

DESIGNARE

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STRIKE A POSE — Elite Model Look
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OASIS — Hidden Gems

SPLASH OF INSPIRATION

Local artist Jane Lee spins a layered tale with her paintings

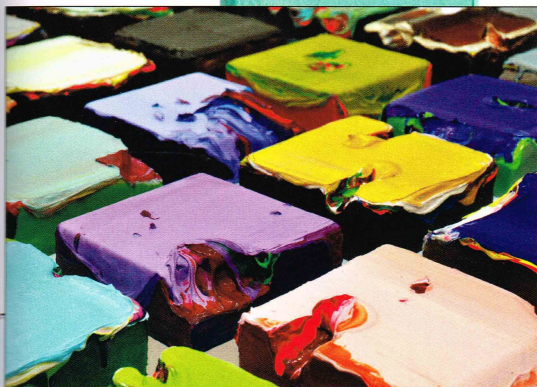
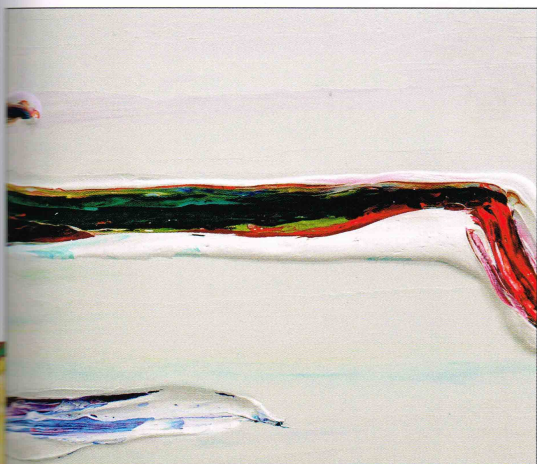


by LYDIA SOH

Jane Lee was a budding fashion designer before deciding to take the bold leap into the world of art. She headed to London to pursue her passion and later earned her degree in Fine Arts from the LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. The seemingly risky move paid off, and more than a decade later she has become one of Singapore's most promising contemporary artists. She was also the first recipient of the Singapore International Residency Art Prize in 2007.

Known for her use of unconventional materials and innovative techniques in painting, Jane's works have been shown across Asia and in 2011

she clinched the Celeste Prize in New York (painting category). She will be showcasing new works in a solo exhibition at Sundaram Tagore Gallery titled "100 Faces", which aims to evoke the audience to re-think their opinion and approach to paintings. A smaller collection featuring a completely different selection of works, "50 Faces", will be presented at Art Stage Singapore 2014, the most prestigious event on the local art calendar, which will run between January 16 and 19 at the Marina Bay Sands. Here, Jane dishes on her dream fashion collaboration and her aspirations for 2014.



DESIGNARÉ—What are your thoughts on Art Stage Singapore?

JANE—In a way, Art Stage Singapore has played a very big part in the contemporary art scene in Singapore today. The organiser aims for continual support for home-grown talent, allowing Singaporean artists to expose their works to an international audience, which has clearly benefitted us. I am honoured to be able to present my work for the second time in Art Stage Singapore 2014 and show support for our homegrown fair as much as I can.

DESIGNARÉ—What's the story behind "100 Faces"?

JANE—A lot of my exploration with painting thus far has been largely focused on experimenting with various techniques of creating paintings by building layers upon a plane. It occurred to me at some point that this layering was very much influenced by Western practices. This led me to re-think my practice and I started to bring in my experience of Eastern philosophy, specifically in Chinese painting where the empty spaces are often the focal point for creating the essence of what the painting attempts to represent. In examining these influences, I began in 2010 to experiment with this body of work, which involves subtracting from the plane rather than building on/from it.

DESIGNARÉ—Your favourite piece from "100 Faces"?

JANE—The "Stacks" series. It comprises three chromatic pillars of piled up paintings with their edges exposed. It challenges our perception of how a painting should be viewed. Curious viewers may attempt to see the face of the painting but there's a catch only the collector who owns the entire stack will be able to see the face of the paintings.

DESIGNARÉ—What do you want others to feel when they view your work?

JANE—I intend for my audience to feel delighted in heart, and experience joy and hope.

DESIGNARÉ—Art is all about reinvention - do you agree with this statement?

JANE—Yes, creativity is all about bringing the new to the old.

DESIGNARÉ—Any mentors or muses?

JANE—Life itself.

DESIGNARÉ—Are there any places that inspire you more than others?

JANE—Singapore is the place that I feel bored yet at home. It is this mundaneness in our environment that I somehow find inspiring.

DESIGNARÉ—If you were asked to capture the essence of Singapore in an artwork – what would it comprise?

JANE—I would like to capture the all-year sunny weather and the dull monochromatic greenery in our natural environment before giving it an unexpected twist of the nature we are in.

DESIGNARÉ—There has been quite a number of collaborations between artists and fashion houses. Would you be interested if given the opportunity to do so?

JANE—I would like to collaborate with Comme des Garçons and continue the designer's spirit to deconstruct fashion wear but with my own artistic twist. I think it would be interesting to create an entire collection of fashion wear, including bags and shoes, that is related to art.

DESIGNARÉ—Are there any rituals that you keep to when you are in "work" mode?

JANE—Staying positive.

DESIGNARÉ—Your wishes and ambitions for 2014...

JANE—I wish that more people will show kindness to stray animals. There is an alarming number of stray dogs and cats being abandoned here in Singapore and this concerns me. Apart from that, I hope that I can also spend more time on voluntary and community work.

100 FACES *will be exhibited at SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY from January 10–March 2*