

## **WONG CHEE MENG (B. 1975)**

Wong Chee Meng's view on the world is skewed by the blurring of lines and double images-the result of an accident that left him with permanent damage to his vision. Playing on the way he sees things, in multiple layers, sometimes crossing over and overlapping, his works are complex and multi-faceted. By meticulously painting layer upon layer of images, he camouflages many stories and hidden vistas, creating harmonious compositions that reveal deeper references, as we focus and look beyond the surface.

Wong Chee Meng's interest lies in the investigation of image-making through additive and subtractive transformation. He weaves random objects and subjects into intricate forms that are seemingly there, but fade into an absolution of colour chains. To him, art has a strange presence in our daily lives; it occurs anytime and anywhere. Through his paintings, which are often combined with techniques such as paper cut and stencil, he responds to social issues and cultural interventions that play on his subconscious, urging him to question and ponder their significance. Drawing on traditional symbolism, and subjects gleaned from fables of yore, he crystalises his irreverent position and stance on the subject.

Through his latest exhibition *'Good Days Will Come'* (2020), Wong Chee Meng worked with familiar visual elements including Chinese homophones, hidden numbers, lucky phrases and charms: iconic symbols found in Chinese culture, believed to carry positive energies and blessings. Hiding key elements within his paintings' multiple layers, the artist invited the audience to slowly reveal them. He was inspired by the science of optical illusion in applying the "anaglyph 3D" effect to his paintings, achieved by encoding one image to one coloured filter. The result is a painting that revealed three different images, as seen through a red-tinted filter, cyan-tinted filter, or without a filter.

In **'A Paradigm Shift - Relecting on Twenty Years of The Malaysian Art Scene'**, Chee Meng's *'Love and Happiness'* as he explains, "Today, like everybody else living in a technologically-advanced era, we deal with digital devices and media everywhere and every day. I take the opportunity to explore 'augmented reality' (AR) in this piece, enhancing my idea to present my 'happiness' that is underlying, which is hardly visible when using traditional methods. The outcome now allows us to see the 'gaps' by understanding an artwork in dimensions, and hopefully, be an initiative to understand the world differently."



Wong Chee Meng

*Parallel Event*

Acrylic on Medium-Density Fiberboard

91.4 cm x 243.8 cm(diptych)

2012

Exhibition:

A Decade of Collecting (Part II)

Bright Young Things

Group Show

September 2012 | October 2012

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Wong Chee Meng  
*Towards the Island of Hope*  
Acrylic on Medium-density fibreboard (MDF)  
122cm x 91.5 cm(triptych)  
2012



Wong Chee Meng  
*Sequential Force*  
Acrylic on Medium-Density Fiberboard  
91.44 cm x 243.84 cm  
2012-2013

Exhibition:  
The Urban Abyss  
10 April – 15 May 2013  
WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Wong Chee Meng  
*My dear (deer)*  
Acrylic on canvas  
150cm x 150cm  
2015

Exhibition:  
[F]ortune of Lives  
5 – 30 May 2015  
WEI-LING GALLERY



Wong Chee Meng  
*Fortune Voyage*  
150cm x 150cm  
Acrylic on canvas  
2015

Exhibition:  
[F]ortune of Lives  
5 – 30 May 2015  
WEI-LING GALLERY



Wong Chee Meng  
*The Moon and Star For You*  
Acrylic on canvas  
152.36cm x 170.6cm(Diptych)  
2016

Exhibition:  
Have You Ever  
4 April – 1 May 2017  
WEI-LING GALLERY



Wong Chee Meng  
*The Juggler*  
Acrylic on canvas  
152.4cm x 213.36cm  
2017

Exhibition:  
Have You Ever  
4 April – 1 May 2017  
WEI-LING GALLERY





Wong Chee Meng  
*13 Safe and Sound*  
Acrylic on canvas  
152.5cm x 107.5cm  
2020

Exhibition:  
Good Days Will Come  
13 November 2020 – 16 January 2021  
WEI-LING GALLERY  
7 October – 12 November 2020  
WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Wong Chee Meng  
*6 May You Have a Smooth Sailing*  
Acrylic on canvas  
152.5cm x 107.5cm  
2020

Exhibition:  
Good Days Will Come  
13 November 2020 – 16 January 2021  
WEI-LING GALLERY  
7 October – 12 November 2020  
WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Wong Chee Meng  
*Vigorous Spirit*  
Mixed media  
38cm x 118cm (triptych)  
2022

Exhibition:  
WLG IGNITE by Wei-Ling Gallery  
8 April – 28 May 2022  
WEI-LING GALLERY