

# YAVUZ GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE | 17 DEC 2018

## Supper Club

### Solo exhibition by Alvin Ong

Opening: 23 January 2019, 6 - 9 pm

On view: Until 24 February 2019

Yavuz Gallery is pleased to present *Supper Club*, Singaporean-artist **Alvin Ong's** first solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition opens in conjunction with Singapore Art Week 2019.

Ong's latest paintings are exuberant and erotic depictions of figures suspended between moments of extreme pleasure and pain. The body is unapologetically exposed in its cravings. Bodily appetites are rendered in grotesque flourishes, redolent with black humour.

The durian, king of fruits, has particular prominence. Renowned, or some say infamous, for its odour and unique fleshy texture, it is represented as an object of desire on the canvas, causing the figures to go wild with limbs akimbo and jaws falling wide.

Allusions to the compositional and narrative structures of European history painting – altarpieces in particular – abound through playful appropriation of the sacred and the profane. These are baroque scenes of ritualistic indulgence, of food made carnal. Contemporary society's pursuit of gastronomic delight is given a surrealistic twist.

*Supper Club* evokes eating as theatre through tableaux of clandestine circles of privilege and exclusivity. The figures are solipsistic strangers whose faces and bodies stage their private pleasures in front of others. Situated in group settings, no one is alone, and yet there is no communication between them, no relation to speak of, except that all are islands of ecstasy.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Alvin Ong** (b. 1988, Singapore) synthesizes histories, mythologies and folk-forms into surreal improvisations and non-linear narratives. He completed a BFA at the Ruskin School of Art at the University of Oxford in 2016, and an MA at Royal College of Art in 2018 supported by the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation. At the age of 16, he became the youngest winner of the UOB Painting of the Year Award, Singapore (2005). He was awarded a residency in 2017 with the Royal Drawing School, as well as the 2018 Chadwell Award. His works have been exhibited at the Singapore Art Museum (2007, 2012, 2013), Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore (2010), Peranakan Museum, Singapore (2015), Northampton Contemporary, UK (2017) and National Portrait Gallery, UK (2018). He currently lives and works in Singapore and London.

For inquiries and more information, please contact Caryn Quek at [caryn@yavuzgallery.com](mailto:caryn@yavuzgallery.com) or tel: +65 6734 3262.

## YAVUZ GALLERY

9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | Tel: +65 6734 3262 | [info@yavuzgallery.com](mailto:info@yavuzgallery.com) | [www.yavuzgallery.com](http://www.yavuzgallery.com)  
Opening Hours: Tue – Sat: 11am – 7pm, Sun: 1pm – 5pm | Mon & public holidays: by appointment only

## Selected Works



*Eating Air*, 2018, oil on canvas, 175 x 285 cm



*Supper Club*, 2018, oil on canvas, 165 x 240 cm

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*Mountain Cat Kings*, 2018, oil on canvas, 165 x 178 cm



*Smoke Out*, 2018, oil on canvas, 175 x 155 cm

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