

## Htein Lin: Recovering the Past

**Public opening:** Friday, 13 January 2017, 7-9pm  
**Artist talk:** *In conversation with Htein Lin: Recovering the Past*  
Saturday, 14 January 2017, 2-3pm  
**On view:** 14 January to 5 March 2017

Yavuz Gallery is proud to present ***Htein Lin: Recovering the Past***, the first solo exhibition of leading Burmese artist **Htein Lin** in Singapore. The exhibition opens in conjunction with Singapore Art Week 2017 and the artist's participation in the current Singapore Biennale. ***Htein Lin: Recovering the Past*** delves into the artist's personal history, reflecting upon his experiences growing up in Myanmar, and later as a revolutionary soldier and political prisoner in his own country.

Htein Lin's deeply personal works are based upon his extraordinary life experiences, political developments in Myanmar and its Buddhist faith. He was born in 1966, in the town of Ingapu of the Ayeyarwady region of Myanmar. In 1988, Htein Lin partook in the pro-democracy student protests in Rangoon University, where he studied law. After the violent coup by the military junta, formerly known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), he went underground and spent four years in refugee and student rebel camps on the borders of Myanmar, joining the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF). Returning to Yangon in 1992, Htein Lin was arrested several years later on spurious accusations of opposition activity on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 8888 Uprising.

He spent almost seven years in jail – including some time at Insein, the country's most notorious prison – and it was during this period that he developed his artistic practice by using items available to him like bowls and cigarette lighters, in the absence of brushes to secretly create hundreds of works on scraps of fabrics, prison uniforms and soap. After his release, he moved to London in 2006, and back to Myanmar in 2013 after the dissolution of the military junta.

Entangling personal, communal and national histories, ***Htein Lin: Recovering the Past*** traces the artist's harrowing experiences alongside developments in Myanmar's history – through its many trials and tribulations, but perhaps more importantly, its healing process in recent years.

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Htein Lin (b. 1966, Ingapu, Myanmar) works in painting, video, installation and performance, and has also been a comedian and actor. Before being jailed in 1998, he was a pioneer of performance art in Myanmar. His works have been exhibited in museums and galleries internationally, including the Setouchi Triennale (2016), Dhaka Art Summit (2014), Singapore Fringe Festival (2012, 2010), Venice Biennale (2007), and more recently, the Singapore Biennale (2016-17). Htein Lin regularly participates in events and projects to promote freedom of speech, particularly in Myanmar. He is a founding member of the Burmese language arts website *Kaungkin*, where he contributes poetry, prose and art criticism. ***Htein Lin: Recovering the Past*** is his first solo exhibition in Singapore and with Yavuz Gallery.

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

YAVUZ GALLERY

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Opening Hours: Tue – Sat: 11am – 7pm, Sun: 1pm – 5pm | Mon & public holidays: by appointment only

## Selected Works



*Monument to My Mother*, 2015, textile installation, dimensions variable



*Green Enclosed*, 2012, acrylic on canvas, 76 x 147 cm

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*Culm-nation*, 2016, bamboo culms and paint, dimensions variable

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