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RAISER REVIEW From *ArtLover* posted on 18 November at 11:50 AM

Raise the curtain: Art gallery 28th Février celebrates new venue



Thus, among a time, there was a British officers' family who lived in a romantic black and white mansion near Orchard Road. The romantic atmosphere from the 1930s never faded away, so retired celebrity photographer and watch connoisseur Dominic Khoo took over and transformed the venue into a stunning gallery for urban and contemporary artworks.

Around 200 invited guests of Singapore's media and art scene celebrated the new opening during a glittering soft launch event last week. While many people mingled in the elegantly furnished clubhouse room, others relaxed in Khoo's charming dining room and enjoyed the view over giant graffiti canvases from French artist Kongo.

The 8,000 sq ft gallery also showcases three-dimensional, rotatable canvases by 3D Joe Ann Miao and paintings by "bleeker" Lady Samantha Lo, who gained her fame by putting quirky stickers on traffic light buttons.

The architectural difference to the previous venue of 28th Février at Jalan Kilang enables a new concept for the vivo art gallery. The first place was a rectangular room with four white walls and a high ceiling. Says director Dominic Khoo, "Now we have more space for a broad range of artists and can organise the art pieces by themes."

Visitors can expect a cool mixture of rare graffiti pieces, sought-after street art and "hyper-realist" sculptures. The artworks have one thing in common, questioning the observer's sense of reality and challenging him to rethink his own perceptions.

"Real artists take an enormous amount of time to create their works. The striking fact about street art is that it can be sprayed over or washed away after one day," says Khoo, and explains how the artist can handle the pressure: "They have learned that they have to let it go immediately."

The creative head values artworks that require craftsmanship, time effort and in-depth work processes. Despite his passion for art, Khoo manages The Watch Fund which is also integrated in his great "Ood" mission.

What's coming next for the vibrant and captivating space? We can expect traditional artworks from China that are leaving the country for the first time ever. Signing with China's most famous art collectors, the artists Guo Tai Lai, Zhu Shuang Da and Yuan Ye are in such a great demand that their works have been taken for the next ten years. Guess which gallery has already acquired some of their art!

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