

**Henry Lee**

b. 1981, Singapore



**Born this Way, 2019**

Charcoal and Acrylic on Canvas

H 101.4 x 76.2 cm

The kitschy pink vase, with unapologetically Chinese motifs, has stood on the prayer altar for as long as I can remember; it has seen more days than I have. I found it an eyesore for the longest time. It used to be filled with fresh flowers, usually chrysanthemums, sometimes lilies, during special occasions. I never enjoyed watching flowers wither and die, and I was relieved when my suggestion to replace fresh flowers with artificial ones was eventually heeded. I could not replace the vessel, but at least I could decide what went into it.