

For Immediate Release

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West Coast Contemporary Art is pleased to present *El Dorado*, a group exhibition featuring five emerging young Singapore artists from the 12th April to 3rd May, 2007.

Much like the metaphor *El Dorado*, artistic pursuits may never end, simply because artists are forever learning; experimenting; maturing and evolving. An artist's creative career is always a growth process, is it any wonder why Vincent van Gogh always thought he was "far from being what [he] wants to be"?

The five young Singapore artists: Anna Lam; Lim Zi Sin; Hafifah Tan; Julia Teng; and Yap Sin Chen truly embodied the notion of *El Dorado* in their development. As a group, their work has a strong sense of colors, composition and design that is deeply rooted in western art discipline. Not surprisingly, their aspirations are guided by major art icons like Agnes Martin; Mark Rothko; Cy Twombly; and Morris Louis, just to name a few. Individually, they are a diversified group, each motivated and driven by a different set of values, and each displaying and utilizing a unique set of artistic vocabulary.

Anna Lam's broad gesture is unforgiving and confident. The paintings large over lapping flat washes and drips are instantaneous and create a spatial moment that is quite stirring and calming at the same time. Lim Zi Sin expertly uses a combination of accidents and design compositions in her drawings. The organic splashes are often intertwined with architectural lines that would ingeniously form a kind of visual wonderland. Hafifah Tan generates creativity from the mundane. Her work consists of random shapes and blotches of colours that often reveal hidden images upon closer inspection. Julia Teng approaches her art from a very personal perspective. In her drawings and sculptures, the maze-like composition is chaotically and magically put in order, resulting in a sense of comfort. Yap Sin Chen makes functional objects that are the embodiment of art. She uses common everyday materials like cardboard to create intriguing and free flowing utilitarian creations like chairs that are at once beautiful and functional.

There is no uncertainty in conviction. *El Dorado*, to a young and emerging artist is more than just a metaphor. It is a challenge and a way of life. There is tenacity, conviction and determination in these young artists' work. And as such, there is plenty of promise.

Please join WCCA and the artists at the gallery (1 Nanson Road, #02-02 Gallery Hotel, 238909) from 6 to 8pm, Thursday, 12 April 2007 for a preview party. This is an excellent opportunity for collectors, students and art lovers to support young emerging Singapore artists. Please RSVP to rsvp@wccagallery.com.