

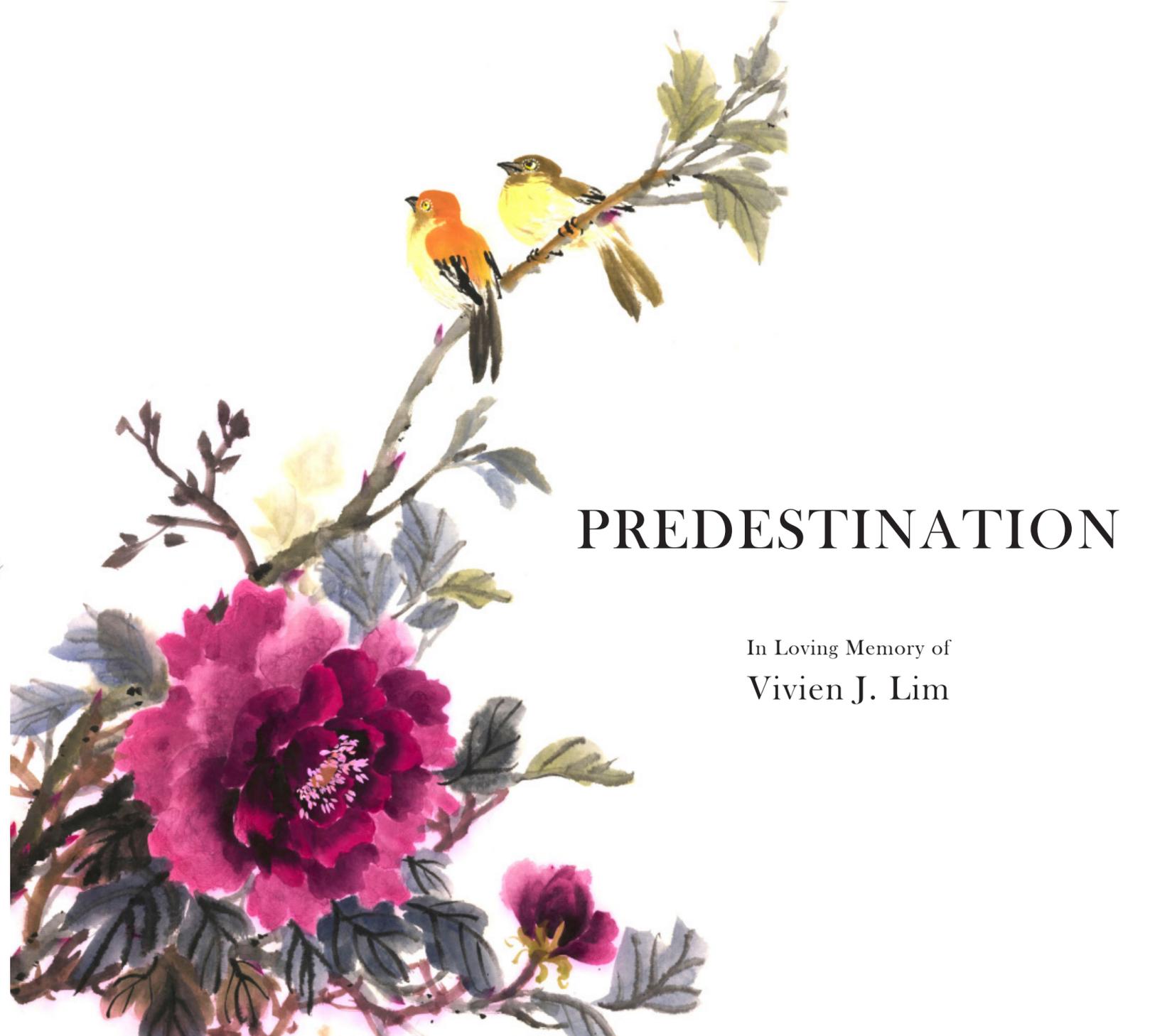
PREDESTINATION, In Loving Memory of Vivien J. Lim  
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PREDESTINATION



In Loving Memory of  
Vivien J. Lim



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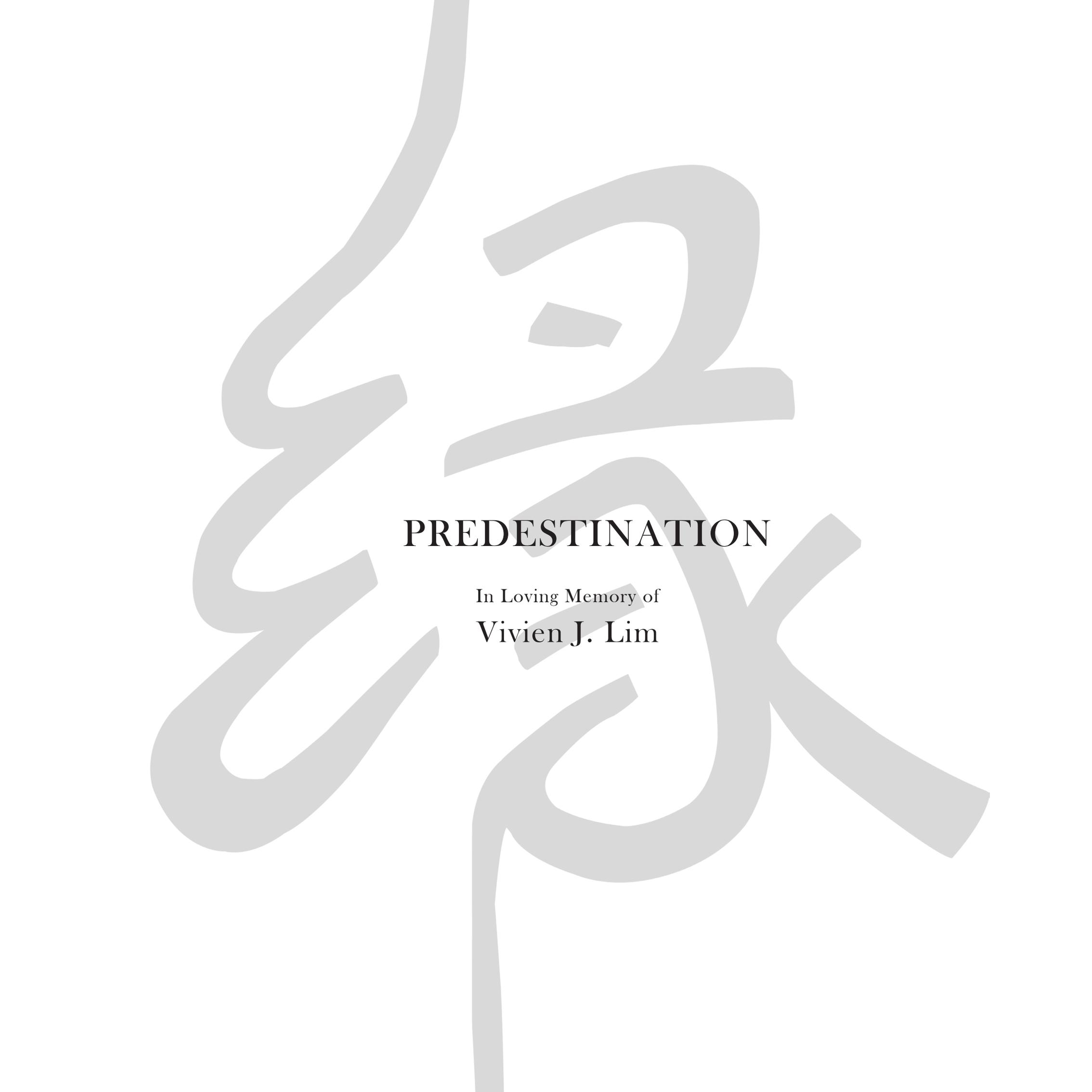
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First edition

Printed in Singapore

ISBN : 978-0-9943992-0-5

PREFACE Eva ··· **10**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Eva, KVLim, Vincent and Victor ··· **11**

ABOUT THE ARTIST Vivien J. Lim ··· **12**

WORDS BY OTHERS ··· **14**

#### WORKS

2005 ··· **24**  
2006 ··· **32**  
2007 ··· **40**  
2008 ··· **50**  
2009 ··· **72**  
2010 ··· **106**  
2011 ··· **118**  
2012 ··· **124**  
2013 ··· **134**

# Table of Contents

# Preface

I was inspired to create this book because I want Vivien to be remembered as someone who loved so much about art and science. She enjoyed painting, calligraphy, writing, computer graphics, ceramic making, photography, knitting, and needlework—all of which she was so good at. She also had an interest in the sciences, namely human factors engineering and architecture. Vivien was most fascinated by the point where art meets science. She was evidence contrary to the popular belief that an artist cannot also be a scientist, and vice versa. At Tufts University, she majored in human factors engineering, and in the last few months before her passing, she took a summer course in architecture at Harvard University. It was at this time she realized architecture was her passion and that human factors engineering is valuable to modern architecture. I hope her vision will inspire young people to pursue careers in architecture, where user-friendly products and environments can affect our lives greatly.

Another one of Vivien's notable traits was her humanitarian spirit, which has inspired me to pursue charitable causes. To honor Vivien, her aunt Wenny and I are establishing a foundation in Jakarta to help provide educational opportunities to those who are gifted in arts and/or science but have limited financial resources. The foundation's mission is to help people develop their artistic talents, primarily in ceramics, porcelain making, and painting.

As I compiled Vivien's art for this book, I realized it would be impossible to collect 100% of her life's work, as she gave several original pieces away to friends, which is symbolic of how she touched so many lives in more ways than one. Various descriptions of Vivien's character and life written by her relatives, friends, and teachers consistently reflect her talents and giving nature. I know that she has left her mark and inspired us to live fully and with a big heart.

I dedicate this book to Vivien. Without her, I never would have realized the true meaning of this life and the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.

Eva (Mum)

We would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to Vivien's uncle Yune Sen, aunts Cecilia and Wenny, and cousin Howard for their continuous love and support during the difficult time when Vivien was battling cancer. The team of oncologists, surgeons, and nurses at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Beth Israel Medical Center, NY, had given the best possible care that the modern medicine could provide in fighting the disease. We lost the battle, but we did not lose the fight.

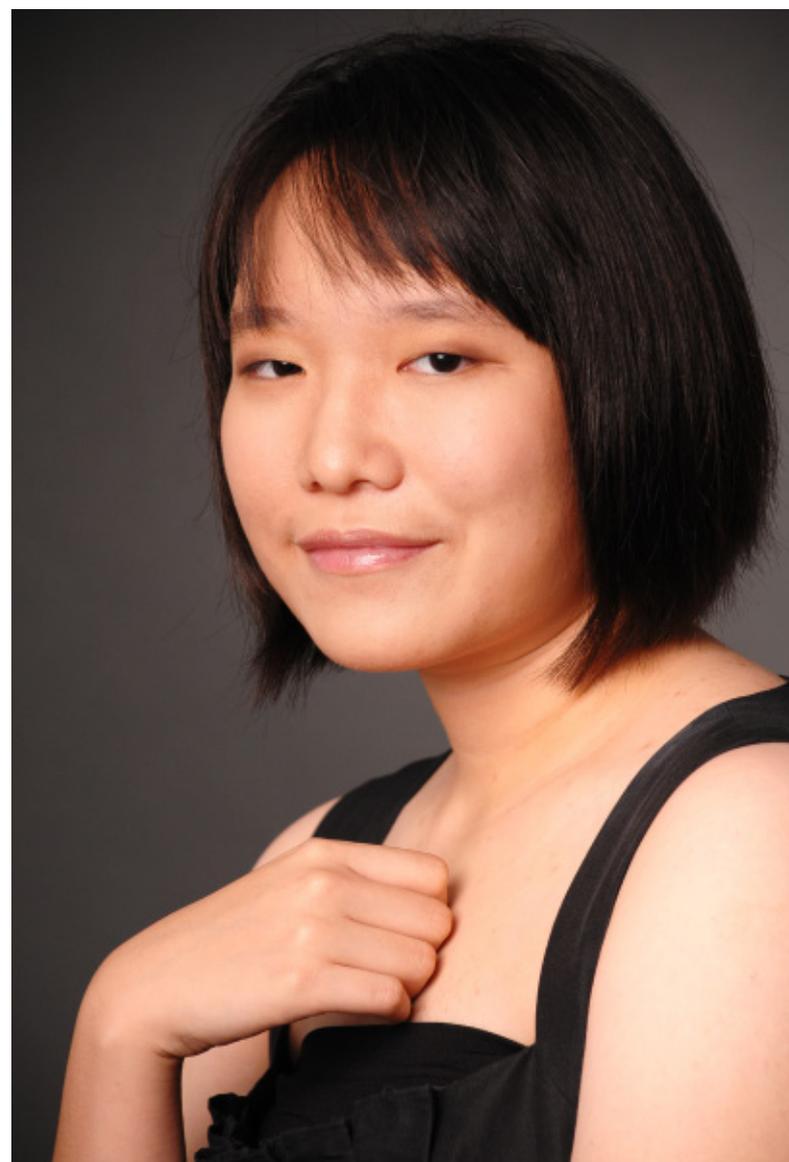
We would also like to thank to Vivien's cousin Stephanie; best friend Xiao Chong; and Ms. Shin Young Rho, Donna, and her team at Ashcan Studio of Art, NY, for their continuous support and never-ending patience in realizing this book. We also thank Vivien's art teacher Mr. Tan Khim Ser for nurturing her talent and skill in Chinese painting and calligraphy.

Finally, we would like to thank Vivien's professors and best friends at Tufts University for their support, from which Vivien had found great consolation from during her fight. We would also like to thank Vivien's best friend Constantin Berzan for his continuous care and support. Many thanks are extended to Amanda Tan and Rachel Tay for their great friendships since secondary school. We would also like to thank Iswati, the nanny who had taken care of Vivien in her childhood. Last but not least, we would like to thank Vivien's relatives and friends whose names have not been mentioned but have played a great role in supporting and caring for her. We are truly thankful for all of you.

Eva (Mum), KVLim (Dad), Vincent and Victor (brothers)

## Acknowledgements

## About the Artist



September 06, 1989

Vivien was born in Singapore.

May 13, 1998

Racial riots in Indonesia and in particular Jakarta led to the downfall of the Soeharto regime. As a result, many parents sent their children to study in Singapore, where social and political stability allowed for a better educational environment. Vivien and her two younger brothers Vincent and Victor were sent to Singapore for their schooling.

2002

Vivien started to learn Chinese painting and calligraphy with renowned teacher Mr. Tan Khim Ser in Singapore.

December, 2008

Vivien finished her A levels with 7 distinctions in Science subjects and English.

September, 2009

After much consideration in which major she would pursue, she finally chose Engineering Psychology/Human Factors Engineering at Tufts University, Boston, MA, US.

May, 2012

Vivien was diagnosed with myoepithelial carcinoma of the parotid gland, a rare type of cancer for which modern medicine still cannot provide standard treatment.

January, 2013

Vivien undertook the challenge of continuing to learn modern painting at Ashcan Art Studio in Queens, NY. She also learned the production of silk screen printing in Manhattan, NY. The artwork 'Predestination' in this book is one of her silk screen prints.

June, 2013

Vivien was accepted to Harvard University for a summer course on architecture, a subject in which she found so much passion. In one of her blog entries, she described the learning process as, "After so many years of being a fish out of water, I have found the ocean."

September 26, 2013

After fighting so hard against cancer, she finally died in her sleep peacefully in the dawn of early morning.

## WORDS BY OTHERS

I remember when she was first diagnosed with cancer in May 2012, the doctor asked her how she felt. She said calmly: “We just have to deal with it.” She was always brave and down to earth when she faced a problem. Vivien was diagnosed with myoepithelial carcinoma of the parotid salivary gland. This is a very rare type of cancer for which standard therapy is still not available. As a mother, I am compelled to spread the word and raise awareness about this type of salivary gland cancer, on which cancer research has not been widely focused. Below are some memories to show how special Vivien was to her family and people around her.

Since she was three years old, her hobbies had always been reading and drawing. I remember that at a very young age, she could draw for a long time with full concentration. As she grew older, she had created a portfolio consisting of her Chinese art paintings and western oil paintings, which we treasure very much. Just two days before she passed away, she asked me to keep all her art to sell in the future and give the proceeds to charity. I told her I would keep them as long as I live. Ever since she was in her early teens, I would go to her for advice whenever I had a family or office matter. Her advice had always been practical and sensible, even at a very young age. Another unique trait of hers was that she never spent money unnecessarily. I remember she once told me that I only needed one pair of nice black shoes to fit all my outfits. She also said that she could live with two pairs of jeans and two T-shirts, but she can not live without books. The quote by Erasmus, “When I get a little money I BUY BOOKS; and if any is left I buy food and clothes,” reflects her character.

When she had to choose a course in the university, she told me that she would want to study where art meets science because she loved them both. That was why she chose Engineering Psychology. Her three years in Tufts University (USA) had been good, and the third year had been particularly the happiest time for her. She excelled way beyond her peers academically until she was diagnosed with cancer.

Now that she is gone, we miss her serenity, her calmness, her talent, her intelligence, her humbleness, her laughter, her sensibility. She is now at peace, pain free, and with God. In Buddhism, we believe in re-incarnation. She will be re-incarnated into this world again as a happy and healthy person whom will be truly loved by people around her. We have been honored and proud to be Vivien’s parents in her life. We could not ask for more even though her time with us was only 24 years and 20 days. Vivien died peacefully in her sleep on 26th September 2013.

我还记得当她在2012年5月被诊断为癌症时医生问她怎么想，她平静地回答：“那我们就坦然面对吧。”当她面对困难的时候，她总是如此勇敢淡然。

Vivien被诊断出患有一种唾液腺癌 (Myoepithelial Carcinoma of the parotid salivary gland)-这是一种很罕见的癌症，目前还没有针对此癌症的标准治疗方案。作为一名母亲，我深觉自己有义务提高公众对这种还未被广泛研究的唾液腺癌的认知。

Vivien对于我们来说是十分特别的存在。下文为Vivien家人对她的挚爱追忆：

她从三岁开始就喜爱读书和绘画。我记得她很小的时候就可以聚精会神地画很长时间。她长大一些后创建了一个收录她国画和油画作品的画集。我们都十分珍爱此画集。在她过世的两天前，她要求我保存好她的作品，在将来卖出，将筹得的善款捐于慈善机构。我跟她保证在我有生之年一定悉心保存她的作品。

在她十几岁的时候我已经开始向她寻求一些关于家庭及工作事宜的建议。她那时虽然年纪尚小，但提供的建议却总是实用睿智。

她还有个独特的品质是从不铺张浪费。我记得她曾劝导我说我其实只需要一双好看耐用的黑色鞋子来搭配所有衣服。她还告诉我她只需两套牛仔裤和两件短袖--这些衣服足矣，但她万万不可没有书籍的陪伴。Erasmus的名言“如果我有任何一点钱我使用它来买书；买书后若有结余，我才用来买食物和衣服”就是她的写照。

她上大学选专业的时候，她告诉我她想选择一个文理兼修的专业，因为两者她都十分喜爱。她后来选了人类工效学 (Human Factors Engineering)。她在美国大学Tufts University的三年是段快乐的时光，第三年尤其如此。她一直成绩优异，名列前茅。

现在她离去了，我们深切地缅怀她的一切：她的平静淡然，天资聪颖，谦逊和蔼，音容笑貌，聪慧睿智。她现已安息，毫无苦痛，与佛同在。佛教中，我们相信重生。她将会以一个健康快乐的人重生，并得到周围人给予的很多爱。

作为父母，我们十分光荣和自豪。得此一女，夫复何求，尽管她与我们相处的时间仅为短短的24年零20天。Vivien于2013年9月26日在睡梦中安然离去。

*Eva Lim  
Mum*

Vivien is very talented, especially in art. She has a passion for art creation, though she appears to be pretty quiet. During the time when she was my student, I noticed that she could produce several great pieces of work in one go with great composure and concentration. Her level of dedication to drawing is very inspiring! She pays a lot of attention to improve her fundamental skills; she never stops at simply depicting the form. For example, to draw a peony flower well, she could practice dozens or even hundreds of pieces, in order to hone her skills. Chinese calligraphy painting emphasizes artistic realm and spirit resonance—Vivien was able to achieve it; I was very satisfied with her attitude and hard work. Peony flowers and gold fish drawings are Vivien’s best: you can see the flow of energy that encompasses theme, work and the artist as one entity in her work. The objects in her drawings are not only beautifully depicted but also well framed. She is able to create color harmony and

achieve a balance between ink and wash. Her work is indeed exceptional. I often host exhibitions at Life Art Society and always invited her to draw peony flowers at these exhibitions. Her work always drew applause and compliments from the crowd; they dubbed her Queen of Peony Flower. She often received invitations to showcase her work at various exhibitions across the country and her work was well acclaimed. She did well in both oil painting and Chinese calligraphy painting, thanks to her solid foundation in sketching. She is indeed an exceptional artist. Her passing is a loss to the Singapore art scene but her perseverance and spirit will remain with us forever.

更生美艺术研究会

会长，客座教授 — 陈钦赐

慧媛天资聪明，艺术天份极高，创作欲也很强，但是沉默寡言。在向我学画的时候，心平气静，全神贯注，一口气就可以创作好几幅好作品，其专注的精神令人钦佩！

她学习的态度只注意功力的提升，而非表面的造型刻画，例如画一朵牡丹花，她可以练上几十朵，甚至几百朵，以求达到至高的绘画技巧。中国画讲究境界高，气韵生动，她都做到了，我非常满意她的学习精神。

牡丹，金鱼是慧媛最具代表性的作品，不只气韵生动，造型优美，构图严谨，而且色彩协调，水墨淋漓，是不可多得的好作品。

我经常在“更生”主办的各项画展中都选她现场挥毫，表演画牡丹。她的现场创作总是博得热烈的掌声，观众赞不绝口，同声称她为“牡丹王”。

她的作品，经常受邀到我国各地展出，博得好评。油画与水墨都各有出色的表现，这是因为其素描基础稳固的原因。慧媛实为不可多得的美术工作者。她的英年早逝，是新加坡画坛的损失，但是她的奋斗精神却永远留在人间。

*Mr. Tan Khim Ser*

I remember vividly where Vivien was sitting and what kind of art projects she was working on during her time spent with us. One day, I was coming to work and was looking at our studio from the outside. I saw Vivien through the windows as she was drawing two Chinese characters ‘福 (fortune)’ and ‘忍 (endurance)’ on a classroom wall. Even after some years have gone by, the two letters are still kept intact on that wall as if all teachers and students had a mutual agreement to keep them there. The two letters certainly have an extraordinary aura around them.

I am truly glad that we had a chance to work with her and to

produce her life's final pieces in New York. I want to thank Vivien's parents for their help and support in publishing this book. Vivien will be remembered as a talented young artist along with this book.

*Shin Young Rho*  
Director, Ashcan Studio of Art, New York

When I met Vivien, in early 2013, she had already been receiving treatment for cancer. This—along with her name and that she was attending Tufts University—was among the first bits of information I received about Vivien when she became one of my students at Ashcan Studio of Art. As teachers, we learn to resist the temptation to essentialize our students; we look for potential, no matter how hidden it may be, within our students. Vivien's potential—her extraordinary talent, intellect, and passion—was apparent from the start, and it quickly overrode my preconceptions of her illness.

In her relatively short time at our studio, Vivien tackled and excelled at a variety of media. She painted, she drew, she even made a small installation equipped with motion sensors and LED lights. The latter was a kind of tongue-in-cheek shrine to consumerism, but she took great care in crafting all of its parts. She built a circuit board to control the sequences of the LEDs, which posed some technical problems. This was the first and only time I saw Vivien become frustrated (quietly and reservedly, I might add). Her paintings and drawings evidence her ability to apperceive the world, which in turn speaks to her sensitivity and intellect.

I can't say that we pushed Vivien to accomplish great things at our studio. She pushed herself, and we were there to support her with material, technical, and conceptual advice. She was the ideal student: one who is compassionate, who is thoughtful, who knows how to learn, who wants to learn, who asks questions, who reveals and articulates her ideas without embarrassment, and who invites others to do the same.

*Matthew Capezzuto*  
Director, Ashcan Studio of Art, New York

In the last year and a half of her life, Vivien stayed with us in New York as she received medical treatment. We came to think of her as a daughter. She was very bright, science and engineering-minded. Examples of her passion were her membership in the WIRED club and her goal to get a job with that organization. She was also extremely artistic and talented and could have been a famous artist or architect. She was

also known as a bookworm, as exemplified by one of her print works, which included quote from Erasmus, "When I get a little money I buy books; and if there is any left I buy food and clothes." In Vivien's short life, she showed traits of a good humanitarian: generosity and compassion. For example, she wanted to sell her drawings to give the proceeds to charity. I also had the opportunity to be her driving teacher, even though I've been long nick-named "the worst driver of the world." In a short few weeks, she was able to drive quite comfortably and was more than ready to take on the test. In the process of teaching Vivien to drive, I have become a more careful driver. Vivien, now you don't need to drive anymore; being an angel, you can fly anywhere.

*Uncle Yune Sen*  
New York, USA

There was so much of Vivien that made her unique and forever memorable to me. Vivien's artistic abilities, especially in painting and drawing, always impressed me. Her meticulousness and perfectionism, combined with remarkable intelligence, enabled Vivien to be an accomplished artist and exceptional student. Vivien was also notable for her thirst for knowledge and explorative nature. If she wasn't wrapped up in a book, she was pensively observing and analyzing her environment, especially anything that struck her as beautiful or interesting. Vivien channeled her creative energy into paintings, drawings, sculpture, graphic design, photography, among other media. Vivien was truly passionate about her academic and professional focuses: engineering psychology, user experience, and design. One of her last academic endeavors was participating in an architecture summer program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. This was the first time she felt truly at one with her academic pursuits, and she realized that she wanted to seek a career in architecture. Yet Vivien was more than a talented artist/designer/student. She was very special to our family. What distinguished Vivien from the rest of us cousins and aunts as her strong aversion to materialism. Instead of shopping with Auntie Eva, Vivien read books in the food court, as Howard remembers from a time when they were stuck at a mall during a blizzard. Rather than gawk at fashion magazines, Vivien would cut up the pictures and make beautiful, vibrantly colored collages. She took quirky photos and posted them on Instagram with witty captions. She knit us precisely crafted scarves and personal objects. Her imagination and resourcefulness are what I will remember most about Vivien. I was lucky to have the opportunity to spend more time with her in the last few years and see that side of her grow and develop. I'll always hold onto fond memories of her original personality, talent, and intelligence.

*Stephanie*  
Cousin, New York

The happiest part of my time at Tufts was my final year, when Vivien and I were together. We went for picnics at the Fells, carved pumpkins for Halloween, played in the snow at Powderhouse Square, and plotted world domination over a hot cup of tea and a fresh edition of *Wire* magazine. Even today, when I see an interesting article or piece of artwork, I sometimes catch myself thinking, “Vivien would’ve loved this,” and I look back at the times when I could just send her an email and wait for her witty response. She brought immeasurable joy and curiosity into my life. I am grateful for having known her and saddened that she had to leave so soon.

*Constantin Berzan*  
*Best Friend in Tufts University, USA*

Vivien是我见过最聪慧且最全面的朋友之一。她在Tufts University攻读人类功效学 (Engineering Psychology)。她选择这个专业是因为她对文科理科都抱有浓厚的兴趣，而此专业正好能把两者有机地结合起来。她对绘画和设计有极大的兴趣，在Tufts期间选修了多门这方面的课程。除此之外，她依然能挤出时间读科幻小说，看漫画，做针线活，还不忘时不时安慰我这样的朋友说“有些事情是需要时间的--这没什么；一切都会好的”。

虽然她聪敏过人，但她同时又是我见过最谦逊，最没架子，最好相处的朋友。我非常有幸和她分享在Tufts这最好的四年。她总能不厌其烦地给别人讲解即使是最基础的概念。她总是耐心地倾听朋友们遇到的种种，乐意花时间陪伴朋友们直到他们不再那么难过为止。有的时候我觉得她的平静稳重是一种力量：这种力量可以让周围躁动的环境瞬间安静下来，让我可以喘口气，停下来思考一下自己再重新上路。

在她周围的时候总觉得非常快乐。我跟她总有说不完的话：从书籍，文化，美食到Tufts，教授还有新加坡。即使跟她聊聊每天的流水账也觉得很开心。她总有些诙谐幽默的评论，而且对平淡的生活也有一双能发现美的眼睛。

我特别欣赏她的率真随性。记得我们大二春节的时候，我们俩都特别想念新加坡的黄梨挞（一种新加坡人春节时吃的传统点心），但是在波士顿和纽约都找不到卖家。在一个绝望的傍晚，我呆坐在她的房子里，她提议我们干脆自己从零做起吧。于是我们立马在网上搜到食谱然后买了原料。我们对于食谱上“搅拌至均匀”到底是什么程度争论了一番，并对菠萝应该切得多小展开了严肃的讨论。我依然记得凌晨2点她烤箱里涌出的温暖，以及当我们发现这温暖里真的有家的味道时开心的笑脸。

大四冬天的时候我去看她，她那时正和一种很罕见的癌症抗争。住在她家的第二天晚上晚餐过后，她提议我们“再疯狂一次，半夜烤点什么点心吧”。于是我们简单烤了些巧克力饼干。虽然她看起来很疲惫，但是特别开心。她特别珍惜希望和友谊，还有简单事物中孕育的美好。她从未让病魔扼制她对生活的热情。

她妈妈告诉我Vivien在确诊为癌症后出人意料地平静，她只说了一句“这样啊，那我们就坦然面对吧。”当她面对人生最大的未知时，表现出的态度是出奇的淡然。

她生病休学时从未停止对她钟爱的设计艺术的追求。她不仅上了些网上的相关课程，在身体力行的时候还去学校上了几节课。她去了哈佛暑期学校攻读一门城市规划课程。长时间地在工作室里建模设计并没有打倒她，相反的是，设计这门“痛并快乐着且占据所有灵魂的”学科（引自她的博客）让她找到了归属。她的作品得到了教授的极力赞扬。教授强力推荐她去攻读建筑设计的研究生学位。

她是一个特别优秀的人也是一个不可多得的朋友。我依然清晰地记得我们一起开怀大笑，湿润眼眶，交流思想的那些日日夜夜。我知道我们之间的情感，回忆还有她的精神会一直陪伴着我走下去。

Vivien is one of the most talented and well-rounded friends I have ever met. She chose to major in Engineering Psychology at Tufts because the interdisciplinary major would cater to her interests in both science and arts. She has a passion in graphic design and thus took several painting and design classes at Tufts. On top of that, she would still find time to read sci-fi and comic books, do some stitching work and tell her fellow friends like me that “some things do take time and it’s ok if they do; you will be fine.”

Talented as she is, she is probably one of the most humble, down-to-earth and easy-going people, that I had been so fortunate to share my best four years with. She is always so patient in explaining the most basic concepts to others, lending a listening ear, or simply spending time with you to make you feel better. Her calm composure would lend me so much peace that I felt as if the whole world could pause to so that I could sort out things about myself before embarking on whatever I needed to. She is a really fun friend to be around. I could never get tired talking to her about books, culture, food, Tufts, professors and Singapore. Even talking to her about daily routines could be fun. She is always ready to offer humorous remarks, not to mention that she has an eye for beauty in the mundane. I like her spontaneity too. During Lunar New Year in our sophomore year, we craved for pineapple tarts (a traditional festive dessert enjoyed by Singaporeans) but could not find any good ones in Boston or New York. On a desperate evening in her apartment, she suggested that we made the tarts from scratch. We searched for recipes online and bought the ingredients. We argued what it meant by “when it reaches a certain consistency” and had a serious discussion on how fine we should chop our pineapple. I still remember the warmth emerged from her oven at 2 am and our joy when we found that whatever we managed to bake actually tasted like home.

I visited her in the winter of our senior year when she was fighting a rare type of cancer. On my second night at her place, she suggested we “do one of those crazy midnight baking all over again” after dinner. We baked very simple chocolate cookies. Though visibly exhausted, she

was very happy. It was the beauty in the simple things, in hope, and in friendship, that Vivien truly loved. She never let her sickness stop her from enjoying life whenever she could. Her mum told me Vivien was unbelievably calm upon diagnosis. “Well, then we just have to deal with it,” was all she said after hearing the result. That was the attitude she had at the most uncertain time of her life.

Even when she was sick and away from school, she never stopped pursuing her passion in design. She took online design courses as well as part-time art classes when she was able to. In her late months, she decided to join Harvard summer school for an urban planning and design program. Long hours of studio work did not defeat her. In fact, design, the “damned lovely soul-consuming discipline” made her feel at home, as read from her blog. Her work was so well acclaimed by faculty that she was recommended to pursue graduate studies in architecture and design. She is a truly exemplary person and a great friend. I could still clearly remember those days and nights when we rolled into a good laughter, cried a little, and shared so many thoughts. I know the bond, the memories and her positive spirit will always be part of me.

*Xiaochong Yao*  
*Best friend in Tufts University, USA*

It is a tremendously difficult thing to put into words the kind of impact a loved one has on our lives, let alone the loss of them. Images and feelings come easily in the form of cherished memories that we replay in our minds, but concrete words are a different matter entirely. No matter how much we write, it never does justice to the one we write about. Vivien was one of my oldest and best friends, and though many things have to be left unsaid here, owing to the inadequacy of words to encompass her life and the sheer joie de vivre she embodied, I want to capture at least some glimpses of what a truly amazing friend she was to me.

Our friendship struck me as unlikely back then. I had only met Vivien in MGS when we were Sec 1, and the circumstances under which we came to be friends still elude me. In hindsight, I feel like our personalities were worlds apart, but Vivien had a wonderfully calm charisma that made me feel at ease around her. That was the only year we were in a common class, but we continued to hang out together often throughout her second year in MGS as well as after she transferred to Raffles. The fact that we went to distant JCs which have a long history of rivalry (as many ACSians and Rafflesians will attest to) was an object of amusement to us – I used to mockingly call her a traitor working for “our good friends over at Bishan,” and she would respond in kind with her trademark laughter and witty repartee. Our conversations were often marked by the sort of teasing and insult-slinging that only friends who have

reached a level of mutual affectionate understanding can feel completely comfortable with. I looked up to her immensely for her maturity, her patience, her intelligence, and her incredible creative talents. I felt like I could talk to her about anything and everything, and she was always ready to lend a listening ear and wise advice whenever I needed a shoulder to cry on. She was the cool older sister I never had.

Places around me today still hold vivid memories of our friendship. Dhoby Ghaut is indelibly associated with that one time Vivien, Rachel and I bought a carton of fruit juice at Plaza Singapura, sat on the steps outside the MRT station, and shared the juice by pouring it into little sample cups we got from the Carrefour promoters. We joked about how it was our equivalent of three old men sharing a beer. On my way to and from Holland Village, I pass the bus-stop I used to get off at whenever I went over to her old house and remember how, in a fit of after-school boredom, I had once spontaneously arranged to pop over and just spend the lazy afternoon talking and laughing together at her miniature schnauzer, Pepper. Libraries and book stores were among our favourite haunts, especially the Kinokuniya in Takashimaya, and the musty smell of books never fails to remind me of Vivien’s own little library in her room where she lovingly collected titles by her favourite authors. The small atrium below Jurong East MRT station was where she let fate decide which bookmarks she had brought back from Korea would go to whom, and that memory has stayed with Rachel and me to this day because of how uncannily apt the notes on the bookmarks were for each of us.

Vivien was and continues to be a very big part of my life. I have always had great faith in her as well as great admiration for her knack for creating all sorts of things – from beautiful paintings to cute handicrafts, from entire complex fictional worlds for her stories to simple moments of peace and joy in the times I spent with her. I miss her every day and although this weighs heavily on my heart, I also draw strength and inspiration from a desire to live my life in little ways that will honour her memory. Having such an eternally graceful and gracious best friend in Vivien is something I will be eternally grateful for.

*Amanda Tan*  
*Best Friend Since Secondary School In Singapore*

I first got to know Vivien when we were in Secondary School. With a common love for art and literature, we bonded almost instantly. It was truly a blessing to have known Vivien for almost a decade. She was a multi-talented friend who was always so calm and levelheaded. There is really so much about her life to celebrate and cherish.

I guess I’ll start off with what I loved most about Vivien. I loved how Vivien was always so keen to do the most random projects together.

I liked how we loved to challenge ourselves by joining competitions we had absolutely no clue about, like manga, animation, interior design (that was pretty crazy) or pretty much anything art related. I remember how much she loved craft whereas I intensely disliked it and how she loved her Chinese painting classes and her books (of course her books). I loved how for us hanging out was going to Borders or the library rather than going shopping, and how we used to laugh at others who spent their money on clothes because to us a person's thoughts was what made them beautiful, not how they looked.

Collaborating with Vivien was always a joy because she was so enthusiastic and an amazing problem solver. The first major project we ever did together was when Vivien, Amanda and I were thirteen/fourteen. We worked on a short 90 second animation in Flash. At that time none of us realized how labour intensive animation would be (24 frames per second multiplied by 90 frames is A LOT of frames)! We spent countless days at each other's house trying to figure out how to craft a story and make static pictures move across the screen, using a program we had never touched before. Still, we soldiered on. Three months later, battle scared and worn out, we finally had a grand total of 90 seconds of animation, complete with rock music and a title page. I still remember how Vivien went 10 steps further by teaching herself how to code and make some interactive buttons for our short film so people could hit replay. At that time I didn't even know what coding was! It was super fancy and we had a blast making the project. In the end we even won third place in a national competition!

Vivien played such a big part of my growing up years. I honestly feel I am who I am now because of her. I truly looked up to her when we were younger. She was always so smart, so calm and so mature for her age, and always a rock when everything else was so crazy. There was once when Vivien bought three bookmarks from Korea for Amanda, herself and me. We closed our eyes and picked one each. I still remember how thrilled we were when we read the notes that came with the bookmarks because we felt that they were, oh, so like us. While I don't remember the exact words, the gist of it was like this: Amanda got 'forever young', and that is how she was. I got 'high spirited' and I've always been like that. Vivien got 'eternally graceful', and well, that's exactly how she was. Always calm and level headed, introspective and full of grace. An inside joke we used to have was that even in the face of a tsunami, Vivien would still walk around calmly, laughing her unique laughter while everyone else started freaking out.

Vivien was truly a blessing to all of us. She was a great friend, great confidante, loving daughter and sister. It was a pleasure to have known her and a privilege to be called her friend.

*Rachel Tay  
Best friend in Secondary School in Singapore*

I was deeply saddened to hear about Vivien's passing. I was her roommate during her freshman year at Tufts and, while we didn't stay close, I have a lot of bright memories from our time together. I remember loving her wit and sense of humor. I was also constantly amazed by her artistic abilities. She gave me a painting she'd done at the end of our year together - it was too large for her to take back home. It stayed on the wall of my dorm room the next year at school, and now it's hanging in my room at home. I think what impressed me most about Vivien was that at a time when so many new college students are nervous, eager to impress others and reinvent themselves, Vivien just seemed so calm and comfortable with who she already was. It takes amazing strength of character to be thrown into a new environment and stay confident in who you are - but that is exactly what she did. I think she was a good influence on me in this sense. I was dealing with a lot of self-doubt and uncertainty in who I wanted to be, and having Vivien there to bring me back to earth, to show me just how cool and confident a college freshman can be, was a true blessing. It wasn't just me, either - it was common to see one or another of her friends in our room, asking her for advice or just needing to talk.

Vivien and I didn't stay in touch much after freshman year, but I was actually in contact with her again this past summer. When I first reached out to her, it was for some advice on a project for work that I thought she might have insight on as an engineering psychology major. I had no idea she was sick until she wrote back and explained that she'd been on medical leave. I was surprised and concerned, and at first felt bad about asking her for help when she was obviously going through so much herself. But she insisted it was no trouble and wrote back to me several times with helpful advice. Even then, I had no idea how serious her condition was, and it was a shock to hear of her passing.

Even as someone who was not an intimate friend of Vivien's, I was profoundly touched by having met her. I am so sad that she is gone, but I feel honored to have known her and to have enjoyed her company, especially during such an important and scary and exciting time as the beginning of our college years. I've attached a picture of the painting I mention above.

*Madeleine Adelson  
1st Year Roommate in Tufts University*

Vivien was a kind hearted, intelligent and composed child. Until now I still smile when I recall an event in New Zealand airport : An immigration officer asked us whether we brought any food (many types of foods are not allowed to be brought in to the country). Young Vivien said, "Yes, there are in my tummy." The officer could only smile upon hearing the response from a 9-year-old. Vivien had been an independent child since a young age. She would not want to bother me to provide her

food or drink if she was hungry. She herself would take what she needed. She was also very simple in her everyday needs unlike some other affluent family's children who like to nag the parents to buy things. I remember when she was 8 years old, and her birthday was near. Her mother asked her whether she wanted a birthday party. She nicely turned down the offer and said there was no need to spend money unnecessarily. At the time I was saying to myself how lucky and happy the parents were, having a child who was already so wise and considerate at a very young age.

I had raised many children before I was employed by Vivien's family. My experience with other kids in general had been common. That is : spoiled and demanding. The parents had to buy lots of beautiful dresses to satisfy the children's wishes. Vivien was so different from other kids. She very often turned down offers from her mum and aunt for getting her beautiful dresses, let alone demanding them to buy for her. Vivien told me she was dressing for comfort, not for appearances.

Vivien spent most of her free time reading books and drawing, hobbies that came to her naturally. She would carry a book wherever she went. She could never be separated from books, so to speak. When we lived in Singapore, her most favourite place was library. She would borrow books for herself as well as for me. She had encouraged me to read English books and learn the English language. She was my willing teacher, and now I am still learning and reading English books. It has become my hobby to learn English.

Drawing was another one of her passions. She would draw some interesting story lines. I had always been very curious every time she was creating stories in her drawings. In her teenage years, she never liked spending time in front of mirror to make herself beautiful because she was so confident with herself. With all she had—intelligence, superb swimming skill, great drawing skill, piano and violin skills and most of all, love from her parents and aunt—she was not an arrogant person. Even though I had not had a chance to be with her in her adult years, I was very convinced that with her qualities, Vivien would become a great person wherever she grew up. I was also convinced that she was a very, very special person to her parents, families and friends.

Now Vivien is no longer with us, but everyone who knew her will never forget her because she was someone very special. Farewell Vivien, I am sure you are happy wherever you are now. Our love to you will be forever. I always pray for you like a mother prays to her daughter, all the time.

*Iswati*  
*Vivien's Childhood Nanny*

家



*“In Vivien’s short life,  
she showed traits of a good humanitarian:  
generosity and compassion.”*

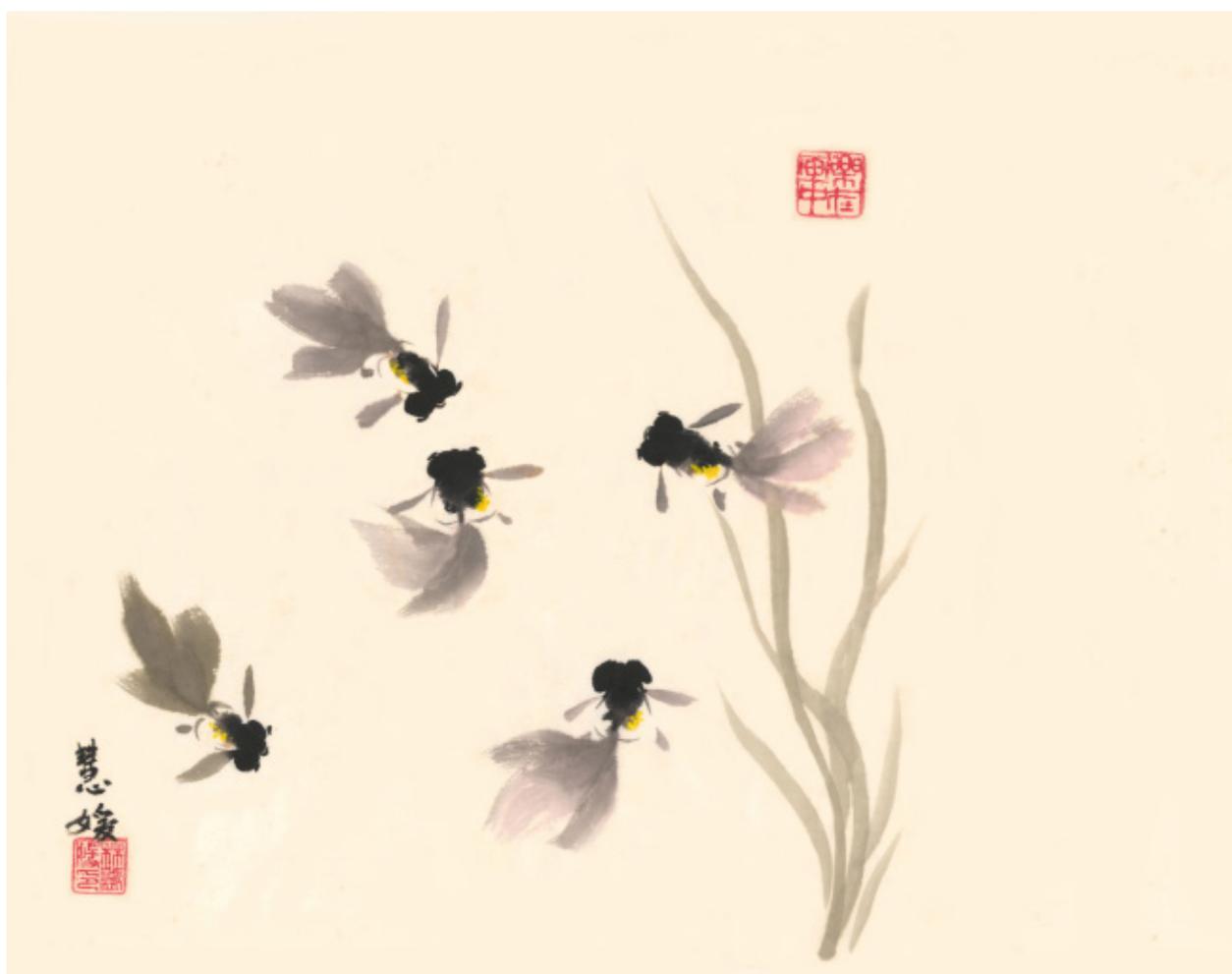
*- Uncle Yune Sen*



*Two Red Fishes I*, 2005  
46 x 38cm, Singapore



*Two Red Fishes II*, 2005  
47.5 x 37cm, Singapore



*Five Black Fishes I*, 2005  
35 x 46cm, Singapore



*Three Black Fishes II*, 2005  
50.5 x 33.5cm, Singapore



*Five Black Fishes II*, 2005  
46.5 x 36.5cm, Singapore



*Eight Black Fishes*, 2005  
69 x 35cm, Singapore



*Three Black Fishes II*, 2005  
46 x 35cm, Singapore



*Sun Flowers*, 2005  
45.4 x 60.5cm, Singapore



*Winter Scenery*, 2005  
24.5 x 27.5cm, Singapore



*“Her imagination and resourcefulness are what I will remember most about Vivien”*

*- Cousin Stephanie*



*Rock Mountain*, 2006  
46 x 60.5cm, Singapore



*Water Melon*, 2006  
46.5 x 46.5cm, Singapore



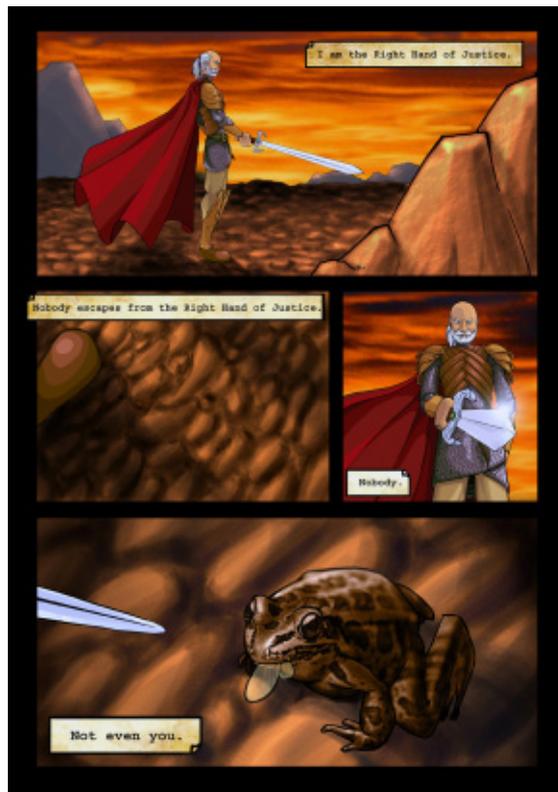
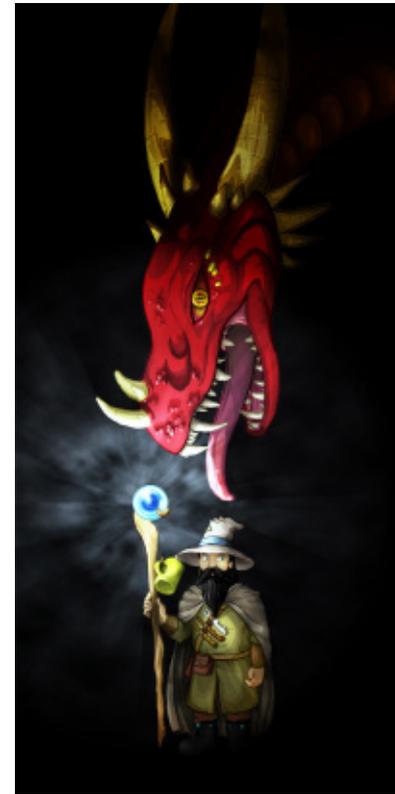
*Displacement*  
September 30, 2006

*I was kinda bored. XD That's a dwarven mage, by the way.*

***In a Dragon's Lair***  
Freehand on Photoshop  
November 4, 2006

*Wide brimmed hats look cool, but aren't always functional. XD*

*The sketch of the dwarf's been around for... a year, but I've only started adding a dragon and the colouring in the middle of last month. In this pic I experimented more with layer modes, filters, lighting effects and the various tools in Photoshop.*



***The Right Hand of Justice***  
Freehand on Photoshop  
September 10, 2006

*Again, my submission for Mangaka '06, Open Category, theme is "Showdown". This is an update of whatever I did last time, which I've deleted. Yeah. And again, concrit appreciated, although it's not much use (for the competition anyway) since I've already submitted.*

*Some changes I've made, thanks to feedback:*

*-mountains in background dimmer*

*-texture in rocks in foreground*

*-texture of ground (this is the most major dif...)*

*-TRIED making the lineart less bold, but... nuuuuuu, my nice black lines! DX*

*-the frog now has a bug in its mouth. Yummy.*

*Yeah, that's about it. And oh! Character background:*

*Alfor Thorguroy was once a powerful paladin of renown, a holy knight who wielded divine magic and his legendary longsword in the name of the God of Chivalry, Justice, Honor, War, Daring, and Valor: Heironeous the Archpaladin. However, 10 years ago Thorguroy suffered a traumatic head injury after exiting his bath, giving him the ability to see stars for a short moment of time. It was then that Heroineous himself appeared before Thorguroy, and appointed the awe-struck paladin as the Right Hand of Justice. The god further entrusted him with a mission: to exterminate avaricious, greedy, black-hearted, evil aliens in the guise of frogs from the land. And Thorguroy stepped out of his bathroom, shining with holy purpose and soapsuds, and he has never looked back since.*



*Two Gold Fishes*, 2006  
35 x 33.5cm, Singapore



*Three Fishes*, 2006  
42.5 x 36cm, Singapore



*Four Giant Fishes*, 2006  
36.4 x 57cm, Singapore



*Five Playful Fishes*, 2006  
46.5 x 50cm, Singapore



*Panda*, 2006  
47.5 x 44.5cm, Singapore



*Endless Joy*, 2006  
61 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*“She never let her sickness stop her from  
enjoying life whenever she could”*

*- Xiaochong Yao  
Best friend in Tufts University*



*Wild Motan*, 2007  
55.5 x 37.5cm, Singapore



*Motan on Orange Background II*, 2007  
55.5 x 37.5cm, Singapore



*Morning Roaster*, 2007  
71 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*Two Roasters*, 2007  
47 x 79.5cm, Singapore



*Motan II*, 2007  
36.5 x 24.6cm, Singapore



*Motan I*, 2007  
36.5 x 47cm, Singapore

*Motan IV*, 2007  
46 x 58cm, Singapore

*Motan VII*, 2007  
36.5 x 49cm, Singapore

*Motan III*, 2007  
46 x 36cm, Singapore

*Motan V*, 2007  
45.5 x 60.5cm, Singapore

*Motan VIII*, 2007  
36 x 50cm, Singapore

*Motan VI*, 2007  
46.5 x 55cm, Singapore

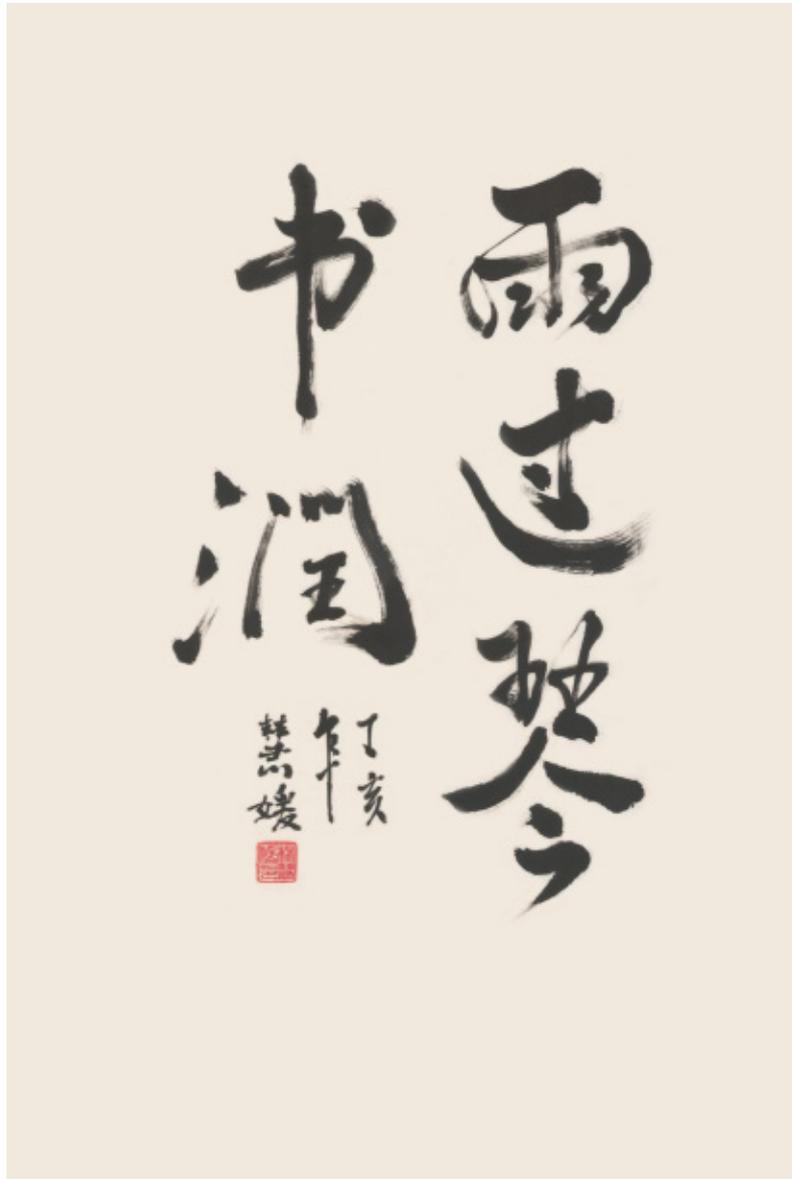
*Motan IX*, 2007  
45.5 x 53.5cm, Singapore



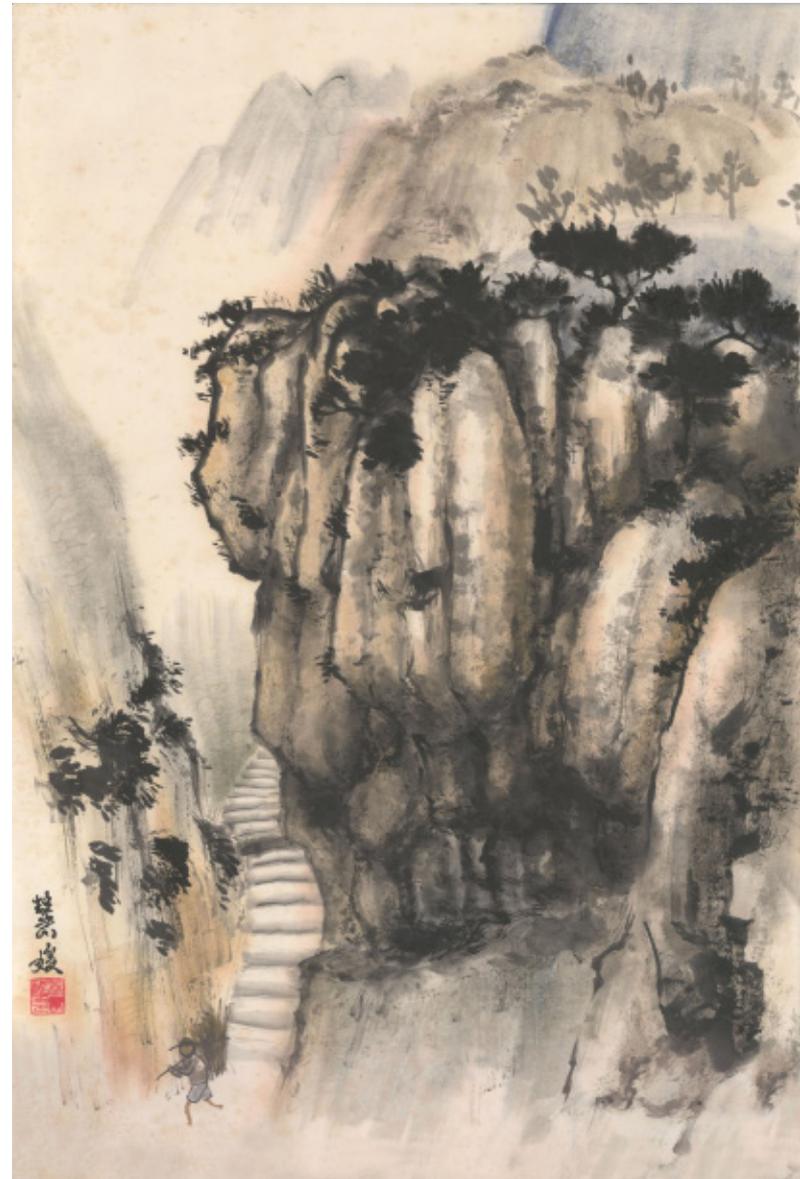
*Pink Lotus VI*, 2007  
42.5 x 60cm, Singapore



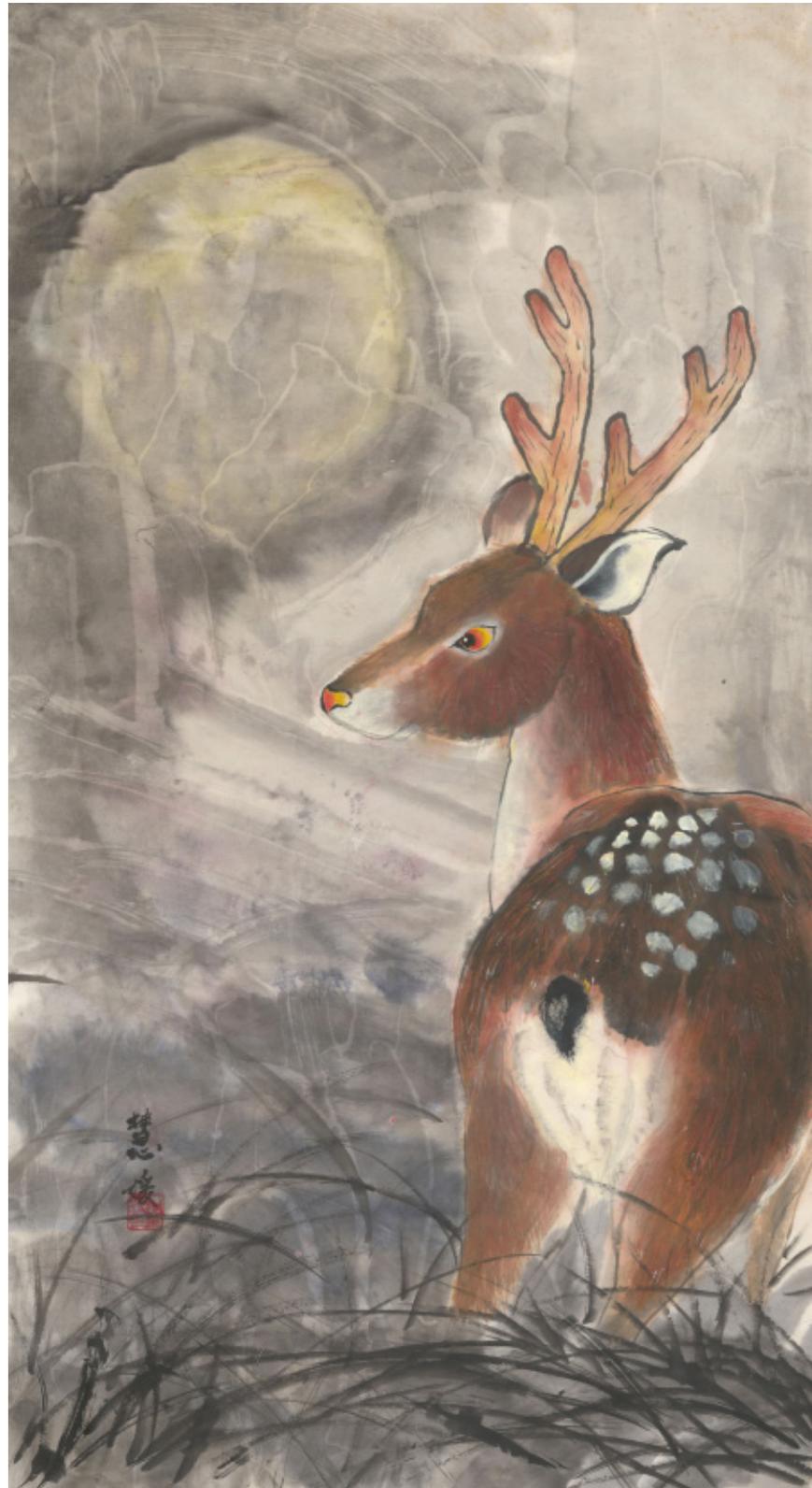
*Pink Lotus V*, 2007  
70 x 51.5cm, Singapore



*Inspiration*, 2007  
59.5 x 42cm, Singapore



*Narrow Road*, 2007  
67 x 45.5cm, Singapore



*Deer*, 2007  
83.5 x 46.5cm, Singapore

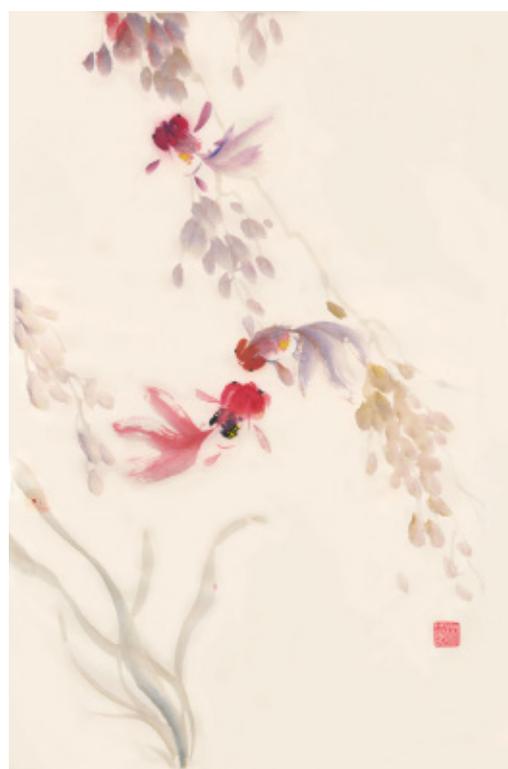


*Three Roosters*, 2007  
47 x 70.5cm, Singapore



*“...because to us a person’s thoughts  
was what made them beautiful,  
not how they looked”*

*- Rachel Tay  
Best friend in Secondary School in Singapore*



*Three Gold Fishes*, 2008  
71 x 47, Singapore



*Five Purple Fishes*, 2008  
70 x 37cm, Singapore



*Twin Goldfish*, 2008  
50 x 40cm, Singapore



*Five Gold Fishes*, 2008  
71.5 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*Black Forest*, 2008  
52.5 x 39cm, Singapore



*Heaven*, 2008  
59 x 36cm, Singapore



*Morning Glory*, 2008  
61 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*White / Dual Bliss*, 2008  
60.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Butterfly and White Motan III*, 2008  
46 x 42cm, Singapore



*Lotus*, 2008  
71 x 33cm, Singapore



*Buffalo*, 2008  
46.5 x 57cm, Singapore



*Giant Goldfishes*, 2008  
46 x 55.5cm, Singapore



*Motan and Chics*, 2008  
47 x 30.5cm, Singapore



*Motan and Fishes*, 2008  
62.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Green Motan I*, 2008  
45.5 x 55.5cm, Singapore



*Green Motan II*, 2008  
45.5 x 57cm, Singapore



*Flowers and a Basket*, 2008  
61 x 46cm, Singapore



*Talking Birds*, 2008  
46.5 x 53cm, Singapore



*Red Lotus IV*, 2008  
46 x 61.5cm, Singapore



*Red Lotus V*, 2008  
46.5 x 61.5cm, Singapore



*Orange Motan I*, 2008  
46 x 56cm, Singapore



*Orange Motan II*, 2008  
42.5 x 54cm, Singapore



*Yellow and Red*, 2008  
46 x 55cm, Singapore



*Yellow Fruits*, 2008  
51 x 40cm, Singapore



*Pink Motan*, 2008  
42.5 x 39cm, Singapore



*Red Lotus III*, 2008  
70 x 48cm, Singapore



*Ageless*, 2008  
61 x 46cm, Singapore



*Tolerance is a Good Virtue*, 2008  
61 x 46cm, Singapore



*Prosperity and Long Life*, 2008  
58 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*Motan in Brown I*, 2008  
45 x 54.5cm, Singapore

*Motan in Brown II*, 2008  
45 x 56.5cm, Singapore



*Lotus At Night*, 2008  
70 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*Motan at Night II*, 2008  
60.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*White Lotus I*, 2008  
68.5 x 44.5cm, Singapore



*White Lotus III*, 2008  
76 x 47.5cm, Singapore



*White Lotus II*, 2008  
57 x 38cm, Singapore



***Woman with Sword***

December 6, 2008

*"I am become Death, destroyer of worlds."*

*Estelle from Tales of Vesperia.*

*I've been doing this instead of my uni applications, yes. I have another sketch of Rita, but don't expect it done anytime soon... I've fiddled around with the composition for a long time, and I'm not sure if I'm happy with this. Suggestions would be much appreciated; I probably won't edit this (not in the short term anyway) but hey, there'll be other works.*



*“Drawing was her passion. She would draw with some interesting story lines. I had always been very curious every time she was creating some stories in her drawing”*

*- Iswati  
Vivien's Childhood Nanny*

## *A Postmodern Bonsai?*



***The Post Modern Bonsai***  
November 15, 2009

*I did this for class. Can you believe it? :D*

*Made from, hmm let's see. Galvanized wire, foraged fall foliage, an unwanted pot from the Tufts Craft Centre, and rocks from outside the Centre.*



*Accidental Bees I*, 2009  
61.5 x 42cm, Singapore



*Accidental Butterfly I*, 2009  
42 x 58.5cm, Singapore



*Accidental Bees II*, 2009  
42 x 52.5cm, Singapore



*Blue Flowers*, 2009  
38 x 50.5cm, Singapore



***Aoi Hana***

February 16, 2009

*This is what happens when my brother suggests titles for my drawings. Aoi Hana = blue flower apparently, even though the bud there is obviously pink. Was my first attempt at drawing. Quite phail, IMO but oh well.*



*Accidental Butterfly II*, 2009  
41.5 x 58cm, Singapore



*Accidental Butterfly III*, 2009  
46.5 x 42cm, Singapore



*Accidental Butterfly IV*, 2009  
58 x 42cm, Singapore



***Dazzling***, 2009  
32.5 x 18.5cm, Singapore

*Original donated to the Engineering Dept,  
Tufts Univ., Boston.*



*Butterfly on Red Motan III*, 2009  
44.5 x 48.5cm, Singapore

*Motan and Rock*, 2009  
43 x 55.5cm, Singapore



*Bees in Party*, 2009  
54 x 41cm, Singapore



*Curious Cat I*, 2009  
46 x 53cm, Singapore



*Lotus Leaves I*, 2009  
46.5 x 51cm, Singapore



*Flowers in Glass Jar*, 2009  
45 x 50.5cm, Singapore



*Grey Motan*, 2009  
46.5 x 58cm, Singapore



*Flowers and Tea Pot*, 2009  
45.5 x 62cm, Singapore



**Phish Food**  
Chinese Ink Painting  
February 16, 2009

*Because my bro likes Ben & Jerry's. Lol.*



**Girl and Flute**  
Chinese Ink Painting  
August 20, 2009

*... Meh. \*shakes head\**



**Squirrel and Grapes**  
Chinese Ink Painting  
August 20, 2009

*Right hrrm. My mum and aunts love this, but they see only a furry tailed mammal, not the deficiencies in technique. Meh.*



*Humanity*, 2009  
61 x 45.5cm, Singapore



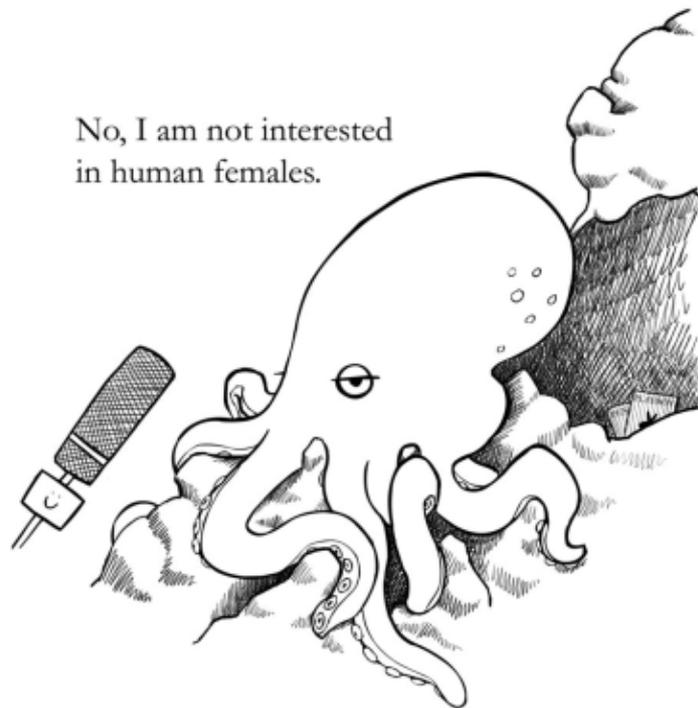
*White Flower*, 2009  
59 x 46cm, Singapore



*Full Bloom I*, 2009  
46 x 61cm, Singapore



*Full Bloom II*, 2009  
46 x 61cm, Singapore



**Interview with Octopus**

August 20, 2009

... Haha?

For those who don't get it: [\[link\]](#)

*Fun Fact: Have you ever seen a Vampire Squid? I saw one on BBC, so cool. Though named a 'squid' it is in fact somewhere in between an octopus and a squid, and is the last remaining member of its order.*

**Deviant ID**, 2009

... Erm. Self-portrait?





*Walking Down Mass. Ave, 2009*  
Boston

*I'm not into photography or anything,  
but on the way to the art supply store I  
saw the light glinting off the metal shell...  
I had to take a photo.  
(Albeit a n00b photo XD)*

*Taken by my uh Sony Ericsson hand-  
phone? Haha. Cropped a little bit in PS  
to tighten the composition.*



*Pond Ecology*, 2009  
54 x 46cm, Singapore

*Original donated to the  
Engineering Dept, Tufts  
Univ., Boston.*



*The Rabbits*, 2009  
38.5 x 48cm, Singapore

*Twin Gold Fishes II*, 2009  
46 x 50.5cm, Singapore



*The Twin Black Fishes*, 2009  
51.5 x 34.5cm, Singapore



*Frog on the Rock III*, 2009  
45.5 x 51.5cm, Singapore



*Good Fortune*, 2009  
53.5 x 45.5cm, Singapore



*Humanity*, 2009  
61 x 45.5cm, Singapore



*Longevity*, 2009  
47 x 38.5cm, Singapore



*Happiness*, 2009  
60 x 45.5cm, Singapore



*Youth*, 2009  
60 x 40.5cm, Singapore



*Hard and Soft in Harmony*, 2009  
43.5 x 39cm, Singapore



*Lotus Leaves II*, 2009  
70.5 x 46.5cm, Singapore



*Motan and Three Butterflies*, 2009  
45.5 x 51.5cm, Singapore



*Motan X*, 2009  
57 x 46cm, Singapore

*Motan XI*, 2009  
54.5 x 46cm, Singapore

*Motan XII*, 2009  
61 x 46cm, Singapore

*Motan XIII*, 2009  
46 x 59cm, Singapore

*Motan XIV*, 2009  
50.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Motan XV*, 2009  
50.5 x 42cm, Singapore



*Motan XVII*, 2009  
37.5 x 57cm, Singapore



*Motan XVI*, 2009  
50.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Motan XVIII*, 2009  
50.5 x 39cm, Singapore



*Motan and Butterfly I*, 2009  
47 x 47cm, Singapore

*Motan and Butterfly II*, 2009  
45.4 x 57cm, Singapore

*Motan and Three bees*, 2009  
45.5 x 57cm, Singapore

*Motan and Two bees*, 2009  
46.5 x 52.5cm, Singapore



*Parrot*, 2009  
43 x 64.5cm, Singapore



*Wild Lotus I*, 2009  
79.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Wild Lotus II*, 2009  
79.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*The Wind*, 2009  
46 x 60cm, Singapore



*Prosperity*, 2009  
57 x 39.5cm, Singapore



*Sweet Motan*, 2009  
47.5 x 46cm, Singapore



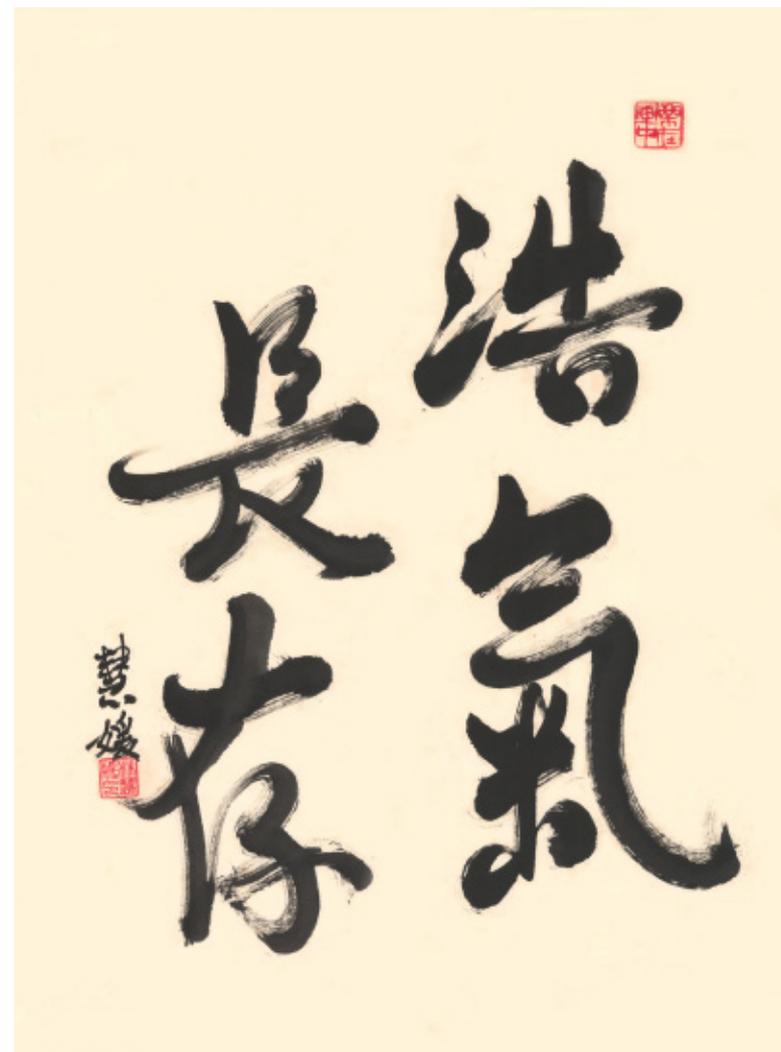
*Elegant Motan*, 2009  
54.5 x 37.5cm, Singapore



*An Accidental Butterfly*  
November 15, 2009



*White Motan*, 2009  
61.5 x 45.5cm, Singapore



*Noble Spirit*, 2009  
46 x 46cm, Singapore



*White (Dual Bliss)*, 2009  
60.5 x 46cm, Singapore



*Pink Lotus I*, 2009  
70 x 47cm, Singapore



*Pink Lotus II*, 2009  
68.5 x 51.5cm, Singapore



*Pink Lotus III*, 2009  
50.5 x 41cm, Singapore



*Pink lotus IV*, 2009  
71X46.5cm, Singapore



*“Her works always drew applauses and compliments from the crowd: they dubbed her Queen of Peony Flower”*

*- Chinese Art Painting and Calligraphy Teacher,  
Mr. Tan Khim Ser*



*Expound Mug*  
July 2, 2010

*My submission for #Expound's mug design competition. Probably works best on a black mug?*

*Mewtwo*  
July 5, 2010

*I'm not even a big fan of Pokemon, for goodness sake.*

*Anyway! Done in PS CS4 with an Intuos4 (not mine, sadly) over 4, 5 hours. I don't want to touch it any more ;\_;*



*Desktop August 2010*

August 16, 2010

*Illustration in wallpaper by Jill Barklem. This one can be found in Summer Story: Poppy and Dusty's Wedding*

*Summer, Love & Cicadas icon set by \*Raindropmemory*

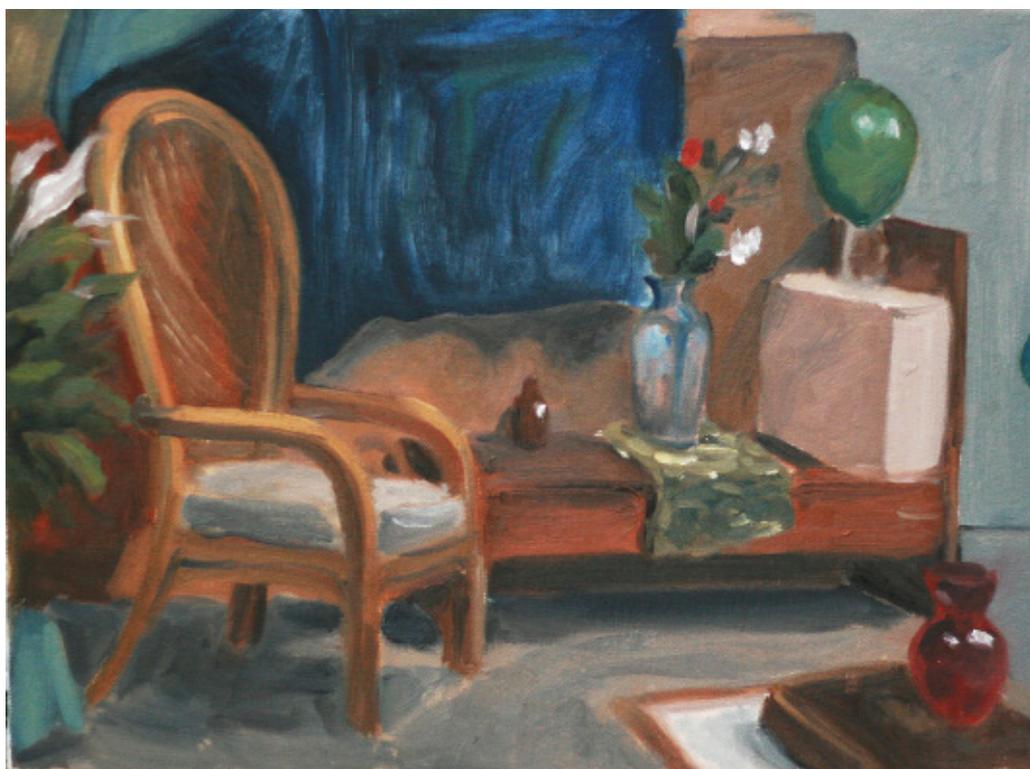
*Ugly PS icon by me haha*



***A Bowl of Fish***

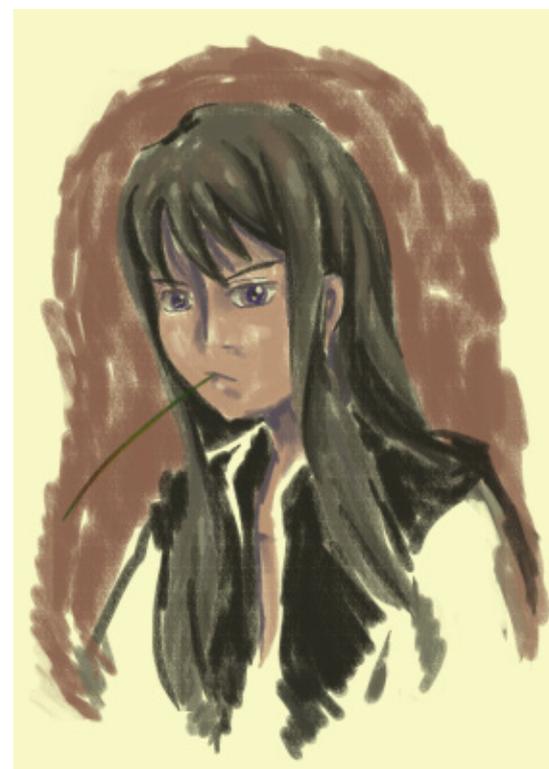
May 25, 2010

*A bowl of fish! This painting is huge, btw. Like 38 by 40 in?  
Also if anyone has advice on how to take good photos of oil paintings please tell me ><  
EDIT: Made colours a little more vibrant (and thus truer to the original).*



***A Room***  
May 25, 2010

*Actually there was a model in the setup... but he kept twitching about and sucking in his stomach so I ignored him. Initially, anyway!  
But in the end I did get around to drawing him*



***Yuri Lowell, 2010***



### The Office

Every now and then Mr. Toadflax would disappear for hours at a time, only to emerge, high-eyed, with ink on his whiskers and a fresh manuscript in his paws. His words appear with modest regularity in *The Evening Star*, *The Mice* and *The Custodian*.

### The Bedroom

The Toadflaxes like to begin and end their days with a cuddle in bed. Not surprising, given that their bed (a wedding gift from the late Lord Woodmouse) is stuffed with soft eiderdown from the friendly ducks upstream. Double-insulated windows keep the house warm in winter and cool in summer.

### The Bathroom

Mr. Toadflax can never figure out the mysterious female things his wife gets up to in there, while Mrs. Toadflax cannot comprehend why her husband, despite numerous reminders, always forgets to put down the toilet seat.

### The Kitchen

Mrs. Toadflax may not be the best cook in Brambly Hedge (that would be the young Lady Woodmouse, Lib) but she loves baking desserts. Her lemon meringues, cherry pies, pecan ices and dandelion creams are in big demand at parties, and they all start in this kitchen. Mr. Toadflax loves to sit on the stool in the corner and do absolutely nothing to help. There is a dumbwaiter (not shown, on the near wall that connects the kitchen to the living room).

### The Living Room

There is nothing like curling up with a good book and cup of hot, sweet tea on a chilly winter evening. It is Mrs. Toadflax's favorite room, and she enjoys bringing home old friends to chat and flirt with (heavily making Mr. Toadflax jealous, but he knows she'll move them make it up to him later...).

### The Storeroom

The Toadflaxes keep most of their food in the Store Stump, the communal food storage space for the mice of Brambly Hedge. But at any time, their pantry is always full of the freshest milk from the dairy farm by Mrs. Toadflax's sister Buttercup Dogwood and the best flour from the mill farm by her elderly father Mr. Dogwood.

## About the House [ & the mice ]

Welcome to the Sycamore Tree, the youngest addition to the venerable Oaks and Crabapples at Brambly Hedge. Located upstream, a stone's throw away from Eyebright Cottage, it is home to Mr. and Mrs. Toadflax. Come have a look and a cup of tea! (No, they're not selling.)

### The Toadflaxes

Mr. and Mrs. Toadflax have lived in Brambly Hedge all their lives. Mr. Toadflax is one of Wilfred Toadflax's brothers, while Mrs. Rose Toadflax is Dusty Dogwood and Poppy Eyebright's daughter.

### The Studio

As Mr. Toadflax types away and becomes slowly encrusted in typewriter grease, Mrs. Toadflax paints. Though she has enjoyed moderate success as a local artist, she is still trying hard to break into the art scene in the riverside town. Meanwhile, she illustrates children books and her husband's occasional forays into fiction.

### Utilities

As a general rule, the mice of Brambly Hedge have no truck with the nuclear plant run by the voles downstream. (Mr. Toadflax was one of the first members of the local Greenpeace chapter, set up in a reactionary protest against the plant.) Instead they get their water and electricity from a small tributary of the river. The firewood, dried in one of old Mr. Apple's storage spaces, is hauled up through the windows by mountable pulley systems.

### The Entry Hallway

It's a little sparse, but cozy, and the warmth is a welcome change from the chill in winter. Dry your boots on the woven rug (purchased during their honeymoon in America, as Mrs. Toadflax will tell you, by Mr. Toadflax, who insisted that the green would look absolutely smashing in the house... and after years of walking on it every day, she had to agree) and make yourself at home.

**Brambly Hedge**  
August 23, 2010

*With captions! Most of the characters mentioned are from the Brambly Hedge books, which belong to Jill Barklem. Mr. and Mrs. Toadflax are just... natural extensions from my imagination.*

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## The Studio

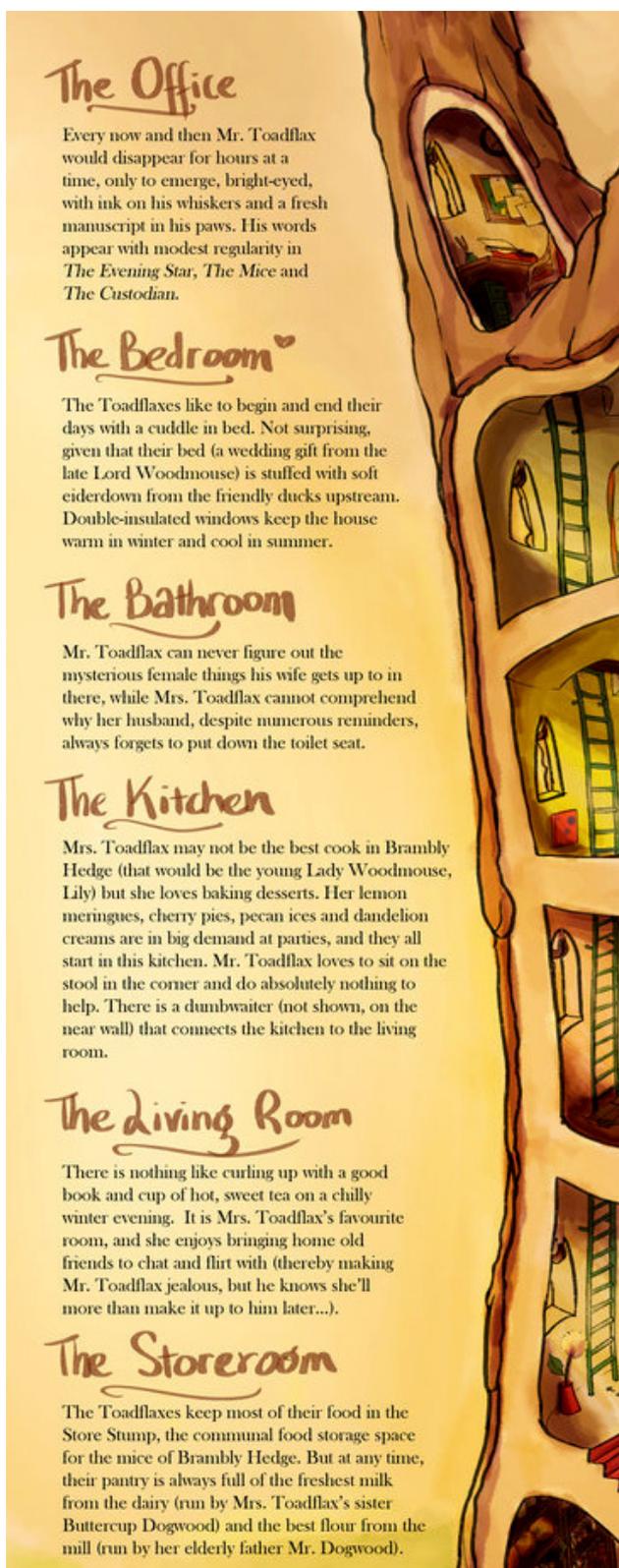
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**Dragon**  
July 23, 2010

*How to train your dragon? Try peaceful protest.*



**Peaceful Protest**  
August 3, 2010

*Don't kill babies... make them!*

*I have a tendency to start epic drawings that I never finish... am in the midst of one right now, BUT I'LL FINISH IT IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO. :faint: (I did lots of NSFW doodles though. HAHA.)*



**C3PO 1**  
December 17, 2010

*My final project for my engineering graphics class. It's supposed to be a lamp, so there be light shining out of his eyes.*



**C3PO 2**  
December 17, 2010

*Oh no! Darth Maul mysteriously looms out of the shadow. Luckily C3PO (re-outfitted as a table lamp) is here to drive the shadows away.*



***Fruits***

May 25, 2010

*So a table of fruit! Apples and a lone banana.*



***Giant Pink Shoe***  
May 25, 2010

*A giant pink shoe  
Resting upon a table  
Strewn with artfully  
arranged coloured paper  
(Plus a bowl)*



***Old Man***  
May 25, 2010

*Model who was omitted in this painting, I got around to painting him in the end.*



***Bowling Pins***  
May 25, 2010

*First time I did glazing! Turned out ok I guess?*



*“When I get a little money I BUY BOOKS;  
and if any is left I buy food and clothes”*

*- Vivien's favourite verse  
by Erasmus*



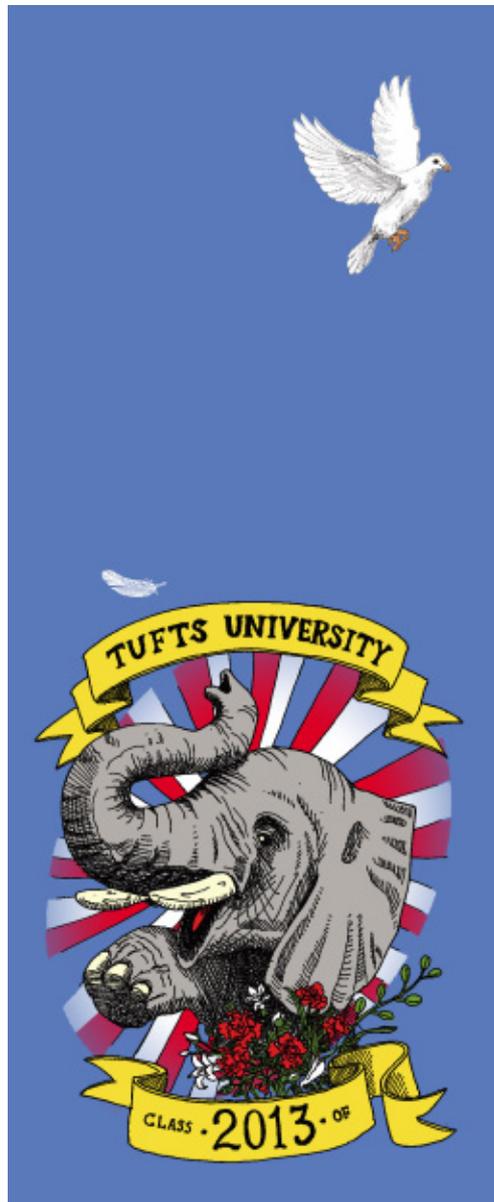
*Cat*  
June 28, 2011

*A drawing of a cat I drew for a friend, who lost his not too long ago.*



***Karl***, 2011

*My hair on the floor after a hair cut done by Xiao  
Chong at my dorm, Boston, 2011*



*Official Tufts Class of 2013 Banner*  
Boston, September 25, 2011



*Reading*, 2011  
30 x 16cm, Singapore

*Lineart was done for an assignment in my illustration class. The prompt was to draw something based on a childhood memory. The assignment required making a 3D model to best visualize the set-up, but I ended up taking a more abstract approach (as opposed to a realist one).*

*Lineart in pencil, all colours in Photoshop CS3. Some free ink brushes (I forget my sources, sorry X<) and textures from cgtextures.com.*



*Rita II*, 2011  
33.5 x 24.5cm, Singapore

*Rita Mordio from Tales of Vesperia, PS, brushes from... somewhere. I really should check.*

*People said the books she read were difficult, but Rita knew better. Because no matter how convoluted a theorem seemed, or how involved an equation, she always got them right in the end.*

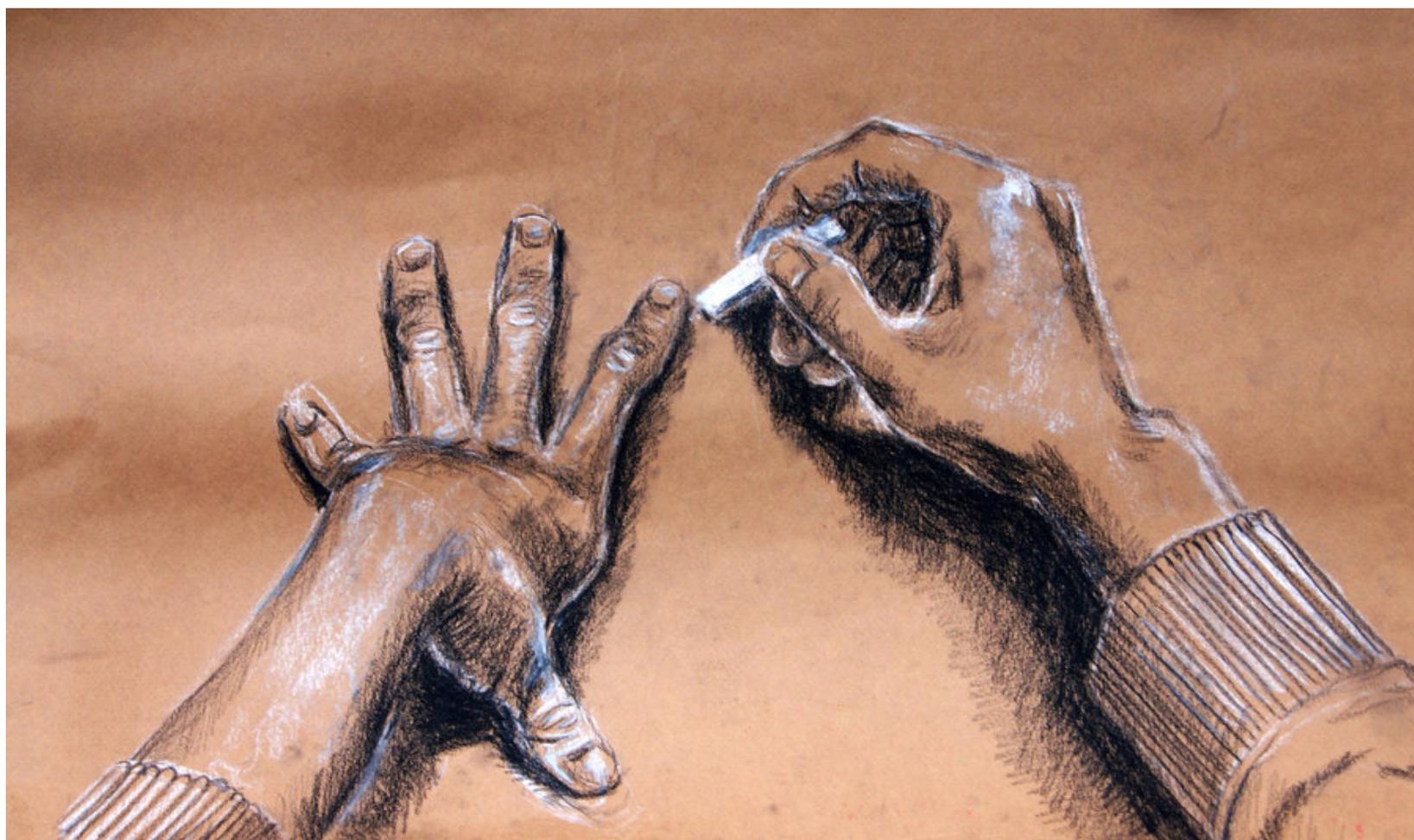
*People, now...*



*“... and the musty smell of books never fails  
to remind me of Vivien’s own little library  
in her room where she lovingly collected titles  
by her favourite authors”*

*- Amanda Tan*

*Best Friend Since Secondary School In Singapore*



***Hands, Escher-Style***

January 9, 2012

*My hands in charcoal and white conte on brown paper.*

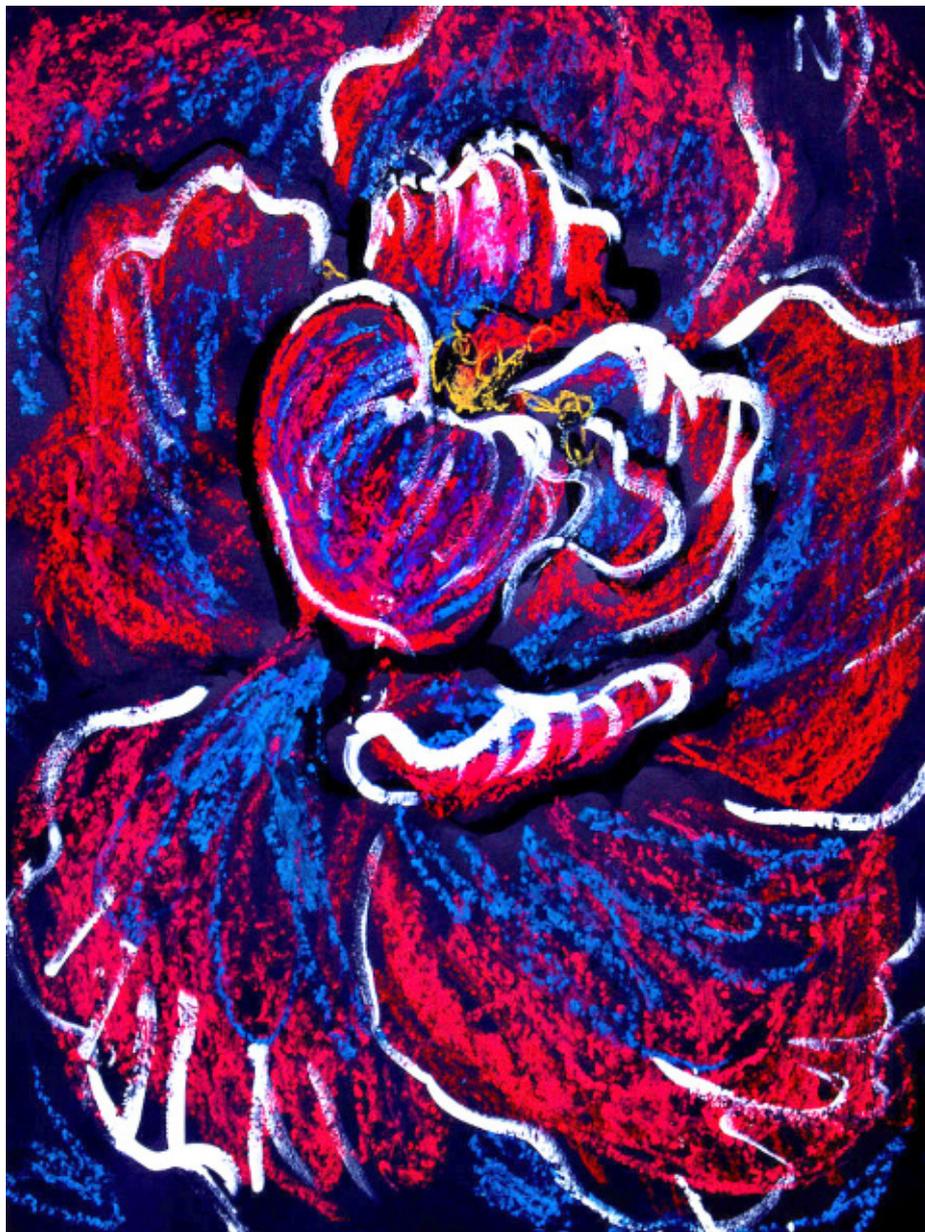


***hand Curled***  
January 9, 2012

*My hand in conte and charcoal on brown paper. You can probably tell that I'm right-handed.*

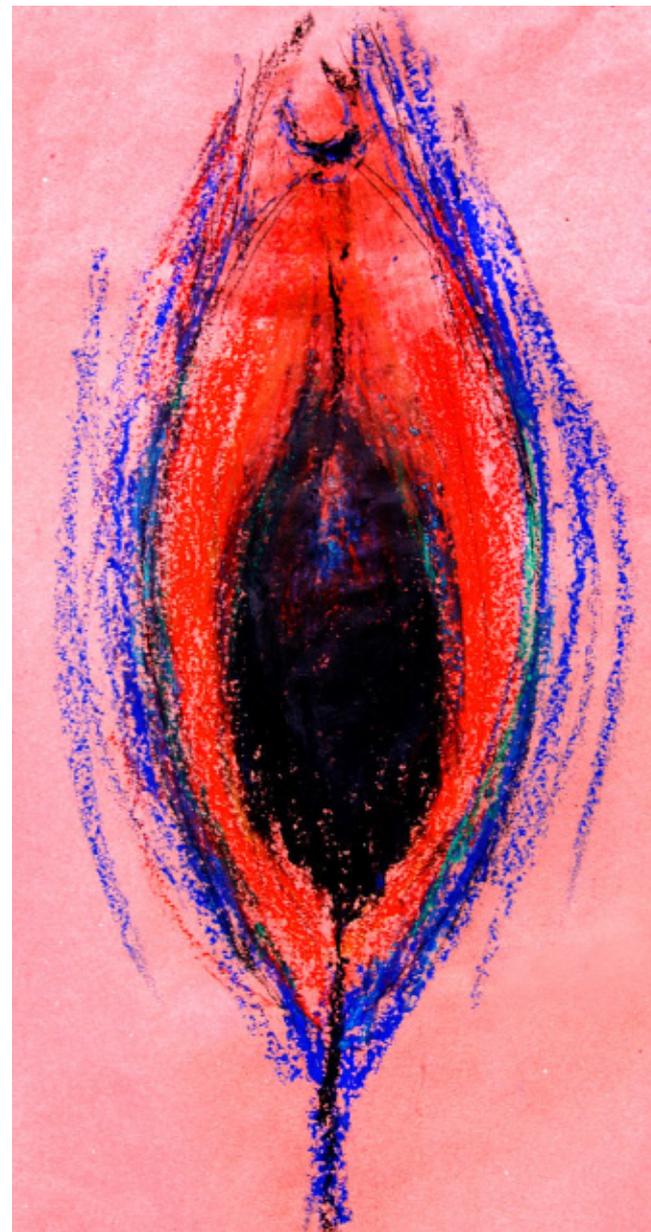


***Self Portrait***  
January 9, 2012



*Dark Flower*  
January 9, 2012

*A flower in oil pastel and paint on tar paper.*



*Cave*  
January 9, 2012

*A cave in paint and oil pastels.*



*Old Man II*, 2012  
Oil on Canvas

*Erh yeah. A quick painting, again using only ultramarine blue, cad red and cad yellow.*



*Still Life with Jars and a Flashlight*  
January 9, 2012

*A view of the outdoor seating areas at Hodgdon, one of the dining halls at Tufts University. Done in pencil over multiple sittings.*



***Shoes***  
January 9, 2012

*My shoes in charcoal pencil.*



***Jar Still Life***  
January 9, 2012

*Still of a huge jar, a lightbulb, and other miscellaneous things in pencil.*

***Still Life with Jars and a Flashlight***  
January 9, 2012

*Still life in pencil showing multiple possible compositions. The pig is a flashlight.*



***Bottle and Cloth Still Life***  
January 9, 2012

*Brush and ink on... the kind of drawing pad Utrecht sells to art students.*



*Flower in Ink*  
January 9, 2012

*Some flowers in ink.*



*“Vivien will be remembered as a talented  
young artist along with this book”*

*- Shin Young Rho Director  
Ashcan Studio of Art, New York*



*Figure Drawings*, 2013  
45 x 60cm, New York



***BNW 203006***, 2013  
57.5 x 42.5cm, New York

***BNW 203007***, 2013  
57.5 x 42.5cm, New York

***BNW 203009***, 2013  
38 x 55cm, New York, 2013

***Black and White Boy***, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York

***BNW 203005***, 2013  
57.5 x 42.5cm, New York



*bnw203004*, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York, 2013



*Woman Sits Black and White*, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York



*Girl in Jeans Black and White*, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York



*Woman with Stripe Shirt*, 2013  
57 x 43cm, New York



*Figurines I*, 2013  
56 x 43cm, New York



*Figurines II*, 2013  
57 x 43cm, New York



*Woman in Dress*, 2013  
56.5 x 44.5cm, New York



*Man with Glasses*, 2013  
38 x 28.5cm, New York



*Dark Painting*, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York



*Chubbyman*, 2013  
57.5 x 43cm, New York



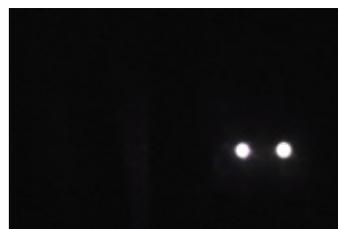
AP

Vivien J. Lim 4/13

*Yuan by Vivien J. Lim, 2013*  
42 x 29.5cm, New York



*Calligraphy on one of the class*, 2013  
Walls in Ashcan Studio of Art, New York



1



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3



4



5



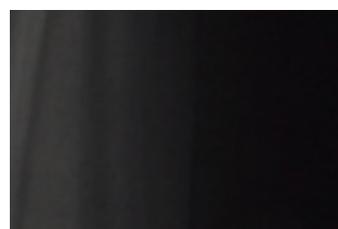
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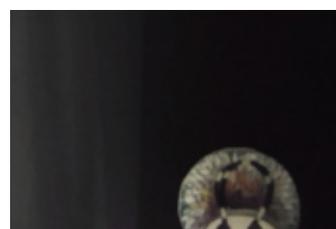
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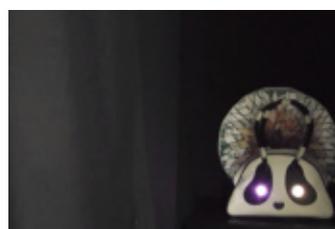
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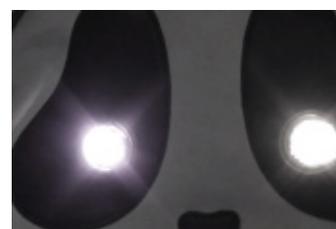
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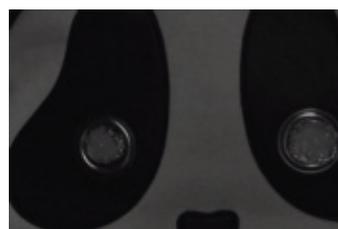
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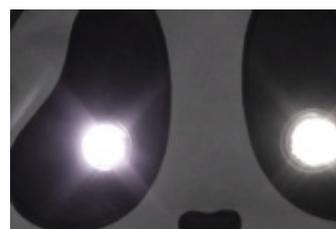
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12



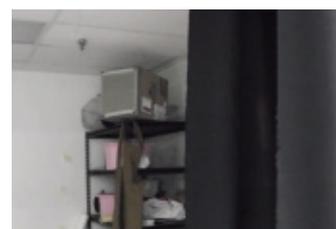
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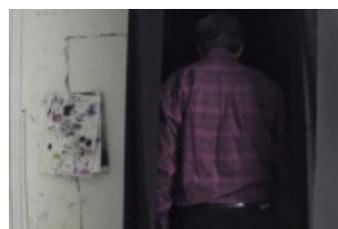
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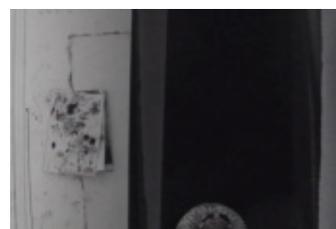
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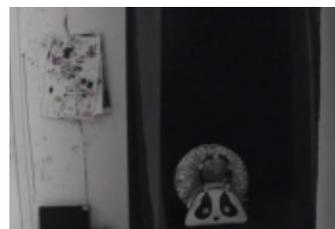
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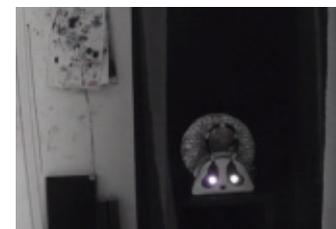
17



18



19



20

*Inanimate* by Vivien J. Lim, 2013  
 Sound from SoundBible.com  
 Thanks to Little Neck Ashcan Studio and Lim Kok Ven



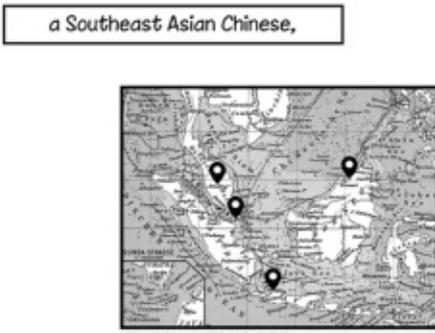
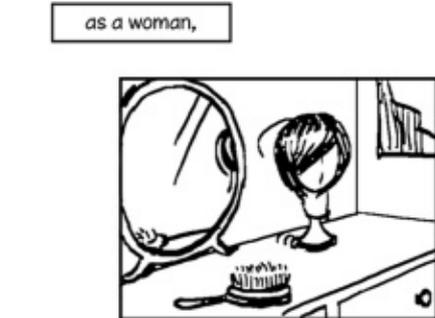
*Rakam*, 2013  
35.5 x 28cm, New York  
Water Colour

# why me\*?

BY VIVIEN J. LIM

\* Or, "Why I Should Win \$\$\$ to Attend UXPA International 2013"







**Predestination, In Loving Memory Of Vivien J.Lim**  
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