



Nguan

From left to right, top to bottom

Untitled work from the 'Singapore' series

2012

Archival pigment print, edition 1/5 + 2 A.P.

100 x 100 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

Untitled work from the 'Singapore' series

2013

Archival pigment print, edition 1/5 + 2 A.P.

100 x 100 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

Untitled work from the 'Singapore' series

2013

Archival pigment print, edition 1/5 + 2 A.P.

100 x 100 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

Untitled work from the 'Singapore' series

2011

Archival pigment print, edition 1/5 + 2 A.P.

100 x 100 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

Untitled work from the 'Singapore' series

2013

Archival pigment print, edition 1/5 + 2 A.P.

100 x 100 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

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Pre-SAM

TASK: Find out about the people we encounter daily through observation and experience.

SUBJECT(S): Art, English

DISCOVER

Get students to find out about people they do not know but whom they see frequently. Interview people of different age groups – grandparents, retired uncles / aunties, working adults, children, etc. Students can use the following questions as a starting point:

- What is your name?
- How old are you?
- Who do you live with?
- What do you do daily?
- Where do you go often?

Encourage students to come up with more personalised questions to gain a deeper understanding of their interviewee.

In groups, students are to collate their interview results and select one interviewee whom they think fits the profile of the average Singaporean. They can present their findings using an empathy map. An empathy map consists of sketching a person and writing down what they say, do, think and feel.

Have the group share their opinions with the class.

In-SAM

TASK: Identify and define ideas in visual images through titling an artwork.

SUBJECT(S): Art, English

Before the students go into the gallery, split them into groups and assign them keywords/themes. Some examples include: Singapore, Society, Urban Life, Alone, etc.

Task the students to discuss their impression of the artwork among their own groups in relation to the assigned themes. Some helping questions include:

- What do you see in these photographs?
- Where are the photographs taken?
- What are the similarities you see among the photographs?
- What do you think the artist is trying to express?

Next, get each group to come up with a title for this series of 5 photographs and individual titles for each photograph. Have each group share their titles with the class. Encourage the students by having them vote for best titles after they all had their turn.

Conclude the session by having the students reflect on the reason behind the artist naming the artworks *Untitled work*. Have them debate if artworks should be titled or named untitled.

Post-SAM

TASK: Develop and communicate ideas effectively through narrating a story titled “The secret life of a Singaporean”.

SUBJECT(S): Art, English

Get the students to select one photograph from this series of work. Ask students to develop a story / storyboard based on the image. They can consider the following:

- What happened before or after this scene?
- Who is the protagonist?
- What is he/she thinking of?
- How does the series of events develop? (Conflict, Climax, Resolution, Conclusion, etc.)

SOVA supplement

TASK: Draw links between the Study Of Visual Arts (SOVA) and contemporary artwork in the museum.

ARTWORK(S): Richard Avedon, *Marilyn Monroe*, 1957

Have students take a series of photographs (at least 3) with the theme of portraiture before the lesson.

Ask students to compare the similarities, differences and mood evoked between the portraits they took and **Avedon's** *Marilyn Monroe*. Ask them to do the same for their portraits and **Nguan's** *Untitled work* from the 'Singapore' series. Get them to note the differences between the comparisons.

Both artists took photographs of people when they were unaware, capturing them in private moments. Have the students to consider the following:

- Is it appropriate to photograph someone when they are unaware?
- Is it ethical for photographers to publish these photographs and sell them as artworks?
- What would you do if you discovered that you were the subject of an artwork where the photographer did not seek your permission to feature you?

Further Readings:

Nguan's Website

<http://nguan.tv/>

<http://nguanblr.tumblr.com/>

Interview of Nguan on poskod.sg

Available [here](#).

Interview of Nguan on BlouinArtInfo

Available [here](#).

Materials created by:

Siow Xing Yu and Rosnah Gahzali from New Town Secondary School

In collaboration with SAM Education team