



**TENEBRAE
REFLECTIONS
2024**

*The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it.
We gather to remember
what was accomplished
on the cross.*

**HOPE IN THE
SHADOWS**

ART EXHIBITION

FRIDAY, 29 MARCH 2024 • 7PM
Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
77 Prinsep Street, Singapore 188649

FOREWORD

The first Tenebrae Reflections with choral presentation and concurrent art exhibition was held at PSPC in 2018. Held during the Holy Week, the objective was to lead the participants on a reflective spiritual journey through the passion narrative. The theme for this year was “*Hope in the Shadows*”.

Tenebrae is a Latin word for “*darkness*” or “*shadows*”. In medieval Christian tradition, a Tenebrae service is held three days preceding Easter Sunday. During the service, usually held at night, there is a gradual dimming and extinguishing of candles as the service progresses, leaving the place in total darkness at the end.

Coordinated by The Arts Fellowship (TAF), Tenebrae Reflections art exhibition is a platform for PSPC to invite fellow Christian artists to use their God-given talent to share their faith. We believe art is a gift from God to edify His people and has a unique ability to spread His message to the world.

We thank God for calling the following artists – **Rus Teo, Celing Lam, Yeo Wen Qing, Samantha Cheong, Evangeline Ong, Rachel Tan** and **Clifford Chua** to be God’s servants to fulfil their vocation of artmaking in the body of Christ for Tenebrae Reflections. May their Christ-centred motivations, creativity, and artworks, as seen in the following pages, glorify God, edify the readers and testify God’s love to the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5). We remember what was accomplished on the cross.

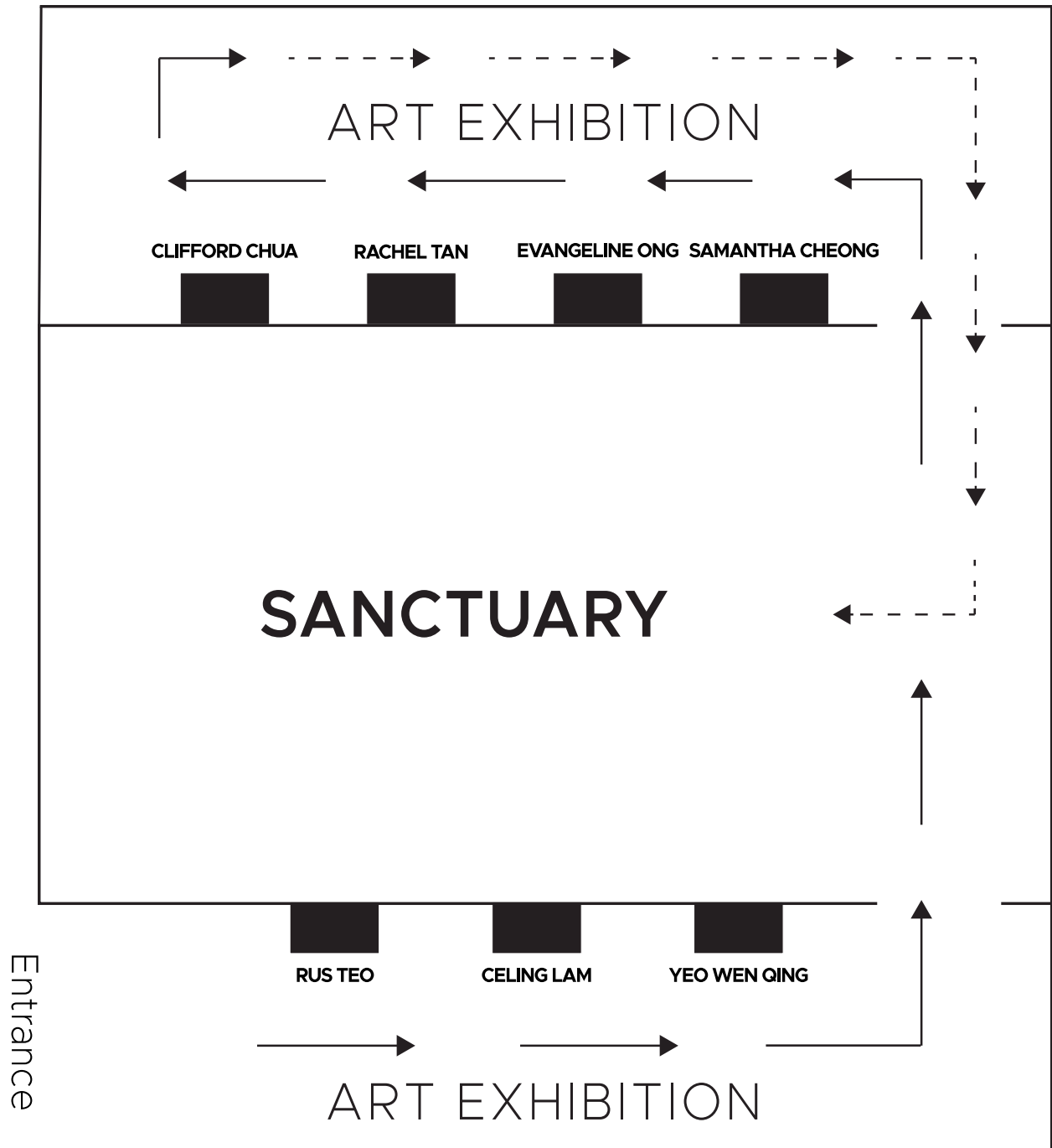
Pr Dawn Tan

Pastoral Advisor

(On behalf of TAF)

April 2024

Art Exhibition Directional Guide





Title

GATHERED IN CHRIST

Art media

Mixed media

Artist's Statement

This painting intricately weaves together the representation of different elements that invite contemplation on the intersection of life, death, hope, and the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice – a visual hymn to the promise of resurrection and reunion.

- *The background, rendered in black ink, symbolizes the encompassing shadow of death and decay.*
- *The central bulb of white lilies, associated with funerals, takes prominence.*
- *The green stalk and leaves symbolize God's creation of life.*
- *A distinctive red square Chinese stamp, bears the significant symbol of the blood of Christ shed for humanity, a victorious conquest over death.*

Inspired by John 11:25-26, the painting reflects Mary and Martha grappling with the profound grief of losing a loved one, Lazarus, and Christ's promise of life after earthly death. Jesus's question, "Do you believe?" encapsulates the tension between earthly sorrow and the comforting reassurance of Christ's promise.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26)

Artist

RUS TEO, 45

Profession/Occupation

OMF Staff

Church

Glory Presbyterian Church

About the artist

Rus has been an art teacher for 20 years. She received training from the London Art College (drawing and painting), and the China Academy of Art (oil painting). She has a heart for missions, serves in OMF, and is active with the English Presbytery Japan Missions (EPJM).



Title

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

Art media

Acrylic on canvas

Artist's Statement

John 16:33 (ESV) "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

When we are going through suffering, we may complain, turn away from God, seek God's heart, surrender to Him and hold on to hope. The hands in the art work represent these different responses toward God. I wonder about those who do not even know God. How would they respond to suffering and tribulation in life? How will they find hope?

Look up, and know that God has saved us even before we know Him. Trust His heart!

How are you feeling?

Artist

CELING LAM, 52

Profession/Occupation

Art Instructor

Church

Covenant Evangelical Free Church

About the artist

I was born in Hong Kong, but have lived half of my life in Singapore, because my husband is Singaporean. My childhood dream was to be a teacher. God knows my heart and He made my dream come true after I moved to Singapore. I have been an art teacher since I carried my first child until now. It has been 25 years.



Title

SELAH

Art media

Oil on canvas

Artist's Statement

When we are stumbling through obstacles and difficulties in life, those tough times seem to be daunting and endless. The world around us starts to dull, and it is difficult to see the light through it all. The weight of our struggles feels heavier as we wrestle through the path with anxiousness creeping in, not knowing when the ordeal will end. In shadows cast by our doubts and fear, God always gives us a glimmer of hope, something to hold on to. We just need to be still, and know that He is God, the God who provides.

Artist

YEO WEN QING, 22

Profession/Occupation

Designer

Church

Kingdomcity

About the artist

Wen Qing is a multi-disciplinary designer with an interest in fusing design and art. She is intrigued by different perspectives of life in society and seeks to explore them through her work. While her academic background lies in fashion, Wen Qing's design practice extends beyond traditional boundaries, encompassing service design and the use of diverse media to enhance user experience. Through her dedication and hard work, she is committed to a creative practice that positively impacts people's lives.



Title

LOVE LEADS TO WHOLEHEARTED SURRENDER

Art media

Digital art

Artist's Statement

As I meditate on Jesus' prayers and moments before the cross, particularly in the Garden of Gethsemane, I cannot imagine how He must have been feeling.

In the garden, Jesus pours out His honesty – yet I see His wholehearted surrender to the Father, “not my will, but yours be done”.

It was Jesus' love – for the Father and for us that brought Him to that cross.

This art piece reflects my own wrestle in surrendering to God. Yet, I know I will never have to endure the level of pain, rejection and darkness Jesus endured. That breaks my heart, but also comforts me deeply.

Artist

SAMANTHA CHEONG, 25

Profession/Occupation

Full-time ministry staff

Church

Grace Methodist Church

About the artist

Samantha is an artist who loves to tell stories: a paintbrush, a stylus on her iPad or through a tapestry of words accompanied by melody. She has experience in illustrating, designing and creating visuals for various platforms. Her favourite, however, is to listen to God's heart and create for her Creator - who she believes, is the first and best Creative.



Title

HOLD ONTO ME

Art media

Mixed media – acrylic, pencil, color pencil

Artist's Statement

This artwork is a dedication to a dear friend who is currently walking through the shadows as he battles with an illness. Jesus Christ understands our pain because He suffered much for us in His journey to the cross. As we suffer in all the pains we experience in life, He suffers with us. In this piece, the hands represent how Christ has a firm grasp on us especially when we are suffering through pain, fear and uncertainty. In all these trials, we can hold onto Him as He is always present, waiting for us to take His outreached hand.

Artist

EVANGELINE ONG, 28

Profession/Occupation

Christian Ministry Staff

Church

New Life Baptist Church

About the artist

Evangeline's background is in graphic design and branding. She studied Visual Communication in Temasek Polytechnic and Communication Design in Glasgow School of Art (Singapore). In 2022, she turned her interest towards more free-flowing expressions in illustration and traditional mediums while working as a ministry staff in Crea, a creative arts ministry. Her works express the raw emotions of personal experiences, and deep contemplation of her life and faith. She also hopes to connect with others and minister through these expressions.



Title

YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH ME

Art media

Paper cut

Artist's Statement

On February 26th, 2021, I gave birth to our first child, Natalie, at 23 weeks, just shy of six months. She was beautiful, peaceful, and filled us with great joy, despite the fact that she was not breathing.

The week prior to her birth was a long, lonely and agonizing walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I had suspected she was gone when I was unsure if she was kicking. But how do you know if you are paranoid or if it is real? How do you find words to tell your husband that our child is possibly gone?

The few days before her birth, I took time off work and spent a lot of it lying down on our couch. In those moments of quiet, it hit me: she's gone. She is with me, in me, but she is gone.

Yet in the pain of labour and silence that followed her birth, there was joy. A peace and joy that comes only because He is always with us. Because He is always with us, she is always with us. There is hope in eternity.

Artist

RACHEL TAN, 30

Profession/Occupation

Illustrator

Church

Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC)

About the artist

Rachel is an illustrator whose work is inspired by nature and the warmth of loved ones.



Title

“HOPE” IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

Art media

Charcoal and acrylic paint

Artist's Statement

*“Hope” Is The Thing With Feathers
by Emily Dickinson*

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

*And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -*

*I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.*

Artist

CLIFFORD CHUA, 57

Profession/Occupation

Educator

Church

Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC)

About the artist

Clifford graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Fine Arts/Art History degree and served as an Art teacher, Curriculum Officer and School Principal with the Ministry of Education. He is currently the Academy Principal at the Singapore Teachers' Academy for the Arts (STAR).

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