

Fabric of a New World



DT23: Bendemeer

And A New World

Cristene Chang

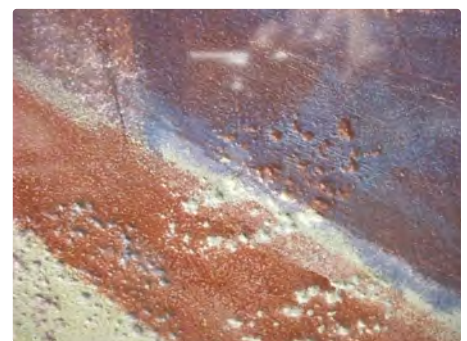
"The overlapping patterns in the artwork signify the local and foreign cultures, as well as the social and industrial activities."

- Cristene Chang

About the Artwork

In tribute to the area's textile culture, Chang's metaphor of 'Fabric of Time' suggests the interweaving of the past and present. The dynamic 'tug and pull' of cloth produces a gentle flexing and repetition that alludes to the ebb and flow of time. She culls her imagery from batiks, French lace and sulam needlework, paisley and stencilled prints with the peony, hibiscus, rose and butterfly signifying ephemeral beauty. The familiar is buoyed alongside the forgotten. Peranakan tiles of shop-houses drift with snatches of mall facades; a football in mid-air recollects a historic stadium.

Chang's 'And A New World', named after the once iconic New World Amusement Park, reverberates with continual flux.



Trivia

Chang took motifs from these places and worked them into 10 panels. She used a mixed media of painting, printmaking techniques – relief printing, lino cut, stenciling and embroidery (sulam). The motifs she chose have meaningful significance: the football is a reminder of how Singapore football started in this area; the hibiscus flower is a symbol of celebration and the butterfly of ephemeral beauty and movement. The roof and wall tiles remind us of the different architectural designs and influences: the rose ceramic tiles show a strong European influence.



When the panel were completed, they were joined, in facet, deliberately misjoined to create the idea of creasing, pleating, flow and movement.

About the Artist

Cristene Chang Hoei's (b. 1942) accolades include the Ray Fawcett Award, London (1st Prize, 1996) and the Tan Tsze Chor Award (Abstract) (1st Prize, 2003). She is a finalist of Sovereign Asian Art Prize (2009) and recipient of UOB Painting of the Year (Bronze Award, 2014). Recently, her work was shortlisted for the 6th Guanlan international Print Biennale 2017 at the China Printmaking Museum. A fine art graduate of Middlesex University London, Chang's practice has been featured on television - The Travelling Palette (Mediacorp, 2007) and Passages: Art Nation (Mediacorp, 2002) and in publications including Women Artists in Singapore (Tan B.T., NHB, 2011) and Printmaking Handbook (A&C Black, London, 2008).

