



CRIMSON THREAD:

Hansen Thiam Sun

Opens Feb 9th

Ends Feb 28th, 2012

artesan

GALLERY + STUDIO

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In special collaboration with
Artesan Gallery + Studio

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All paintings by Thiam Sun Hansen

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Front Cover Image:

Bolt! (detail) by Thiam Sun Hansen,
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas,
140x185 cm, 2011



FOREWORD

by Roberta Dans

Kind face. Those were my initial thoughts when I first shook Hansen's hands. He had a white thin, wispy beard much like you would imagine on a wise old sage – screening the gracious artist behind it. As I stood amongst a crowd of Indonesian Bahasa-only speaking crowd, he spoke English eloquently which made me feel instantly comfortable around him.

In fact, that fated evening we met in Semarang, Indonesia, in 2009 - Hansen's works stood out amongst the group he was showing with. Ever since then, I've had the opportunity to view many of his works, marvelling at his distinctly flawless style and creations.

For me, Hansen's works are a brilliant clean-cut amalgamation of varying techniques, synthesized together to convey a rhetorical and

smoothly conveyed approach. His artistic grasp is concise and strongly definitive of his subject without a hint of being pompous - despite his great skill of combining different modes of approach. As a result, what we behold is as fabulous as art should always be - graceful, resplendent, venerable and superbly sublime.

We are proud to present, and host an exceptional artist at Artesan Gallery + Studio, Singapore. Please join us to applaud Hansen Thiam Sun's *Crimson Thread*, his first solo exhibition in Singapore.

Roberta Dans is Founder and Director of Artesan Gallery + Studio, Singapore



Coryphee
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas, 110x110cm, 2011

Crimson Thread : Hansen Thiam Sun

There is nothing clearer to Hansen Thiam Sun, it seems, than the notion that it is our attachments that speak loudest about who and what we are, particularly illuminating the passionate intensity of being.

As the modern age has created a cacophony of sensory input that bombards us at every corner of our lives, we as spectators are often offered no choice but to react in the most primal of ways. Whether by material or emotional desires, we are led around by our instinct, reacting to things that resonate or speak to us the most clearly and audibly. At an early age, our subconscious is assaulted with notions

of education, moral values, tradition and even the projected ideals of suburbia. An exploration of this phenomenon is hauntingly portrayed in Hansen Thiam Sun's latest creation of artworks, *Crimson Thread*.

The poetry of the marionette is focal here, symbolic and always in its virtue of transformation. It strips away the clamor and illuminates for us the shapes and stark forms - and how we are told we must appear. Through the ubiquitous red string of fate, effectively as docile and dependent as children feeling our way around with our



Alas
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas, 140x140cm, 2011

attachments, the great Puppet Master is pervasive, bonded to our youth as we were all once dependent on someone, material or psychological.

Do these representations in fact, depict the menace and futility of this way of life, and how the blind can never lead the blind? For one, we notice Hansen's characters bathe in the direction of a brighter spectrum of light and optimism on his canvas, perhaps intimating to his viewers how we may positively stand strong and liberated, away from the darker shadow of social structure. By presenting the

bluntly grotesque, the artist perhaps alludes that we discard that thin, fragile thread that promises to magically spin us our crimson wool of bliss, with a convivial undertone or us to abandon the slander, and then discard our own brand of paper masks.

Crimson Thread reverberates facetiously with a simper and a bounce, buoying us to regain the chance of returning to the truest form of our own being - with no strings attached.



Predestination
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas
160x140cm, 2011



Trumps
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas
160x140cm, 2011



I Made Marionette
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas
160x140cm, 2011



Bolt!
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas
140x185cm, 2011



Never After
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas
140x140cm, 2011



Penumbra
oil, acrylic and wool thread on canvas, 110x110cm, 2011

Hansen Thiam Sun was born in 1960 in Toho, Borneo. The purity and beauty of the environment in which he grew up stimulated the young Hansen to become deeply interested in visual arts, particularly drawing, a hobby that became deeply embedded in his life even in adulthood. From 1980 to 1990 he studied and worked in Taiwan, living in the USA for a year in 1987. He returned to Indonesia in 1990 and resided in West Java for 13 years. He has held various exhibitions in notable galleries in Indonesia, particularly Jakarta, Bandung, Bali, and Semarang. He has also exhibited in Gallery Zero in Barcelona, Spain; Agora Gallery and Broadway Gallery both in New York, and BECA Art Gallery in New Orleans, USA; he participated in the 2010 NY Art Venice Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy; at the Chelsea Art Gallery in London, England, and Galerie Le Cocon in Hamburg, Germany. In 2010, Hansen was

awarded the Price of Excellence from The Beppu Asia Biennale of Contemporary Art Award, Beppu Museum, Oita, Japan. His works have also been featured in important publications such as *Modern Indonesia Art from Raden Saleh to Present Day*, published by Koes ArtBooks, 2010; *Masters of Today*, published Masters Of Today Limited - London, 2008; *Ubud & Beyond*, published by Gateway Books International; *Trends Contemporary Artist*, published by Masters of Today Limited, London; as well as notable magazines such as *ARTisSpectrum Magazine* in 2008, *The Chelsea Perspective*, published by Agora Gallery, USA, the *New York Arts Magazine*, and *Arts Newspaper*, 2010.

Hansen currently resides in Ubud, Bali with his family.

An exhibition held at

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