

Report

Life is Elsewhere: A solo exhibition by Ho Chee Jen

Life is Elsewhere

生活在他方

An exhibition by
Ho Chee Jen
何子贞个展

**6th June
23rd 2024**

Savio @
Riana Dutamas

Date:

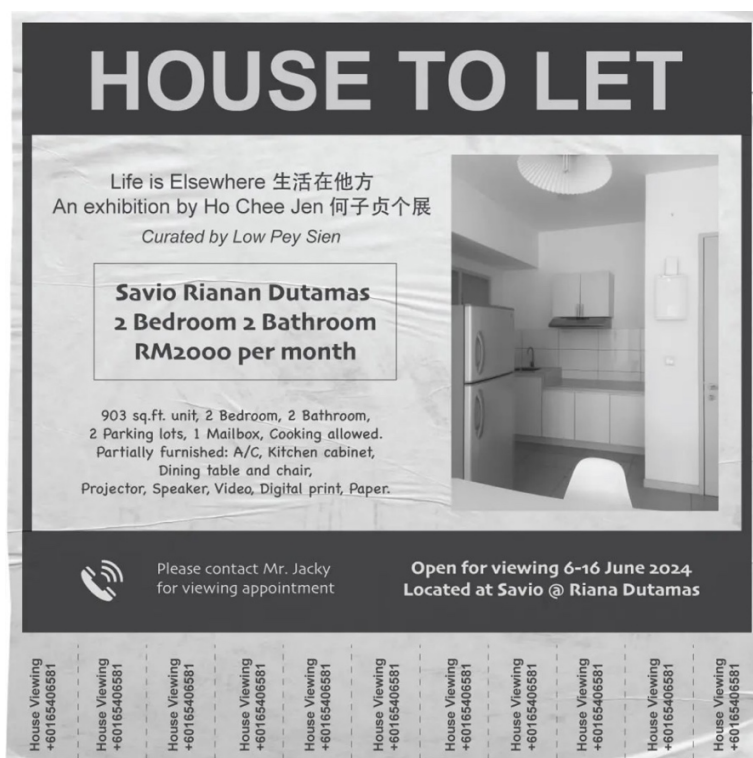
6 June to 16 June 2024,
Extended for another three days on 20, 22 & 23 June

Location:

Savio @ Riana Dutamas

Life is Elsewhere invites viewers to reflect on the complex sentiments associated with movement and transition through Ho Chee Jen's lens-based work on two metropolises, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Exhibition Poster:



Curatorial Statement:

Life is Elsewhere is a debut solo exhibition, at the same time a property rental ad. The exhibition attempts to unpack the sentiments of movement into a new house, city, and country. All which involves negotiating unaccustomed boundaries and encounters, often accompanied by heightened uneasiness and frustrations. Caught in a 35-year commitment of owning a condominium unit in Segambut, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chee Jen finds parallel in her transitory experience of living in Singapore.

In this exhibition, Chee Jen's works are largely taken in Singapore during her formative years in the mid-2010s. Her works quietly capture the small moments in life, surrounding the fundamental human needs, such as food, shelter, connection, and security. In a foreign land, Chee Jen gazes at every corner of the city with curiosity, finding familiarity, but also making rebellious and witty remarks through her lens. These works continue to inspire her later works after she returns to Malaysia for good.

Chee Jen mentioned that she has not created new work in a long time. That's more reason for this show to materialise, to be greedy, to show everything she has made, in a metropolis that often feels depriving. The exhibition occupies an empty 903 sq ft property, inviting viewers to explore the space as they would a home, hopefully also finding a suitable tenant by the end of the exhibition.



Artworks:

The exhibition featured 18 artworks, primarily from Ho Chee Jen's time in Singapore during the mid-2010s. Each section of the property was curated to evoke different aspects of urban life and personal reflections:

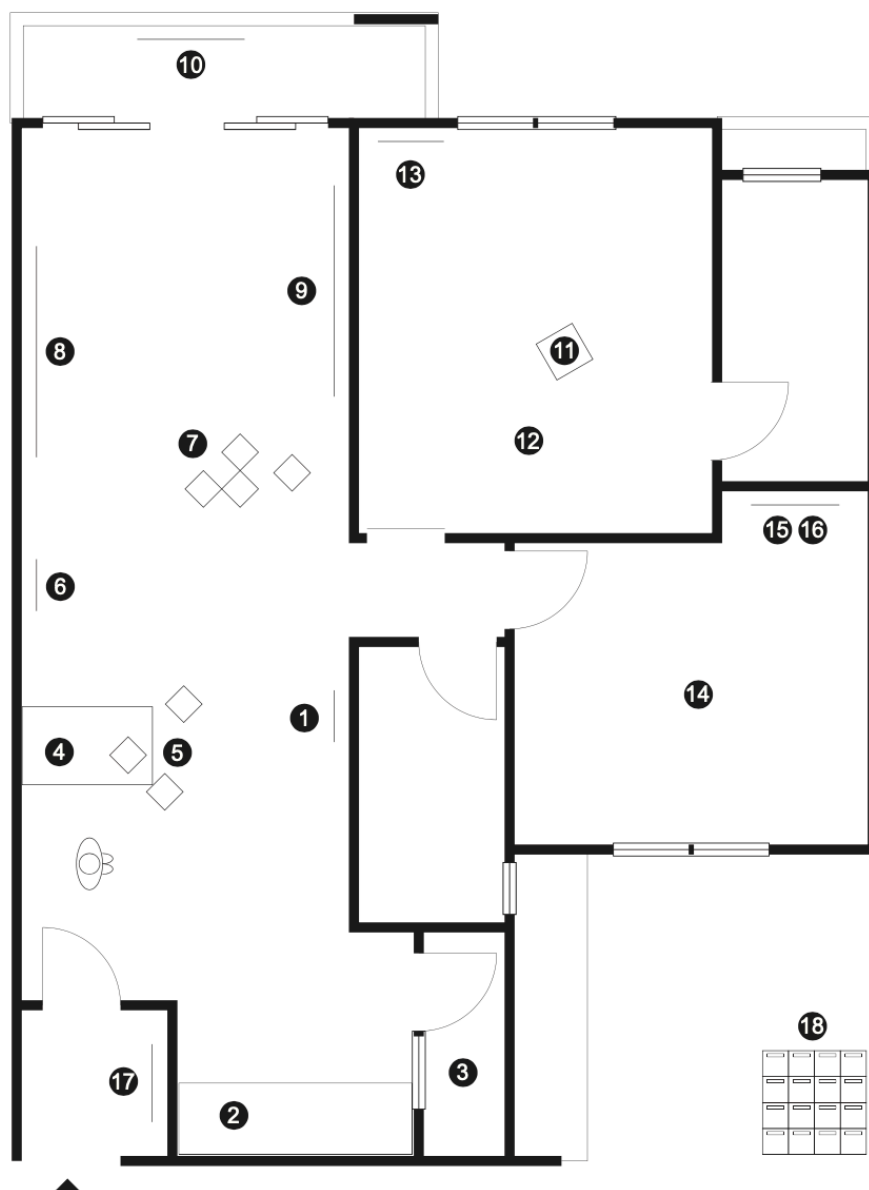
Entrance: Desires to settle.

Living/Dining Room & Balcony: Urban movement and activities in controlled cities.

Kitchen: Frustration of house renting from both tenant and owner perspectives.

Master Room: Irreversible passage of time and reality.

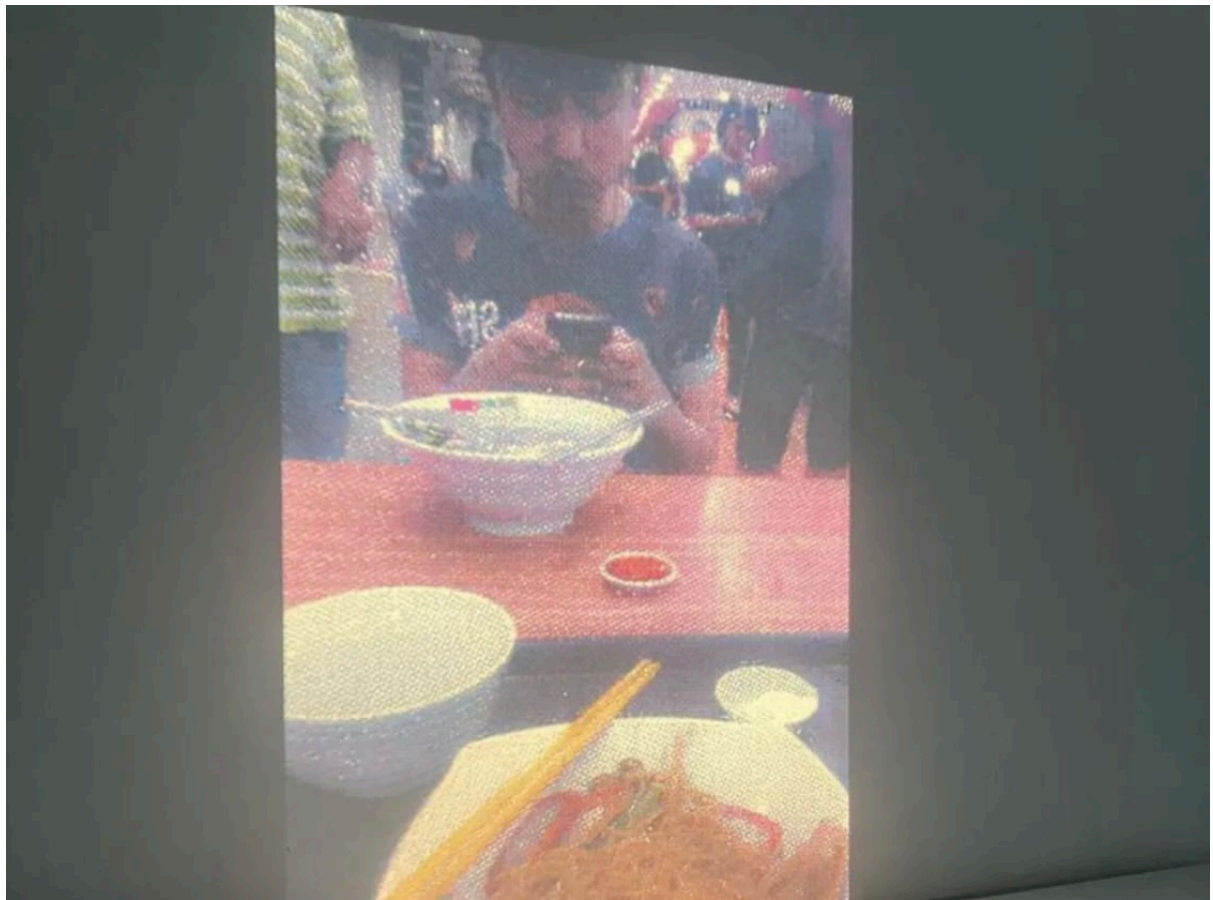
Guest Room: Little discoveries.

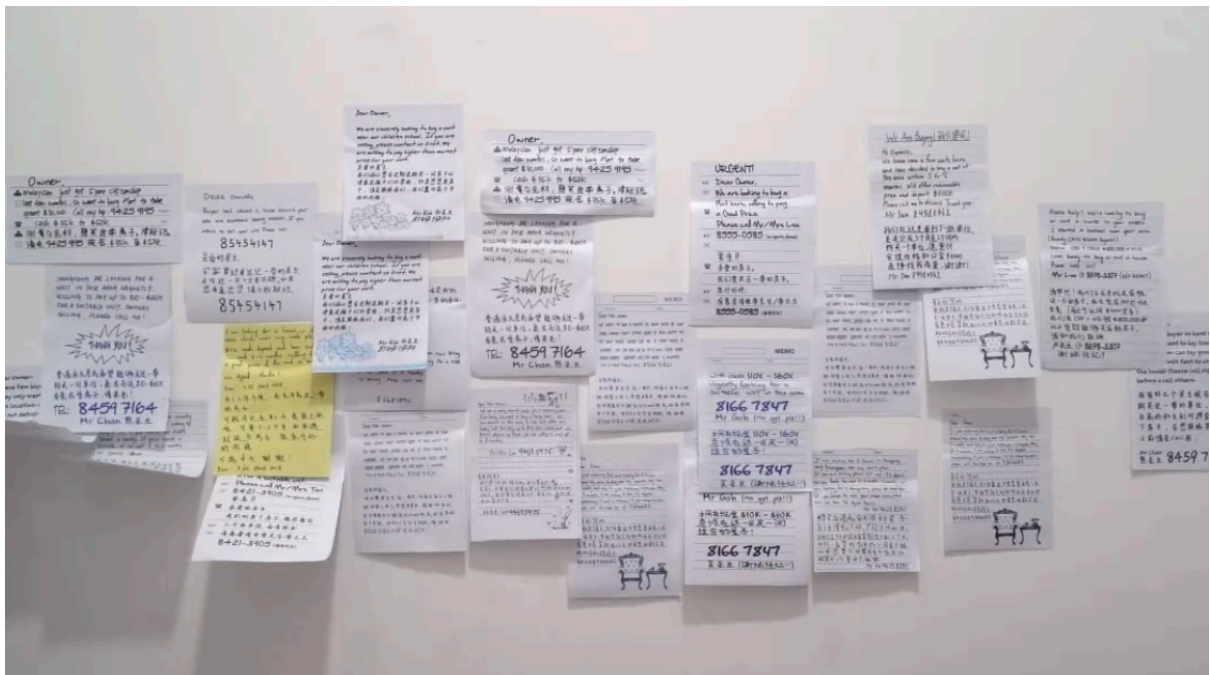


1. ***My 35 Years***
Malaysia (2021)
House key folder in vacuum bag
2. ***Hassles of Co-renting***
Singapore (2015)
Whatsapp conversation screen recording
3. ***Cockroach Infestation***
Malaysia (2024)
Rubber toy cockroaches
4. ***Strangers Who I Dine With***
Singapore (2015)
Slides projection
5. ***Why Do I Need to Get Stuck with Traffic Everyday?***
Malaysia (2024)
Projection mapping
6. ***Copy of Life (HDB)***
Singapore (2015)
Digital photo print
7. ***MRT-Mass Rapid Transit***
Singapore (2015)
Projection mapping
8. ***Oppressive Land (Singapore)***
Singapore (2015)
Digital print
9. ***Oppressive Land (Malaysia)***
Malaysia (2024)
Digital print
10. ***Foreign Workers at Lawns***
Singapore (2015)
Mixed media transparent sheet print
11. ***Longing For Where Its Belong***
Malaysia (2018)
Single channel video
12. ***My Competitors***
Malaysia (2018)
Camera obscura and sunlight
[Only available when there's daylight]
13. ***My Dream Houses***
Malaysia (2018)
Digital print
[Only available at night time]
14. ***Ongoing***
Singapore/Malaysia (2014-2024)
Digital print
15. ***Compass Point***
Singapore(2015)
Single channel video
16. ***Ampang Park***
Malaysia (2018)
Single channel video
17. ***House Buyer Flyers***
Malaysia (2018)
Photostats of the original flyers
18. ***Souvenir In Mailbox***
Malaysia (2024)
Photostats of notes



Photo of Some Artworks:







Team:

	<p><u>Artist:</u></p> <p>Ho Chee Jen is a multi-disciplinary artist and researcher. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Visual Communication from the University of Gloucestershire, UK, and recently completed her Master's degree in Visual Studies from the University of Malaya. As a visual practitioner specializing in photography and video works, Jen's work investigates the construction and deconstruction of social structures, often focusing on the intricate relationship between urban environments and human behavior. She also serves as an educator in art and media studies.</p> <p>Aside from all these, Jen is also a mortgage debtor who is eagerly looking for a tenant, caught in the relentless cycle of making a living to settle debts, and settling debts just to make a living.</p>
	<p><u>Curator:</u></p> <p>Low Pey Sien is a visual person, expresses herself through photography, film and design. Trained as an architect, her works explore the relationship between space, place and people. Pey Sien recently curated Di Situ: An Exhibition in 2021 under Curatorial Workshop 2020 organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur.</p>



Exhibition Producer:

Jacky Yeap born in Taiping Perak, graduated from University Malaysia Sarawak in filmmaking. In 2018, he established a local film magazine named WuBen to record the current state of Malaysian cinema. In 2020, he finished his first feature film entitled *Sometime, Sometime*. In the year 2021, launched Second Run Cine:ma to advocate watching Malaysian films on the big screen. In the same year, his upcoming project Homework received CNC Cash Award in Taipei Golden House Project Market.

Main Sponsor:



The Hai-O Arts & Culture Grants

Supporting Organization:



Attendance and Audience:

The exhibition attracted a total of 244 attendees, including artists, architects, curators, filmmakers, theatre performers, designers, researchers, photographers, cultural activists, students, property agents and more. Visitors came from various countries, including Singapore, China, Taiwan, Russia, the United States, and France.

Expenses:

ITEMS	TOTAL (RM)
Exhibition Installation	
Projecting Software	5
Slide Projector	150
Tinted Window	160
Track Light	80
Lalamove for Ladder	40
Statonaries	
Silk	38
Fishing Line	3.20
Cockroach and etc	16.25
Cable Tie, Mobile Stand, Vacuum Bag, Nano Tape, Glue Tack, Gaffer Tape, 3M Tape	56.7
White Tap	9.6
L Bracket, Maxilite White	34.5
Printing and Framing	
Printing	390
Framing	70
Cut-out Text Print	80
Handout	56
F&B	
20 Meals for 3 Persons (RM15 per meal)	900
Food for Opening and Closing	300
Allowance	
Allowance for Perfomers (RM50 for 6 persons)	300
Petrol Claim (RM200 x 3 Persons)	600
Miscellaneous	
Painting (After Exhibition)	1000
Electrict Bill	76.75
TOTAL	4366

Picture of the Exhibition:









Activities on 22 June 2024:



On June 22, 2024, the exhibition featured a series of activities including a site-specific performance by Silver Yee and Liew Chee Heai from 2:00pm to 2:40pm, a curatorial tour from 3:30pm to 4:00pm, and an evening session of projection mapping and sound jamming from 8:30pm to 9:30pm, which showcased the talents of Goh Lee Kwang, Jacky Yeap, XY Liew, Liew Jia Jia, Ho Chee Jen, and Loke Xiaoyun.

2:00pm - 2:40pm: Site-specific Performance
featuring Silver Yee and Liew Chee Heai.





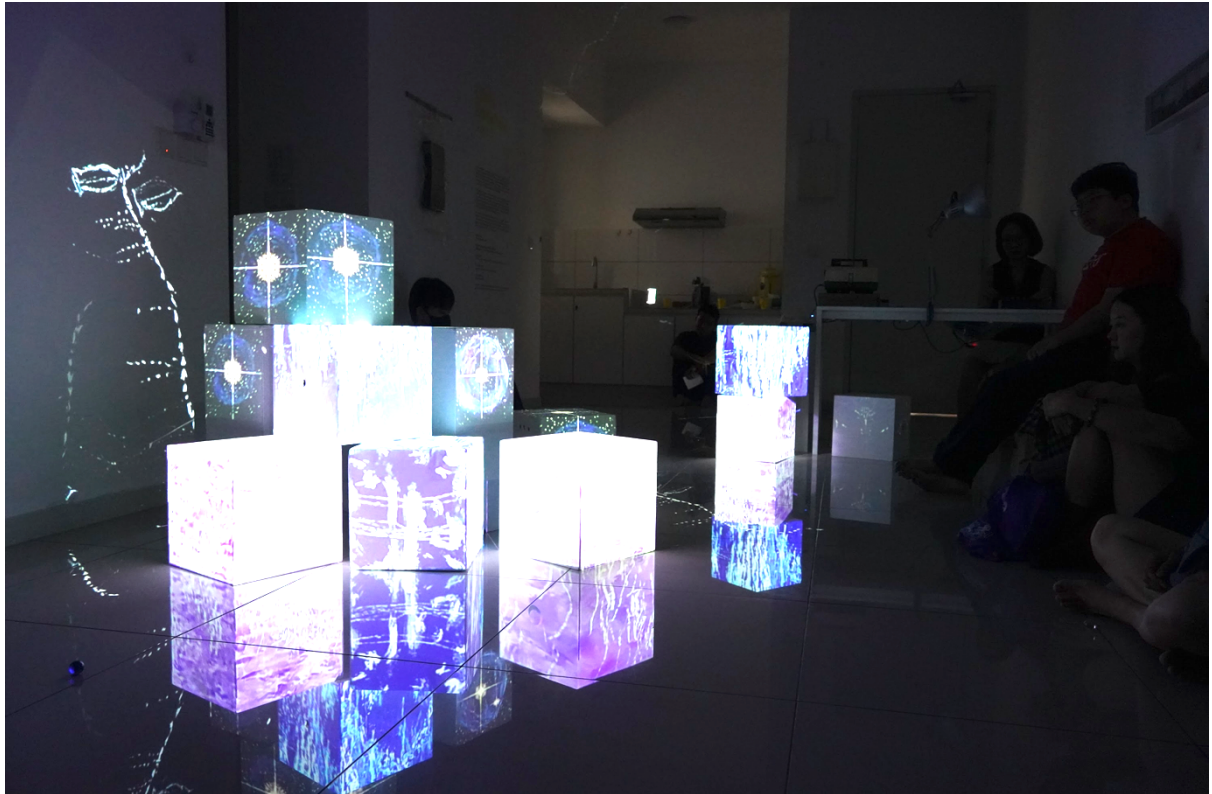
3:30pm - 4:00pm: Curatorial Tour





8:30pm - 9:30pm: Projection Mapping & Sound Jamming
featuring Goh Lee Kwang, Jacky Yeap, XY Liew, Liew Jia Jia, Ho Chee Jen, and
Loke Xiaoyun.





Video of the Exhibition:

<https://youtu.be/yxoLbm7lGBc?si=ghBSA2xnX5bQluJy>

Feel free to check out this video made by Zontiga to know more about the exhibition.

Feedback and Outcome:

The exhibition received positive feedback from attendees, who appreciated the thoughtful curation and the personal narratives embedded in the artist's works. The interactive nature of the exhibition, allowing visitors to explore the space as they would a home, was particularly well-received. The exhibition met its objectives by effectively showcasing Ho Chee Jen's works and engaging visitors in meaningful reflections on urban life and personal journeys. The event successfully attracted a diverse audience, fostering cultural exchange and dialogue.