



retrosquares



a visual arts event...

@ the arts house (1 old parliament lane)
date: 7th december / time: 7pm
to 18th december



milica bravacic is a european artist whose work is a part of many private and gallery collections. she comes from dubrovnik, a beautiful medieval town on the adriatic coast. this unique setting defined by renaissance and baroque architecture inspired her first artistic interests. milica explored antiquity, by turning some of the traditional symbols and ornaments into a leitmotif of her dubrovnik and lisbon series of paintings. while her years in singapore were mainly focused on art education, recently milica went back to her pictorial themes, this time with references to the peranakan culture. she was commissioned to execute a mural, "blair rd." in front of the "jendela" gallery at the esplanade, in january 2006, while her polyptych compositions were a part of the show "the shape that is" displayed at the gallery throughout march 2006. "retrosquares" is milica's 7th solo exhibition. by its themes and motifs it is a sequel to her jendela exhibits. from a retrospective point of view this body of work encircles milica's interest in tile ornamentation previously explored at her solo exhibitions in the "gallery of modern art" in dubrovnik and "gulbenkian foundation" in lisbon. "retrosquares" is a display of 9 canvas compositions, created throughout 2005 and 2006. these paintings evoke memories of vintage batik as milica repetitively prints the ornamental patterns borrowed from the existing tiles in emerald hill and blair rd, places of iconographic importance to singapore and it's peranakan community.

the peranakans are a playful bunch, creative, not bound by formulas. this is reflected in their way of life, a cross-fertilization of various cultures which interact but nevertheless hold their own. the malay peninsular meet euro-asian recipes, victorian-looking decorations live alongside chinese ornaments, and their language became a mixture of english and malay combined with hokkien/teochew/hakka dialects (depending on a hybrid of a specific family).

this "breeding" is visibly reflected in milica's work as her approach is playful, dancing, shifting, moving and adaptive, never quite inhibited to external influences, but borrowing these externals as a personification of her own style.

excerpt from the essay about milica's work
tamares goh, england
october 2006

for more on the artist visit
www.milica.info

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