

Everyday Singapore

By Janette Maxey

To me, time is a strange thing in Singapore. The island is situated one degree north of the equator so the weather is consistent and the sun rises and sets at almost the same time all year. At times it feels like the movie *Groundhog Day*, but at the same time, it seems as if time speeds up in Singapore. I always say it's like dog years: for every one year outside this small city-state country, it feels like seven inside its shores.

My feelings about the quickening of time are reflected in the city's constantly changing skyline even during the very short four years that I've been lucky enough to live here. The rapid transformation is remarkable. Buildings come and go to accommodate Singapore's modern citizens.



Overgrown, Gouache on Paper 9" x 12"

In Katong, a grand old beach-house is shadowed by progress and many large buildings. Today it is abandoned; nobody lives there. It is so beautiful, but it's only a matter of time before the land beneath it holds a multi-family ultramodern condo, a sophisticated reflection of this tropical island's time and aesthetics.

Blue Construct, Gouache on Paper 5" x 7"

When buildings are in the early stages of construction, beautiful blue mesh fabric covers the skeleton that is being filled from the inside out. This wash of colour feels like creation, progress, and potential. I can't help but think about Christo and Jeanne-Claude's wrapped buildings. Their works of art were created to alter the landscape around them and are ultimately ephemeral, much like many buildings here that have already given way or may soon give way to great change.



Tanjong Katong Grey, Gouache on Paper 5" x 7"

On Tanjong Katong Road, buildings from two different times blend into the Singapore sky. One, the old Katong post office, is now a guardhouse and the other is a telephone exchange. They are like cousins, two generations removed, but serving the same function.

Janette Maxey is an American artist who has been living and painting in Singapore since 2009 and is a grateful FOM member. She holds a BFA in Painting with a minor in Western Art History. More of her works can be found at www.jrmaxey100.wordpress.com
