self-reflection and deeper analysis, showing art pieces that people can relate to.

The work process and the deeper meaning of art is essential. The long and arduous training, which is required for most art techniques, illustrates the fine craftsmanship of modern times. The gallery is never at the loss of inspiration to find new artists and their out-of-the-box creations.

“Make us laugh, make us cry, but most of all make us think.”

Dominic Khoo



The light-flooded mansion was built in the 1930's. Today OOZI is the center for Singapore's urban art scene, setting a focus on collecting and archiving the work of both world famous and also upcoming artists. The venue also attracts watch experts and collectors from all over the world, accommodating *The Watch Fund* (<http://www.thewatchfund.com>).

OUR
ARTISTS

KONGO

Kongo is a self-taught painter who has established himself as a leading figure in the international street art scene.

The son of a Vietnamese father and a French mother is one of the major creators of the French graffiti scene for the past 20 years. He is also the co-founder of *Kosmopolite*, the international graffiti festival in France, which is considered to be one of the most important festivals of its kind and one of the best platforms for launching or promoting young graffiti writers from all over the world. He also designed the Fall 2011 scarf collection for luxury fashion brand *Hermès*.

Maintaining his unique artistic identity and in keeping with his tradition of mural and fresco painting, the artist remains personally productive, with exhibitions and shows around the world.



Kongo (2011)

Design for Hermès Fall 2011 collection

SAMANTHA LO

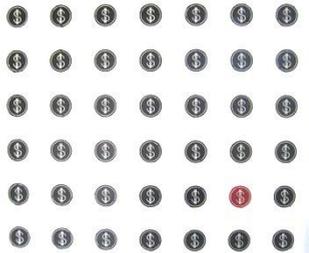
After becoming famous for putting quirky stickers on Singaporean traffic light buttons (“Press to time travel”, “Press once can already”), the art community celebrated Samantha Lo’s demand for more artistic freedom. After the “Sticker Lady” expressed her opinion on public property, she was sentenced to perform 240 hours of community service last year.

Her work “Thirst for Dirty Money” parodies a costly painting by British artist Damien Hirst. While she hides his famous colourful dots behind black dollar signs, Lo marks Singapore as the “red dot” on the world map. These sublime messages make her work distinctive, pointing silently in one direction and challenging the observer.

The young urban artist is still shaping the Singaporean landscape, having currently done commissioned work for *Sentosa Resorts* and the *Night Safari*.



Samantha Lo became famous for her street art, hinting at Singaporean behaviour like repeatedly pushing traffic light buttons (see above). Her painting *Limpeh* (below on the left) is an allusion to Shepard Fairey's popular work *Obey*, while *Thirst for Dirty Money* parodies an expensive artwork by Damien Hirst (below on the right).



3D Joe and Max

Street artist Joe Hill has travelled the world during the last decade to create 3D art for public places, buildings and private floors.

Along with his late friend Max Lowry, the London-based artist became well-known for rollable canvases showing canyons, caverns and giant waterfalls.

Hill broke two Guinness World Records for the longest and largest piece of 3D street art in 2011. The over dimensional waterfall measured 1,160.4 m² and was a collaboration with the sports goods manufacturer *Reebok*. Other clients include *Google*, *M&C Saatchi*, *Shelter Box* and *Save the Children*.

Hill takes tremendous effort to create his hand painted pieces, encouraging his audience to interact and play with his work.



3D Joe and Max (2011)

Entry in the Guinness Book of World Records

YUAN YE

Even in primary school, Yuan Ye was considered a child with deep creative talents. His childhood was spent on artistic interests such as art, music and literature. An artist whose personal life has gone through incredible ups and downs, Yuan's work emanates strong emotional feelings, even through still-life paintings.

Proclaimed as an artist whose work can bring tears to the viewers, Yuan uses objects in his paintings to express feelings such as love, pain or fulfillment. A vase would be a depiction of a woman from his memory, while leaves would express the feeling of sadness and nostalgia on a windy autumn day.

Having been trained in both China and Europe, Yuan's style is also unique to his own. Bold brushwork is sometimes replaced by soft and gentle colours that completely dissipate negative emotions. "An artist must never stop challenging himself to change and improve. The day contentment sets in is the day that artist is done!" With this mentality for constant improvement, Yuan is always pushing the boundaries of creativity and artistic representation in his works.



Yuan Ye (2011)
My Best Days



Yuan Ye (2011)
Darling

ZHU SHUANG DA

Having famous art masters in China as his mentors would have already ensured that Zhu Shuang Da would enjoy a prosperous career as an artist. But the more he learned and grew in his painting skills, the more Zhu became enthralled with the notion of firmly establishing his own style and identity. Even after winning awards and accolades, Zhu at one point decided to stop painting completely.

“10 years of contemplation and 10 years of exploration,” Zhu went through a period of soul searching to find his true footprint in China’s art scene. With a scholar-like passion for studying China’s art and cultural history, Zhu honed his skills to create works that depict perfect juxtaposition of antiquity and modernity.

Today, Zhu is considered a contemporary master painter of two revered objects in China, the peony and the bronze metalwork. His paintings are rarely seen in galleries as collectors almost always buy them before the paints dry.



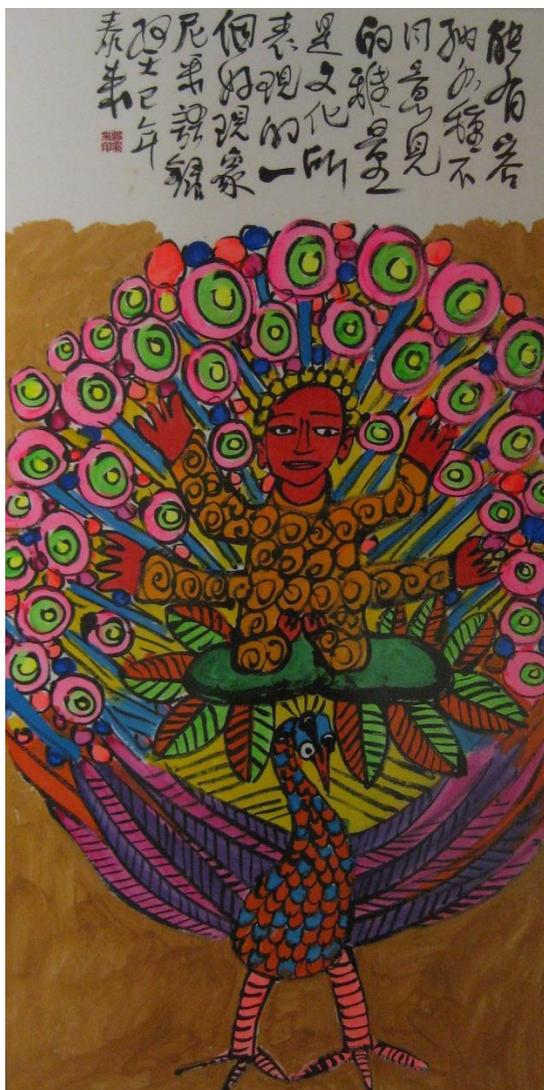
Zhu Shuang Da (2007)
The Fragrance of the Crown

GUO TAILAI

As a child looking through a kaleidoscope of myriad colours at landscape scenes, this would be the simplest way to describe Guo Tailai's unique painting style. Claimed by many as China's Picasso, Guo started to paint at the age of six and at 32 years of age held his first personal art exhibit at the prestigious *Gallery of China Central Academy of Fine Arts*. His paintings can easily be recognized from his perfect union of Chinese landscape painting techniques with those of Western masters such as Cezanne, Matisse and of course, Picasso.

Every painting seems to soar out of the imagination of a child, complete with vivid, complex and contrasting colours, along with creative use of symbols and patterns. However, upon close inspection, viewers can easily tell only a master could have employed those precisely placed bold brush strokes while making them look careless and playful.

Guo's paintings immediately express a sense of happiness and playfulness. Yet the expressionism and imagination behind his paintings stir further a palette full of other emotions. Whatever the emotion felt, one thing for certain is that the viewer will easily become drawn into Guo's imaginative world.



Guo Tailai (2013)
Freedom of Expression

SUBIR DEY

Subir Dey was qualified as an artist from the *Government College of Art and Craft of Kolkata*. His paintings are influenced by mythological art such as the traditional Indian “Madhubani” paintings, or even by ancient cave paintings.

Using the transparency of watercolour, he illustrates abstract childhood fantasies that are mixed with perceptions of the real world. Dey looks back to catch a glimpse of the past and to share these feelings with others through his work, thinking about the sweetness of an Indian village fair; with a variety of events like the sound of the flute made of paper or a bioscope.

When Dey was a small boy, he did not differentiate between several objects, among them a goat and a sewing machine. He envisioned a new combination (see image on the right page), expressing his sensitivity and sense for formlessness.



Subir Dey (2011)
Sewing Machine

Jamie Salmon

Jamie Salmon is a British born, self-taught contemporary sculptor, living and working in Canada. He started his career working as a commercial artist and sculptor for the movie effects industry, contributing to the television series *Stargate* and to film series like *X-Men* and *Final Destination*. He specialises in hyper-realist sculpture, both figurative and portrait, utilising such materials as silicone rubber, resin, hair and fabric.

Jamie says of his working process: "The most important part of the artistic process for me is the initial idea behind the work. If it is not as strong as possible, then the lengthy process of sculpting, moulding and painting, no matter how well done, will be for nothing and the work will fall flat."

Salmon wants to create something that tells a story or moves people in some sort of way, not something that just looks very real. Although his work has a certain degree of reality, it is more of a heightened reality. The British artist likes to play with scale: "I think it is something that catches people off guard and forces them to confront their ideas about reality and to also think about the idea behind the work more deeply".



Jamie Salmon (2008)
Fragment #3



MANOTECA

MANOTECA is a wooden house in a garden, a laboratory where antique and forgotten things are taken care of.

The Italian artist Elisa Cavani is constantly looking for charming objects to transform them into unique furniture pieces. "I like to think that each item carries someone's life with it, including the care and time someone must have given it in order for it to arrive here. I hope whoever owns it next will keep that in mind, and treat the object well."

Using wood from 100-year-old trees, Cavani transforms her ideas into timeless, multifunctional lifestyle pieces. Everything is one-of-a-kind and unique, hand-crafted and treated with natural, non-toxic paints.



The power station is right inside



where 1:87 scale technicians are working



sending infinite electricity



to the man who waits in vain.

Manoteca, *Abat-Jour Solitude* (2011)

CHARLES O'REAR

Charles O'Rear photographed for National Geographic magazine for 25 years, producing more than two dozen major articles ranging from computer chips to Indonesia to ultralights. He is a native of Missouri and began his career with the *Kansas City Star* and *Los Angeles Times*.

O'Rear began photographing wine when he moved to Napa Valley in 1978, and today owns the largest collection of wine photos in the United States. Many of his photos are archived on the Corbis Collection and have appeared in thousands of publications, movies, and on television.

His photography *Bliss* was more often seen than the Mona Lisa and is the most viewed image in the world. Only seven fine art prints exist in the world, all of which have been bought by 28th Février.



Charles O'Rear (1996)

Bliss

PHOTOGRAPHY

We believe in photography that has multiple layers, allowing the observer to see a complex story behind it. The characteristics of an image can change with every observation; and although the same objects remains, it can tell a deeper story each day.

Dominic Khoo shot celebrities like Cate Blanchett, Tom Jones, Tony Leung, Gisele Bundchen, Maggie Cheung and Zinedine Zidane. His work gives a glimpse of the private persona behind the famous smile, revealing a deeper dimension of a rarely seen, intimate gaze he captured with his camera.

Khoo shoots thousands of pictures in order to get one shot. The artist never uses Photoshop to change or embellish his photographed objects, illustrating the transience and different stages of life.

During his seven years of photography, Dominic Khoo was nominated with his idol Annie Leibovitz for *Asia Pacific Photographer of the Year*.



What's wrong with this Picture (2006) illustrates the complexity in Khoo's work, being both playful and profound at the same time. Challenging the observer, he shows an apparently sought-after woman walking on a street. On closer examination the men sit in front of a gay bar and desire the motorcycle behind her.



The fine art print *Tony Leung in Beijing* (2008) is Singapore's second most expensive art piece.



Zinedine Zidane is Dominic Khoo's favourite footballer. He shot the "best European Footballer of the last 50 years" after his famous "headbutt" in the World Cup final 2006.



Dominic Khoo (2006)

Zinedine Zidane

AMAZING FACTS

The fine art print *Bliss* was more often seen than the Mona Lisa and is the most viewed photography in the world.

3D Joe and Max broke two Guinness World Records for the longest and largest piece of 3D street art in 2011. The over dimensional waterfall embellished London's Canary Wharf and measured 1,160.4 m².

Dominic Khoo's fine art print of *Tony Leung in Beijing* (2008) is Singapore's second most expensive art piece of all times. During a period in 2012, he was the country's most expensive living artist.

The contemporary sculptor Jamie Salmon works continuously over two months on each of his "hyper-realism" faces, creating skin pores, freckles and hairlines to the finest detail.

Selected paintings by Yuan Ye were chosen for a set of commemorative stamps in 2013. It is part of a series that celebrates Chinese artists who are able to uniquely represent the growth of modern China's art culture.

ABOUT DOMINIC KHOO

The retired celebrity photographer, watch expert and all-round creative Dominic Khoo opened his out-of-the-box gallery in 2011. The name 28th Février refers to Khoo's date of birth.

During his seven years of photography, he was nominated with his idol Annie Leibovitz for *Asia Pacific Photographer of the Year* and held the title of the producer of the most expensive photography coffee table book in the world. His fine art print of "Tony Leung in Beijing" made him Singapore's most expensive living artist in 2012, and he was given Ambassadors' roles to brands like *Nikon* and *Leica Asia-Pacific*. The self-taught photographer has been engaged to shoot for international brands such as *Hermes* and *Mont Blanc*, and has taken pictures of and worked with more than 150 international and Asian celebrities, including actors Cate Blanchett, soccer star Zinedine Zidane, Nicolas Cage, Zhang Ziyi, and the Dalai Lama.

Contrary to the media, Khoo's first love and career was in watches. It was in 2006 that he was trained as a watch expert at the world's biggest watch auction house *Antiquorum*. Under the watchful eyes of world famous

watch experts Osvaldo Patrizzi and Etienne Lemanager, he spent several periods of the year in their offices in Geneva, Hong Kong and Shanghai, appraising and authenticating watches for international clients and auctions. Khoo worked in brand management for the world's biggest *Girard-Perregaux* distributor, and later became a watch journalist writing for many of the world's top watch magazines, including *Revolution*, *Prestige's Tic Talk*, *Real Time*, and the world's first online luxury magazine *Goldarths.com*.

After 14-years of watch collecting and investing, Khoo has now started *The Watch Fund*. It is the first structure that seeks absolute returns from professional investment in investment-grade timepieces, and the first in the world that allows investors to hold and wear their investments themselves (<http://www.thewatchfund.com>).

Dominic Khoo was the youngest ever recipient of the National Heritage Board's *Patron of Heritage* award, and currently endorses *Vertu* mobile phones. For his outstanding work he received a royal warrant for photography and watch related services to HRH Prince Hakeem Jefri Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.



Dominic Khoo

WHO TALKS ABOUT US?

We were featured in reputed publications like *The Business Times* and *The Straits Times* and numerous online magazines, blogs and event websites.

aring all or charity — and maybe world record too

CRY my beloved celebs

Beauty and the Beast

Grin (or grimace) but just bare it

Real faces of celebs

LifeStyle

Art & Design

charity

charity

measuring UP

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lifestyle

Ming He and the Guoqing 'Remedy'

... the merrier we'll be

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measuring UP

PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2008

NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

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PATRON OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2008

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ME AND MY WATCH

Domestic Show and Tell Competition

charity

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measuring UP

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measuring UP

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DOMINIC KHOO'S
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THE
Watch Fund
Invest in watches. Wear them. Sell them for more.