

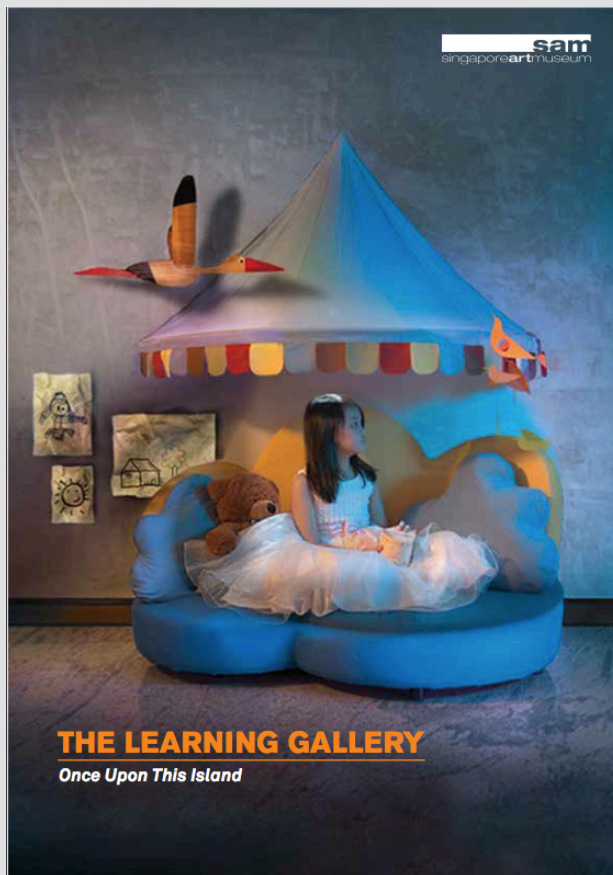
A.I.

Sarah Choo Jing

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The
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SARAH CHOO JING

The Hidden Dimension II

2013

Multimedia installation, edition 3/5

Dimensions variable, video duration 1:05 mins (looped)

Singapore Art Museum collection



LEARNING GALLERY 1

The Hidden Dimension II depicts seven family members going about their daily routine and tasks in individual rooms and sections of a house, played on a seemingly endless loop. This multimedia installation can be viewed as a commentary on the modern conundrum of solitude in a densely populated city, with the family in this work representing a microcosm of a society where people live closely together in a common, shared space but could not be further apart in terms of their absence of contact and lack of communication with one other.

The viewer is given an introspective, almost voyeuristic peek into the private spaces and lives of the family, the various objects surrounding them acting as clues to their personalities and reflecting familial archetypes. For example, the grandmother pedals away at her old-fashioned sewing machine, and the brother sits against the wall of his room, engrossed in his laptop. The family members are isolated and seemingly unaware of one another, save for one synchronised moment when they all look up at each other and at the audience, breaking the monotony of the proceedings and seemingly forging a connection with one another (and the audience) for a single moment.

While the abrupt stop in the 'action' of the video disrupts the humdrum rhythm of the scenes, things quickly return to their previous state and the cycle repeats itself again. The sombre tones dim-lit scenes add to the atmospheric and contemplative mood.

The patterns and habits of everyday life portrayed in *The Hidden Dimension II* are familiar; patterns which many people might exhibit in their own lives. And yet, this quiet normalcy also contributes to a sense of isolation and distance as each family member seems to be lost in their own routines and the trappings of objects, where the lack of interaction is a reflection of modern society.

Sarah Choo Jing was born in Singapore in 1990, and graduated from Nanyang Technological University's School of Art Design and Media. Focusing on the relationship between space and time, her work depicts identifiable moments and characters within contemporary Singaporean society and reflects upon local social and cultural norms. Her works have been shown at Nordart 2013 in Germany, Santa Fe International New Media Festival in New Mexico, USA, and the Pingyan Photography Festival in China.



Image: Singapore Art Museum

*Do you relate to any of the family members depicted in this work?
Do you find any of your own family members reflected in this work?
What do you think contributes to such patterns of behaviour?*