



FLAB
SLAB

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ARKIV

ONE OR NOTHING

FIRST SOLO SHOW IN SINGAPORE BY ARKIV VILMANSA

One or Nothing is Arkiv Vilmansa's inaugural exhibition in Singapore. The exhibition details the phenomenal success of an artist who recently held his first solo exhibition, Through The Lines, in the United States back in February this year. While at first glance reminiscent of Anthony Ausgang's MGMT Congratulations cover art, Arkiv's signature work mixes fluid, curvaceous lines with rich, extravagant colours to draw appeal on abstract ideas that is at once captivating and thought-provoking. One or Nothing puts quintessentially Singaporean icons under the spotlight, engaging audiences to appreciate famous icons and figures that define the exponential growth of a nation and its distinctive melting pot of cultures.



STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

Local comedian Kumar most famously described himself as a Merlion - a half-lion and half-mermaid creature (go figure!) that is Singapore's most popular mascot. The abstract symbolism that gave it its name has since been adopted in colloquial usage to describe - well, vomiting. This mythical creature can be seen at five locations around the island, and continues to decorate key-chains, fridge magnets and T-shirts, bought in the dozens as souvenirs by tourists from all over the world. The Merlion was struck by lightning - yes, lightning, not a PAP lawsuit - in 2009.

2011
110cm x 130cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



MASQUERADE ON WHEELS

Translated as 'The Art of Masquerade', Singapore's annual Chingay parade has evolved into one of Asia's most magnificent street and floats parades since its humble beginnings in 1973. A showstopper every year, the Chingay is a stunning extravaganza of vibrant and dazzling floats celebrating cultural diversity with both local and foreign performing groups. Symbolising the lasting success of the Chingay is the Phoenix, a mythical, sacred firebird that is the trademark icon at every parade. When it draws near to its 500-year life cycle, it self-immolates and majestically rises anew from the ashes.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



A FEMINIST'S NIGHTMARE

Better known for its exemplary in-flight service and the stringent Holy Grail selection of its flight crew, Singapore Airlines is the five-star flight carrier airline of Singapore. Its reputation spans across the globe with the Singapore Girl, the epitome of beauty and Asian hospitality dressed in Sarong Kebaya first designed by Pierre Balmain in 1968. The flag carrier more recently rode on the novelty of being the first to fly the Airbus A380 with a US\$8.6 billion fleet purchase. Money can indeed buy you everything.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



PURPLE THUMBS

What's your fondest memory of Singapore's first savings bank? Established in 1877 by the British Government, POSB reminds us more than fuzzy childhood memories and the day when a smiling lady behind a counter imprinted our little thumbs with purple ink. The POSB Squirrel Savers' Club was first set up to encourage children to save – and save we must! In the face of transport hikes, ever increasing taxes and ERP charges, we begin to understand the importance of saving money...

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



ONE THOUSAND AND ONE FLAMINGOS

A world-famous bird aviary boasting more species of birds than any other bird zoo on the planet, the Jurong Bird Park just boosted its facilities with a S\$10 million makeover. Think primary school excursions, wholesome family outings and busy Japanese tourists (or MP Tin Pei Ling) furiously snapping kawaii photographs. The iconic parrots that make up the logo remind us of the flamboyant parrot paradise and Quincy the Yellow-headed Amazon.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



MISS SINGAPORE FLOWER 1981

Named after a horticulturist who gave us the Singapore Orchid, Vanda Miss Joaquim is a hybrid of – ok let's leave out complicated flowery (pun intended) names. Though hardly an ubiquitous sight in gardens these days, this delicate hybrid has served as Singapore's national flower since 1981. Its unique violet-rose colour distinguished it from the pageant of 40 other flowers in the running for symbolic status – proof that even flora in Singapore can be endorsed with 'Number One' status. Arkiv has chosen to give this winning flower his own vibrant rendition.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



DOUBLE BABY BONUS

While most of us lament the 2012 Mayan Doomsday, overzealous kiasu parents now have a reason to rejoice – 2012 is also the Year of the Dragon! Forget Western influences and cosmopolitan values (whatever that means), Dragon babies are still a symbol of longevity and wealth in Singapore. While parents set their agenda for a productive – ehh, reproductive year ahead, singles now have a bigger concern: overcrowded buses, trains and more competition.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



TAKE FLIGHT

Arkiv Vilmansa takes off in Singapore with 'One or Nothing', a course of kaleidoscopic illustrations that stemmed from the artist's love for birds and his endearing visits to the Jurong Bird Park. Take time to explore the eleven paintings and observe the perfect amalgamation of lines, colours and childhood inspiration. Warhol's fascination with mass-produced objects cemented his success back in the sixties while Arkiv's rapture for feathered creatures flew him to numerous exhibitions across the globe. What's your obsession?

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



THE BREAST THINGS IN LIFE

Who would have thought a pink ribbon could represent Singapore after Parliament's retention of the archaic 377A? No, we are not talking about gay Mardi Gras PinkDotSg, but the pink ribbon that raises awareness and provides support for women with breast cancer, the most common form of cancer among women in Singapore. First Lady Mrs. Mary Tan kicked off the Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October enthusiastically dressed in pink - certainly not taking a break after the hectic Presidential Elections!

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



AS CHEENA AS IT GETS

Synonymous with good luck, power, wisdom and auspiciousness, the Dragon Dance is a traditional ethnic mainstay among the Singaporean Chinese. During festive celebrations, watch as the crowd scrambles for the best view to watch skilled dancers choreograph perfect moves and manoeuvres while the Dragon majestically syncs to the smooth rhythm of the orchestra. Arkiv successfully manages to capture the Dragon's ferociousness, elegance and grandiosity that inspired Lawrence Ferlinghetti's "The Great Chinese Dragon" in his 1961 anthology Starting from San Francisco.

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



THICK AND SWEET

We're actually talking about Singapore's very own (really?) local favourite: The Chilli Crab! Forget glamour, poise and chichi fine dining, Arkiv is always ready to sweat out a plate of stir-fried mud crabs sitting in thick, simmering sweet and spicy gravy whenever he's in town. Ranked 45th on CNN Go's World's 50 most delicious foods 2011, adventurous tourists and locals alike would be more than familiar with this popular Singaporean dish. Watch seasoned eaters fight for the limited pincers and mantous while the ang mohs sweat in exasperation. Everyone, say Ho jiak!

2011
100cm x 100cm
Acrylic and Ink on Canvas



1

2

3

- 1. 2010**
Arkiv Instant
3ft fibreglass
Edition of 1
(Gun Metal Black)
- 2. 2010**
Wings & Riding Curves
65cm
Edition of 10 each
- 3. 2011**
Sumo with 10 bones
Bronze by Fully Visual
Edition of 10



About FLABSLAB

Float Like A Butterfly. Sting Like A Bee. Inspired by Ali, FLABSLAB is homage to all things that balance those two dynamics. We're talking about when grace meets power, when progressive motion meets impact, when you meet our art.

Founded in 2010, FLABSLAB is an art and design collective with a focus on toys and pop art. It is an extension of Nerf Creative, a boutique creative agency with a strong portfolio of clients that includes Shell, Far East Organization, StarHub and Capitaland. FLABSLAB has worked with local artists in the past to produce a line of currency-themed art pieces, some of which have been exhibited in Fort Canning Park. It plans to hold several exhibitions, showcasing the work of various artists, over the next few months.

www.facebook.com/flabslab

About Arkiv Vilmansa

Arkiv Vilmansa is a painter, illustrator and designer. His first vinyl figurine, 'Arkiv Instant' enjoyed a strong debut in the toy culture scene and has received iconic status. Following the success of 'Arkiv Instant', he has also taken on various projects including a redesign of Mickey Mouse for Disney Asia. His works have been showcased extensively in Jakarta, USA, London, Manila and most recently at the Venice Biennale 2011.

www.arkivart.com

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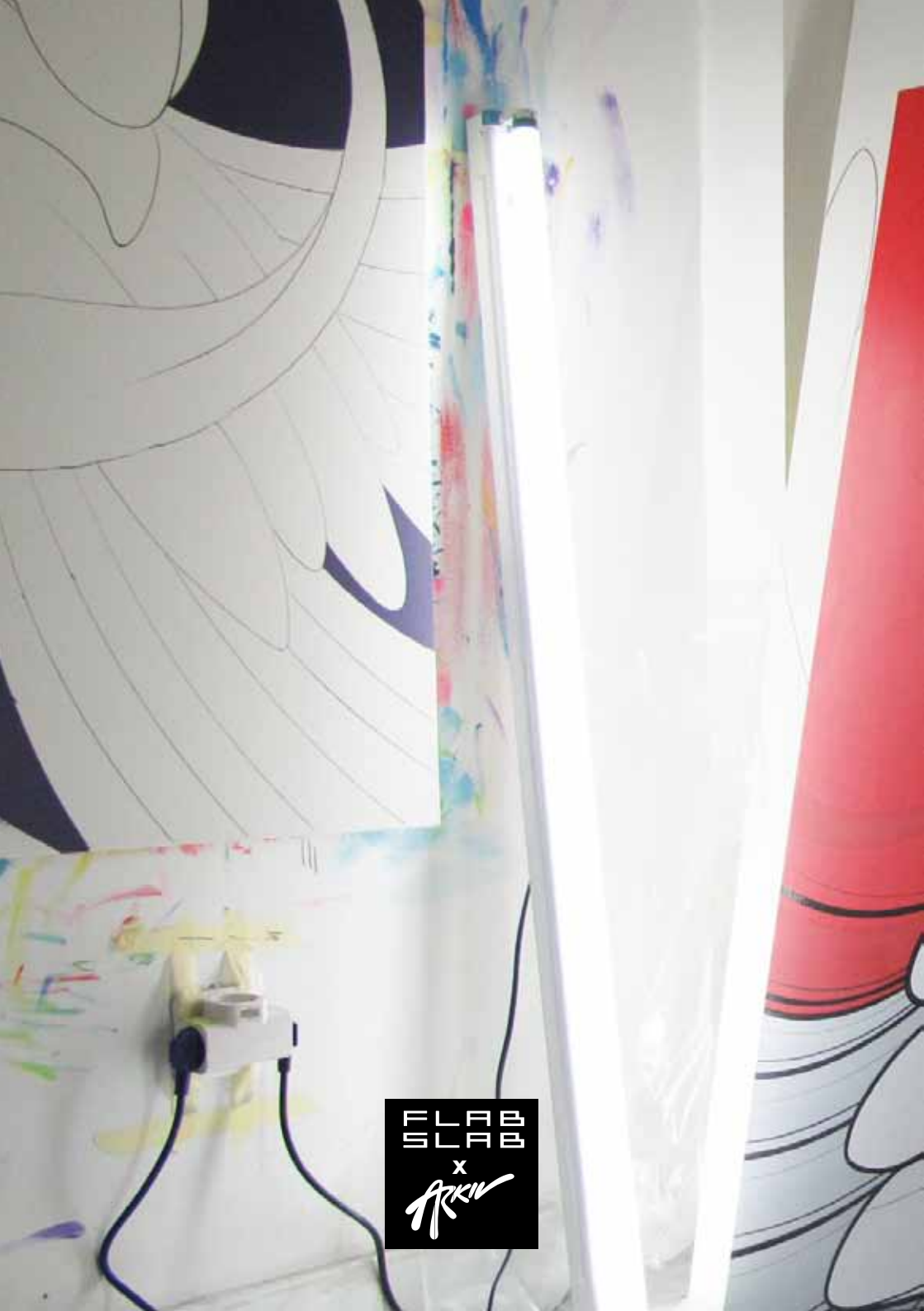
Mark aka mr.sbtg, www.royalefam.com

Gaby and Pia, Vinyl on Vinyl (Manila)

Audrey, Xinyi, Yunxi and Derrick, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University

&

The Nerfians, Nerf Creative



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