

# images of art:

*the artist in front of the camera*

A photo exhibition of art by **Ray Ong**

Paintings will be on display till 12 February 2006



## **the coffee connoisseur**

51 Circular Road "The Gallery"

Opening Hours :

Monday to Friday 11.00am to 00.30am

Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 1.30am

- **An Art Space for Everyday Use:**

At tcc's Circular Road outlet we have created an Art Gallery where a whole range of work by both local and foreign artists will be featured through constantly changing exhibitions. Something new will be on view approximately every three months.

The old heritage building that backs on to Singapore's historic river district lends itself perfectly to an art gallery. The ground floor offers the more conventional seating for those in a rush, while those who want to escape from outside pressure and stress can slip upstairs out of sight and away from the sound of the busy street outside.

Here the seating is even more unconventional; beanbags that let you sink into oblivion are scattered across the space. Here you can read the art magazines provided and enjoy the paintings on the wall. Art, like a great cup of coffee, shouldn't be rushed.

tcc created this very special art space in a city that seeks to nurture the arts because we want art to communicate in a relaxed atmosphere. And let's face it! It's so easy to relax over a good cup of coffee.

The artists whose work appears at the Art Gallery at tcc have a wonderful opportunity to reach a wider audience through a space that is frequented by people from many areas of work, and especially those who may not have the time nor inclination to visit more conventional art spaces like museums and galleries.

**artist in front of Ray's camera are:**

***Ann Healey***

***Christiane Wyler***

***Einstein Kristiansen***

***Sepi Valeriu***

***Louis Wah***

- **Special Partnerships:**

tcc recognises the benefits not only of supporting the arts by forging creative partnerships with people who specialise in the arts, we also let art experts do what they're good at while we get on and do what we're best at – providing excellent service and great coffee.

We work exclusively with art-management.com, a company dedicated to promoting and managing visual artists both in Singapore and overseas. art-management.com has, from its beginning focused on linking the artists it represents with leading brand names in a way that will be of benefit to both artist and brand. tcc is the latest in a long list of leading brands that art-management.com has been proud to work with.

Claude Verly, Director of art-management.com has commented in relation to his partnership with tcc, "One of the biggest challenges in managing art and artists in Singapore today is finding new and unusual venues in which to present the art, and then matching up the artist with the venue. This latest venture with tcc takes art-management.com into a new phase; together we can take art into the public arena rather than relying on people coming to the art. At the Art Gallery at tcc, the art will be there whether people look at it or not."

Through art-management.com, tcc is able to provide space to artists free of rent, and as a chain business we can further support them by providing publicity and exposure through media coverage and other events. tcc can help absorb many of the costs that artists find it hard to deal with.

- **images of art:**

*the artist in front of the camera*

tcc's latest exhibition at the Art Gallery will be of photos by Singaporean Photographer Ray Ong. The exhibition will be on display till 12 February 2006, at **the coffee connoisseur** 51 Circular Road "The Gallery".

For further information on Ray Ong's exhibition, please refer to enclosed press write up.

For more information or to arrange an interview with the artist, contact:

Claude Verly (+65) 6479 2445 [claudio@art-management.com](mailto:claudio@art-management.com)



Ray Ong

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## *the artist in front of the camera*

Art is a reflection of the artists who creates it. They transfer part of themselves onto the canvas, writing their thoughts, feelings and responses to the world through the medium of their brush. This aspect of art too often remains unseen; the viewer sees only the finished work and thereby misses part of the communicative element of art.

Ray Ong is a photographer, another kind of artist, who paints with the camera, snapping moments and freezing them forever. By placing the artist in front of his camera Ray has intervened with the artistic process and added this missing dimension – the artist captured in the process of creating, the transfer of ideas from a mind, to the hand, to the canvas.

The artist laughs as she paints; the colours, some bright, some subdued, are swept onto the paper to reflect her inner feelings. She takes a pen and writes; she is a poet who adds her words to her colours.

Another artist frowns in concentration as she bends over the table at which she works. The room is infused with strong, bold 'rainbows' of colour that she arranges and rearranges until her subconscious acknowledges that everything is as it should be. She stops and contemplates her work and suddenly breaks into a smile and then laughs as the inner feelings she was trying to express fall out onto the colours before her.

This artist is a clown who takes hold of the same colours and creates painted childlike space of talking animals and dayglo patterns to lighten up a world that is constantly reminding us of sorrow. The crazy alter world of an artist casts away that heavy load and reminds us that we need to live, we need to immerse ourselves in laughter and join his universe of colour.

But the colours of life may also be more sombre and this artist draws on the contrasts of sorrow and joy in different aspects of his work. He focuses for a while on a huge canvas stretched across a wall. The upturned faces portrayed are heavy with sorrow as they gaze at the crucifixion and weep. The artist turns away and adds a few strokes to a portrait of a beautiful, smiling woman. He keeps his thoughts well hidden, and yet we somehow know that there is a connection.

To understand another artist we need to see the dance of his brush across the canvas. It twists and turns and sweeps in an arc in time to the rhythm of his arm. Until you see the artist dance through his work you cannot truly appreciate the rhythm of the finished work.

And so do all the artists work to a rhythm, and inner rhythm of thoughts and feelings. This is the source of their creation, and this is what the camera has captured.

Dr. Sian E. Jay