



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Featured Artist: Shiau-Peng Chen

Would you please introduce yourself to our readers that might not be familiar with you and your work?



My name is Shiau-Peng Chen. I was born in the [Penghu islands, Taiwan](#). I am currently based in [Melbourne, Australia](#). My interest in making art started when I was a child. At that time, I enjoyed the freedom of drawing whatever I wanted to (perhaps just like most of the kids). But no matter what I made on paper or drew on the wall, my parents would always compliment me with the expression,

“Great!” So, I began to believe that I am really good at art. I kept the hobby of drawing throughout my high school days. I then decided to study art in university. I attended [Taipei National University of the Arts](#) in Taipei from 1994-1999 and [Pratt Institute in New York](#) from 1999-2001. My focus of studies was Printmaking and Painting.

What type of job(s) have you had in the past?

I did some teaching at [Taipei National University of Arts](#) and [Chung Yuan Christian University](#) a couple of years ago. Teaching is probably the only job that I have ever had.

What do you do for fun besides making art?

I like listening to music, watching films, visiting

THIS IS AN ARCHIVED BLOG SITE.

Thank you for viewing this archived blog site. It is part of the arts and community work collection of Sand T Kalloch. The information on this blog site may be out of date.

"Featured Artist: Nikki Rosato" was the FINAL interview published by MAKING THE ART SEEN on January 22, 2012.

HELLO! WELCOME!

MAKING THE ART SEEN is a non-commercial virtual gallery featuring art interviews. Artwork is not sold through the site nor does it exclusively represent the artists featured. Created by artSPACE@16 ONLINE in April 2009, the primary goal of this new initiative is to provide an artistic web presence within the virtual community. Potential gallerists and/or art collectors will contact the artist directly regarding exhibition opportunities and/or purchasing artwork.

Enjoy reading and getting to know the

galleries and hanging out with good friends.

Currently, what type of job(s) you do besides making art?

I do not hold any full-time position at the moment. I am doing my doctorate in Fine Art at [RMIT School of Art in Melbourne, Australia](#).

[Additional links: [Project Space Spare Room](#) , [RMIT School of Art Gallery](#)]

How would you describe your work to first time viewers? Can you discuss your process in general? What techniques and materials do you use?

To first time viewers, I might hint that my work is not an absolute abstract work. Generally, I study and test different ideas before I paint them with acrylic on canvas or paper.

Please tell us about the newest work series you're working on (in 2009). Are you planning any exhibitions of this newest body of work in the near future, and where/when?

The newest work that I have created is *My Batchelor Series* which consists of five series. It is derived from my understanding of British artist David Batchelor's writings and artworks. I am currently showing partial works of *My Batchelor Series* at [SNO Contemporary Art Projects in Sydney](#). This exhibition is on display thru September 26.

artists!

Sand T Kalloch, volunteer
MAKING THE ART SEEN
[ARTSPACE@16 ONLINE GALLERY](#)

A BIT OF HISTORY

Established as S.T Gallery (in Boston Fort Point Channel) in October 1998; re-built as artSPACE@16 Gallery (in Malden, Massachusetts) in July 2000.

After nearly a decade of operation, artSPACE@16's physical gallery space closed for good as of June 1, 2008. artSPACE@16 continued to advocate for the arts on the world wide web under a new name "artSPACE@16 ONLINE" through December 2014.

MAKING THE ART SEEN, artMATTERS e-Blast, Networking Hub, Massachusetts Open Studios, Artist Live/work space, artSPACE@16 Exhibition Archives + ART COLLABORATIVES were some of the art resources provided by artSPACE@16 ONLINE to serve the arts community.

ART INTERVIEWS

[Nikki Rosato - Jan 2012](#)

[Shireen Agah Yadollahpour - Jan 2012](#)

[Susan Still Scott - Jan 2012](#)

[Suzanne Hodes - Dec 2011](#)

[Elizabeth Sheppell - Dec 2011](#)

[Jodi Colella - Dec 2011](#)

[Brian Corey - Nov 2011](#)

[Robert Walden - Nov 2011](#)

[Adria Arch - Sept 2011](#)

[Marielle Sinclair - Sept 2011](#)

[Susan Schwalb - Sept 2011](#)

SNO

CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECTS

FIRST FLOOR, 175 MARRICKVILLE RD.
MARRICKVILLE, SYDNEY, NSW AUSTRALIA 2204
PH. +61 (2) 9560 3470 E. info@sno.org.au
www.sno.org.au



September 5 to 26, 2009. Opens Saturday, September 5 between 3:00 and 6:00pm.

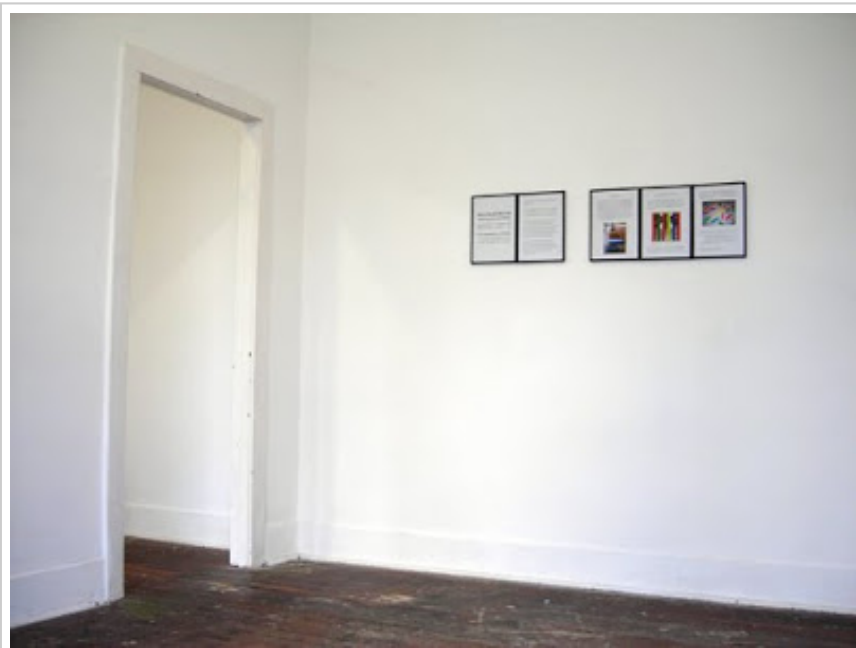
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Cathy Blanchflower (Sydney)

Shiau-Peng Chen (Melbourne/Taipei)

Emma Langridge (Melbourne)

HOURS: FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, 12:00-5:00 OR BY APPOINTMENT MON - THURS



Half Batchelor 1, 2009, exhibition view, SNO Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney, Australia. Images courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

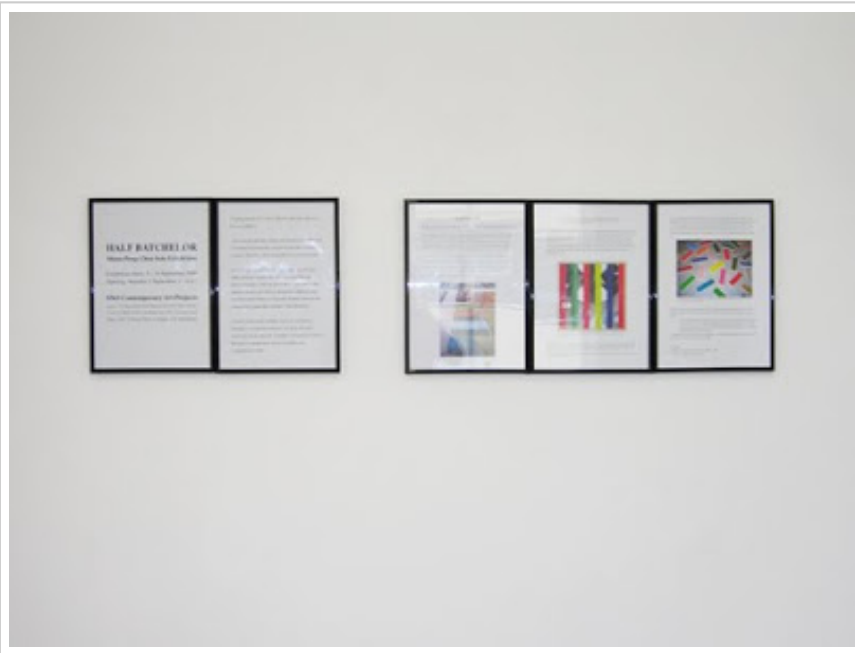
Lisa Olson - April 2011
Barbara Brady - March 2011
Dr. Doris Chu - Feb 2011
Mary Bucci McCoy - Dec 2010
Amarie Bergman - Dec 2010
Gelahl Penn - Nov 2010
Sarah Bliss - Nov 2010
Susan Buret - Oct 2010
Roland Orépuik - Sept 2010
Dozier Bell - Sept 2010
Harald Schmitz-Schmelzer - Sept 2010
Wilma Vissers - August 2010
Gerd Jansen - August 2010
Connie Goldman - July 2010
Erdem Kucukkoroglu - July 2010
Ken Greenleaf - July 2010
Paul Wainwright - June 2010
Jeesoo Lee - April 2010
Sand T Kalloch - February 2010
Soojin Kim - February 2010
Hannah Verlin - January 2010
Liz Shepherd - January 2010
Joetta Maue - January 2010
Kathleen Bitetti - November 2009
Marcella Stasa - November 2009
Rose Olson - October 2009
Toru Nakanishi - October 2009
Don Feeney - September 2009
Shiau-Peng Chen - September 2009
Amir Zainorin - August 2009
Marjorie Kaye | Part I - August 2009
Marjorie Kaye | Part II - August 2009
Steve Novick - July 2009
Joanne Mattera | Part I - July 2009
Joanne Mattera | Part II - July 2009
Po Shun Leong | Part I - July 2009
Po Shun Leong | Part II - July 2009
Roanna Forman - June 2009
Rob Strati - June 2009
Lasse Antonsen - June 2009
Mary O'Malley - June 2009
Karen Meninno - June 2009
Marc Dimov - June 2009

Rick Fox - June 2009
Elise Mankes - June 2009
Melissa Kulig - June 2009
Jason Hsu - June 2009
Joanna L. Kao - May 2009
Vanessa Ly - May 2009

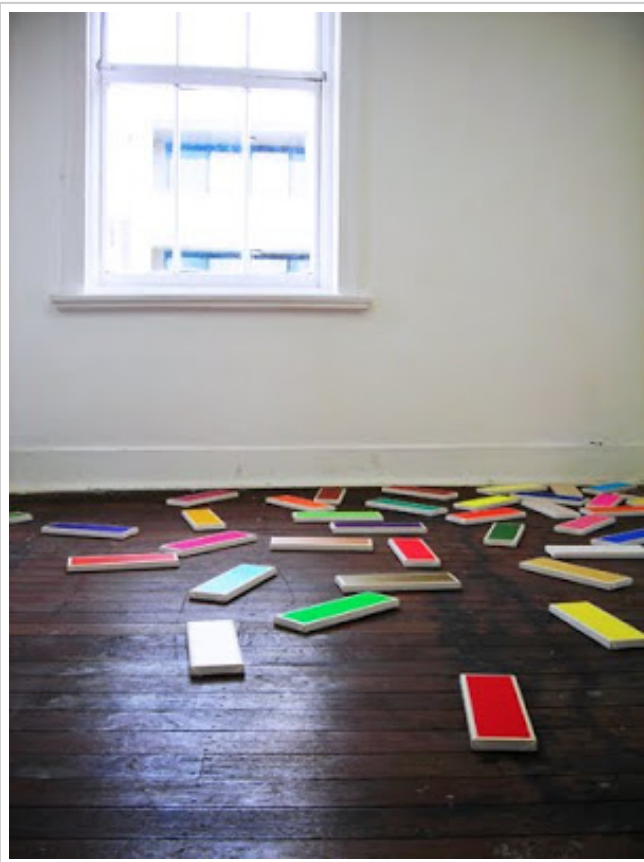
ABOUT ME

 **MAKING THE ART SEEN**
ARTSPACE@16 ONLINE
GALLERY

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)



Half Batchelor 2, 2009, exhibition view, SNO Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney, Australia. Images courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



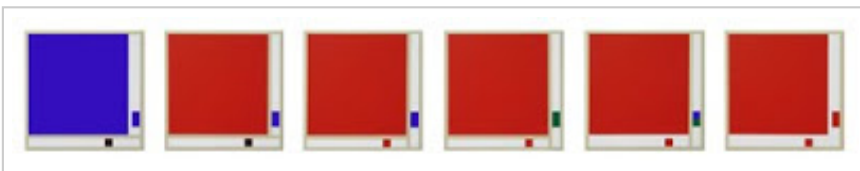
Half Batchelor 3, 2009, exhibition view, SNO Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney, Australia. Images courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



Half Batchelor 4, 2009, exhibition view, SNO Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney, Australia. Images courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

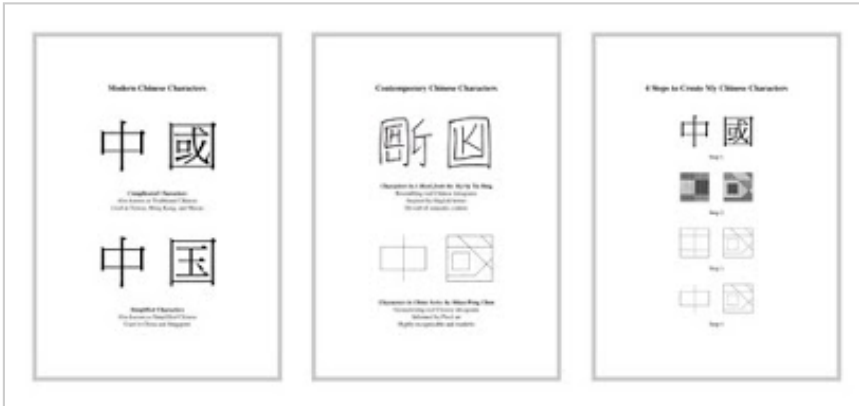
What are the thoughts and inspirations behind the creation of the “China Series”?

I was motivated to create *China I* as a reflection of Taiwan’s presidential election held in March 2008. I used the colours that represented the political parties as a symbolic element to show progressive political movements through time.



China Series I – I Don’t Belong Here but There, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 6 paintings: 30.5 x 30.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

China II is inspired by Xu Bing who is my favourite Chinese artist. Xu creates his own characters by combining Chinese ideograms with English letters, so I create my own Chinese characters by referencing Simplified and Traditional Chinese characters.



China Series II – Xu Bing Is My Good Friend, 2008, ink on paper, 3 pieces: 29.5 x 21 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

The structures of *China III* are logical derivations of *China II*. I just thought of giving the viewer a freedom to express their own ideas, so I made it into wooden blocks so that it can be assembled or scattered.



China Series III – My China (To Be or Not To be), 2008, wood, 4 pieces: 26 x 26 x 4 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

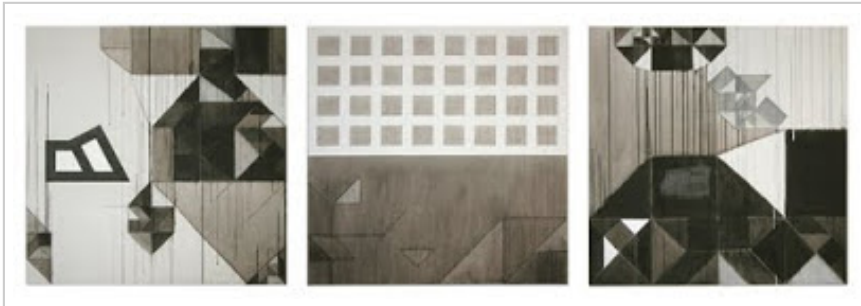
China IV emphasizes the same idea through the medium of painting. The work functions as a mirror to allow a viewer to decide their own political stands.



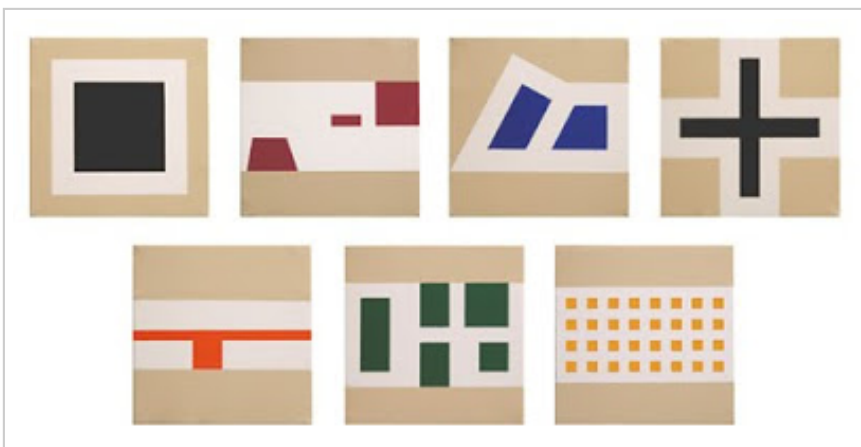
China Series IV – Who Am I?, 2009, acrylic on canvas / collage, 5 paintings: 40.5 x 30.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

Please tell us about the "Melbourne Series" you worked on in 2007-2008. I am particularly intrigued by "Flying Machine above VCA" and "City Frame". What is it that inspires you to paint this series?

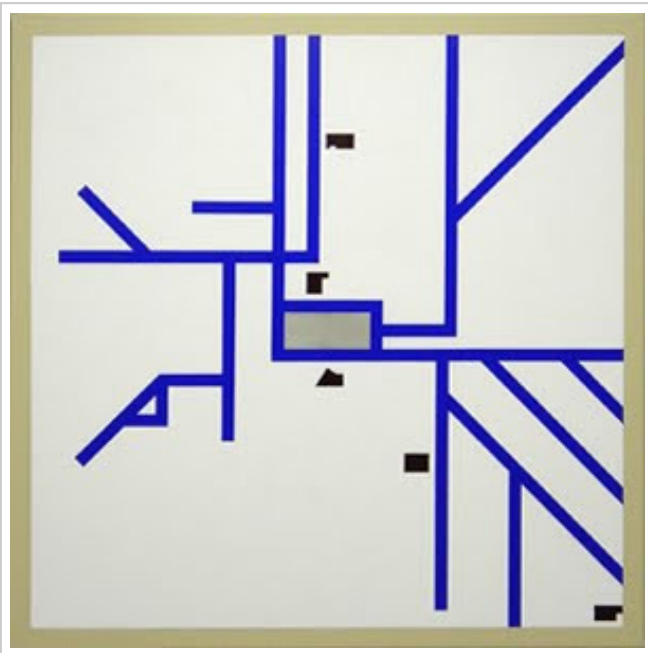
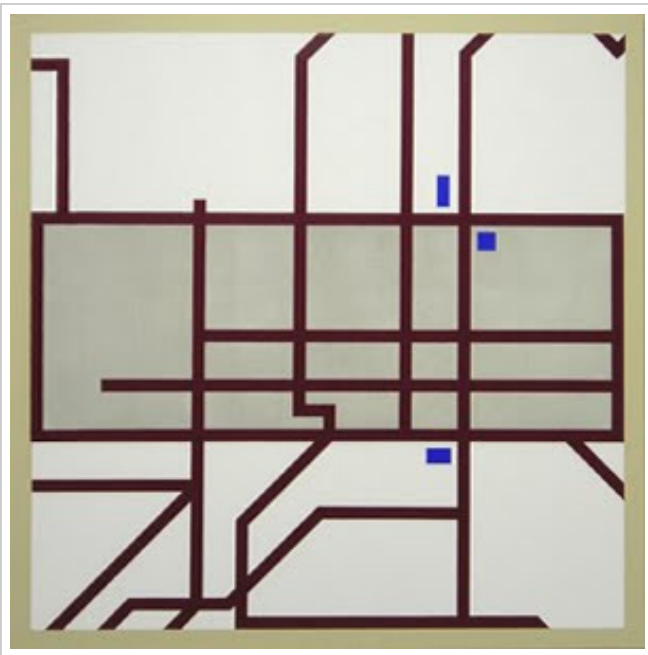
Melbourne Series is based on my living experience in Melbourne, a city where I had newly arrived in early 2007. I wanted to use a new approach to my paintings, so I added many other elements such as records, flatness, etc., to create *Flying Machine above VCA Series* and *City Frame Series*. As you can see, many images are derived from actual landscapes, and most of them have a logical associations between each other.



Flying Machine above VCA Series, 2007, acrylic on canvas, 3 paintings: 101.5 x 101.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



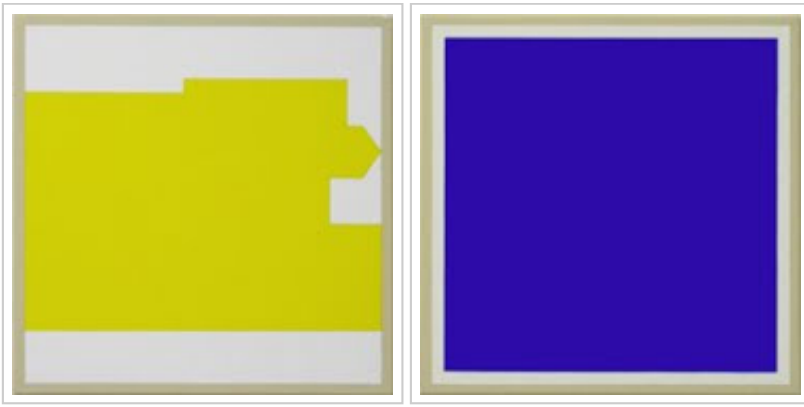
City Frame Series I – My New City, 2007, acrylic on canvas, 7 paintings: 30.5 x 30.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



City Frame Series IV – My Tram & Train, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 2 paintings: 101.5 x 101.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



City Frame Series III – My RMIT, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 8 paintings: 30.5 x 30.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



Painting#4 and #7 of the 8 paintings from *City Frame Series III* .
Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

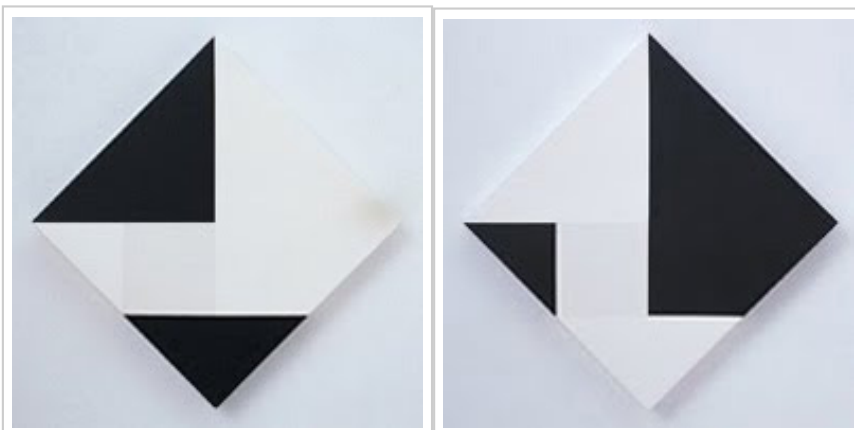
Would you talk a bit about "Universality Series? Could you tell us how does it all start? What is the specific message you strive to convey to your viewers?

In *Universality Series*, I used sequence to show a continuous progressive transformation. Every painting is related to each other pictorially. Through its abstract shapes, the form of one painting acts as the starting-point for the next.



oA/oB/oC/oD/oE/oF, 2000, acrylic on canvas, 6 paintings: 30.5 x 30.5 cm each. Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

http://www.shiaupengchen.com/paintings_2000.html



oE and oF of the 6 paintings, 2000, acrylic on canvas: 30.5 x 30.5 cm each.
Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.

For example, in series oA-oB, the painting oB is a continuation of oA. Its colour is identical to oA, but

structurally more complicated to re-enforce the relationship between positive and negative space.

The final series 5E-5O, of the *Universality Series*, is a work composed of wooden blocks of various geometric shapes which correspond to the individual geometric components of *OA-OF*.



5E-5O, 2005, wood, 3 installation views: dimensions variable.

Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



5O, 2005, wood and wood lacquer, installation dimensions variable.

Image courtesy of Shiau-Peng Chen.



5N, 2005, wood and wood lacquer, 13 x 13 x 2.5 inches.
Image courtesy of Shiao-Peng Chen.

What is the most interesting comment about your work you have heard from a viewer?

“Even a two-year-old child can paint that.”

Do you have website and/or any web presence for interested readers to learn more about you and your work?

- <http://www.shiaupengchen.com>
- <http://www.paintingnote.blogspot.com>
- <http://www.artinfo.com.au/exhibitions/browse/beyond-geometry>
- <http://re-title.com/artists/ShiauPeng-Chen.asp>
- <http://www.visualarts.net.au/gallery/shiaupengchen>
- ARTABASE :: MENG-SHU YOU Melting Down SHIAU-PENG CHEN I Don't Belong Here but There II
<http://artabase.net/exhibition/1247-meng-shu-you-melting-down-shiau-peng-chen-i-don-t-belong-here-but-there-ii>
- GEOFORM <http://www.geoforn.net/directory.html?queryID=yes&queryIDnum=75&groupNum=1>

Finally, is there anything else you would like to say about your art?



Santa Monica, 2005, acrylic on canvas, 46 x 244 cm.

Image courtesy of Shiao-Peng Chen.

Well, not really. But to anyone who is not interested in forms, subjectivity, abstraction and representational inconsistencies, my painting will really look like a two-year-old art work, as I have laid my works “bare” to bring those issues out.

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