

COCONUTS AS INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS

de-linking-entanglements

Erika Tan / *in residence*

Over the course of the summer and autumn months, Erika will be exploring through practice and discussion, research and tending, how the analogy of the 'independent traveller' aka coconut, might be used in the exploration of de-colonial delinking and post-colonial entanglements. The studio is turned into storage, archive, lab, exhibition space, propagator of distance and perspective, blind spot navigational device and repositioning tool. The physical objects in the studio are personal objects, objects-with-personal-association-come-artefacts that have been saved momentarily from disposal by fire, skip, sale, and other forms of distribution so as to find a way of making space for, thinking about, histories and presents which lack resonance and visibility.

What you see in the studio is a collection of materials and art works of Fay Tan (1940 Hertfordshire - 2005 Singapore). Self taught until the age of 50, she attended Goldsmiths B.A in Fine Art where she desired to continue to paint, but developed a practice of walking, performance and video. Prior to this she studied painting and drawing in night school at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), Singapore, and developed a ceramic practice particularly engaged with Southeast Asian ceramic processes such as burnish wear, Ban Chiang, pit firings, Japanese Raku, and latterly the making of glazes from materials found in East Anglia, UK.

Erika's intention of using the studio is to open up her process of thinking and making to discussions with others. Previous works have involved an interest in collective history making, and this project will continue to explore what this might mean for the materials and ideas beginning to be generated here. If you'd be interested to get involved, or have a chat, curate the collection, please get in touch directly with Erika.

Coconut Days: Come and talk coconuts with me.

Excavating the links of the Stanley Picker Gallery to the Coconut Fibre factory, which was previously located on the site, and to ideas of migratory objects, plants and people.

Reconfiguring objects into archives: Come curate the collection.

How to make sense of a collection of objects, through sorting, preserving, archiving and display – when their primary narrator is absent?

Erika Tan teaches in the faculty of Fine Art (4D Pathway) in Central Saint Martins School of Art, University of the Arts, London and is a founding member of Asia-Art-Activism and the 2018-2020 Stanley Picker Fellow in Fine Art.

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