

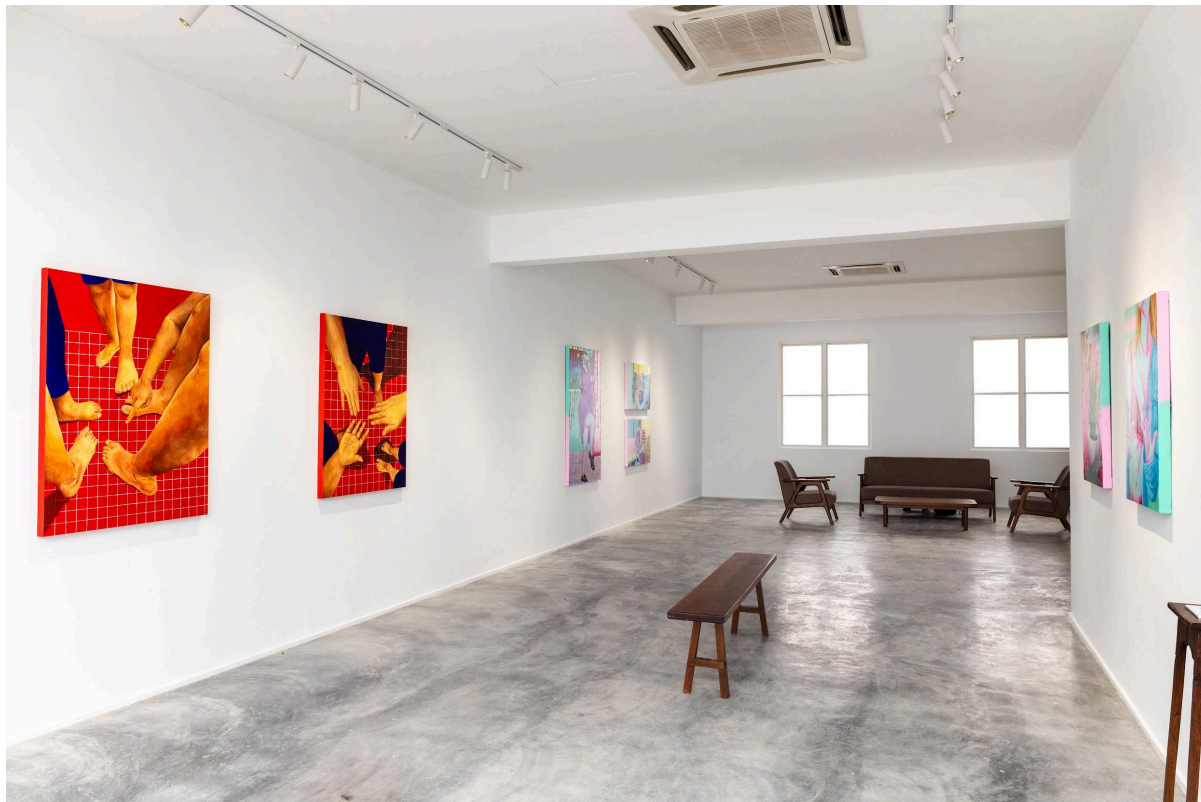
# RISSIM CONTEMPORARY

## Two Tales

An exhibition by **Hana Tan & Ong Pei Yee**

April 6th 2024 – May 4th 2024

**Gallery Hours:** Friday to Sunday, 12pm – 7pm



Two Tales (2024), Rissim Contemporary

**Rissim Contemporary** is pleased to announce *Two Tales*, an exhibition featuring the works of Hana Tan (b.1995, Sabah) and Ong Pei Yee (b.1999, Selangor). Both figurative artists and graduates of Fine Art from USM Penang, Hana Tan and Ong Pei Yee present an evocative exploration of childhood memories, identity, and cultural hybridity. *Two Tales* will be on view at Rissim Contemporary from 6th April to 4th May 2024.

Ong Pei Yee's series begins with a contemplation of her childhood memories as she navigates adulthood. Transitioning into a new phase of life, she finds herself meditating on the simplicity and joy of childhood games, such as 鸡鼓棒 (chicken, drum, stick), 剪刀石头布 (rock, paper, scissors), lat tali lat tali tam pom, and eating thumbs, while also the use of plastic chairs in different arrangements to play games like 大风吹 (the wind blows), and musical chairs. Pei Yee reflects on the profound impact these experiences have had on her personal growth and whether life really does need to be as complicated as we make it to be. Through her series of paintings, she seeks to capture the essence of childhood innocence and wonder, as she deliberately paints closeups of hands, feet, and isolated chairs against a vague backdrop, much like how nostalgia is often surreal and fragmented. By exploring themes of memory and resilience, Ong Pei Yee's art invites viewers to reflect on their own journeys of self-discovery and growth.

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Hana Tan's series centers on the liminal space of cultural hybridity and identity. Drawing from her background as a former tribe dancer, Tan's paintings explore traditional movement in contemporary domestic environments. Inspired by her transition from Sabah to peninsular Malaysia, Tan challenges stereotypes surrounding female identity by depicting her subjects engaged in everyday activities like washing dishes or vacuuming. Through her works, Tan prompts viewers to reassess their relationships with tribal and traditional pasts amidst contemporary Westernisation. Using a juxtaposition of flat planes and two-dimensional elements, Tan creates a surreal and immersive stage presence, inviting viewers to navigate through unfamiliar spaces and experiences. By manipulating surroundings and everyday objects as props for her dancers, Tan underscores the fluidity and adaptability of cultural identity, urging viewers to contemplate how interactions with different cultures shape and redefine identities.

As visitors journey through "Two Tales," they are invited to explore the intersection of childhood innocence, cultural hybridity, and personal identity. Through the vibrant and thought-provoking works of Ong Pei Yee and Hana Tan, viewers are prompted to reflect on their own experiences of growth, resilience, and cultural belonging.

## **About Hana Tan**

Hana Tan (b.1995, Beaufort, Sabah) lives and works between her hometown in Beaufort, Sabah and Klang, Selangor. Hana recently graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with a BA in Art (Hons). She has been shortlisted for numerous awards, including the UoB Painting of the year (2021).

"I explore the liminal space of being a former tribe dancer, transitioning from various unconventional settings to traditional dancing in modern attire, embracing cultural hybridity and juxtaposition. My relocation from Sabah to peninsular Malaysia sparked a deeper contemplation on the formation of identities. The coexistence between different cultures serves as the focal point of my paintings, which are populated with subjects intimately connected to my cultural heritage.

My works employ a contrast of flat planes and two-dimensional elements, symbolising the convergence of disparate subjects within the same space. Utilising an optimistic prismatic colour spectrum, I create a spotlight effect that lends a surreal and occasionally eerie ambiance to the stage presence depicted in my art. My paintings often portray dancers navigating unfamiliar spaces, manipulating surroundings and incorporating everyday objects as props, choreographing their routines to harmonise with their surroundings"

Hana Tan  
March 2024

## **About Ong Pei Yee**

Ong Pei Yee (b. Selangor, 1999) is an emerging artist from Malaysia who earned her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang. Pei Yee is a multidisciplinary artist who's work primarily revolves around the mediums of acrylic and oil painting. Her recent series of works delve into the theme of memories, serving as poignant reminders of those who have departed from our

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lives. In her artistic exploration, she contemplates the transient nature of time and the enduring impact of individuals and moments. Pei Yee's works have been exhibited in Malaysia. She has also been awarded the Bronze prize for the UOB Painting of the Year (2022) in the Emerging Artist Category. Through her art, Ong Pei Yee invites us to explore the profound connection between memory, personal reflection, and the power of visual expression. Her work stands as a testament to the enduring influence of art in capturing the essence of our lives and the memories that shape us.

"Contemplating the connection between childhood experiences and our present-day personalities, I find myself at a pivotal moment in life - graduation. Amidst the chorus of voices resisting adulthood and its perceived difficulties, I question the simplicity of childhood. I realise that as children, everything seemed easy and uncomplicated. We found joy in simple games, using nothing more than our hands, legs, chairs, and paper. Time moved slowly, allowing for endless exploration and energetic play. Upon reflection and conversations with friends, I recognize the stark differences between children of today and my own upbringing. The games we played served as more than mere pastimes; they nurtured physical strength, honed observation and conversation skills, and developed our ability to respond to challenges - qualities increasingly rare in today's technology-driven world.

In my upcoming series of paintings, I aim to capture the essence of childhood simplicity using humble materials that evoke a sense of nostalgia. These paintings transform into playful games, reminiscent of those from my youth. Whether it's using hand figures for games like 'chicken, drum, stick' or 'rock, paper, scissors,' or arranging chairs for variations of 'the wind blows' or 'musical chairs,' each artwork serves as a window into my cherished memories. The grid background symbolises the tiles of my childhood, subtly metaphorizing the vast expanse of life's journey."

Ong Pei Yee  
March 2024

For further information on the exhibition please contact [info@rissim.com](mailto:info@rissim.com)  
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