

# Singapore Sketchbook

By Siobhan Cool

*In the month before Chinese New Year I love to visit the nurseries in Thomson Road - to revel in the gorgeous colours and excited throngs of shoppers when the chrysanthemums, kumquats, willow blossoms and other cultivated floral gems arrive for sale! I wander down aisles narrowed by the boundless extra stock and never fail to enjoy the total visual delight of my favourite Singapore festival.*



Spa Nursery, Thomson Road - CNY Lime Trees

Siobhan 2/12



Cny: 8th Day After the Lion Dance, Swiss Club

Siobhan

*When we arrived at the Swiss Club for a swim on the eighth day, we watched a troupe of lion dancers, preparing to welcome the Lunar New Year. After the clashing, prancing, leaping and drumming was done, my son Harry and I stepped over the mandarin peel and went to see the beautiful 'lion' - now quiet and slumbering under a shady Angsana tree.*

*Springing up all over Singapore on various vacant lots in the days before Chinese New Year, I see makeshift 'temple' areas where people come to offer incense prayers to deities and join together for celebration feasts, laughing over past times and espousing hopes for the New Year. As I wander through the marquee, I am always made to feel welcome and am never short of a friendly 'guide' if I have any questions about the altar offerings.*



"Angsana and the Cloud Temple" Main Altar, Year of Golden Ox, Angsana, Tan Yi Drive

Siobhan Cool is an STPI docent, avid artist and print-maker and works by day as general counsel for an airline.