

DONNA ONG, 30
VISUAL ARTS

Installation artist Donna has been at the forefront of making visual art and installations that were interesting in their dualities of time and memory, and filled with cryptic imagination.

Her work was often provocative and thought-provoking. She demonstrated a unique sensitivity to her medium and materials, besides her vivid ideas and concepts.

Her notable works include *Doctor Auctor* (2003), a photographic work of 24 pictures in film-noir style that won the United Kingdom's Sefton Open Competition in 2D Art, and her first solo exhibition titled *Palace of Dreams* (2004), where intricate drawings of insect wings were shown together with a mahogany desk that was transformed into a plane using only ordinary objects.

In 2006, she was commissioned by the inaugural Singapore Biennale with the theme of *Belief*, and created *Secret Interiors: Chrysalis (19-22)*, a work exploring the secret desires of four fictitious personas.

Born in Singapore in 1978 to Singapore sculptor Michael Ong, Donna graduated with a degree in architecture (University College London) and fine art (Goldsmiths College, UK). She is the recipient of several awards and scholarships, including the Singapore Undergraduate Scholarship from University College of London, the Singapore Shell-NAC scholarship, and the Front award (2007) by the Arts Central's programme of the same name.

Internationally, her work has been shown in large exhibitions like the Singapore Season in China (2007), the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (2007), Taiwan's Kwandu Biennale (2008), Venice Architectural Biennale (2008), the Jakarta Biennale (2009) and AROUND, the inaugural sound art festival on Lamma Island, Hong Kong (2009). She has also exhibited in commercial galleries such as Tokyo's Scai x Scai Gallery under the Arts Initiative Tokyo residency (2008), Taiwan's Eslite Gallery (2008) and so on.

Locally, her works have made rounds at Raffles City (2007), Singapore Management University (2008) and the National Museum of Singapore (2009). Recently, she is one of the four artists invited to create a specially commissioned work at the Singapore Art Museum's 8Q space for the President's Young Talents Exhibition and Award.