

Primeval Codes

Po Po

24 July to 29 August 2020

Yavuz Gallery Singapore is proud to present Po Po in his second solo exhibition with the gallery. A visionary artist who brought something truly new in concept and execution to an isolated country's latent art scene in the 1980s, the acclaimed Myanmar artist opened *Primeval Codes* on 24 July 2020.

Primeval Codes debuts a collection of painting and installation works conceptualised in 1986 and realised over the past two decades. It takes its inspiration from transportation signs and original symbols in primeval written language – scripts and forms that the artist started to learn from the 1980s. Po Po began his research interest in the historic changes of the Myanmar alphabet, delving into ancient stone inscriptions from Pyu, Bagan, Inwa and Pinya spanning across the 3rd to 13th centuries. Ongoing to today, the artist has since mapped the extensive topographic breadth of communication signs and symbols of ancient civilisations to contemporary public signage.

Po Po distils primordial and core tenets of life – its desires, power, spiritualities – into formal geometric forms on his mixed media paintings rendered in rich tones of red and black. In *Warrior*, three pieces of black wood sit on top of a red painted canvas, alluding to the abstracted shape of an arrowhead. *Unknowable* features a circle engraved on to a black surface, recalling symbolic representations of the micro and microcosm of the universe. In the installation *Aerial Message*, Po Po creates a rope work hanging on wooden scaffolding, conveying a lost language based on the Incan Quipu, a recording platform fashioned from cords knotted into specific systems.

Referencing the codification and semiotics of visual and written languages, Po Po's *Primeval Codes* continues the artist's investigations into the philosophical notions of life, rebirth and death through powerful abstractions and conceptualisations.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

One of Myanmar's pioneering contemporary artists, **Po Po's** (b. 1957) conceptual practice weaves between painting, photography, installation and performance. His works frame and challenge his country's socio-political landscape through an idiosyncratic interpretation of his environment. Po Po was amongst the first Myanmar artist to exhibit abroad in the 1990s; and since showcased works across Asia-Pacific and Europe, including at the National Gallery Singapore; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (Japan); Hangaram Art Museum (South Korea); GoEun Museum (South Korea); and House of World Cultures (Germany). He has participated in the 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (2016); Dhaka Art Summit (2016); Singapore Biennale (2013); Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art (2005); Gwangju Biennale (2000); and Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale (1999). Recent curated exhibitions include *MINIMALISM: SPACE. LIGHT. OBJECT.*, National Gallery Singapore (2018-19); *Stop Peeping*, Cement Fondu, Sydney, Australia (2019); *SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now*, Mori Art Museum, National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan (2017). His works are collected by National Gallery of Singapore, Mori Art Museum (Japan), Singapore Art Museum and MAIAM Contemporary Art Museum (Thailand).

For inquiries and more information, please contact:
Caryn Quek, caryn@yavuzgallery.com

All images are copyright protected © 2020 Yavuz Gallery

Selected Images

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com



Installation view of *Primeval Codes*



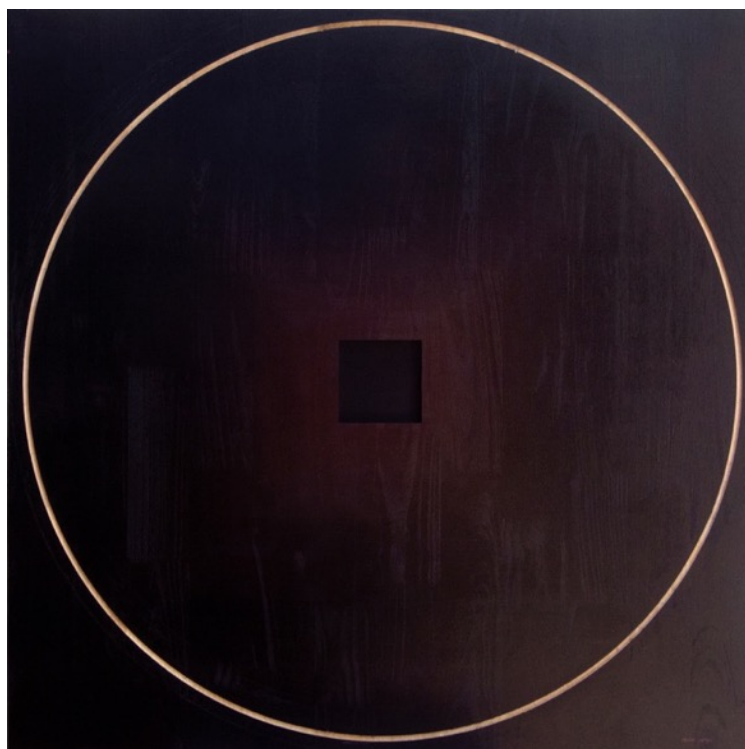
Installation view of *Primeval Codes*

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com



Installation view of *Primeval Codes*



Unknowable, 1988 / 2020, oil on canvas and engraved wood, 91 x 92 x 5 cm

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com



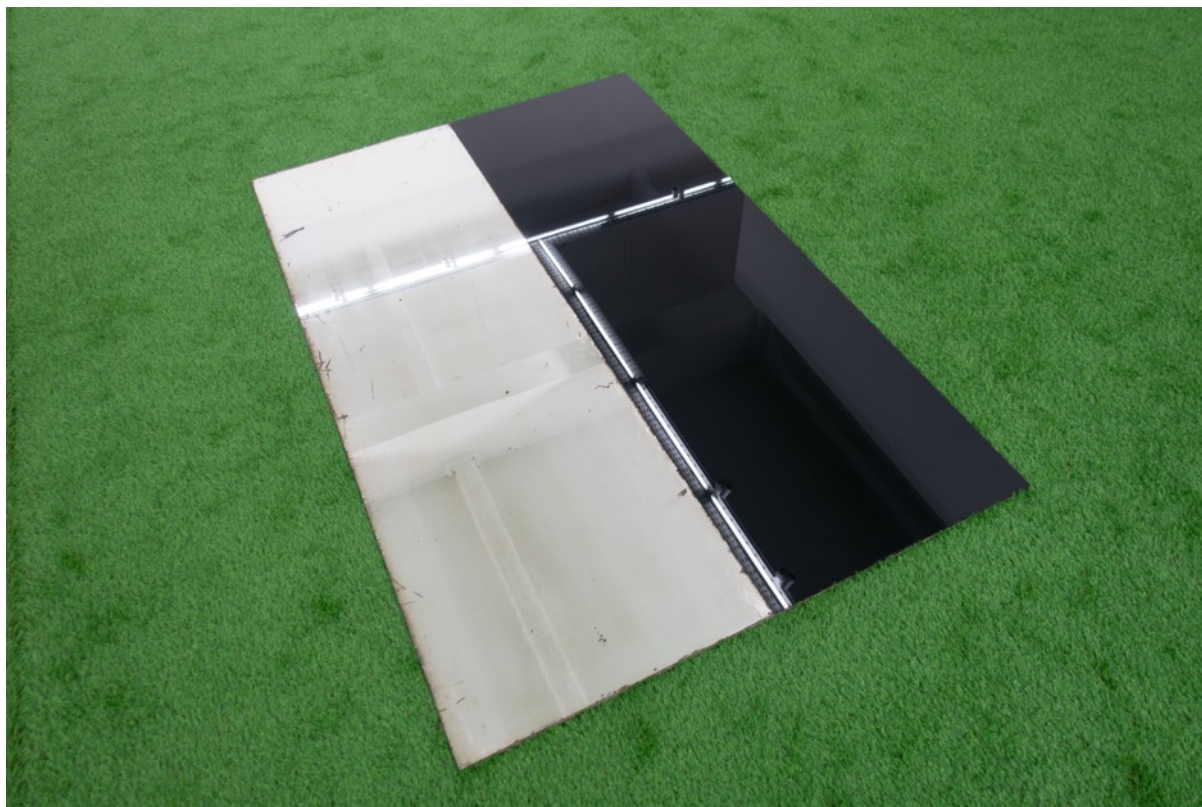
Warrior, 1988 / 2020, oil on canvas and mounted wood, 91 x 92 x 5 cm



Detail of *Aerial Message*, 1993-97/ 2020, rope, wood, iron, dimensions variable

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com



Dead and Alive #1, 1987 - 96, mirror, coloured glass, artificial grass mat, dimensions variable

YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262
SYDNEY | 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia | +61 (2) 8040 8838
info@yavuzgallery.com | www.yavuzgallery.com