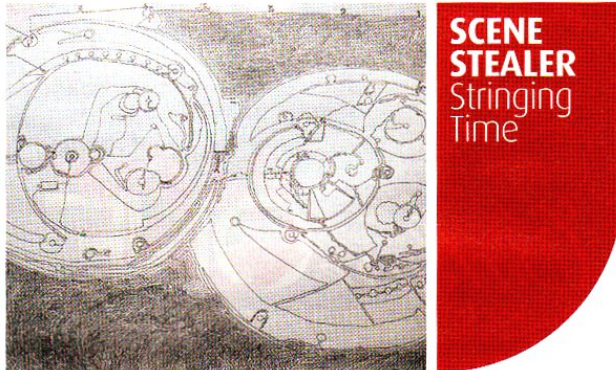


Artist Features: Joshua Yang (Singapore)

Source: I-S Magazine, No 385 – Friday, 7 December 2007 Pg 50

ART I-S+



Time goes on and on for continuous line artist Joshua Yang.

After a successful term at Marina Mandarin's Artist-in-Residence program (which provides free studio space for artists), Yang is rounding it off with the exhibition *Superstring: Timepieces*. Consisting of mechanical drawings of timepieces that were done purely from memory and in a single continuous line with no breaks or overlaps within 24 hours, this set of drawings proves to be as interesting as the premise itself. We spoke to the rather funny man.

What is the idea behind *Superstring* and why the fascination with continuous line drawings?

The idea comes from the Superstring Theory that scientists are still working on to try and explain the entire universe with one single theory. Then I chose to get tied up in that with a single-continuous line because it is the most basic form of drawing—the most elementary form trying to attempt the most complex theory!

Creating these works must require loads of concentration. What helps you to concentrate?

Orange concentrate! No, not really. It gets meditative after a while and the hand just does its thing while the mind wanders away into other things...

We hear you'll be taking part in a continuous 48-hour drawing marathon after this exhibition. Why?

For the publicity! Hah! No. Seriously, I believe in constraints and I think that imposing these additional "rules" of drawing might help me to achieve something during the 48 hours which pushes my practice further in terms of drawing as a continuous activity.

The pieces in *Superstring* revolve around time, memory and continuity. Why do these themes appeal to you?

Whether we like it or not, these themes revolve around us—we're bound by time and as time goes by we lose more and more of our memory. I think these themes are inevitable—it's a way of trying to escape from those boundaries.

Has there been an instance when you badly needed to go on a toilet break but couldn't because of the drawing?

I invest in a good set of diapers! No, not really. I usually get these things out of the way before I start on a particular piece.

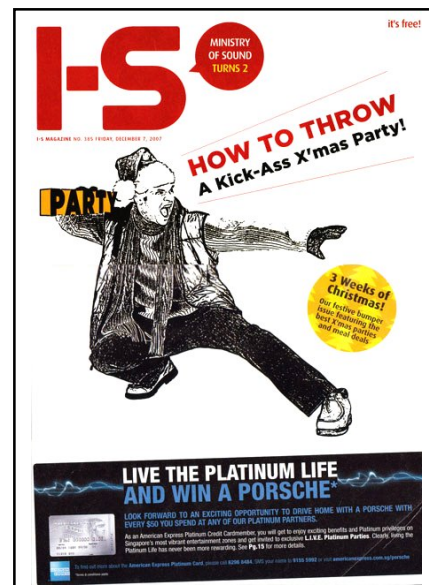
Any artistic philosophy you live by?

These one-liners are not going to get you anywhere if you don't tie up your loose ends!

Complete the sentence—Time is....

...adding more lines to my face.—Belinda Wan

Superstring: Timepieces is on Dec 11-Jan 31, 2008. 5/F, Marina Mandarin, 6 Raffles Blvd., 6845-1000. Open daily 24 hours. Free.



Above: I-S Magazine Cover