

Artist Features: Joshua Yang (Singapore)

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LIVING

TOP GEAR
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page 8

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page 7

FAN TRIBUTE
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artist Ian Swie Hian
page 6



life!

THE STRAITS TIMES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 2008



The Marina Mandarin hotel has a scheme which showcases the works of emerging artists such as Joshua Yang (below). TAY SUAN CHIANG checks out other venues – from a coffee chain to a bar – which devote space to art.

pages 2&3

DESIGN: SALLY LAM ST PHOTO: ALAN LIM

Life!

The Straits Times Saturday, February 2, 2008 3

VIEW ART



BooksActually

125A Telok Ayer Street

Despite its name, this bookstore has more than just books. Owners Karen Wai and Kenny Leck also devoted part of the space to an art gallery.

"We didn't expect it to be a gallery but rather a space where we can showcase works and artists we like," says Mr Leck. In 2006, they held their first exhibition – featuring Moleskin notebooks – and showcased 35 notebooks by different artists.

Its most recent exhibition was a Polaroid installation work, where artists sent in Polaroid pictures based on themes.

From Feb 15, there will be a photo exhibition on Beijing.

Mr Leck says the exhibitions attract more customers.

"As for shoppers, they do not need to set aside time to go to a proper gallery to get a dose of art," he adds.

Depending on the artists, works can also be bought.



The Coffee Connoisseur, or tcc

51 Circular Road

Works by foreign and local artists are featured at five of the coffee chain's 29 outlets and are for sale. The Circular Road branch (above) for example, features a different artist every four months. Works by Italian artist Ian Castronovo are on display now.



Marina Mandarin Singapore

6 Raffles Boulevard, Marina Square

The five-star hotel's Artist-in-Residence programme has showcased two emerging local artists – Sandra Lee and Joshua Yang (above). Each spent six months on their works which were displayed on the fifth-level walls for a month. All the works are for sale.



House – The Social Benefits

8D Dempsey Road

You may know the place as a hip spa, bar and restaurant joint. But last October, it began an Adopt an Artist programme to showcase promising artists, musicians, poets and writers. The first beneficiary was Ariene Rienecke, a graphic design student who did whimsical drawings of rabbits and girls having tea.