



Vertigo #0, forex, 21 x 21 x 21 cm, 2004

Artist Talk

Topic: What's a body got to do with a building?

Speaker: Michael Lee Hong Hwee

Date: Sat, 21 Aug 2004

Time: 2 – 4pm

Venue: SG Private Banking Gallery
Alliance Francaise de Singapour, 4th floor
1 Sarkies Road
Singapore 258130

Admission: Free

Currently ongoing at SG Private Banking Gallery, Alliance Francaise de Singapour, till 24 Aug 2004, *When a Body Meets a Building* is Michael Lee's first solo art exhibition. Michael observes that the conventional premise of architectural practice is functionality, which defines an object as good only if it serves its intended purposes faithfully and effectively. This relegates architecture to the supportive role of a facilitator of human events, instead of an active participant in dialogue with humanity; it also ignores the many ways that architecture and urban spaces may be creatively appropriated in uses for which they are not intended. Michael asks and obliquely addresses the focus question: *What's a body got to do with a building?* Exploring fictional rather than functionalist relationships between 'body' and 'building', Michael has created and is showcasing four new works of various media in his solo show. During the artist talk, Michael will share the genesis behind his focus question, his diverse background and interests, as well as his research and creative processes in addressing his artistic concerns. He will especially highlight his fascination with the male figure and architecture that has an 'unfinished' look, and how he develops his inter-media approach to art-making in exploring connections between the two.

About the Artist

Michael Lee Hong Hwee is an award-winning artist, art writer and independent art curator who has exhibited internationally. He is intrigued by the relations between desire and space, and how human aspirations may reflect, inspire and interact with the architectural environment. He explores these relations through various media, including drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, installation, video and text. He is currently the pathway leader of BA (Hons) Fine Art: Painting & Drawing and BA (Hons) Fine Art with Contemporary Writing, two franchised degree programmes co-delivered by the University of Huddersfield, UK, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. Michael has a Master of Communication Studies from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.