

Henry Lee b. 1981, Singapore



Hold Your Horses!, 2018
Pen on Paper
H 50 x 40 cm (Framed)

Of Trains and Dragons Series

Inspired by the daydreams Henry Lee often has while taking public transport, 'Of Trains and Dragons' takes a whimsical look at what happens if the familiar road and transport networks of Singapore were warped into an alternate dimension, a space called "The Every-Nowhere", where mythical creatures abound. What happens to trains and buses when they are retired? Would Singapore's road pricing system be effective in reducing otherworldly traffic congestion? Henry imagines improbable scenarios to such questions and encourages the viewer to rethink their experience when they take public transport. With a little bit of imagination, perhaps you might find yourself transported to "The Every-Nowhere" amidst your daily routine as well.

There is a Chinese saying which likens the road to the tiger's mouth (马路如虎口), signifying the dangers of travelling on the road. In this piece, Henry imagines the White Tiger, one of the four Chinese mythical beasts, bashing through a series of traffic lights and speed cameras. Road rage is an all-too common occurrence and Henry wonders what it is about driving that turns drivers into untameable aggressive road tigers.