

Artist Features: Joshua Yang (Singapore)
 Source: LEXEAN, ISSUE 06 – 2007, Soul Page 202 & 203

arts, to supporting unconventional, lesser known work – the kind seldom touched by the generous hand of corporate art philanthropy.

Audrey Phng, Director of AAO, is thrilled. "The hotel is clearly setting a new trend. It's the first time we've seen a major establishment be so receptive towards non-mainstream art, from investing in somewhat experimental artists, to involving both art consultants like us and Dr Tan."

The Marina Mandarin's pro-art support has recent, yet remarkable beginnings.

AAO worked closely with the hotel to develop its Artist-in-Residence program, which was launched in 2006 featuring artist Sandra Lee.

Special art events & exhibits were created beginning with the festive "Partridge in a Pink Pear Tree" exhibition in December 2005, where the hotel adopted non-profit arts charity Very Special Arts (VSA) as its Christmas beneficiary.

In 2006, the hotel adopted yet another non-profit arts education program, Arts Outreach, where a highly-creative charity dinner was organised, and approximately S\$100,000 was raised for the program.

Not content with just that, the Marina Mandarin joined hands again with AAO for the sell-out Pop art exhibition "(M)emories & (M)ementoes" in May 2007, featuring two of Singapore's most popular pop artists, Justin Lee and Dyn.

The collaboration continues the highly successful Art Series of mooncake boxes, designed by Lee from August to September 2007, and the festive Christmas cards designed by Sandra Lee, the hotel's first Artist-in-Residence.

This time round, the hotel has adopted the MILK Fund as a beneficiary to 10% of the proceeds from the sales of Joshua Yang's works, full proceeds from the silent auction of two Superstring artworks, as well as the proceeds from sales of the hotel's festive goodies. So the hotel is not just doing good – it's looking good too.

With an approach like that, the Marina Mandarin and AAO might just have outdone themselves. It is a partnership that combines creativity and capital. Agrees Phng, "The culmination of Superstring: Timepieces is a clear example of a successful collaboration with resulting artwork that is truly refreshing." ◆

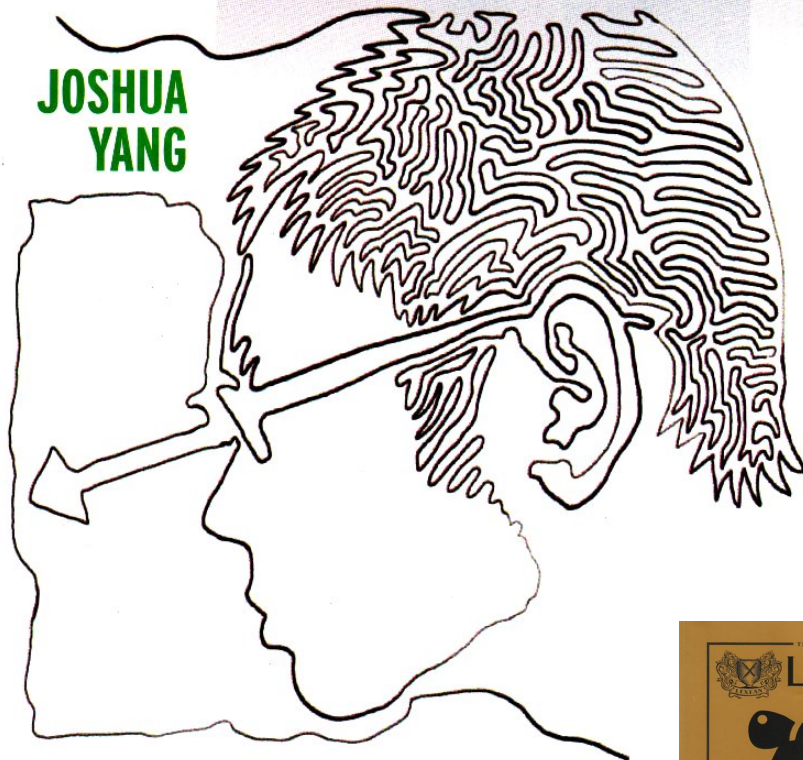
JOSHUA YANG produces drawings using a single-continuous line with no breaks or overlaps. In doing so, he tries to find out if this line of thought may inform his questions concerning the connection between art and science.

Drawing inspiration from Superstring theory which postulates that all matter in the universe is made up of and connected by tiny vibrations called strings, these series of drawings are done using a single-continuous line with no breaks or overlaps.

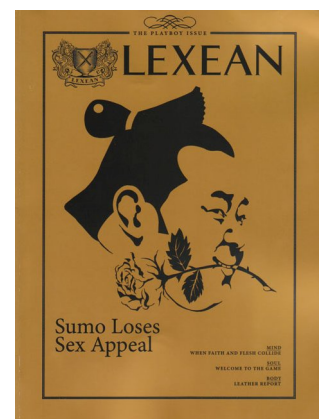
Although the repetitive curves and folds evoke a sense of mechanical reproduction, the irony is that these are hand-produced drawings with built-in errors. "I never know when I'm going to make a mistake," admits Yang, "but it has a knack of happening at the worst times - either when I'm almost completing a piece or when I've just started."

A further irony could be that the artist is attempting to express a grand scientific idea with the use of the simplest mode of drawing: a single line. "The single line as a form of expression, I want to see how far I can push this idea."

Yang notably received accolades for his work "Big Enormous House" receiving the Highly Commended title in the Representational Category at the 25th UOB Painting of the Year Awards. The work featuring a representation of a house with all its trappings, marked a "collaboration" with Yang's 4-year-old daughter who helped define the subject matter, and even drew its outline.

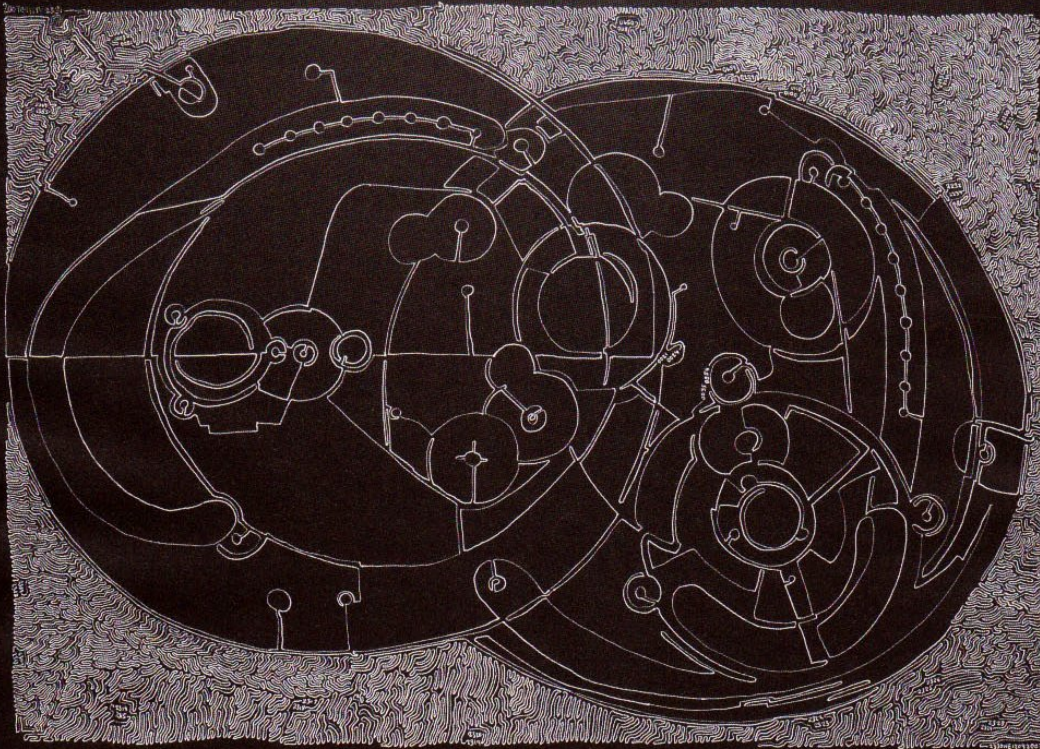


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ART FOR ART'S SAKE

Venturing beyond conventional corporate art philosophy, the Marina Mandarin Singapore opened its doors to the fine lines of artist Joshua Yang

Each year, the National Arts Council confers the prestigious Patron of the Arts Award to recognise the benevolence of some towards the support of the arts.

Two-time award recipient the Marina Mandarin Singapore continues to give the term "corporate culture" new meaning with its latest collaboration with art consultants Asian Art Options (AAO).

From July to December 2007, the hotel hosts artist Joshua Yang and his collection "Superstring: Timepieces" under its Artist-in-Residence program.

The Marina Mandarin Singapore remains the only five-star hotel in South-East Asia to provide in-house residency to emerging artists, where space is provided for the artist as a working studio right on the lobby level, giving the artist prime

space to showcase his/her art. This "Open Studio" concept offers hotel patrons and art aficionados a peek at the artist's creative process as well as the opportunity to interact with and engage him. The hotel will further host an exhibition cocktail to celebrate the artist's creations during his period under residency.

This residency involving Yang stands out for involving art curator Dr. Eugene Tan, one of the curators of the inaugural Singapore Biennale, who upon AAO's invitation, advised and curated the showing. Further testimony of the hotel's genuine commitment in providing artists space not merely for commercial purposes, but space to hone their craft and technique on both an aesthetic and conceptual level. The hotel seems keen to go beyond merely supporting the

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