

# COCONUTS AS INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS

*de-linking-entanglements* / Erika Tan

## OPEN STUDIO

### Erika Tan / Mita Vaghela / Tat Whalley

8<sup>th</sup> June | 11am-5pm, Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston School of Art\*.

As a way of putting “*de-linking-entanglements*” into practice, Erika will be joined in the studio at the Stanley Picker Gallery by Mita Vaghela and Tat Whalley - two new(ish) acquaintances whose work and conversations found resonances with her own. As a way of testing what this might mean or be, Erika has invited them to *spend-time-together* and to see where this could lead. Erika met Mita a year ago at a conference she organized on Global Asia’s. Since then their paths haven’t really crossed, until a recent realisation of a shared coconut fiber interest. Mita’s current work consists of a 30meter long hand-made coir net, produced from over 200 hand processed coconuts. Erika met Tat on a recent trip to retrieve a collection of objects, art works, images of her mothers from a dusty old, spider-ridden barn. On the return trip to Stanley Picker, Tat spoke about an ‘on-going project’ – it is this project, ‘Max From Greece’, which takes a musical form, and often explores the ‘covers’ that no-one else wants to play which struck a cord.

Something in these desperate conversations will hopefully surface in this meeting of semi-strangers – times below are provisional – nothing is bookable – we will be there, come join us, for a bit or all.

- **11am to 5pm: “my mothers stuff”**  
Open Studio with an on-going, changing archival engagements with the work of Fay Tan
- **12noon to 2pm: some coconut explorations**  
We will be around, trying things out - such as - germinating coconut seeds – sinking coconuts - making coconut milk - coconut shell explorations - possibly ‘coconut cacophony’
- **2pm to 4pm: Conversations between strangers**  
Mita and Erika will discuss their work and interests in coconuts - for the very first time - whilst also sharing coconut consumption via cocktails, chutney and crackers
- **4pm to 5pm: Tat’s project “Max From Greece” uncovers a new form**  
Could there be coconuts involved here?
- **5pm: Gallery Closes**

**Erika Tan** is the 2018-2020 Stanley Picker Fellow in Fine Art. Her current work is trying to work through undersigned remains, coincidental connections – putting to test ideas around *de-linking-entanglements*. More info: <https://www.stanleypickergallery.org/fellowships/erika-tan/>

**Mita Vaghela’s** practice is concerned with the value of women in Hindu Society, and focuses on her experience of ‘double diaspora’. Her research spans colonial and post-colonial theories, cultural studies and diaspora discourse interweaving personal and shared anecdotal stories; questioning social heritage and working across a range of media.

**Tat Whalley** has worked extensively as an actor and musician. His ‘Max from Greece’ project draws on both disciplines to explore music of diverse origins. Using a bare bones approach to instrumentation and performance, Tat seeks to question what we think we know about familiar songs and musical styles, presenting each song ‘as it reveals itself to us’.

\* Erika’s studio will also be open to the public on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June where she will be continuing work in the studio on “my mothers stuff” and coconut connections.

The Open Studio is part of Kingston Artist Open Studios. For other venues and events see: <http://www.kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk>

Kingston University School of Art Degree Show will also be on, so too Revital Cohen & Tuur Van Balen: Luna Eclipse, Oasis Dream. <https://www.stanleypickergallery.org>