

BLACK REFLECTIONS



WHITE
SHADOWS

June Lee Yu Juan & Yves Hasselmann

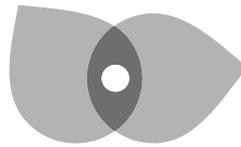
Curated and Organised by Intersections

The Exhibition:

“**Black Reflections - White Shadows**” presents the magical encounter of the work of a young Singaporean artist, **June Lee Yu Juan**, and an established French artist, **Yves Hasselmann**, both seeking a universal language through their art.

While using different mediums, **Lee** and **Hasselmann** both play with aluminum and angular forms to create a timeless harmony. The choice of black and white, as a reflection of their identities as artists, is another common thread between their work. For **Lee**, it’s an expression of her training in traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy, and for **Hasselmann** it represents keys on a piano, because music deeply inspires his work as a painter.

“**Black Reflections - White Shadows**”, not only unveils intriguing parallels between two distinctive artists but also addresses this year’s Singapore Biennale’s theme (“If the world changed”) by showing that art can transcend languages and create a bridge between cultures. In the wake of globalization, we believe that art can contribute to a better understanding between people and to the respect of cultural differences and identities.



Intersections

The Artists:



June Lee Yu Juan

Painter- Sculptor- Metal craft Woman



Yves Hasselmann

Painter - Musician

June Lee Yu Juan

Ink on paper is one of civilisation's oldest artistic media, emerging in China over two millennia ago. As pioneers of ink, the Chinese were amongst the first to mesh writing and its literary content with a high form of visual culture, yielding calligraphy. But in recent decades, as social and economic change has engulfed China, and globalization has popularised alternative expressive techniques, Western styles have increasingly been adopted by the country's artists, as well as members of the Chinese diaspora, eclipsing ink and its aesthetic in the process. Yet, if seemingly less popular in recent decades, neither calligraphy nor *guo hua* has lost its lustre, a young generation of Singapore ink painters pushing the boundaries of their medium in unforeseen ways.

In the hands of Singapore ink painter **June Lee Yu Juan**, both idioms are capable of infinite creative variation and visual stimulation. **June Lee Yu Juan**, through her work offers new perspectives not only on the formal possibilities of ink, but also on the place ink painting might take in broader multi-media practice. Re-examining the role of nature in Chinese pictorial tradition, and using her knowledge of other media and techniques, in recent works **Lee** effectively marries convention and a less established approach to bring innovation to the ancient paper, brush and ink language.

Lee's chosen medium is anchored in tradition, but her forms, ideas of spatial play, and concepts revolving around void, surface, shadow and light are resolutely contemporary. Experimenting with dilution to vary the intensity of her blacks and watery greys, the artist uses tonal gradation to create a sense of depth and movement in her paper works. In her "Void of Culture Series", Chinese characters are abstracted such that their form dominates their semantic meaning. These paintings are dreamlike and visually seductive rather than verbally poetic, so driving the viewer to discover a new ethos emerging from the old genre.

June Lee Yu Juan

Expanding into three dimensional space with her “Cut in Space” constructions, **June Lee** translates the quiet dynamic of her painting to small white metal sculptures that floating in the air, produce reflections of darker and slightly distorted shadows on the ground below. Thus **Lee**, in provoking a slightly tense dialogue between solid architectural form and intangible, darkened, shadow at floor level, offers a fresh way of discovering the essence of Chinese ink and the philosophical tenets that underpin it. These works, though materially different to classical painting, challenge viewers to think about existence, substance, illusion, and reality as they would when contemplating a more familiar abstracted ink on paper.

Actively rejuvenating the ancient medium of ink painting, **June Lee** uses her hovering metal shapes and their interaction with the architectural environment to engage audiences in a thoughtful re-appraisal of the endless versatility of Chinese classical aesthetics. And though **Lee's** art is framed against the backdrop of Chinese culture, it transcends the specificities of the Chinese to speak to all.

Iola Lenzi is a Singapore researcher, curator, and critic of Southeast Asian contemporary art. Interested in hybridity, **Lenzi** has written extensively about contemporary Chinese painting outside China. She is a lecturer in the Asian Art Histories MA programme of Singapore's Lasalle-Goldsmiths College of the Arts, acts as editorial advisor on the board of The Journal of Fine Arts, Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, and contributes to international art journals and anthologies.

Cut in Space Series: The Sculptures

by June Lee Yu Juan

“Cut in Space” is an investigation on the multiplicity of text and language in today’s society in 3-dimensional forms. It is an ongoing quest in search for a universal voice of today.” June

“See You Again 1”



Year: 2012
Dimensions:
60cm X 50cm X 25cm
Anodized Aluminum

Cut in Space Series: The Sculptures
by June Lee Yu Juan

“See You Again 2”



Year: 2012
Dimensions:
58cm X 70cm X 1cm
Anodized Aluminum

“See You Again 3”



Year: 2012
Dimensions:
85cm X 14cm X 12cm
Anodized Aluminum

Cut in Space Series: The Photograms
by June Lee Yu Juan

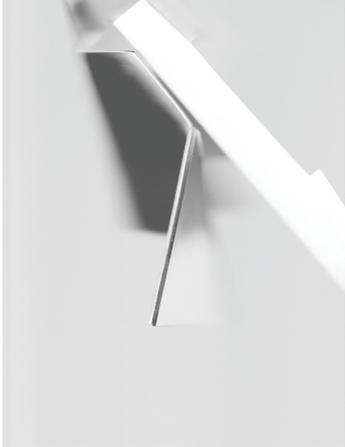
“Lost in Translation 1”



Edition 1/8
Year: 2013
Dimensions: 58cm X 93cm
C-Print on Paper

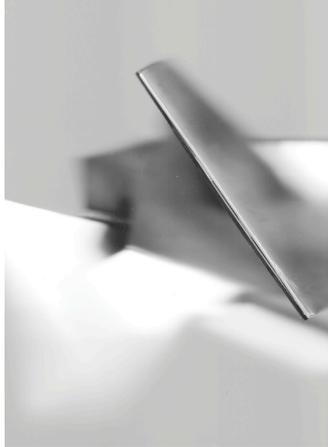
Cut in Space Series: The Photograms
by June Lee Yu Juan

“Lost in Translation 2”



Edition 1/8
Year: 2013
Dimensions: 58cm X 40cm
C-Print on Paper

“Lost in Translation 3”



Edition 1/8
Year: 2013
Dimensions: 58cm X 40cm
C-Print on Paper

“Lost in Translation 4”



Edition 1/8
Year: 2013
Dimensions: 58cm X 40cm
C-Print on Paper

June Lee Yu Juan: Biography

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

BACHELOR IN CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Major: Painting/Sculpture/ Metalsmithing

University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia [2010-2012]

DIPLOMA IN FINE ARTS

Major: Chinese ink Painting

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore [2006-2008]

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013 Cut-in-Space, Trispace, Institute of Contemporary Arts,
 LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012 Harmony Day International Students Exhibition, New Gallery,
 University of Tasmania, Australia

June Lee Yu Juan: Biography (continued)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued)

- 2011 UTAS Open Day, University of Tasmania, Launceston,
Australia New Readings, Jendela, Esplanade, Singapore
- 2010 Signed and Numbered, Entrepot Gallery, Tasmania, Australia
1st Year Painting Students Exhibition, Brisbane Hotel, Tasmania,
Australia
- 2009 NAFA Fine Arts awards, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
Ink-finite, Esplanade, Singapore
- 2008 Asian Students and Young Artists Art Festival, Seoul, Korea
Annual 1x1x1 Exhibition, Fost Private Ltd, Singapore

Void of Culture's Series

by June Lee Yu Juan

“I am concerned with the diminishing stature of Chinese ink painting and culture and the desensitization of today’s youth towards their own ethnicity, culture, and roots.” June

“Void of Culture 1”



Year: 2008

Dimensions:

120cm X 180cm

Chinese Ink on Rice

Paper

Void of Culture's Series

by June Lee Yu Juan

“Void of Culture 2”



Year: 2008

Dimensions: 115cm X 300cm

Chinese Ink on Rice Paper

Void of Culture's Series
by June Lee Yu Juan

“Void of Culture 3”



Year: 2008

Dimensions: 44cm X 225cm

Chinese Ink on Rice Paper

Void of Culture's Series

by June Lee Yu Juan

“Void of Culture 4”



Year: 2008

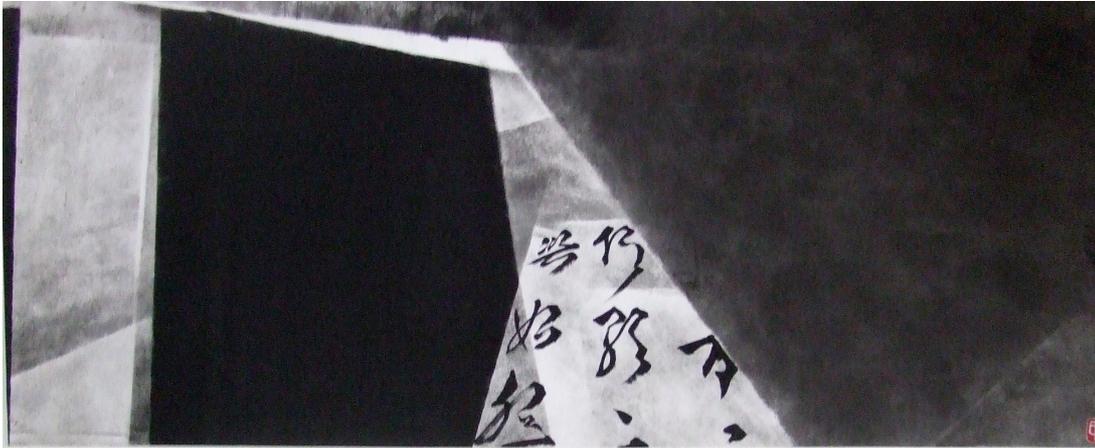
Dimensions: 50cm X 57cm

Chinese Ink and Charcoal on
Rice Paper

Void of Culture's Series

by June Lee Yu Juan

“Void of Culture 5”



Year: 2008

Dimensions: 50cm X 90cm

Chinese Ink on Rice Paper

Yves Hasselmann

by Florence Clarac – Chargée de Mission, Pôle des métiers de l'Art, Ornans, France

With his "Insolites" series, **Yves Hasselmann** brings to Singapore a breath of the Loue valley. A province of eastern France, Franche-Comté is known as the birthplace of Gustave Courbet, a French painter whose revolutionary work was so *insolite* (unconventional and quirky) for his contemporaries that it gave rise to passionate debates. While this land nourished the realism in Courbet's paintings, it now inspires abstraction for **Hasselmann**.

In the "Insolites" series, the painter's strokes are inscribed in the perfect square, creating symbols that are connected in a timeless black and white calligraphy.

Through his work, **Yves Hasselmann** invites us to discover the aesthetics of the 3 breaths: the Yin, the Yang and the Median Void. According to Francois Cheng's definition, the Median Void is "a locus of essential circulation which aspirates and drives the Yin and the Yang."

Strongly tinted areas, sparkles of light, airy and graceful strokes weave together and express a vibrant and circulating energy much like a symphonic suite. **Yves Hasselmann's** "Insolites series", reveals the duality of painting and music through which his work thrives.

* François Cheng , Chinese- born French academician, Le Dialogue, Presses artistiques et littéraires de Shanghai - Desclée de Brouwer, 2002, p.15

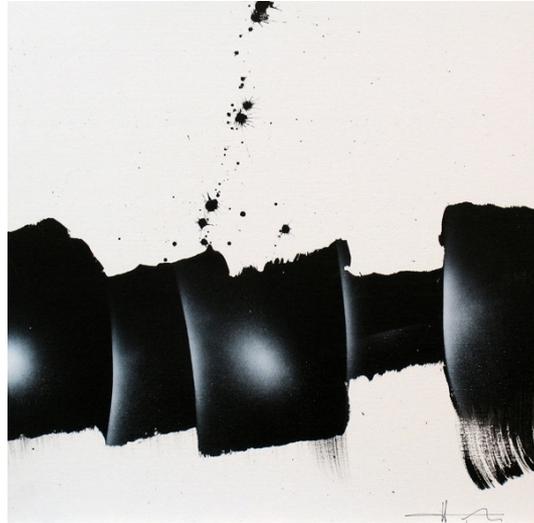
Black Reflections - White Shadows' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 1



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

No. 2



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

Black Reflections - White Shadows' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 3



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

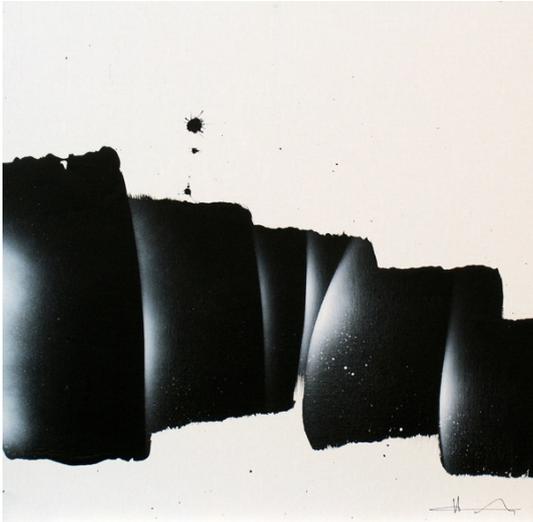
No. 4



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

Black Reflections - White Shadows' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 5



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

No. 6



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

Black Reflections - White Shadows' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 7



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

No. 8



Year: 2013
Dimensions: 40cm X 40cm
Acrylic on Cardboard

Insolites

by Yves Hasselmann

As an abstract painter for over forty years, I have regularly changed the mediums I work with: canvas, paper, cardboard, metal...

In the last ten years however, I have started painting on black backgrounds, which I prepare myself. It is a completely different experience than the more traditional work on white canvasses: after all, it is said “From darkness comes light”....

It was while preparing one of those black backgrounds on a white aluminum plate that I suddenly realized the first brush stroke and its imprint became the paint itself.

That expression, executed, repeated and refined over the last forty years became the very essence of my work: simplicity.

From the black emerged all the colors, with light surging from its powerful yet harmonious blend.... Much like in black and white photography, allowing the viewer's imagination to create his/her own colorful sublimity.

Painting in black and white became for me a journey to an unusual, strange, 'insolite' world of art. Hence naming this series of 85 paintings on metal created between 2009 and 2010: “Les Insolites”.

Insolites' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No.12 "Alors!"



Year: 2009
Dimensions:
Acrylic on Aluminum
Private Collection

Insolites' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 16 "Hésitation"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No. 17



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No. 26 "Suffisant"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum
Private Collection

Insolites' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No.47 "Loin"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No. 51



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No. 55



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

Insolites' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 57 "Ange"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum
Private Collection

No. 59 "Chute"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum
Private Collection

No.61 "Etendu"



Year: 2009
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

Insolites' Series
by Yves Hasselmann

No. 71



Year: 2010
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No. 80



Year: 2010
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

No.81



Year: 2010
Dimensions: 60cm X 60cm
Acrylic on Aluminum

Yves Hasselmann: Biography

Born in Belfort, France, in 1948, **Yves Hasselmann** now lives and works in the Franche-Comté region.

After studying philosophy, he began expressing himself through music and painting. He went on to draw from both media the energy, passion, emotion and freedom that were essential in his life.

From compositions to recordings, from concerts to exhibitions, **Yves Hasselmann** followed a path that rapidly led him to abstraction painting and a real freedom of sound in music.

He held his first exhibition in Paris at the age of 28. Lively, assured, poised and controlled, his brushstroke mirrors his touch on the keyboard. His encounters with the artists Ladislav Kijno and Jean Messagier were determining factors.

His work as a colorist painter is characterized by numerous series of prints of his environment and of interior traces captured by his memory. The media in which Yves works have become more diversified over the years, and include canvas, paper and metal.

Yves Hasselmann: Biography (continued)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITION (since 2000)

- Paris, France: La Capitale Galerie
- Pont Aven, France: Galerie du Bois d'Amour
- Annecy, France: Galerie Nemours
- Besançon, France: Galerie l'Effrontee
- Lyon, France: Galerie Goudal
- Geneva, Switzerland: Galerie Marc Gaudet
- Montpellier, France: Galerie N
- Ornans, France: Entreprise Guillin

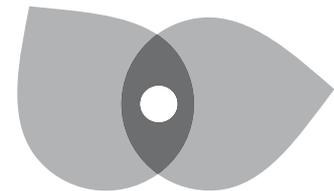
SELECTED "SALON" PARTICIPATION

- Geneva, Switzerland: Europ'art
- Besançon, France: Biennale des Arts Plastiques
- Lyon, France: Artissime
- Metz, France: Arts-Metz
- Beaune, France: Arts 2006
- Geneva, Switzerland: Salon AAG

June Lee Yu Juan & Yves Hasselmann
in
Black Reflections - White Shadows

8 - 24 November 2013

Art Gallery @ Tanjong Pagar Community Club
101 Cantonment Road
Singapore
089774



Intersections