

# Hidden Talents:

*artists in the diplomatic life 2008*

**a project by the coffee connoisseur (tcc)  
in support of Henderson Senior Citizens' Home**

an art exhibition by:

Afrah AlFaddaghi **Kuwait** - Elaine Virtue **Canada** - Kumiko Meriç **Turkey** - Luisa Goyena Soares **Brazil**  
Marianne-Louise Sanders **Netherlands** - Masrifah Wardana **Indonesia** - Miek Calcoen-Declercq **Belgium**  
Myriam Woker **Switzerland** - Nilou de Luca Gabrielli **Italy** - Orlanda Gomez-Saraiva de Carvalho **Angola**  
Sarah Harvey **New Zealand** - Shannon Real **Panama** - Victoria T. Nkem **Nigeria**

exhibition venue & presenter:

**the coffee connoisseur "The Gallery"**

51 Circular Road

artworks will be on display **from 8 till 16 October 2008**

Opening Hours :

Sunday to Thursday & Public Holidays 11:00am to Midnight

Friday, Saturday & Eve of Public Holidays 11:00am to 02:00am

Free to Public

General Enquiries: (+65) 6479 2445

presented by:



the coffee connoisseur

in support of:

亨德申老人院  
HENDERSON SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME

in collaboration with:



CHINESE WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION



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

Hidden Talents establishes a platform for the 13 diplomat wives from distinctive backgrounds and practice in art to share and exchange ideas in art making and assembled the diverse range of art works to showcase them in the lime light as their hidden talents unveils.

With the support of former 2006 & 2007 participating artists, we have this year 13 artists contributing over 30 artworks to the 2008 edition.

Media enquiries for the exhibition:

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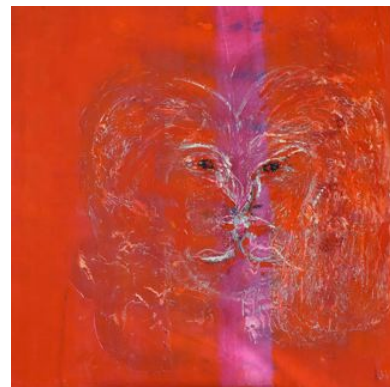
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JOIN US @ [www.thecoffeeconnoisseur.com](http://www.thecoffeeconnoisseur.com) during 10 - 16 October, 2008 in the online auction of paintings from this exhibition.

70% of the proceeds from the silent & online auction will be contributed directly to The Henderson Senior Citizens' Home bidding ends at midnight on 16 October 2008



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In it's third year, Hidden Talents returns after it's previous triumphs with a new set of talented ladies. Known for it's unique and novel spin on artistic altruism, Hidden Talents is a platform that showcases the aesthetic sensibilities of diplomats' sophisticated spouses. But it's not always about high tea and back tie events; it is also a lifestyle that brings with it a great responsibility to address some of the issues that plague our society today. A responsibility, that these ladies carry with ease and aplomb.

In an aptly named event, Hidden Talents brings to the forefront not just the artistic talents that lie within each of these gifted individuals but also their compassion and sense of duty towards a deserving cause. In this case, every brush stroke and drop of paint accounts for bringing a smile to an otherwise mundane life.

The participating ladies have unanimously selected a special organization by the name of The Henderson Senior Citizens' Home, to donate a staggering 70% of all proceeds. In this way, they hope to honour not just the senior citizens but also the people at The Henderson Home who have been contributing to society for the past 30 years. As buyers, one should be glad to note that they can claim double tax exemption benefits. All the more reason to be involved with this noble event.

This year, keeping with the format of things, there will be a silent auction held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October (pre-opening) as well as 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, Opening night of the exhibition. There will also be an online auction on the website of the event organisers *tcc*– the coffee connoisseur until 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Do visit [www.thecoffeekonnoisseur.com](http://www.thecoffeekonnoisseur.com) (launch on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 10am) to place your bids.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the coffee connoisseur is presenting Hidden Talents. *tcc* is the leading purveyor of gourmet coffees in Singapore. The *tcc* experience blends art and lifestyle to give their guests the space to indulge in their own time and to appreciate a fine cup of coffee, just as an art enthusiast may appreciate a great work of art. *tcc* has been actively involved in promoting the arts in Singapore and are the proud recipients of the 2007 Patron of the Arts Award.

With the partnership of event organisers *tcc* and ardent efforts of co-founder art-management.com, the 13 wonderful ladies have come forward to share with the world the fruits of their labour – 30 stunning pieces of art. Not all of them are professional artists but under the expert tutelage of renowned artist Mr Loh KheeYew, who can only be described as a humble genius & the guidance of art-management.com Claude Verly & Adell Loo, they have put their best foot forward with expressive works of art that embody the hope and goodwill of their respective countries.

The first ladies of their respective Embassies have decided to embark on a truly poignant journey. With these special works of art, they hope to pass on their humanitarian spirit & good cheer on to you.

**HENDERSON SENIOR CITIZENS' HOME**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**  
**1978 – 2008**

The Chinese Ladies' Association, the oldest local women's Association in Singapore was inaugurated in 1915. It came under the umbrella of the Council of Social Services when the Council was formed in 1958. Two years later, the Chinese Ladies' Association changed its name to the Chinese Women's Association, in keeping with the changing times, and decided to accept women of other races as Associate Members up to 49% of its total membership. The word "Chinese" was retained for sentimental reasons.

In the first year of its existence, the Association raised \$6,000 to buy a fighter plane for the British War Effort. Over the years, the Association continued to raise funds for such causes as the blind, the deaf, retarded children, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mandai Home for the Aged, the Malay Literary Society, the National Defence Fund, the Red Cross, the Cancer Society, the Academy of Medicine Singapore, Children's Charities Association, National Kidney foundation, Singapore Dance Theatre, LaSalle College of Arts, Home Nursing Foundation, Hawkins Road Refugee Camp, and many others.

In 1976, the government drew our attention to the needs of the ageing population. With the encouragement of Dr Ee Peng Liang & Mrs Tang See Chim of the Singapore Council of Social Service, the CWA decided to take a big step forward, and to take over the running of the Henderson Old People's Community Home, which had been established by the Council in 1974. Money had to be raised for this special Project, and many charitable fundraising events were held. Finally, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1978, the CWA assumed full responsibility for the operation of the home which was renamed Henderson Senior Citizens' Home. We were the first Association to be asked to take over a home for the elderly. In those initial years, Ms Tina Hung, now Deputy CEO of the NCSS worked closely with Mrs May Wong, President of CWA and Chairman of HSCH. Later, 16 other associations were asked to follow our example and run similar homes.

In 1983, at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Singapore Council of Social Service, Mrs May Wong was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of invaluable services to the Council and the community of voluntary organizations.

In November 1984, with the cooperation of the Housing Development board, we initiated the opening of a "Corner" in the void deck of Block 118 Bukit Merah View as a pilot project to provide a meeting place for residents of the Home and neighboring senior citizens.

In January 1986 we also pioneered the opening of a Day Care Centre for senior citizens in the "Corner" which filled a much required and increasing need among the aged of our community. Working children bring their elderly parents to the Centre from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm daily. They are provided with breakfast, lunch and tea with a venue to socialize and exercise and spend the day with caring supervision. We also supply respite care services in our residential facility. Once a week, we have a free lunch for about 100 seniors and often accompanied by entertainment and goodie bags. Free vegetables from the wholesale market are also distributed to the seniors.

In August 1990, the Home and Social Centre were moved across the street to Block 117 necessitating much renovation work and fundraising to make the renovation possible. At the Opening Ceremony we were pleased to dedicate the Committee Meeting Room and the Social Centre to the late Mrs Violet Wong and the late Mrs May Wong MBE PBM, two ladies who admirably took on the challenge of funding the facility in their late 70s and continued to do so for 11 years until their demise. We were pleased and gratified to learn that the Ministry of Community Development in 1992 considered our Home a model for other homes for the elderly.

In November 2003, we celebrated 25 years of the Henderson Home by officially Opening the May Wong Lifestyle Centre. As it has been projected that between years 2000 and 2030 Singapore will have the highest percentage increase in elderly population in the world we feel that we must assist our senior citizens to be gainfully occupied with activities for the mind and for the body, so that we can help them to stave off the ageing factor and to remain useful, relevant, well and healthy in the community for as long as possible.

This year 2008 marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of the CWA's Management of the Henderson Home, completely funded by the efforts of the CWA.



the coffee connoisseur

- **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 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](http://art-management.com), a company dedicated to promoting and managing visual artists both in Singapore and overseas. [art-management.com](http://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](http://art-management.com) has been proud to work with.

Claude Verly, Managing Director and Founder of [art-management.com](http://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](http://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 realize them.

Through [art-management.com](http://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.