

The Light and Scent of Agar



DT25: Mattar

Agar Panel

Genevieve Chua

“The idea of incense in the artwork serves to depict an idea of a spiritual and historical place that is made up of tiny pieces accumulated over time.”

- Genevieve Chua

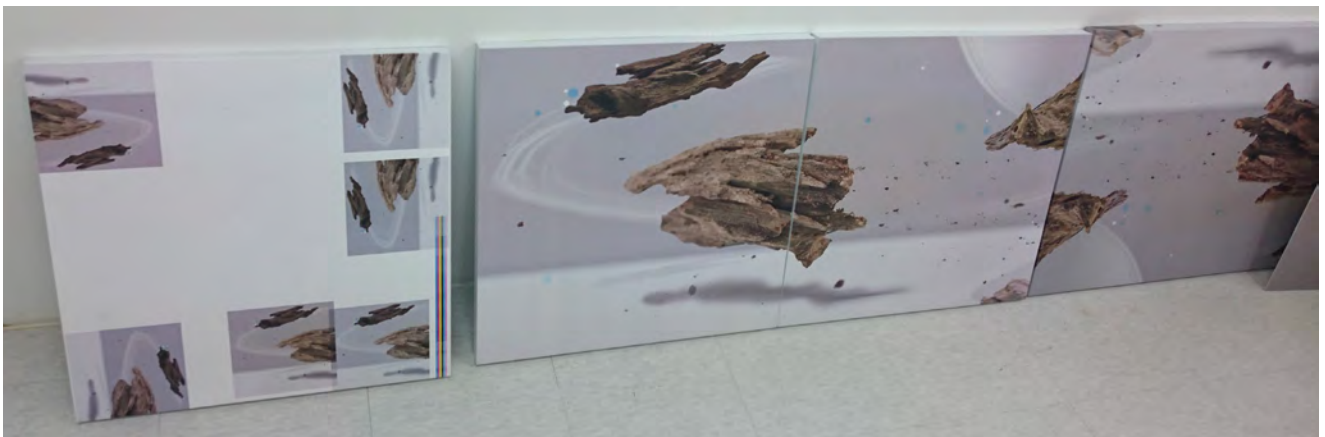
About the Artwork

The deeply ingrained religious landscape on Mattar road gave the artist the idea of using incense in the artwork. It serves to depict a spiritual place that is made up of tiny drifting fragments of historical events accumulating and dispersing. Also known as gaharu, jinks, or oud, agarwood is a unique and rare type of incense formed by a beetle feeding on resin at root of the Agar tree. This interaction between insect and tree can take up to thirty years, inducing a complex blend of peculiar colour and exquisite scent; when ignited for healing, protection and meditation.

The artwork on the panels shows a cluster of agarwood shavings transformed into a nebula, or cosmic landscape, reminiscent of the Arab community past and present.

Trivia

The light and scent (depicted in white and blue) of the incense leads commuters specifically to and fro the train platforms and concourse.



About the Artist

Genevieve Chua (b. 1984) is a visual artist who works primarily through abstraction. Chua pursues an unfurling narrative that is informed by natural history and linguistics. While contested notions of nature and wilderness persist across her work, the form taken by her exhibitions – whether installations, images or objects – is mediated through these processes.