

**Henry Lee**

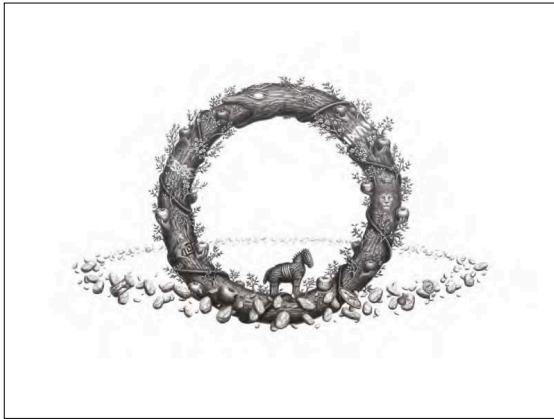
B. 1981, Singapore

**Adam's Apple**

2021

Charcoal, Pencil and Acrylic on Canvas

H 76.2 cm x 101.4 cm



**Apple (*Malus domestica*)**

*An apple tree takes the form of an Ouroboros, the ancient Egyptian and Greek alchemical symbol of unity and eternal cyclic regeneration: a serpent with its tail in its mouth, continually devouring itself and being reborn. Embedded within this work are multiple allusions related to apples: the biblical forbidden fruit Adam and Eve were tempted into eating from the tree of knowledge in the garden of Eden; the poisoned apple presented by the evil queen and nemesis to Snow White out of jealousy; as well as various references to the golden apples in Norse and Greek mythology: Idun, the Norse goddess keeper of the golden apples of eternal youth and fertility; the golden apple of discord that sowed the seeds for the Trojan war, tossed in retaliation by Eris, the Greek goddess of strife at a wedding she had not been invited to; and the race between Hippomenes and Atalanta, which Hippomenes won with the aid of three golden apples from Aphrodite, the goddess of love.*