

WORDS BECOME ART

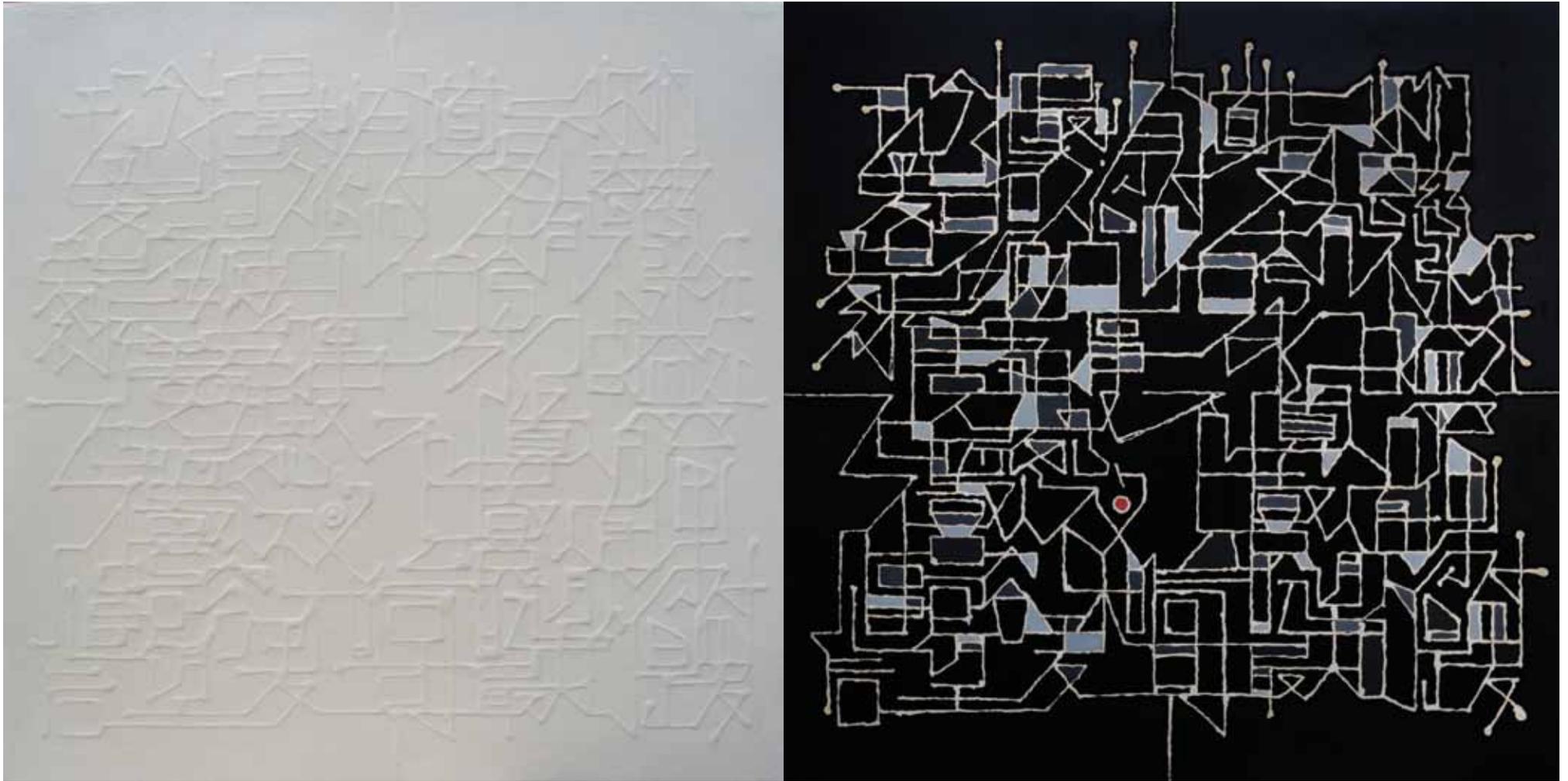
Sun Kang Jye

Wei-LingGallery



Words become art
Sun Kang Jye

20th April - 31st May 2016



Charity (1Cor. 13: 4-8)

Oil on canvas

122cm x 244cm (Diptych)

2003- 2015

The painting of “Words become art”

Written by Chong Chuin Min¹ Translated by Wai Chee Kiat

The word “Logos” in Greek means “Word” or “Speech”. According to the Holy Bible, this “Logos” became flesh—that is Jesus Christ, who dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Word becomes flesh is a theological term; it expresses the Christ who, entered into human history as a man, to reveal the truth of God Himself. It is an abstract concept being materialized into a subjective reality and revealed to the human world—a process of an idealistic concept transcended into a perceivable person. From an artistic perspective, the creative process is also a process in which “word becomes flesh”. Artists transcend their idealistic concepts into perceivable works of art.

Sun Kang Jye is a young Malaysian artist; he graduated from Kuala Lumpur College of Arts in the year 2000. For 15 years, he has unceasingly dedicated himself to his arts creation and craft. His woodcrafts are well-known among people while his paintings have rarely been exhibited and thus lesser known. As a matter of fact, he specializes in the area of paintings. Sun started on the “Word Series” creation ten years ago, that is, to create wonderful works of art inspired from the content of the Holy Bible. This exhibition displays the crown jewels from his years of creative works.

For Sun, the Holy Bible is an incarnation of the “Word” in words and these words of the Bible guide his life. Driven by his passion towards the Holy Bible, Sun is inspired by his reflection on the words of the Bible, and turns them into works of art. He focuses on reimagining scriptures’ thoughts which I term as “Words become art” paintings; he made the reading of the Bible not just an act of intellect reasoning, but even more so an artistic one.

Artistic creative ideas

As we already know, changes in the direction of modern art paintings have enabled viewers to not only explore the artist’s world through their visual creations, but to explore the works through the artist’s thoughts. The father of modern painting, Cezanne (1839-1906) introduced the style of paint from painting “what I see” to painting “what I know”. Artistic paintings have shifted to focus on painting from ideas rather than painting for visual effect. In other words, modern painters are unwilling to be “human cameras”, but to reestablish the identity of an artist.

To admire an artist who is immersed in contemporary arts and post-modernism, we need to understand the ideas of the creator himself in order to explore his worldview. An artist’s idea does not limit the scope of the viewer’s standards, rather a presentation for the viewer as a reference in achieving effects of “Fusion of horizons” among the artist and the spectators.

As mentioned before, this series focuses on reimagining the scripture. The artist chose to work with Chinese characters through consideration of their shapes, curves and color.

1. Exploration of the Chinese character structure: Chinese calligraphy stresses the importance of the word’s presentation, not only to present the word beautifully but at the same time present the harmony of text structure. Sun has considerably carried on this thought in this aspect. His creativity lies in presenting the words with an influence of western arts and also incorporating the Christian image, instead of an oriental presentation. From the whole structure of the words’ formation, we can almost see the image of the crucifix, image of the crucifixion, to name a few.

It is enjoyable to admire the artist’s work on restructuring the words. We not only admire the visual beauty of the restructuring, we can also read into the content of the artworks. This gives viewers more dimension to reflect upon and imagine on the excellent presentation.

2. Exploration of curves: Chinese words and calligraphy are made up of a series of curves, yet Sun’s creation presents the curves from sculpture and modeling to further explore the beauty of the curves. The former utilizes the technique of “subtraction”, through the methods of carving and burning, which removes the “unwanted” parts to present the effect seen on the artist’s final work; while the latter brilliantly prolongs the curves to produce the beautiful image appearing like a floating form. The two techniques used are pioneering methods and new to us, thus when the spectators admire the works, we should focus on the effects presented, this feature is truly the unique creation of the works.

3. Exploration of art structure’s color combinations: Contemporary arts started to consider color combinations in art works. This creation has the similar effect of “Cool abstraction” from Mondrian (1872-1944), but Sun’s creation with its curves and content presentation differentiates itself from the rationality, coldness and formalism of cool abstraction. Although Sun’s artworks are rational and stable, they are not of stiff coldness, but have the calmness of a wise old man—as if sitting patiently while calmly expressing his words of wisdom.

1 Current lecturer in Seminari Theoloji Malaysia. Has been a lecturer in Kuala Lumpur College of Art (KLCA) , Central Arts Academy (Johor Bahru), Neo-Art Institute and New Era College .

2 This idea is inspired by the map structure of the termite nest.

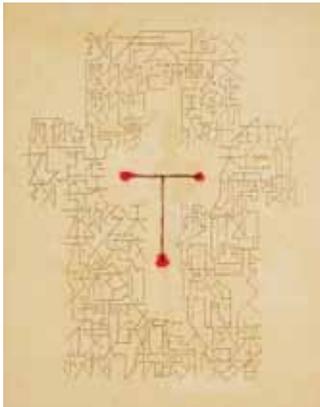
Religious paintings and contemporary arts

This series of artworks is rich in religious elements, yet it is not a recreation of traditional religious arts but a contemporary work with religious colors. I do not agree that every Bible themed artwork is a Christian artwork. It is because a Christian artwork must be an art piece first, and only then be called a Christian artwork, which is based on the Bible. We cannot assume that every Christian image, poster and brochure is Christian art.

What is art? Theologically speaking, creating art is human imitating God's act of creation; art is of a human using his creativity to make an art piece. An art piece is a result of human learning the creation derived from body, mind and soul-- it is a product of human's wisdom.

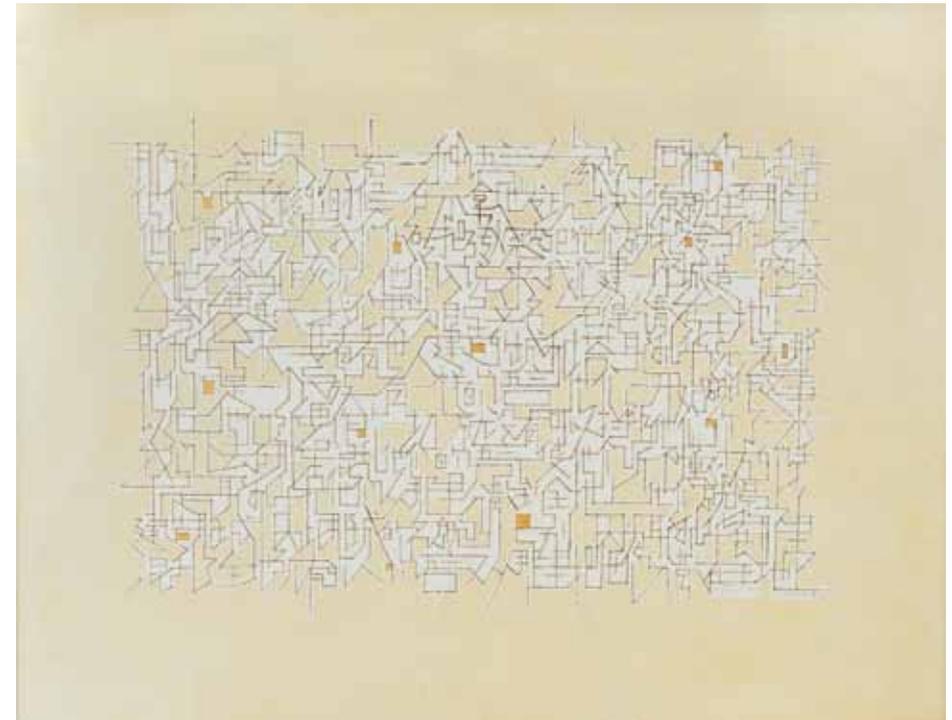
Sun's art works are relevant to both Christian arts and the worldly development of contemporary arts. The immeasurable value of Sun's art lies in his effort to contribute to contemporary Christian artworks. In the long run, these carry an important purpose in the long history of Christian arts development. Sun bridged the divide between Christianity and modern arts, while opening a new chapter and presentation of Christian paintings.

Hopefully, Sun can keep up his effort in contributing more excellent artworks to the world, even more so the painting circle to pay more attention to this young artist's potential and contributions.



The Lord's Prayer (Jn. 6: 9-13) (L) No.1 & (R) No. 2

Red ink, acrylic, iron in cardboard
72cm x 57cm (each)
2010

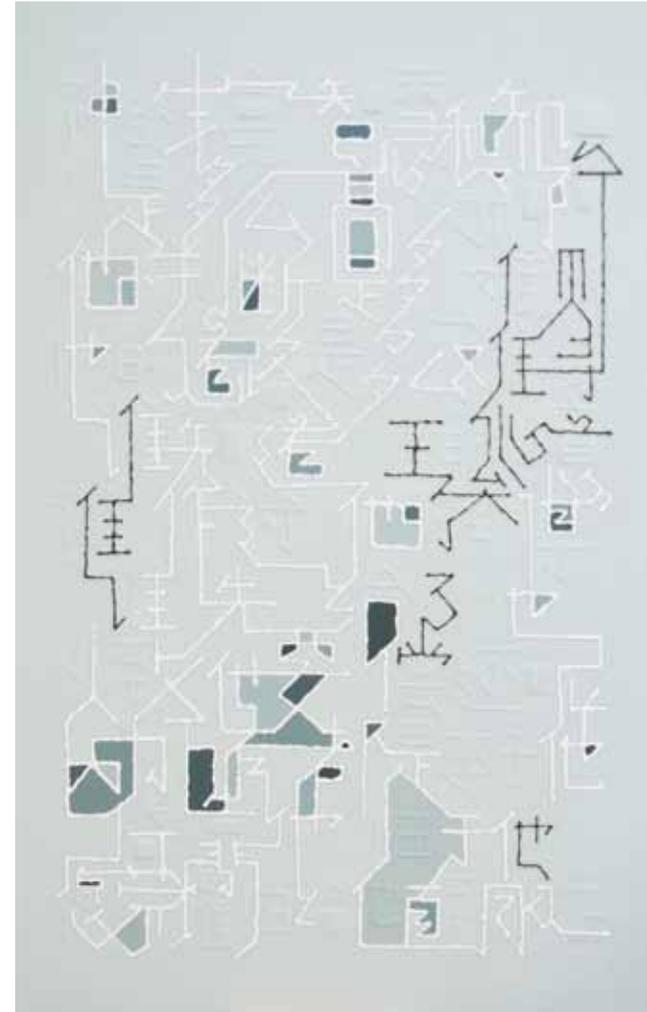


Ge. 11: 1-9 (The Story of Babel)

Acrylic, iron in cardboard
85.5cm x 105cm
2010



Rev. 4: 8, 4: 11
Acrylic on canvas
191cm x 106.5cm
2016



Ro. 11: 33: 36
Acrylic on canvas
183cm x 115cm
2016



Ant (Pr. 6: 6-8)
Acrylic on canvas
115cm x 225cm (Triptych)
2016

“道成艺术”

文：张俊明¹ 翻译：韦智杰

“道”（Logos）在希腊文指“语言”或“言说”之意。按圣经记载，这“道”成了肉身——就是耶稣基督，住在我们中间（约翰福音1：14）。

“道成肉身”（Word become flesh）是基督教神学的术语，表达作为上帝，进入历史成为人。总意是说，那超越的，最终以具体的方式呈现在人类世界中。从艺术的角度来说，创作过程其实就是一个“道成肉身”的过程。艺术家将心中的理念变成可感知的艺术品。

孙康杰（Sun Kang Jye）马来西亚的年轻艺术家，2000年毕业于吉隆坡美术学院。15年来，涓涓不断投入艺术创作，叫人熟悉是他的木雕作品，至于他绘画作品鲜少展示于大众。事实上，他主修绘画，早在十年前他就开始“文字系列”创作，即以圣经文字作为他创作题材。这次展出的作品正是他累计多年心血。

在康杰看来，圣经是“道”的文字化。因为对圣经内容情有独钟，开始了将经文艺术化。他关注是如何再现圣经文字和内容。我称这些作品为“道成艺术”；他让阅读经文不只是一种知性活动，更是感性的艺术活动。

艺术家创作理念

众所周知，现代绘画转向后，使得观众不太能单从视觉角度进入画家作品世界，而是必须通过画家提供思想线索(理论)进入作品。正像现代绘画之父塞尚(Cezanne, 1839- 1906)告诉我们，他并不满足以画“我所看见”，而是转而追求画“我所知道”。如此一来绘画艺术已经走向对理念的看重，多于视觉效果的重视。从另一角度来说，现代画家不甘于成为人肉照相机，而要重拾艺术家的身份。

要欣赏一位受现代艺术洗礼，又浸淫在后现代洗礼的艺术家，我们需要理解艺术家创作理念，以便进入其艺术家世界。艺术家创作理念并不是限制读者的诠释，是作为一种参照(as a reference)，而鉴赏的过程就是盼望观者诠释与艺术家理念达致“视界融合”(Fusion of horizons)的效果。因此盼望对康杰创作理念讲解能让大家与他的作品产生视域融合。

此系列创作，艺术家选择了汉字，并在对这些文字作三方面思考。

(一) 文字结构重组的探索：中国书法艺术，对文字造型非常讲究，不但要求单字造型美感，更不可忘记整体文章结构的和谐。在这点上康杰延续书法艺术思考，但不同的是，此系列创作，较重于西方几何造型，并融入了基督教圣像造型元素。在文字整体结构，我们可隐约看见如：十字架、耶稣圣像、被钉十字架等造型。

观赏艺术家对文字结构重组，这是一件享受的事；不但可欣赏视觉美感，更可尝试阅读画里的内容，让读者对文字内容有更多想象空间。

(二) 线条的探索：文字由线条组成，中国书法以毛笔发挥线条美感，但康杰创意尝试以“雕”和“塑”两种形式探索线的美。前者是减法形式，如“雕琢”和“碳烧”方法，将多余部分去掉或烧掉，以便呈现线条效果。后者是加法形式，如以浮凸为线条路线。²不论是哪一种方式，对我们来说都是新颖的，观者在观赏这些画时，必须观察线条所呈现的效果，这正是作品独特之处。

(三) 画面结构色彩组合的探索：近期艺术家开始加入色彩在他作品中，这系列作品有着西方“冷抽象”(Cool abstraction)画家蒙特里安(Monderian 1872-1944)效果，但由于康杰的作品在线条和文字内容内涵，使作品走出冷抽象绘画的理性、冰冷和形式主义的困境。没错，康杰作品是理性和冷静的，但却不是机械式冷静，而是更像一个智者老人的冷静——安静坐着，沉着而冷静述说智慧的话语。

宗教画与当代艺术

这系列作品有着浓厚宗教色彩，但却不是传统意义的宗教画艺术，而是与当代艺术接轨的宗教艺术。我不认为凡取材自圣经的绘画就是基督教艺术，因为若被称为基督教的艺术，前提是该作品必须是“艺术”，然后才可能称为基督教的艺术。一个取材圣经的成品，可以是基督教插图、基督教海报、基督教传单，而未必是基督教艺术。

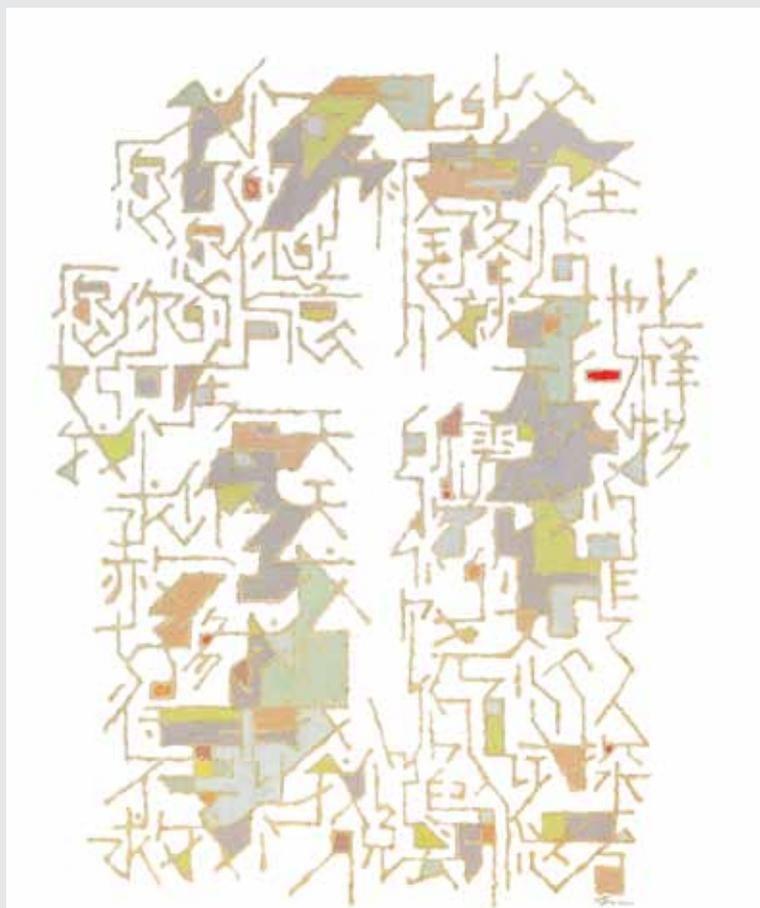
到底什么是艺术呢？就神学角度而言，“艺术创作是人学像上帝的活动”，即人使用上帝给予的创造力(Creativity)进行创造之工。上帝就似艺术家，宇宙万物和人类就是他的作品。我认为艺术之所以是艺术必需拥有创造力活动，即是一种反思、沉思的活动。

康杰的作品不是隔绝的，而是属于基督教艺术史的一页，因他试着以当代基督徒艺术家的定位进行创作。对我而言，这些作品有着重要的意义，因为它示范了基督教与当代艺术接轨的可能性，展示了宗教绘画新面貌。

盼望，康杰继续为艺术界带更多好作品，更希望画坛上留意这位年轻艺术家潜能与贡献。

1 现任马来西亚神学院(Seminari Theoloji Malaysia)讲师。曾任吉隆坡美术学院、中央艺术学院(新山)、时代艺术学院和新纪元学院纯美术系讲师。

2 此灵感来自白蚁筑窝的路线图。



(Jn. 6: 9-13) No. 3

Acrylic on canvas
127cm x 105cm
2011



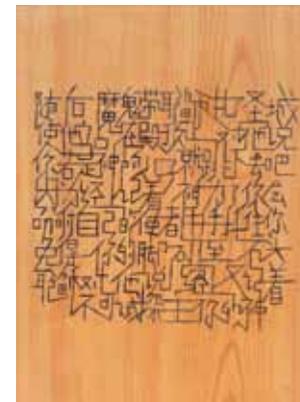
Psalms (Ps. 121: 1-2)

Acrylic on canvas
122cm x 122cm
2016



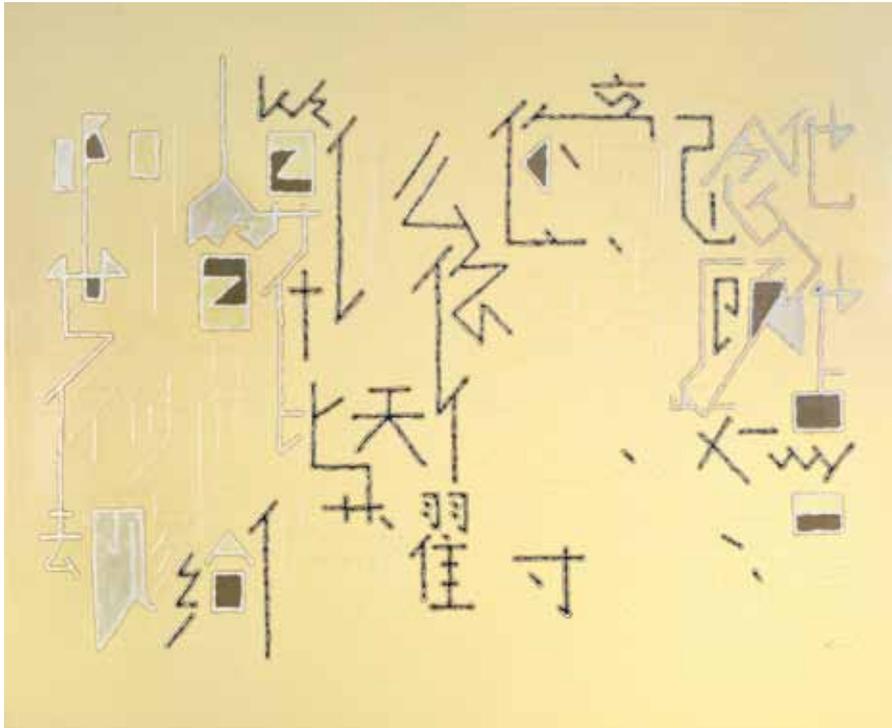
Psalms (Ps. 150)

Craft, iron in acoustic guitar
104cm x 40cm x 11.5cm
2015



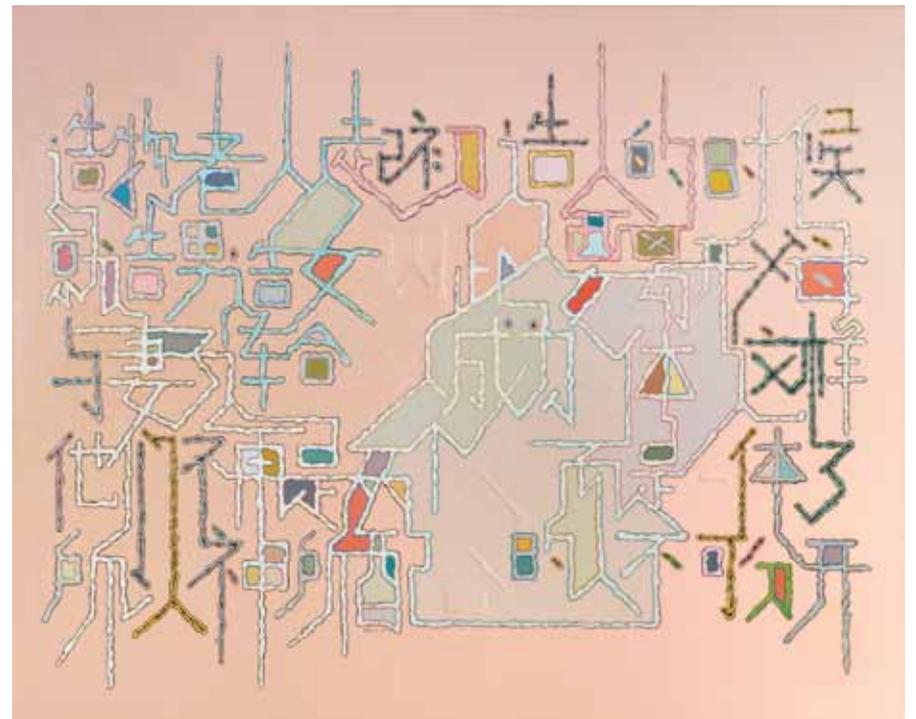
Temptations I, II, III (Mt. 4: 1-11)

Craft in furniture board
(L) 40cm x 30cm (Matthew 4: 1-4)
(C) 40cm x 30cm (Matthew 4: 5-7)
(R) 40cm x 29cm (Matthew 4: 8-11)
2012



Psalms (Ps. 8: 4-5)

Acrylic on canvas
119cm x 149cm
2016



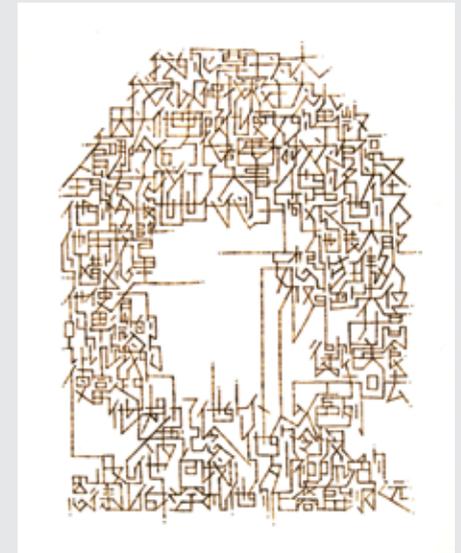
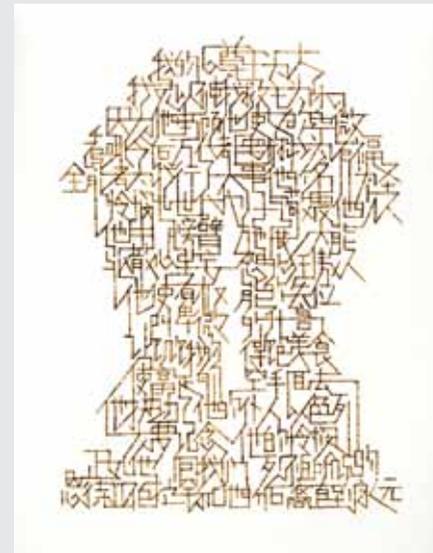
Everlasting Covenant (Mt. 19: 5-6)

Acrylic on canvas
119cm x 149cm
2016



Psalms (Ps. 100)

Oil on linen
122cm x 122cm
2011



The Prayer (Lk. 1: 46-55) (L) No.1 & (R) No. 2

Iron in 300gsm new grain watercolour paper
50.8cm x 40.6cm (each)
2009-2010



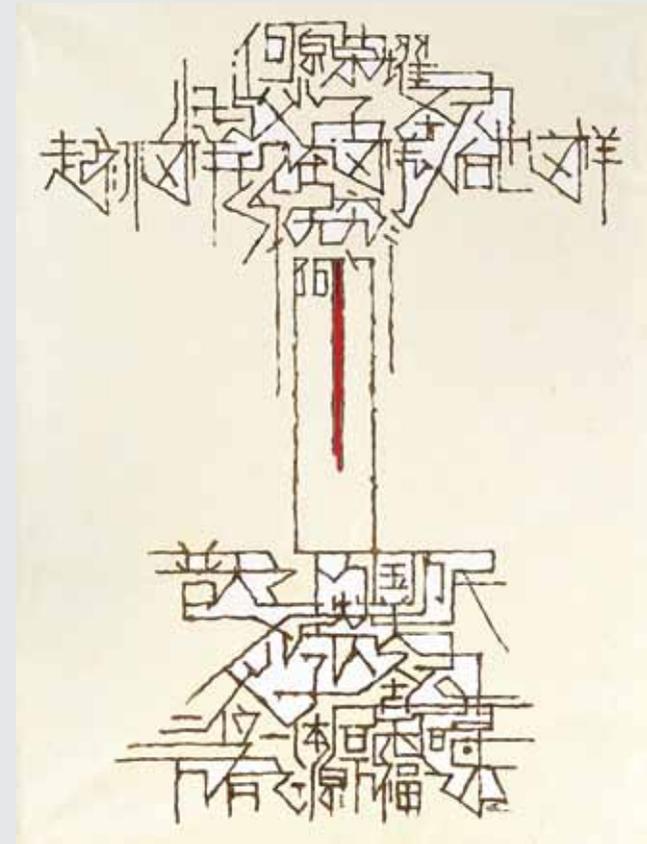
Death - Resurrection

Oil colour, ready-made object
46cm x 55cm
2010



Fully God - Fully Man

Acrylic, oil colour, ready-made object
35cm x 31cm
2010

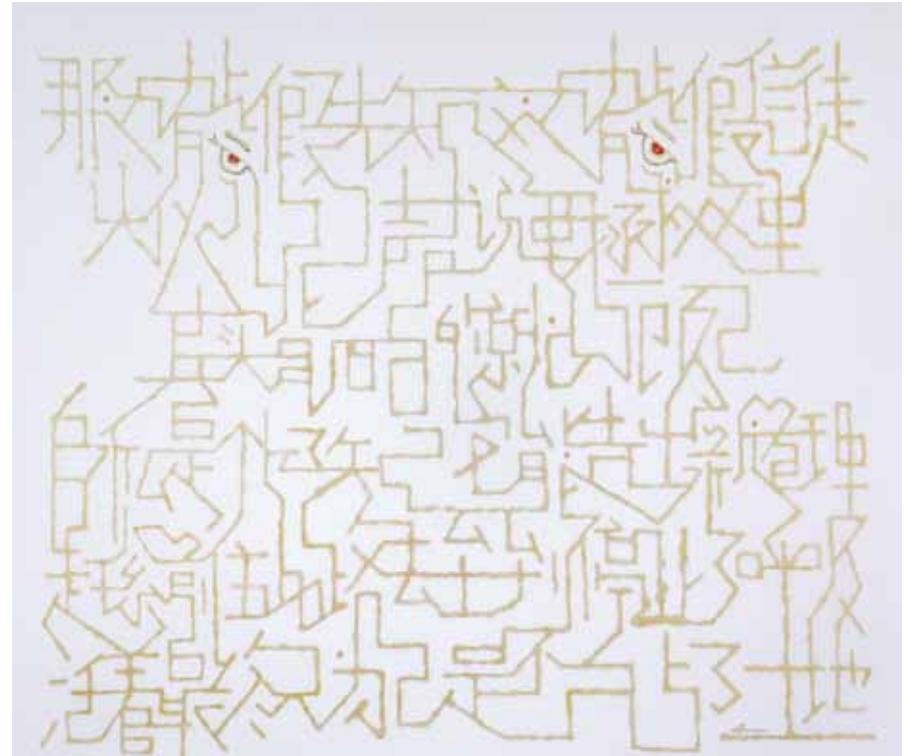


Gloria Patri & Doxologies (Hymn)

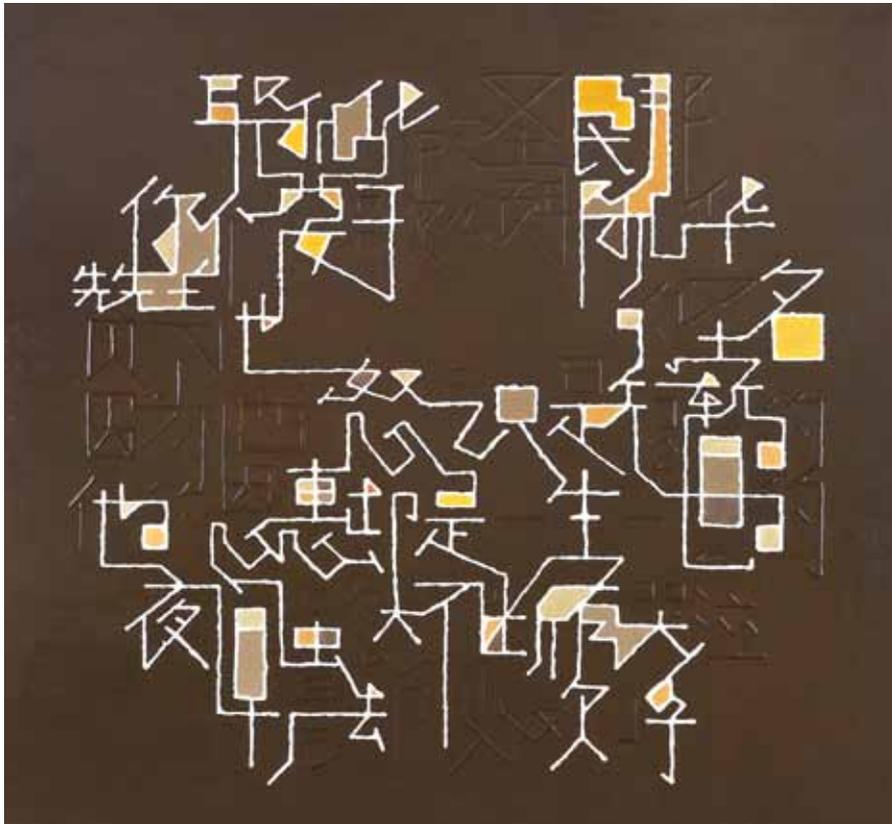
Oil on canvas
110cm x 82cm
2010



Self (Artist verse)
Iron in cardboard
109cm x 96.5cm
2010



Self (Artist verse)
Acrylic on canvas
128cm x 114cm
2011



Psalms (Ps. 30: 4-5)

Acrylic on canvas
136.5cm x 143.5cm
2016



Psalms (Ps. 134)

Acrylic, iron in cardboard
111.5cm x 100.3cm
2010



Faith (Heb. 111-3)

Acrylic, iron in 220gsm cartridge
paper acid free
41.5cm x 41.5cm
2011



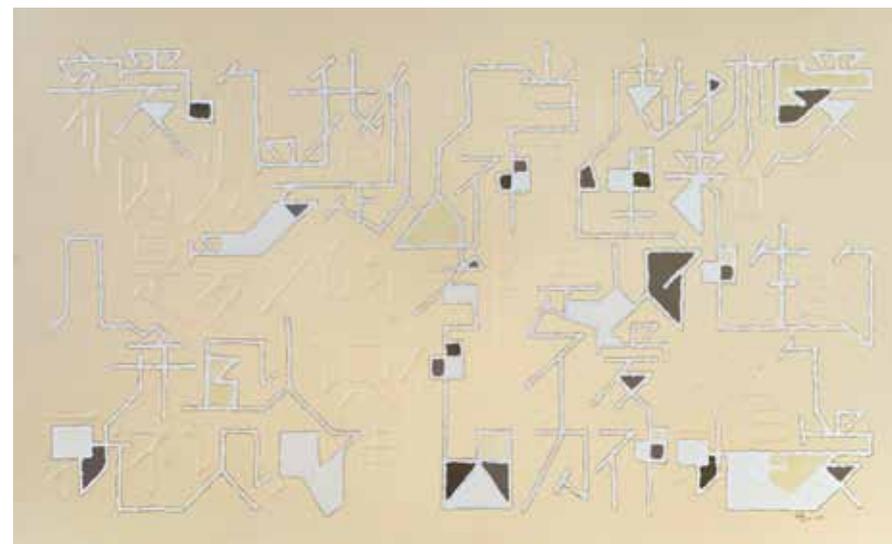
(L) Rebirth I (Jn. 3: 16-18, 3: 19-21)

Pastel, iron in 220gsm cartridge paper acid free
41.6cm x 45.6cm
2011



(R) Rebirth II (Jn. 3: 16-18, 3: 19-21)

Pastel, iron in 220gsm cartridge paper acid free
41.6cm x 54.5cm
2011



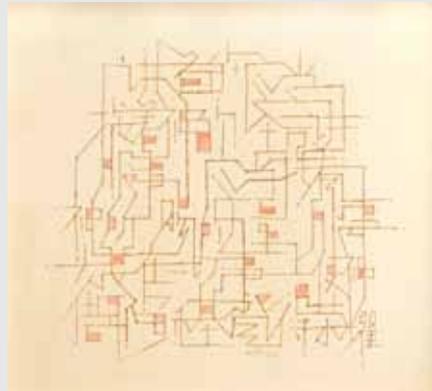
1Jn. 4: 7-8

Acrylic on canvas
92cm x 152.5cm
2016



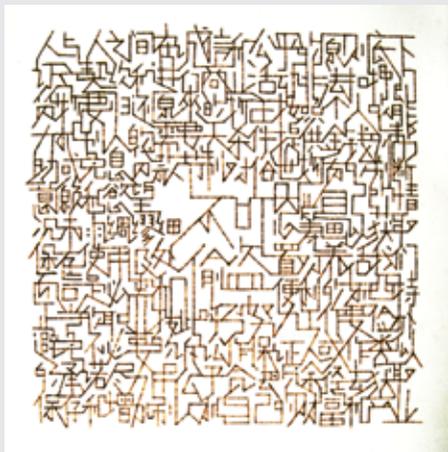
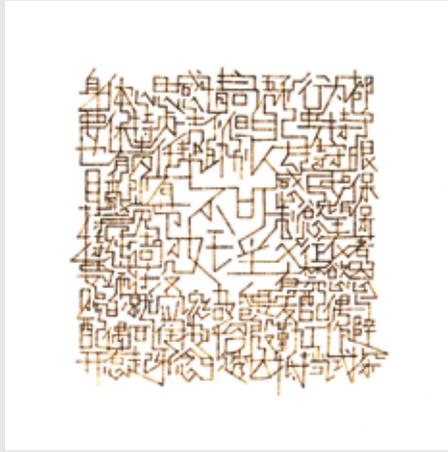
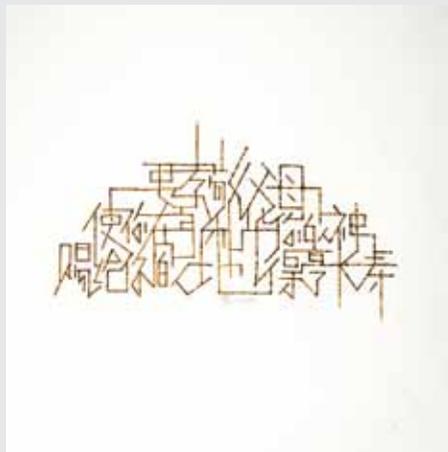
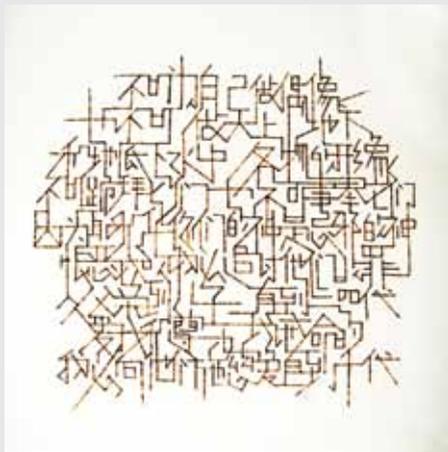
(1Pe. 4: 9-10, 4: 11)

Acrylic, iron on cardboard
39cm x 41cm (each) (Diptych)
2010



(Gal. 5: 22-26)

Oil on canvas
77.5cm x 122cm
2010



- 1 2 3 4
- 5 6 7 8
- 9 10

Ten Commandments

Iron in 300gsm new grain water colour paper
 40.8cm x 40.8cm (Polytych of ten works)
 2009



Sun Kang Jye b.1978

Hailing from Malacca, Sun Kang Jye received his Diploma in Fine Art from KLCA in 2000. He has been exhibiting his artworks since 1999, showing in key exhibitions like the Philip Morris Malaysia-ASEAN Competition and Lost Generation Space's Notthatbalai Art Festival.

Accolades received include HOM & Gallery Chandan's Malaysian Emerging Artist (MEA) Award, Starhill Gallery's Visual Art Awards and Honorable Mention at the Philip Morris Malaysia-ASEAN Competition.

EDUCATION

2000 Diploma in Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur College Of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SOLO EXHIBITION

2016 Words become art, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 18@8 Heirlooms, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Stories of 11 Artworks, HOM Art Trans, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 Prudential- Malaysian Eye – Contemporary Malaysian Art (Showcases), White Box & Black Box, MAP, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 Malaysia Eye Showcases – Arts Kuala Lumpur London 2013, Nolias 11 Gallery, United Kingdom
20@13 Artist Group Exhibition, G13 Gallery, Selangor, Malaysia
Duo: Exile Boundaries exhibition by Chong Kim Chiew & Sun Kang Jye, HOM Art Space, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2012 MEAA: 5 Winner Show case, White Box, MAP, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
HOM Art Trans: TRANSIT A4, HOM Art Trans, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Pay Fong Art Gallery, 2012 Invitation Art Show, Malacca, Malaysia
- 2011 Kasihnya Ibu, Pameran Seni, National Art Gallery (BSVN), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tanah Ayer: Malaysian stories from the Land, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2010 Moon Walk Pudu Art Festival, Pudu community Art Project, Pudu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 Malaysia International Christian Artists show 2009 continuing 2000 years of Christian Art Heritage at Galeri Dunia Seni Lukis Malaysia
Unity Art Fellowship 10th Anniversary Show, PGRM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
MESSAGES: Christian Artists Art Exhibition at Art Seni Gallery Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
House Warming, Resident Artists by Australia and local Artists Exhibition, Lost Generation Space, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 Lost Generation Space-nothatBalai art festival –Bangun-Abandon project, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 Lost Generation Space-nothatBalai art festival –Sama-Sama, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 6th International Christian Creative Conference Art Show, Genting Highland, Malaysia
- 2005 Lost Generation Space-nothatBalai art festival –Kuasa Tinggi, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 The Art Fellowship Annual Art Exhibition, Federal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Lost Generation Space-nothatBalai art festival, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 Philip Morris Malaysia – Asean Competition (exhibition)
The Wood Sculpture, Le Bois Creation Art Gallery, Malacca, Malaysia

- 2002 JESUS SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN, L.A. USA
Tour Exhibition, Kluang and Malacca Chinese High School, Malaysia
The Art Revival, Art Exhibition, PGRM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 Philip Morris Malaysia- Asean Competition
- 2000 KLCA "I Draw" Graduation Show, 2000
Youth Day, Mural Painting Project at Culture Avenue
Bakat Muda, Sezaman 2000 the young contemporaries
Philip Morris Malaysia- Asean Competition (exhibition)
The Impression of Malacca, Clay House, Malacca, Malaysia
- 1999 Exhibition, KLCC, 1999 (Young Work Of Art), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Creative Craft Design competition, Mid Point Shopping Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

RESIDENCE

- 2006 Lost Generation Art Space (Kuala Lumpur) – 1 year

AWARDS

- 2015 A FEST (Music & Art Festival) Chin Woo Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 Malaysian Emerging Artist Award (MEAA 2011) Top 5 Winner, by HOM & GaleriChandan, show in Soka Gakkai Malaysia
- 2010 Starhill Gallery Visual Art Awards (VAA) -"NOW", Top 6 Winner, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 Philip Morris Malaysia- Asean Competition (Honorable mention)

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- National Art Gallery Malaysia
Prudential Corporation Asia- Hong Kong
Starhill Gallery Kuala Lumpur (YTL)



Wei-Ling Gallery

Produced by **Wei-Ling Gallery**

To accompany the exhibition entitled '**WORDS BECOME ART**'
by SUN KANG JYE from 20th April- 31st May 2016 at

Wei-Ling Gallery

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT | Pastor Chong Chuin Min
| Pastor Wai Chee Kiat
| Family

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