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Jane Lee's (Red) States of Painting | The Artling

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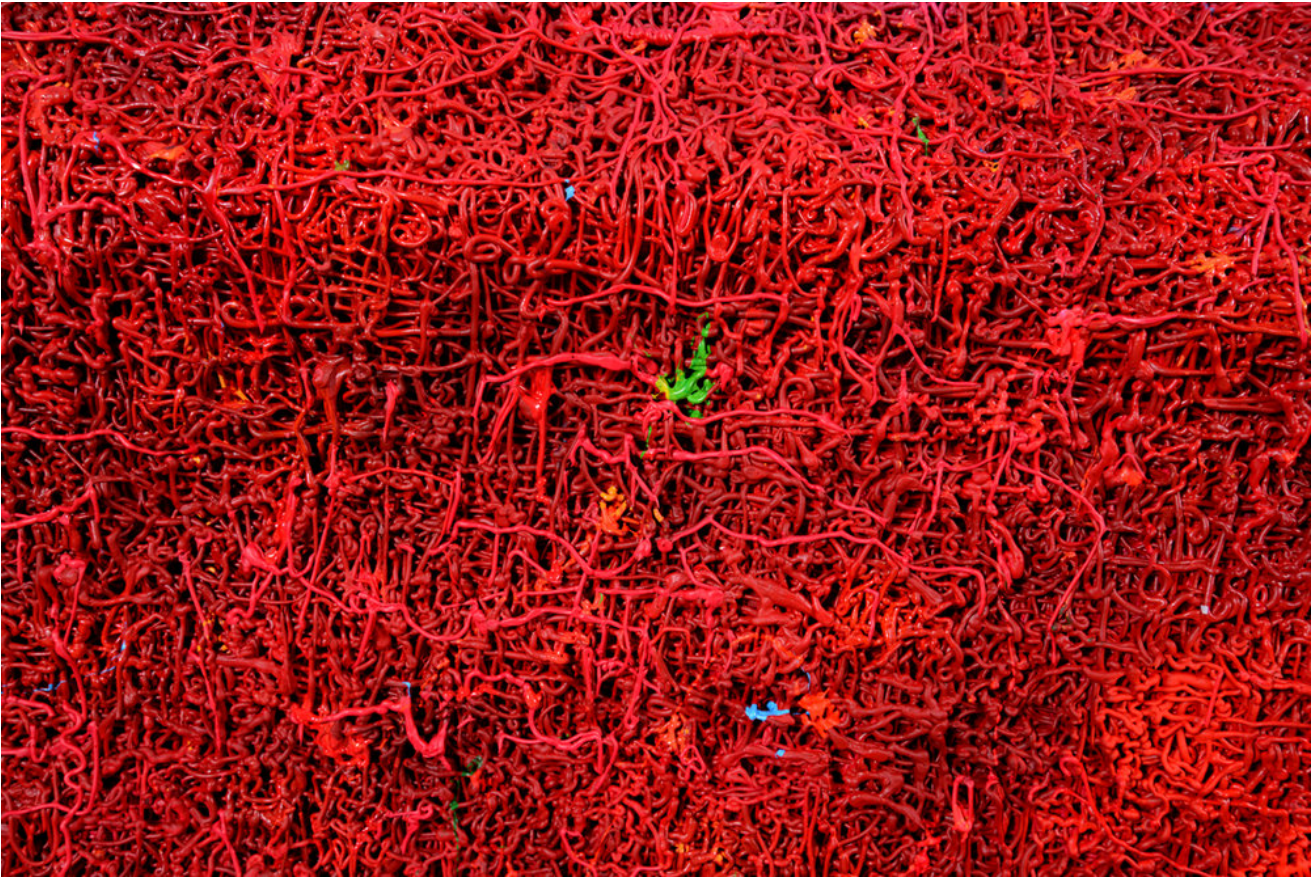
Documenting the evolution of Lee's career and investigative forays into the nature of painting, ***Red States*** is organized by **Sundaram Tagore** and the **Tagore Foundation, Hong Kong Arts Centre**, and **National Arts Council of Singapore** and curated by **Michelle Ho**. Vivid hues, tactile surfaces and an intrinsic effervescence characterize Lee's sculptural creations, which deconstruct the concept of painting by visually recontextualizing the function of its elements. Canvas, stretchers, frames and paint are employed and presented in a novel manner, compelling viewers to reach their own conclusions on what constitutes a painting.

A convoluted series of intertwined crimson canvas threads greets visitors at the entrance. Red, has always featured heavily in her work, alluding to celebration, passion, energy, here it also culturally references Singapore and Hong Kong. Canvas is the main hero of ***Story of a Canvas #2***, a stark change from its usual supporting role. Assuming a rectangular shape, a sole string of canvas flows from the bottom, into a hole cut out in the wall beneath, inviting us into the exhibition.

This playful addition initiates what is essentially a voyage of discovery, encompassing the explorative nature of the show. Following the string through into the next gallery, a immense installation marking the expanse of the entire wall, composed of a series of discs and spiralled canvases in varying sizes reveals the ***Story of a Canvas #1***. Inflections of blue, green, and purple accentuate the dominating shades of pink and red. In this narrative, paint is relegated to the background and canvas, through intricate folding and manipulation is once again brought to the forefront. In exploring its materiality and developing a textured surface, the established relationship between canvas and paint has been reversed. Here, the paint is the supporting material, and canvas, the prime aesthetic focus of the image.



Jane Lee, Red States, 2017, acrylic paint, heavy gel on fiberglass, floor piece: 9.4 x 124 x 61.4 inches/24 x 315 x 156 cm, wall piece: 87.4 x 120.4 x 11 inches/222 x 306 x 28 cm © Image courtesy of the artist



Jane Lee, Red States (detail), 2017, acrylic paint, heavy gel on fiberglass, floor piece: 9.4 x 124 x 61.4 inches/24 x 315 x 156 cm, wall piece: 87.4 x 120.4 x 11 inches/222 x 306 x 28 cm © Image courtesy of the artist

Red States is an immersive experience following Lee's quest to decipher and redefine an age-old classic artistic medium. While theatricality and vibrancy encompass the resplendent and playful works, what becomes apparent is an unwavering and genuine devotion to painting. An artist's artist through and through, the scope of Lee's consistently evolving remarkable career has been stunningly captured and presented.

For more information please visit the [Hong Kong Art Center](https://www.hongkongartcenter.org/) official website.