



Gillman Barracks
47 Malan Road #01-25
Singapore 109444

www.yeoworkshop.com
info@yeoworkshop.com
+ 65 6734 5168

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release – 28 April 2024

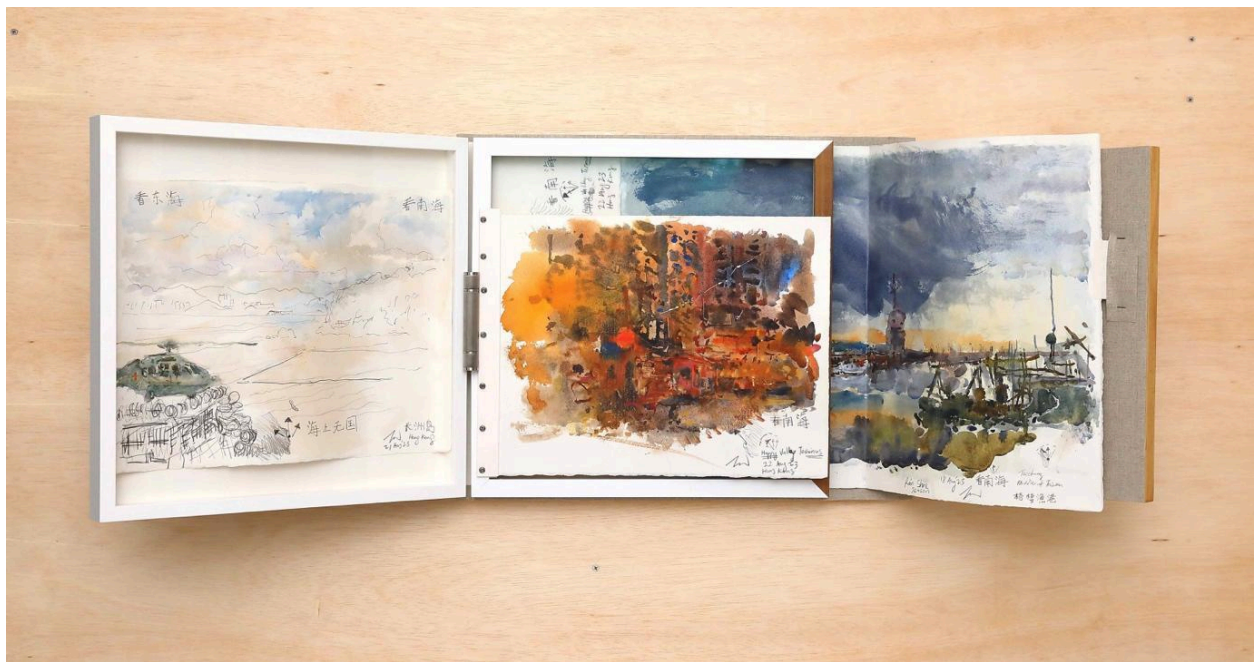
The Seas Are All Shared. Solo booth presentation by NG JOON KIAT

Asia Now

Monnaie De Paris

17 Oct – 20 Oct 2024

Guest curator: Radicants international curatorial cooperative,
founded by Nicolas Bourriaud



Ng Joon Kiat, *Looking at the South China Sea. The Sea has No Country 2*, 2024, Wooden frames, screws, board, linen, watercolor on paper, 110 x 41 x 46 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

We are thrilled to invite you to the 10th anniversary edition of *Asia NOW*, taking place from 18 to 20 October 2024 hosted in the iconic and culturally rich Monnaie de Paris. This year, Yeo Workshop is proud to present *The Seas Are All Shared* by Singaporean artist Ng Joon Kiat, marking his first solo presentation in Europe.

Ng's work will be part of a unique event, where ASIA NOW is curated by Radicants, the international curatorial cooperative founded by Nicolas Bourriaud. Radicants will transform La Monnaie into an immersive, vibrant ceremony featuring a blend of performance, video, dance, music, oral traditions, and rituals that merge the sacred and the profane. From culinary experiences to the communal exuberance of festivals, the entire Monnaie de Paris will become a stage for this expansive exhibition.

Ng has long pursued a conceptual yet materially rooted practice, drawing from research of archives spanning geography, microscopic science, history, cartography, surgical history, and city planning since the late 1990s. These fields were the lenses through which he shaped his approach to contemporary painting, helping him to continually rethink the relevance of the medium. His work was grounded in the socioeconomic and political nuances of borders from a perspective situated in Asia. Over time, he has sought to challenge the limits of fixed identity constructs such as nationality, reframing the role of the painter as an investigator and active participant in a changing world.

In this solo presentation, Ng navigates the complexities of artistic identity in a globalized world, questioning the insidious controls imposed on art when it is constrained by national boundaries. Reflecting on travel as both a physical and mental journey, he engages with broader, more fluid concepts of identity that are defined by the journey itself rather than tied to a single place.

Beginning with works created during the COVID-19 period, Ng turned to the internet as a gateway for travel and exploration. His series *Surgery*, *Zombie Abstraction*, and *Covid* mark a time of reflection and recalibration in both his personal life and his artistic practice. Ng uses gestures of removal, operation, and recovery to push beyond formalist and reductionist traditions in painting. Surgical scissors at the edges of works add a sculptural and literal quality, while his compositions are interrupted by snapshots of scenes taken from the internet—resembling an arbitrary newsfeed—underscoring the ways in which digital and physical spaces overlap and converge.

Since the pandemic, the internet has been a critical space for Ng, providing resources for communities and aesthetics that transcend geographical boundaries. His series *Patchwork Identity* deviates from jingoistic nationalist sentiments growing across the world, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of identity shaped by movement across real and virtual spaces. Hazy landscapes and news headlines overlap with screengrabs, capturing the shifting composites of our environments.

Departing from his thick acrylic *map* paintings, Ng now turns to watercolor to explore the relationship between landscape, abstraction, and artistic identity. His works engage with the fleeting, ephemeral nature of his surroundings, captured through the immediacy and translucence of watercolor painting. This shift signifies a more fluid and mobile approach to his practice, aligning with more permeable identities that untether art from a fixed geographical marker.

Ng's peripatetic mode of working further breaks down the frames that separate artist, art institution, and audience. The lightweight paper sheets, small sizes, and wooden boxes in *on the go* and other seria in this presentation highlight the artwork's portability and question the relevance of the "white cube" gallery space. His traveling practice has also allowed him to bring his painting studio out of isolation into public spaces in Asia and Europe, where passersby and communities were able to engage directly with his work-in-progress. These spontaneous encounters and conversations—marked by curiosity, warmth, and sometimes even

friendship—highlight an intimate form of artistic exchange that circumvents conventional hierarchies.

Such a concept of shared experiences and spaces is central to Ng's developing ideas, where painting becomes a living, evolving dialogue with the world. He reflects on a historical understanding of identity, where people were identified not by place of origin, but by the places they traveled to and the knowledge they shared. This resonates with his current practice, as he uses travel as a means to break down the constructs of national boundaries.

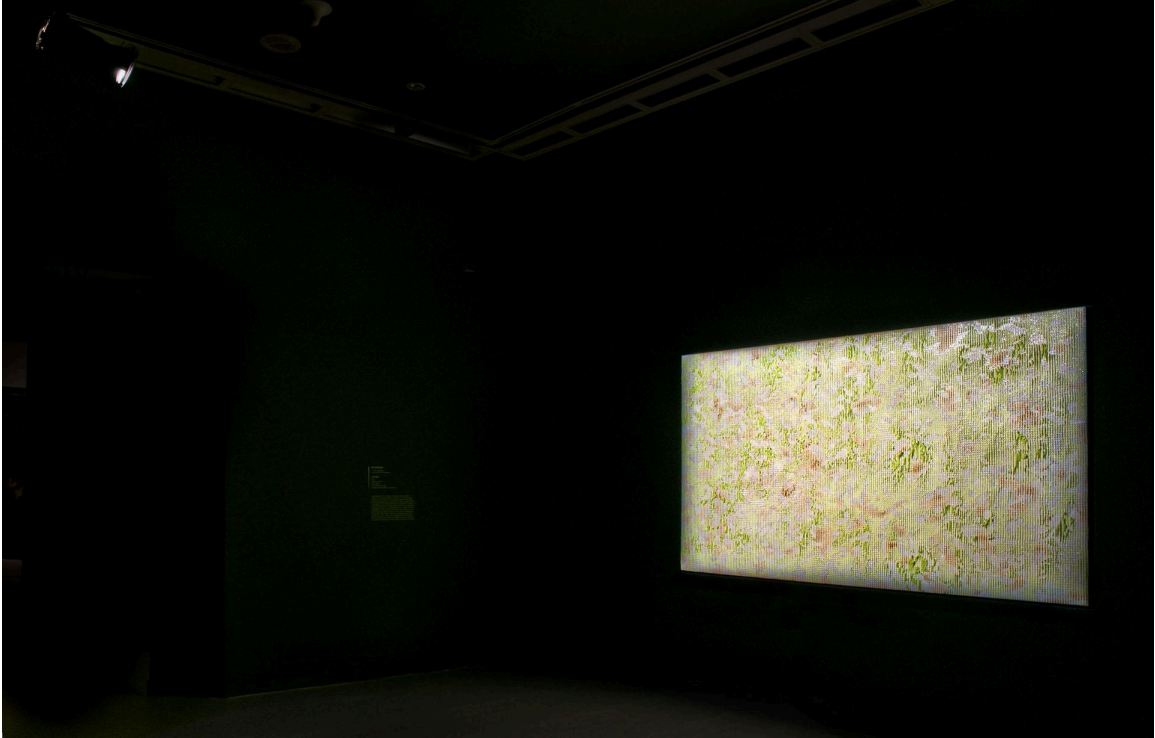
In defiance of human-imposed borders, Ng draws inspiration from the forces of nature that do as they please. *Looking at the South China Sea 2* captures this sentiment. Painted on-site, the paper works capture the adventure and unpredictability of nature, tinged with the smell of sea salt and the visceral experience of being in the environment. Whether trapped in remote locations or battling sandflies on the beach, Ng's painting revels in the borderless currents of nature that can neither be controlled nor claimed by anyone.

Finally, in *The Seas Are All Shared*, Ng reflects on his global perspective in work painted across Europe in 2024. Deeply aware that environmental and political crises transcend national borders, Ng searched for the interconnectedness of human experiences as he traveled from busy transit hubs to quiet towns. In these moments, painful experiences of discrimination dissolved into a shared artistic connection, reminding us that no matter the differences, the seas—and, by extension, the world—are indeed shared by all.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ng Joon Kiat (b. 1976, Singapore) is a painter who works with the material language of paint as thought and conceptual processes. He draws references from archives of varied disciplines such as geography, microscopic science, history, cartography, surgical history, and city-planning to interrogate the practice and boundaries of painting. His present area of practice includes looking at shaping an artistic identity outside of national boundaries.

His work has been exhibited widely in Singapore and internationally. In 2019, he had a seminal solo exhibition '*Searching Operations: Bodies Of Painting by Ng Joon Kiat*' at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. Other notable solo exhibitions include Osage Gallery Hong Kong (2015, 2013 & 2012), Esplanade (2010), National Museum of Singapore (2007). Ng has also participated in the Singapore Biennale 2013 and Busan Biennale 2014, exhibited with Britain's Royal Academicians, and represented Singapore in the Asia-Pacific Nokia Art Competition 2000 in Seoul.



Ng Joon Kiat, *Lit Cities*, 2013, Acrylic on cloth, 150 x 260 x 10 cm. Singapore Biennale 2013 commission: *If the world changed*, 26 October 2013 – 16 February 2014, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore. Image courtesy of the artist.



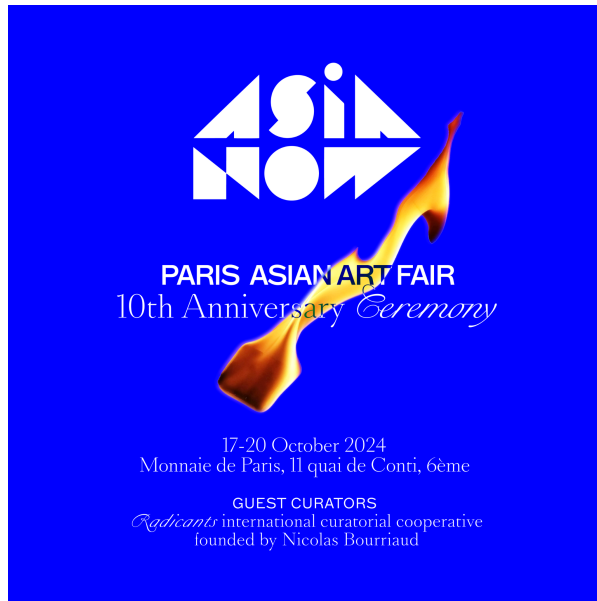


Ng Joon Kiat, *Lit Cities*, 2013, Acrylic on cloth, 150 x 260 x 10 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.



Landscape Memories, A group exhibition presented by Louis Vuitton, 25 April – 13 September 2013, Espace Louis Vuitton Singapore. Image courtesy of Louis Vuitton.

ABOUT ASIA NOW



Asia NOW is the first Parisian art fair showcasing the diversity of Asia's contemporary art scene. It celebrates its 10th Edition from 18 to 20 October 2024, at Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai de Conti, Paris 6e, with a preview on Thursday, October 17.

A curated platform fostering rich dialogues and deeply engaged programming, Asia NOW encompasses a global selection of galleries showcasing artists from across Asia, and an ambitious platform dedicated to commissioning site-specific installations, projects, and performances. These works spark broader conversations around contemporary issues, uniting like-minded communities across the region and beyond.

The tenth anniversary edition is led under the artistic direction of curatorial cooperative Radicants founded by Nicolas Bourriaud is a sensorial showcase entitled Ceremony. This tribute to collectivity challenges the art fair format to activate La Monnaie in an immersive congregation that includes art in all its vibrant and ritualistic forms. Here, ceremony is a form of cultural practice, a celebration of ancestral wisdom and a critical tool that both reinforces and transforms social structures, traditions and hierarchies of power. The artists invited by Radicants mediate the interconnected human experience, speaking to the strength of assembly, and resonating with the communal spirit of Asia Now, a fair that has always brought together artists and galleries from the diverse global, cultural landscapes constituting the Asian continent and its diasporas.

Fair dates & opening hours:

- 17 Oct: VIP Preview 2–5pm, Vernissage 5–7:30pm
- 18 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–9pm
- 19 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–8pm
- 20 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–7pm

ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. In recent years, the gallery has been focused on bringing greater prominence to local artists with several Singaporean artists joining the roster. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach and collaborative spirit, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements that strive to shape the trajectory of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and beyond.

>>[Instagram](#) >>[Facebook](#) >>[LinkedIn](#)



Gillman Barracks
47 Malan Road #01-25
Singapore 109444

www.yeoworkshop.com
info@yeoworkshop.com
+ 65 6734 5168

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release – 28 April 2024

Quynh Dong @ ASIA NOW Paris

Asia Now

Monnaie De Paris

17 Oct – 20 Oct 2024

Guest curator: Radicants international curatorial cooperative,
founded by Nicolas Bourriaud

Paris, October 2024 — Yeo Workshop is pleased to announce its participation in the 10th edition of ASIA NOW Paris, which runs 17-20 October 2024 at Monnaie de Paris, with the debut premiere of Quynh Dong's latest video work, '*Diary of Love*' (2024). She returns to the fair with a video work initiated by her own memory, this work is an experimental short film exploring the concept of love—beyond solely the romantic, but as a broader, universal, complex and multifaceted emotion. It integrates painting, moving image, performance and sculpture simultaneously, revealing Dong's fascination and mastery of mixed media as a means to challenge our understanding of each medium.

Quynh Dong's work will be part of a unique event, where ASIA NOW is curated by Radicants, the international curatorial cooperative founded by Nicolas Bourriaud. Radicants will transform La Monnaie into an immersive, vibrant ceremony featuring a blend of performance, video, dance, music, oral traditions, and rituals that merge the sacred and the profane. From culinary experiences to the communal exuberance of festivals, the entire Monnaie de Paris will become a stage for this expansive exhibition.



Quynh Dong, *Diary of love*, 2024, Video, Color and sound, 1h 10min. Edition of 5 plus 2 artist's proofs. Image courtesy of the artist.

Taking a deeply personal and emotional experience as a point of departure, Dong recalls how she had left Vietnam via boat, bidding farewell to her grandparents. She articulates this specific moment as a loss of love:

*“My hands hold tight to my grandfather's hands.
The ship leaves the harbour and takes me into the cold sea air. I remember my
grandparents standing at the gate of the harbour. The ship is leaving, and I
have left my love, my world, my home, my feelings at the port.”*

Diary of Love is an attempt to portray the varying aspects and states of such an intricate emotion. Love is not linear, nor singular; it can be longing or yearning; it changes over time. Love is family, it is our country; Love could be what we think we know. The dancers in Dong's film encapsulate the nuances and possibilities through their movement, albeit piecemeal and unassuming. Over a year in the making, from storyboard to filming, *Diary of Love* references images from popular culture, poetically reflecting on how media influences our social behaviour today.



Quynh Dong, *Diary of love*, 2024, Video, Color and sound, 1h 10min. Edition of 5 plus 2 artist's proofs. Image courtesy of the artist.

Conceptually, Dong also raises the question of moving images as a medium through this solo presentation: How does one tell an emotion in a story? What narratives belong to film? Is there a definitive start and end to this story? *Diary of Love* is deliberately crafted and left open as a narrative, allowing for the different 'chapters' to be experienced as a sculpture, even a painting, which we can continually return to and interact with from another vantage point.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



Quynh Dong artist portrait. Image courtesy of Kushtrim Memeti

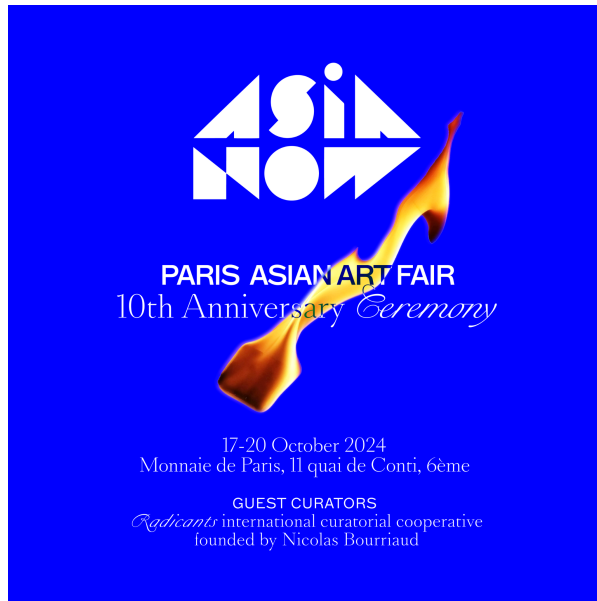
QUYNH DONG (b. 1982, Hai Phong, Vietnam) is a performance and video-based artist based in Switzerland. She creates hyper-real video works, sculpture and performances to provide an innate platform upon which she deliberately challenges cultural stereotypes. Often referencing various literature, iconography and history from Vietnam and Asia, she brings attention to the notions of identity and the diaspora through the corporeal.

Her works have been exhibited internationally, notably including the Kunsthalle Bern, Galerie Perotin in Paris, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam, and Galerie Bernhard Bischoff & Partner in Bern. Dong has also performed at Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique Paris; Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts Lausanne in Switzerland ; LISTE 17, the Young Art Fair in Basel, Switzerland; the Emily Harvey Foundation in New York, USA; and YAP`15, The Twinkle World, Exco 1F, Deagu, South Korea; among others. She studied Fine Arts at Bern University of the Arts, and completed her MA in Fine Arts at Zurich University of the Arts.



Quynh Dong, *0. (Zero Point)*, 20 min performance, 2022. Performance as part of Asia Now 2022, 20 – 23 October 2022, Monnaie de Paris, Paris.

ABOUT ASIA NOW



Asia NOW is the first Parisian art fair showcasing the diversity of Asia's contemporary art scene. It celebrates its 10th Edition from 18 to 20 October 2024, at Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai de Conti, Paris 6e, with a preview on Thursday, October 17.

A curated platform fostering rich dialogues and deeply engaged programming, Asia NOW encompasses a global selection of galleries showcasing artists from across Asia, and an ambitious platform dedicated to commissioning site-specific installations, projects, and performances. These works spark broader conversations around contemporary issues, uniting like-minded communities across the region and beyond.

The tenth anniversary edition is led under the artistic direction of curatorial cooperative Radicants founded by Nicolas Bourriaud is a sensorial showcase entitled Ceremony. This tribute to collectivity challenges the art fair format to activate La Monnaie in an immersive congregation that includes art in all its vibrant and ritualistic forms. Here, ceremony is a form of cultural practice, a celebration of ancestral wisdom and a critical tool that both reinforces and transforms social structures, traditions and hierarchies of power. The artists invited by Radicants mediate the interconnected human experience, speaking to the strength of assembly, and resonating with the communal spirit of Asia Now, a fair that has always brought together artists and galleries from the diverse global, cultural landscapes constituting the Asian continent and its diasporas.

Fair dates & opening hours:

17 Oct: VIP Preview 2–5pm, Vernissage 5–7:30pm

18 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–9pm

19 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–8pm

20 Oct: VIP 10–11am, Public 11am–7pm

ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. In recent years, the gallery has been focused on bringing greater prominence to local artists with several Singaporean artists joining the roster. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach and collaborative spirit, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements that strive to shape the trajectory of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and beyond.

>>[Instagram](#) >>[Facebook](#) >>[LinkedIn](#)