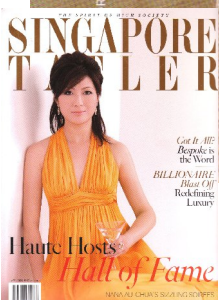


Artist Features: Joshua Yang (Singapore)
Source: Singapore Tatler, String Sensation, April 2008



Singapore Tatler,
Magazine Cover
April 2008

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String Sensation

Given their collective passion for arts, it seems only right that Vinod Kumar and his wife Cheah Sui Ling have an artistic centrepiece in their home. That they eventually achieved when they commissioned Singapore-based, Malaysian artist Joshua Yang to create a 20-metre-long vertical painting featuring the couple and nine of their friends, using his famed superstring technique.

"We wanted something dynamic, and we like Joshua's method of drawing using continuous lines," says Kumar, president of data and mobility services at a communications company. Cheah, an investment banker, adds: "We told Joshua our idea and he began to work on it. The painting captures moments in our lives which portray our interests. It is a collaboration between Joshua and us."

Managing director of Asian Art Options (the gallery representing Yang) Audrey Phng, reveals commissioned art originated from the 15th century and is presently enjoying a renaissance. "With commissioned pieces, you will not know what the result is until you see it, but some clients are open-minded enough to want them," she says.

While they are obviously happy with Yang's end product, which took six months to complete, the couple enjoyed the process of working on the piece. "Joshua brought along a huge canvas sheet and we laid down on it in our poses," Kumar recalls. Smiling at the thought, Cheah adds: "We told our friends to keep their afternoon free without telling them the plan!" Not that any of their friends complained. "I only knew there would be free champagne!" David Woo, who recorded the whole process on film, jokes.

Fun aside, Kumar and Cheah, who were married last year, take measures to ensure their 20-metre showpiece remains in impeccable condition. "We cover the top of the painting to prevent overexposure to sunlight," Kumar explains.

They replaced the motorised crank of the painting – necessary for guests to view the whole length of the piece – with a mechanical one as "the motorised one tends to crease the painting."

While the both of them are not actively hunting for another bespoke artwork to add to their collection, they are not ruling out the possibility. "It depends on what we come across and if we have the time for it," says Cheah who was an art history student in her college days.

Turning their attention to other things, the couple, who between themselves own made-to-measure suits, accessories and jewellery, share they have no immediate plans to commission anything else. Looking lovingly at his wife, Vinod utters: "She's bespoke and very precious." ■