



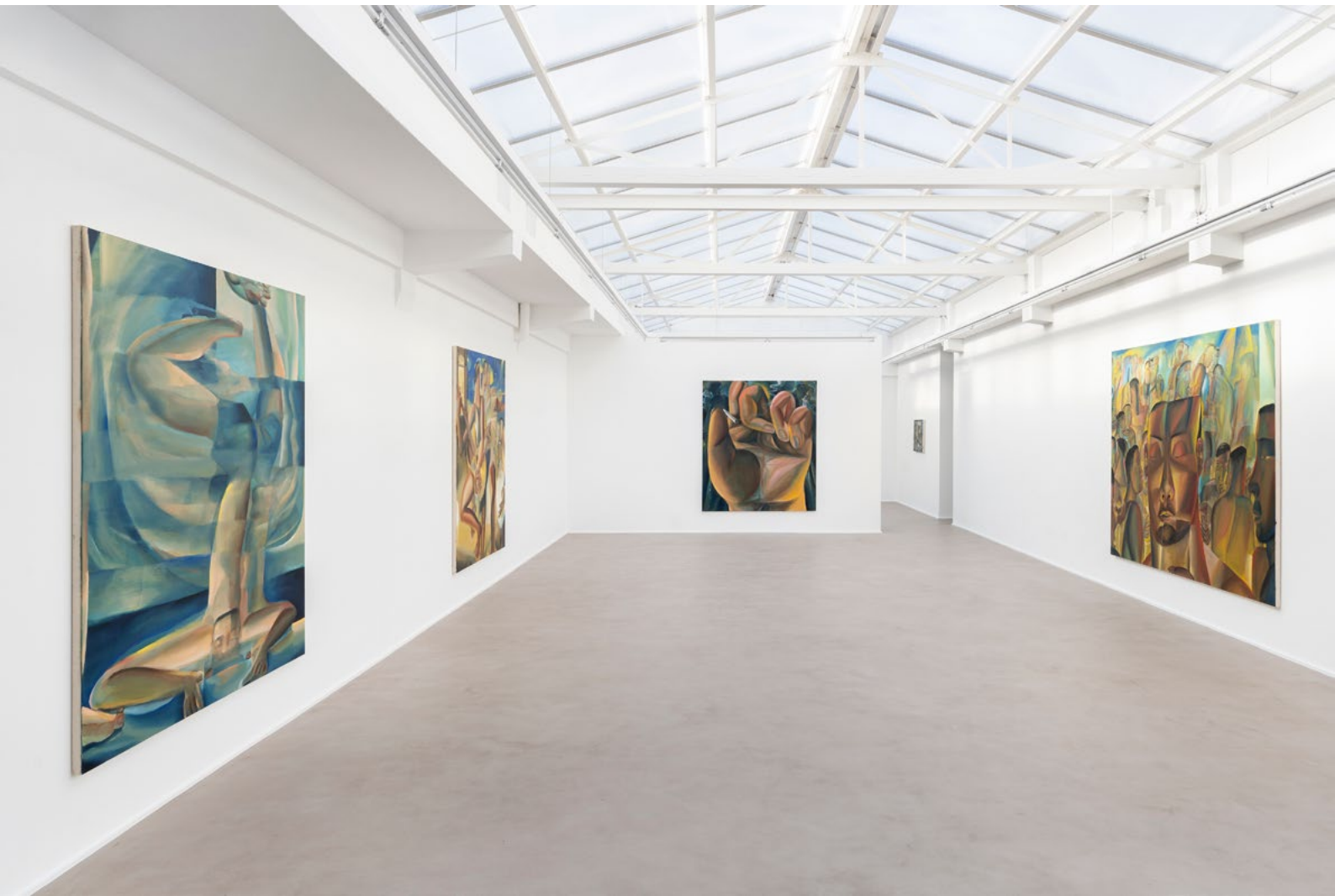
Alvin Ong

Polyphony

16 February – 25 March, 2023

rodolphe janssen

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Alvin Ong
Polyphony

16.02 > 25.03.2023

Rhythm comes from the pairings of hard and soft, light and heavy, balance and imbalance, the punctuation and combination of different tones.

– Haruki Murakami, Absolutely on Music

rodolphe janssen is pleased to present Polyphony, an Alvin Ong solo exhibition curated by Kami Gahiga. The artist's style combines multiple overlaid visual vocabularies which endow his paintings a rhythmic quality. Colour, shape, texture, and form but also instruments, notation, and scale, are considered as sites of enquiry. Taking the polyphonic and contrapuntal expressive qualities of Johann Sebastian Bach's "The Art of Fugue" (published posthumously in 1751) as point of departure, Polyphony showcases fifteen paintings developed throughout the second half of 2022 in London and Ong's art residency at Eton College. The exhibition addresses the diversity of layers, references, and influences that inform Ong's paintings – including classical music, traditional Malay folktales, and technology blended with art history ranging from Old Masters to contemporary art. Through the diversity of its themes and intersecting driving forces, Polyphony unveils authentic humanistic traits : carnal whims, voyeurism, alienation, and the human desire for connection. Alvin Ong's paintings possess a universality and distinct world-view that ignite one's inner world and deepest impulses.

Kami Gahiga

About the artist:

Alvin Ong (b.1988) lives and works between London, UK and Singapore. He is a graduate of the Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, UK (2016) and received an MFA from the Royal College of Art, London, UK (2018). He has exhibited at SAM, Singapore (2007, 2012, 2013), NAFA, Singapore (2007), Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore (2010), Peranakan Museum, Singapore (2015), Northampton Contemporary, Northampton, UK (2017), and the National Portrait Gallery, London, UK (2018). This year, he was nominated for the 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, named finalist of the prestigious Hopper Prize in 2019, and the winner of the Chadwell Award in 2018. At the age of 16, he became the youngest winner of the UOB Painting of the Year Award, Singapore (2005). His paintings are collected by the ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Ingram Collection, UK, and the Victoria & Albert Museum (Print Collection), London, UK.

About the curator:

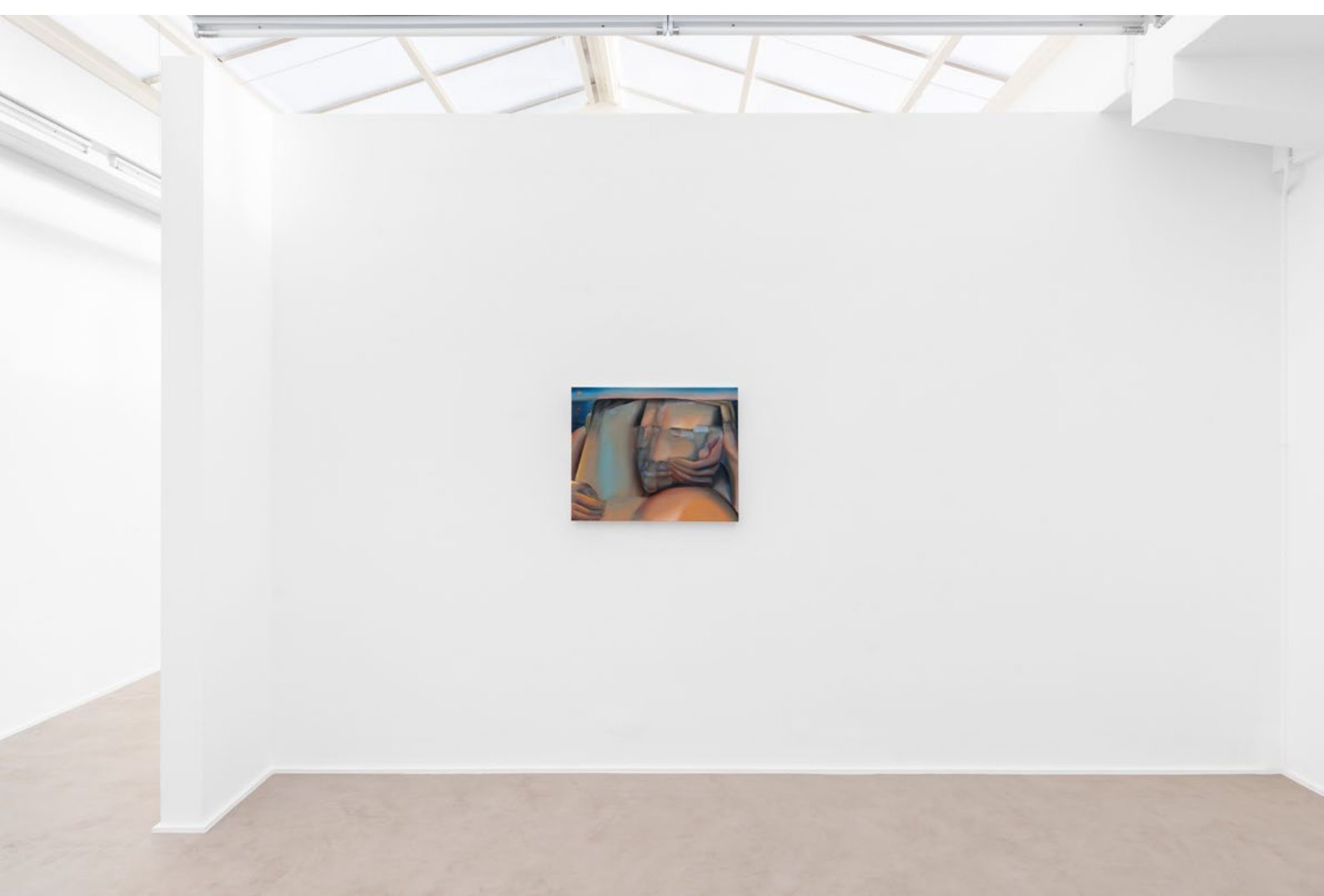
Kami Gahiga is a London-based art curator, private art advisor (The Baer Faxt Art Advisory), and writer. Gahiga is the author of several publications and regularly contributes to contemporary art talks and panels. She has been invited as guest lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art and Christie's Education in London, UK. Gahiga holds a First Distinction Master's degree from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London, UK.















Alvin Ong

Private view, 2022

Oil on canvas

200 x 260 cm

78 3/4 x 102 3/8 in

(A0ng008)



Alvin Ong

Dondang sayang, 2022
Oil on canvas
200 x 175 cm
78 3/4 x 68 7/8 in
(A0ng001)



Alvin Ong

Lap, 2022

Oil on canvas

200 x 175 cm

78 3/4 x 68 7/8 in

(A0ng002)



Alvin Ong

Life lines, 2022

Oil on canvas

200 x 175 cm

78 3/4 x 68 7/8 in

(A0ng013)



Alvin Ong

Antidote, 2022

Oil on canvas

200 x 150 cm

78 3/4 x 59 in

(A0ng006)



Alvin Ong

These nights I think of you, 2022

Oil on canvas

150 x 175 cm

59 x 68 7/8 in

(A0ng014)



Alvin Ong

Late bloomer, 2022

Oil on canvas

150 x 120 cm

59 x 47 1/4 in

(A0ng005)



Alvin Ong

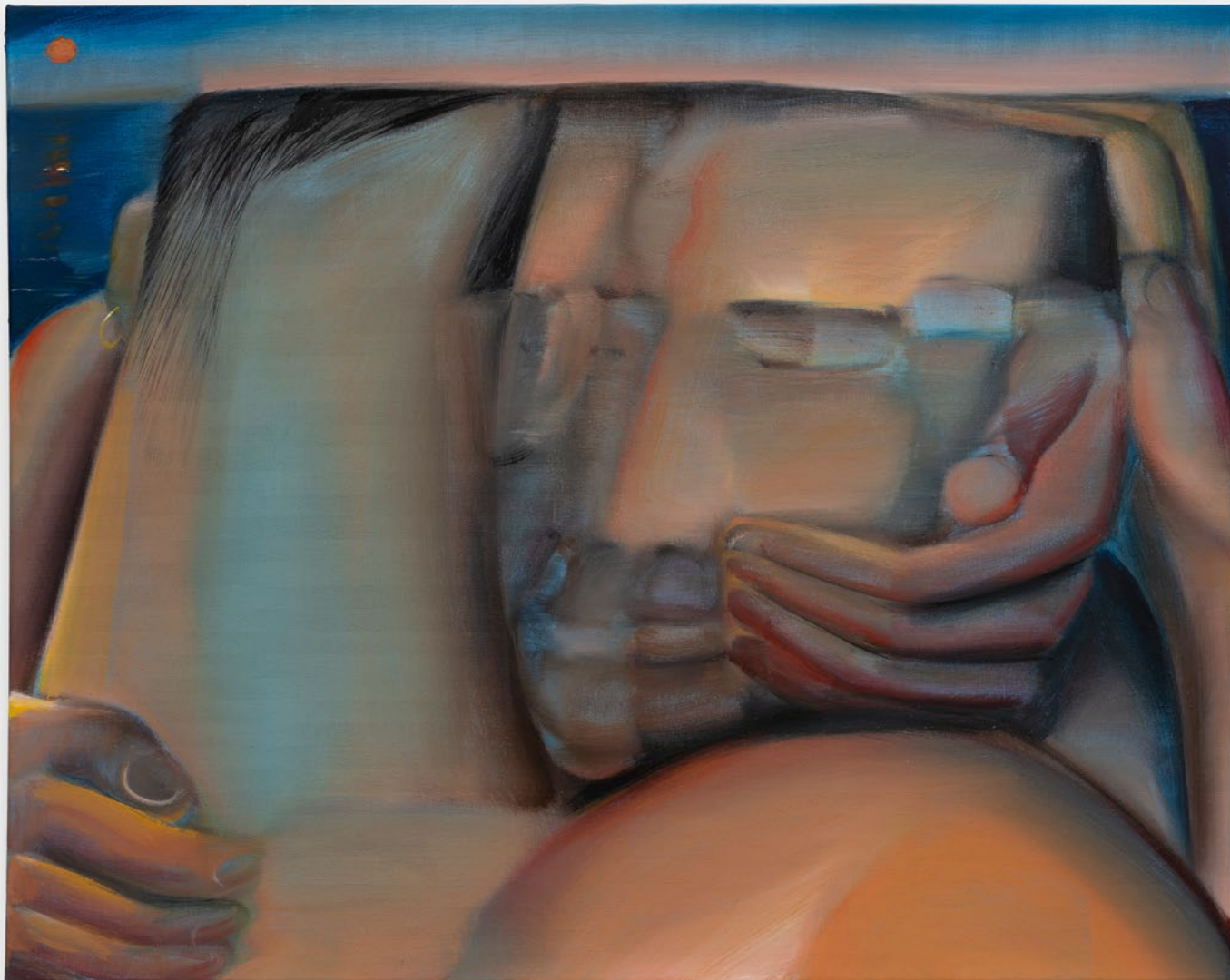
Nap, 2022

Oil on canvas

61 x 76 cm

24 x 29 7/8 in

(A0ng003)



Alvin Ong

We will meet again, 2022

Oil on canvas

61 x 76 cm

24 x 29 7/8 in

(A0ng004)



Alvin Ong

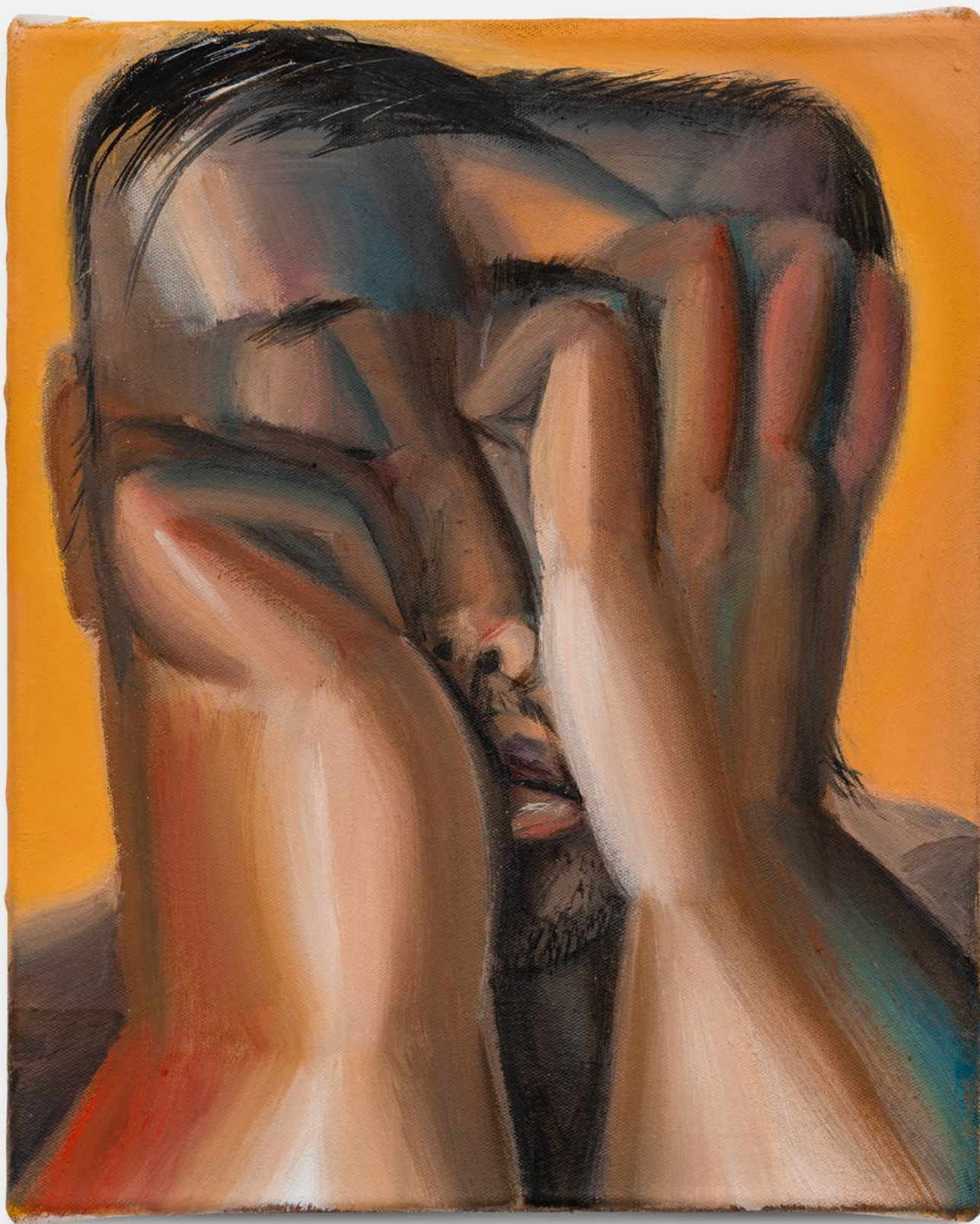
Sleep, 2022

Oil on canvas

40 x 30 cm

15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in

(A0ng015)



Alvin Ong

Mirror, 2022

Oil on canvas

31 x 26 cm

12 1/4 x 10 1/4 in

(A0ng007)



Alvin Ong

Water night #1, 2022

Monotype etching

33.5 x 43.5 cm (unframed)

13 1/4 x 17 1/8 in

(A0ng009)



'Water Night'

Alvin Ong

Alvin Ong

Water night #2, 2022

Monotype etching

33.5 x 45.5 cm (unframed)

13 1/4 x 17 7/8 in

(A0ng010)



'Water Night'

Ong 22

Alvin Ong

Water night #3, 2022

Monotype etching

34.8 x 45.5 cm

13 3/4 x 17 7/8 in

(A0ng011)

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Alvin Ong

Biography

Born in 1988 in Singapore
Lives and works in Singapore and London, UK

Education

- 2018 - Royal College of Art, London , UK
- 2016 - Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Solo and two person Exhibitions

- 2023 - rodolphe janssen, Brussels, Belgium
- 2022 - *Antidote*, Eton College, Berkshire, UK
 - *Private Pleasures*, BANK Gallery, Shanghai, China
 - *Binge Watch*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore
- 2021 - *In My Head*, Yavuz Gallery, The Armory Show, New York, NY USA
- 2020 - *Night shift*, Mine Project, Hong Kong, China
 - *Long distance*, Yavuz Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 - *Supper Club*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore
- 2016 - *We will meet*, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2006 - *The hours*, Jendela, Esplanade, Singapore

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 - *In Momentum*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London

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- 2021
 - *Holding Hands*, Union Gallery, London, UK
- 2020
 - *The Possibility of an Island*, A3, Cromwell Place, London, UK
 - *Yeap Lam Yeang Collection*, The Private Museum, Singapore
 - *Closer than they appear*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore
 - *The foot beneath the flower*, NTU ADM Gallery, Singapore
 - *Closer than they appear*, Yavuz Gallery, Sydney, Australia
 - *Opening exhibition*, Coda Culture, Singapore
- 2019
 - *Points of Articulation*, Yeo Workshop, Singapore
 - Summer group show, Daniel Benjamin Gallery, London, UK
 - London Original Print Fair, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
 - *Raw Forms*, Coda Culture, Singapore
 - *Deviations*, 59 Hackney Road, London, UK
- 2018
 - *BP Portrait Award*, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
 - *Thumbnails*, Hockney Gallery, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2017
 - *Bilateral Bonds*, Taksu Gallery, Singapore
 - *Dimensions of Time*, Crypt Gallery, London, UK
 - WIP Show, Royal College of Art, London, UK
 - *And then...*, NN Contemporary Art, Northampton 2015 Passages, UOB Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2015
 - *Passages*, UOB Art Gallery, Singapore
 - *Common Ground*, Shophouse 5, Singapore
 - *Great Peranakans*, The Peranakan Museum, Singapore
 - *Fresh Takes*, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2013
 - *Creation*, SJI Art Alumni Show, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2010
 - *Altering Alvar Aalto*, Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore
- 2007
 - *AEP Biennial Arts*, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
 - *The Best of UOB: 1982-2007*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

Awards and residencies

- 2022
 - Artist-in-residence, Eton College , UK

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- Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Shortlist, Hong Kong, China
- 2019
 - Ingram Prize, UK
- 2018
 - Chadwell Award, UK
- 2017
 - Griffin Art Prize, Longlist, UK
 - HIX Art Award, Finalist, UK
 - Royal Drawing School Residency, Dumfries House, Scotland
- 2016
 - Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, Canada
 - Red Mansion Art Prize, Shortlist, UK
- 2005
 - United Overseas Bank Painting of the Year Award, Singapore

Collections

- UOB Art Collection, Singapore
- Peranakan Museum, Singapore
- Ilham Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- X Museum, Beijing, China
- Fosun Foundation, Shanghai, China
- Ingram Collection, London, UK
- Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- Foundation Medianoche, Spain