

Friday, 31 August 2007 **Press Kit**

# Metamorphosis: a fabrication of fantasies a paintings exhibition by **Steve Chua**

paintings will be on display from  
**19 October till 29 December 2007**

exhibition venue:

**the coffee connoisseur "The Gallery"**  
51 Circular Road

Opening Hours :

Sunday to Thursday & Public Holidays 11am to 12am

Friday, Saturday & Eve of Public Holidays 11am to 2am

presented by:



the coffee connoisseur

sponsored by:



in collaboration with:



Enabling great talents to  
shine the way they deserve...



tcc's latest exhibition at "The Gallery" will be showcasing more than 20 unique paintings by Singaporean upcoming artist Mr **Steve Chua**.

*promoting art with 150'000  
tcc coasters-on-the-table  
distributed island wide!*

paintings will be on display from 19 October till 29 December 2007

Media enquiries for the exhibition.

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# Metamorphosis: a fabrication of fantasies

a paintings exhibition by **Steve Chua**

Steve Chua is an ace observer.

He started out by studying the human body superficially, observing and recording his discoveries in his sketches of the live nudes. But soon he made his way through to the inside, observing the human psyche. Just as his live models flinched and twitched, he has learnt to capture the mind's sublime twitch to outside influences.

As one steps into an urbane environment, one is immediately vulnerable to hordes of Images created by the media factory. A seemingly better face, body or life is always just-around-the corner and Steve is interested in the immediate repercussions of this information overload on the human consciousness.

Desire is a double sided coin and so is advertising.

When one is witness to Steve's paintings, his design background is very evident -*Sleek* bodies, *sleeker* faces and *sleekest* lifestyles. Steve sums up the reasoning behind the deceptively perfect faces in a single word-desire. This driving force blurs our internal identities with external suggestions of what they should be. As we peer into the perfect visages of models, we wonder, could we aspire to look the same? Could we transform our realities to match the ones we perceive?

Steve Attempts to flip this coin.

He interprets this desire to transform and reincarnate our identities, in order to cater to our unnatural notions of beauty, love, life, money and fame. In his latest series of works, he likens this process to the metamorphosis of a butterfly. He imitates the stages of metamorphosis by painting his human models into these positions. In what can only be described as an uncomfortable transformation, he subtly injects social issues like plastic surgery, body dimorphic disorder and other image related issues that are the symptoms of an urban society.

He does this in a whimsical manner. His paintings are drenched in a dreamlike ambience. The tones are warm and fuzzy. The subjects exist in a fantasy world free of inhibitions and flaws. Emblems of beauty and transformation come together to tell a story. Yet at the sight of naked bodies spread across languidly, one senses the vulnerability of these people. And just as we start to look away, we are ironically drawn back in.

Such is the seductive power of suggestion.



003

### 1001 Casually Exposed

2007, Oil on Canvas, 100 x 160 cm



004

### 1002 Casually Exposed

2007, Oil on Canvas, 100 x 160 cm



005

### Cling on

2007, Oil on Canvas, 100 x 160 cm



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## **Steve Chua** Biography

The artist, born 1980, found his passion and strength in fine art from when he begun a one year drawing class in 2000. He discovered a new world of expression from charcoal drawing to finger dabbing, black and white sketching to the theory of colours, and capturing still life to live model drawing, all, then triggered his curiosity. From after that phase of study, he extended his found passion into a 3 year practice from 2001 independently under Ernest Chan, a Singaporean The President's Young Talents Award recipient whom have achieved recognition in arts communities both locally and in overseas countries. The apprentice with Chan have inspired him and hence in time supplied him with a style of paint – the composition, subject, approach and faint-intense hues.

Concurrently, he widened his training in the creative field specializing in graphic design during his formal education in LASALLE College of the Arts and spent several years engaged with local art galleries and artists such as Noni Kaur and Khiew Huey Chian in producing exhibitions catalogues, portraiture photography and book designs.

His talent was uncovered and was offered his first group exhibition at the Art Seasons Gallery entitled Big Small Show in 2003. Opportunities to showcase his art works subsequently followed involving him in over fifteen shows in less than four years. Among the art showcases are several exhibitions at Art Seasons (Singapore) namely "Fresh!", "Erotica", "New Finds", "Solitary Desire", "M9 Artist in Styles" and "Made in Singapore", "Milestone" at Vanessa Art House in Jakarta, Indonesia, "1X1X1" at Fost Gallery, Linda Gallery's "Deweleven" and his recent "Your Private Little Movie" at the Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, in Singapore.

Steve Chua, developing his paints distinctiveness from the style he adapted initially from the notable fine artist, assimilating vivid elements from his parallel aptitude in graphic design, is now one name to look out for. The uniqueness of the art works gained the interest of collectors especially regional young executive and professionals as well as buyers from Australia, Switzerland and the UK.

Chua is constantly constructing his art with the philosophy to question and explore the notion of desire and identity and to deal with the issue of society associating with consumerism and the effects of that on an individual's envious mind, by taking the human body as the subject matter. Today Steve is exclusively engaged with art-management.com with the vision to bring his ideas to more people and elevating his art to the next level.

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# Steve Chua

## Selected Exhibitions



- 2007 Your Little Private Movie, Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- 2006 1 x 1 x 1, Fost Gallery, Singapore  
Dewelevan, Linda Gallery, Singapore  
Made in Singapore, Art Seasons, Singapore
- 2005 ARTSingapore 2005, Singapore Exhibitions Convention Centre, Singapore  
Solitary Desire, Art Seasons, Singapore  
New Finds, Art Seasons, Singapore  
Milestone, Vanessa Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia  
M9 Artist in Styles, Art Seasons, Singapore
- 2004 Erotica, Art Seasons, Singapore  
Fresh!, Art Seasons, Singapore
- 2003 Big Small Show, Art Seasons, Singapore  
Rice Bowl, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2002 Ways of Seeing, Earl Lu Gallery, Singapore
- 2001 Groundwork, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore

- **An Art Space for Everyday Use:**

At the coffee connoisseur Circular Road art boutique caffè we have created an Art Gallery where a whole range of works by both local and foreign artists will be featured through exhibitions that are organized on a quarterly basis.



the coffee connoisseur

The old heritage building that is situated at Singapore's historic river district lends itself perfectly to an art gallery. The ground floor offers the more conventional seating for those in a rush, while those who want to escape from the outside pressure and stress can slip upstairs out of sight and away from the sounds of the busy street.

Here the ambience is totally laid back as you find beanbags that let you sink into oblivion are scattered across the space. Where you can take your time to peruse art magazines provided and enjoy the paintings on the wall. Art, like a great cup of coffee, shouldn't be rushed.

tcc created this very special art space in a city that seeks to nurture the arts because we want art to communicate in a relaxed atmosphere. And let's face it, it's so easy to relax over a great cup of coffee.

The artists whose works appear at tcc "The Gallery" have a wonderful opportunity to reach a wider audience through a space that is frequented by people from many areas of work, and especially those who may not have the time nor inclination to visit more conventional art spaces like museums and galleries.

- **Special Partnerships:**

tcc recognises the benefits not only of supporting the arts by forging creative partnerships with people who specialise in the arts, we also let art experts do what they're good at while we get on and do what we're best at – providing excellent service and great coffee.

We work exclusively with art-management.com, a company dedicated to promoting and managing visual artists both in Singapore and overseas.

art-management.com has, from its beginning focused on linking the artists it represents with leading brand names in a way that will be of benefit to both artist and brand. tcc is the latest in a long list of leading brands that art-management.com has been proud to work with.

Claude Verly, Managing Director and Founder of art-management.com has commented in relation to his partnership with tcc, "One of the biggest challenges in managing art and artists in Singapore today is finding new and unusual venues in which to present the art, and then matching up the artist with the venue. This venture with tcc takes art-management.com into a new phase; together we take art into the public arena rather than relying on people coming to the art. At the tcc "The Gallery", the art will be there always for people to realise them.

Through art-management.com, tcc is able to support the artist in terms of providing an art space that is totally rent-free and driving awareness for them through media publicity and events.