

**tcc - the coffee connoisseur presents...**

**NEON JUNGLE:** a vision of empty fantasies and  
manufactured dreams, painting exhibition by **Jamie Paul**

**VENUE:**

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

paintings will be on display from  
**12 January till 31 March 2010**

**GALLERY 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 [info@art-management.com](mailto:info@art-management.com)



**A Vision of Empty Fantasie**  
124 x 113 mixmedia on canvas

presented by:



the coffee connoisseur

in collaboration with:



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

In their latest exhibition, **tcc** is proud to present, British Artist **Jamie Paul** 2010 SOLO exhibition **Neon Jungle:** a vision of empty fantasies and manufactured dreams an exhibition of 12 works on canvas.

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## A Beautiful Envy

150 x 150 | mixmedia on canvas | 2009



## Butterfly Warrior

150 x 150 | mixmedia on canvas | 2009



## Beautiful Fraud

150 x 150 | mixmedia on canvas | 2009

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamie Paul's '**NEON JUNGLE**' – A vision of empty fantasies and manufactured dreams.

Neon Jungle is the third solo exhibition to be based in Singapore by British artist Jamie Paul to be held at the **tcc "The Gallery" 51 Circular Road from January 12<sup>th</sup> 2010.**

Heavily influenced by popular culture and its obsession with beauty and celebrity, Jamie stylishly combines his vision of a fantastical and hyper-real world, where individuals demand instant gratification, people and neon signs collide, colours bleed and glossy photo-shopped images are idolised.

In his latest works, Jamie explores issues of self-identity, focusing directly on individuals. The subjects within each painting are all generically 'beautiful, a myth or vision of apparent perfection, mimicking the idols and pin ups seen in magazines and on television. Through the familiar poses that the figures strike and the absence of any physical scene or environment in which they are placed, Jamie is stripping away any context or predefined meaning.

Society's narcissistic self obsessions have become the inspiration behind the new work created for this exhibition. According to Jamie, "People are obsessed with themselves in the developed world today, our perception of ourselves or others perceptions of us are no longer dictated by where we are from or by our background, but more on what clothes we wear, how expensive they are, the music we listen to and where we socialise".

The idea of incorporating the glossy and pristine nature of magazine and advertising imagery in an empty context inspired the artist. He says, "On first impression, the scale of the figures and their innate beauty suggest that one should admire and aspire to be like them, however, on closer inspection, each figure sits in isolation only comforted by images of themselves, thoughts of self reflection or depictions of varying negative emotions. These subtleties relate to the darker, underlying side of contemporary society, fame & celebrity and the narcissistic tendencies contemporary society seemingly encourages".

As for the title 'Neon Jungle', the word 'neon' conveys the impression of 'fake' or 'manufactured' in this context, the realization that the images that individuals are exposed to on a daily basis are increasingly adapted and manipulated in order to fulfill daily fantasies. 'Jungle' conveys a 'wild' or 'uncontrolled' darker meaning, suggesting that when scratching beneath the surface of this fake, manufactured world, all may not be as perfect as it seems.

Having had a handful of solo shows and multiple group shows in both the UK and Australia, this will be Jamie's third solo show held in Singapore, showing work made and inspired by his time here.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*Jamie Paul's artworks reflect the beautiful images and imposed values that permeate his world. A world that is simultaneously fantastical and hyper-real with an endless demand for instant gratification, where people and neon signs collide, colours bleed and butterflies emerge on flattened blank spaces where figures appear.*

Jamie received his formal education in painting and fine arts from the United Kingdom and has lived and worked in numerous countries. His primary fixation is with pop culture, music and his immediate surroundings, inspiring him to reflect on such issues as identity and individualism.

In these latest works, Jamie continues to explore issues of self-identity, focusing directly on individuals. The subjects within each painting are all generically 'beautiful', a myth or vision of apparent perfection, mimicking the idols and pin ups seen in magazines and on television. Through the familiar poses that each figure strikes and the absence of any physical scene or environment in which they are placed, Jamie strips away any context or predefined meaning.

Tattoos and butterflies permeate the paintings winding over the skin and surrounding the subject as representations of nature and contemporary environment, subtly overwhelming and encompassing humanity. The transient nature of the tattooed imagery and the use of the universally envied butterfly denote the constant evolution of identity and hint at the instinctive nature for us to imitate.

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It is in the subtle interplay of layers depicted and the perception of what we think we can see, as well as what we cannot, that these works become personal explorations of beauty, imitation, isolation and ultimately the meaning of identity.

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## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

After completing his fine art education in the United Kingdom, Jamie has lived and worked as an exhibiting visual artist both in the UK and Australia.

Focusing on painting, Jamie uses a mixture of media such as oil and acrylic paint, charcoal, oil stick, spray paint and even household paint on canvas, mixing traditional values with modern techniques and imagery. Images overlap and intersperse to create a juxtaposition of varying styles, the outcome is a powerful fusion of contemporary society and tradition, a mix of east meets west.

Jamie is heavily influenced by his love of travel and his immediate environment, popular culture and contemporary city living. Jamie's work is a thought provoking reflection and insight into one's own self, identity and the unconscious effect our surroundings have on us.

Jamie has been living and working in Singapore since January 2008.

**Born** London, UK 1978

**Education** 2002 - BA(Hons) Fine art, University College Northampton  
1999 - National Diploma Foundation Art

**Lives/ Works** Singapore

### **Artist Bio**

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### **Individual Exhibitions**

2008 - Endless Curves of Neon, Monsoon Asia Gallery, Singapore  
2008 - Endless Curves of Neon, Forth Gallery, Singapore  
2005 - Plastic Perfection, Gallery Wren, Sydney, Australia

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2009 - ArtFare, Project Midas with House @ Dempsey, Singapore  
2007 - Degree Art Newcomers, London, UK  
Liquid Identity, Moo Bar, Leamington, UK  
2006 - Art in Mind, Brick Lane Gallery, London, UK  
2005 - New Work, Gallery Wren, Sydney, Australia  
Stolen, Gallery Wren, Sydney, Australia  
2004 - Public Identity, Gallery Wren, Sydney, Australia  
Artists at UCN, The Roadmender, Northampton, UK  
Journeys, Creative Space, Northampton, UK

### **Books/ Catalogues**

2006 - Art in Mind Exhibition catalogue, published by gallery  
2005 - New Work Exhibition catalogue, published by gallery

### **Art Related Experiences/ Activities**

2009 - Artist in residence SJI International School, Singapore  
2004 - Co-founder of artists run space, Sydney



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- **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.