ARTS

Women’s art reclaimed: 6 exhibitions for International Women’s Day

From AI avatars to textile-based activism, they celebrate the diverse perspectives of contemporary female artists

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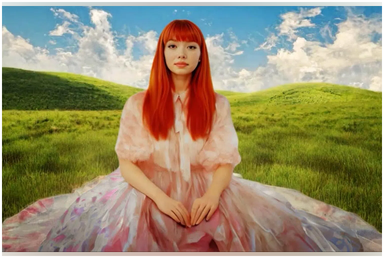

Created with artificial intelligence, Shavonne Wong's Eva can interact with visitors at The Columns Gallery and have conversations on various topics. PHOTO: SHAVONNE WONG

FOR much of history, art by women has been neatly tucked into the category of “craft” – a convenient way to marginalise their contributions while elevating painting and sculpture, mediums long dominated by men, as the pinnacle of artistic achievement.

Textile arts, embroidery and ceramics have been dismissed as decorative, domestic and “feminine”, despite their cultural weight and technical brilliance.

But times have changed. This International Women’s Day, at least six exhibitions across Singapore are celebrating female artists, many of whom are reclaiming these traditionally feminised mediums and challenging the long-ingrained biases of the art world. From embroidery with medical sutures to hyperreal digital portraits, these exhibits put women’s creativity – and resistance – at the centre of the conversation.

What Doesn’t Ki

Art Outreach, Mar 8-1

There are three releva e first of which is the
inaugural show of Art The double-bill
exhibition features br lla, whose textile-
based works incorpor ures, and mouldable
resin pieces – materials that speak to both suffering and resilience. “After years of being a patient as well as a caregiver (to a daughter with Type 1 diabetes), I have moved to a space of acceptance and growth,” Bhalla says. “The works address my change in mindset from negative to positive.”

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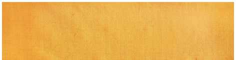

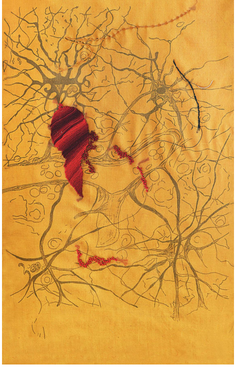

Sunaina Bhalla's textile art at Art Outreach hints at her physical suffering and medical struggles. PHOTO: ART LINGUISTICS

Paired with Bhalla's work is that of Helene Le Chatelier, a Singapore-based French artist who explores the resilience of the female body. Her installations and photo-based works delve into the ways suffering leaves traces – physical, emotional, and generational.

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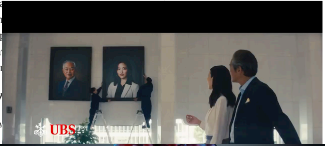

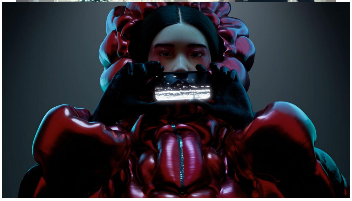

Shavonne Wong's cutting-edge digital art looks at the human relationship with technology. PHOTO: SHAVONNE WONG

Shavonne Wong is one of Singapore's most acclaimed digital artists, known for her hyperrealistic 3D portraits that explore beauty, identity, and the evolving role of women in the digital age. Eva, her new body of work at The Columns Gallery in Gillman Barracks, takes this further by introducing an artificial intelligence (AI) avatar that visitors can interact with and engage in conversations that range from the philosophical to the deeply personal – all while being surrounded by Wong's other works that challenge ideas of memory, surveillance, and self-representation.

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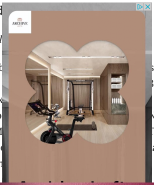
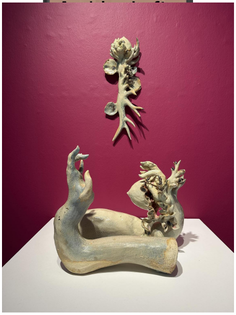
This show isn't new, b sit before it closes.
Curated by Loredana Bodies is a
powerhouse group ex most electrifying
female artists: Singap Nadiah Bamadhaj,
Timor-Leste's Maria M Taiwan's Peihang
Benoit, Myanmar's So asdjarmrearnsook
and Pannaphan Yodm





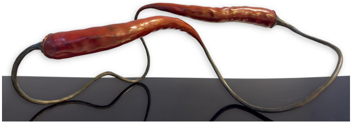
The bold sculptures of Myanmar artist Soe Yu Nwe explore the ferocity and fluidity of female identity. PHOTO: BT FILE

What makes this show stand out? The fearlessness of its artists. Some works here refuse to be polite about gender, power, and historical memory. Women's bodies – so often sites of discipline and control – are reimagined as vessels of resistance, transformation, and defiance against patriarchal expectations.

In Her Hands

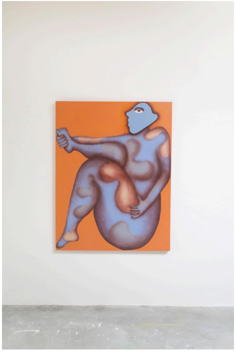
Prestige Art Gallery, Mar 8 - Apr 20

Three marquee artists – Kumari Nahappan, Han Sai Por, and Kanoko Takaya – come together for an exhibition that contemplates humanity's evolving relationship with nature.



Kumari Nahappan's chilli sculptures are a favourite among local collectors. PHOTO: PRESTIGE ART GALLERY

Han, a recipient of Singapore's Cultural Medallion, transforms hard stone into elegant meditations on nature's resilience and fragility. Nahappan, whose vibrant sculptures pepper the city, looks at the intersection of culture, ecology, and faith. Meanwhile, Kyoto-born Takaya creates a series of paintings and installations that explores memory and the environment.



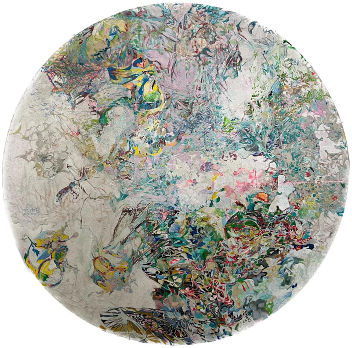
A delicate painting by Kanoko Takaya parses memory, selfhood and the environment. PHOTO: PRESTIGE ART GALLERY

Tan Siuli, who curated the show, has assembled a deeply introspective study on environmental consciousness, human responsibility, and the delicate balance between nature and culture.

Voice of Art 4: Women – Empowering the World

Ion Art Gallery, Till Mar 9

With more than 60 local and international women artists, this is one of the largest exhibitions dedicated to female practitioners in Singapore. Organised by Be One Gallery, the show spans painting, sculpture, photography, and even a floral installation.



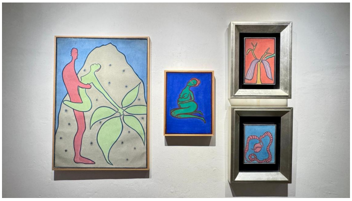
Junko Tsujii's painting is one of the highlights of Voice Of Art 4. PHOTO: BE ONE GALLERY

The artist line-up includes members from the Modern Art Society Singapore, Women Artists Association (Singapore), Singapore Watercolour Society, Sculpture Society (Singapore), and The Society of Chinese Artists – though the most interesting discoveries may be among the emerging artists. While the quality varies, the sheer scope of the exhibition offers something for everyone.

The Second Sex

The Culture Story, Till May 31

Drawing inspiration from Simone de Beauvoir's seminal text *The Second Sex*, The Culture Story presents an exhibition that delves into the evolving narrative of female representation in art. On view by appointment only, the showcase features more than 20 artworks by 16 Asian female artists such as Singapore's Jane Lee, South Korea's Lee Bul and Malaysia's Yee I-Lann.


The expressionist canvases of I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih (also known as Murni) have garnered wide acclaim. PHOTO: THE CULTURE STORY

Highlights include Indonesia's I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih (also known as Murni), known for her raw, expressionistic paintings addressing themes of sexuality and trauma, and Singapore's Yanyun Chen, whose intricate drawings explore beauty, impermanence, and the weight of societal expectations.

The best works here don't just celebrate female creativity – they declare women's art to be every bit as conceptual, radical, hard-hitting and essential as that of their male counterparts.

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