

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNDARAM TAGORE SINGAPORE PRESENTS
*JANE LEE 100 FACES***

Exhibition dates: January 10–March 2, 2014

Opening cocktail reception: Friday, January 10, 6–9 pm

Curated by Khim Ong in collaboration with Sundaram Tagore Gallery



100 Faces, 2013, acrylic paint, heavy gel on mixed-materials base, 100 panels, 5.9 x 6.3 x 2.4 inches each

Singapore, November 26, 2013—Singaporean artist Jane Lee presents new work in a solo exhibition titled *100 Faces*. Known for her highly tactile and visually spectacular paintings, she makes a bold stylistic leap with *100 Faces*, focusing her considerable talents on three new series: *Faces*, *Stacks* and *Portraits*.

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Up to now, Lee has been using the very process and materials of painting as the subject of her work. Experimenting with innovative techniques, materials and tools, Lee has been examining the way paintings are constructed by treating the components of a painting—stretcher, canvas, and the paint itself—in new ways. In the process, she raised provocative questions about the significance of painting and the relevance of contemporary art practice.

“Thus far I have largely focused on experimenting with various techniques of creating paintings, for instance, building layers upon a plane,” says Lee. “It occurred to me that this process of building up the surface might be influenced by Western practices. This led me to rethink my practice. I started to bring in some experiences of Eastern philosophy, in particular, Chinese painting, where the empty spaces are often the focal point for creating the essence of what the painting attempts to represent.”

In the process of examining these influences, Lee began to employ a new approach—subtracting from the surface rather than building on it. Shifting away from highly texturized works, such as *Beyond the Blue* (2011), a sculpted mass of extruded paint that cascades down the wall collapsing onto itself, Lee’s new work aims to arouse the viewer’s curiosity as to what lies beneath.

This concept is beautifully illustrated in the ***Portrait series***, comprising eight paintings with predominantly smooth, white surfaces that have been poked, jabbed and scraped to reveal swaths of opulent color hidden below the surface. A deeper look into the chasms of color reveals Lee’s process: She’s abandoned brushes in favor of a palette knife and her bare hands. She layers different colors of thick, acrylic gel paint, which merge in unexpected ways. She then deconstructs the painting by gouging and scooping the surface with her fingers to forcefully reveal the paintings’ colorful secrets.

In ***100 Faces***—one hundred deliciously colored small-scale paintings laid out in a dazzling grid—Lee continues to explore the multiple “faces” of painting.

In the ***Stack series***, three chromatic pillars of paintings, piled high with only their edges exposed, challenge our perception of how a painting should be viewed. Curiosity compels the viewer to twist and crane his or her neck in an effort to see the face of the painting, which—except for the fortunate collector who owns the entire stack—will likely remain a mystery.

If these works draw parallels to edible confections, it’s not an accident. Jane Lee’s work often alludes to food and, as with previous bodies of work, she has used tools and techniques from the kitchen. Here, she treats the paint like cream, generously slathering on layers with a pallet knife, as if frosting a cake. The results incite a desire to literally consume the work.

Sundaram Tagore Gallery will also be presenting a large-scale work by Jane Lee in the Platforms area at **Art Stage Singapore 2014: 50 Faces**, 2013, a 10-meter long installation of fifty paintings, each measuring 15 cm x 15 cm x 5 cm, made of acrylic heavy gel, reflective mirror and fiberglass base. Art Stage will be held January 16-19, 2014.

Jane Lee has won numerous awards, including the Celeste Prize in New York. She was a finalist for the 2007 Sovereign Art Prize and was the first recipient of the Singapore International Residency Art Prize in 2007. Her work *Raw Canvas* was showcased at the Singapore Biennale 2008 and Collectors' Stage at the Singapore Art Museum in 2011.

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Lee holds a BA in fine arts and a diploma in fashion from LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in museums and galleries in Asia and Europe, among them the Singapore Art Museum, the Hong Kong Arts Centre, and the Contemporary Art Center in Vilnius, Lithuania.

A catalogue accompanies this exhibition, with essays by Patrick D. Flores, Professor of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines and Curator of the Vargas Museum in Manila, and Khim Ong, an independent Singapore-based curator and former programme executive at Sotheby's Institute of Art, accompanies this exhibition.

Gallery talk: curator Khim Ong will give an informal lecture about *Jane Lee: 100 Faces* at Sundaram Tagore Gallery on Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 4 pm. The talk is open to the public and free of charge.

GALLERY PROFILE

Established in New York City in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. We focus on developing exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. In a world where communication is instant and cultures are colliding and melding as never before, our goal is to provide venues for art that transcend boundaries of all sorts. With alliances across the globe, our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

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