

Henry Lee

b. 1981, Singapore



It wasn't meant to be like this, 2018

Pen on Paper

H 70 x 50 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.

What happens to trains and buses when they are decommissioned from service? In "It wasn't meant to be like this", Henry imagines a scrapyards in alternate dimension of "The Every-Nowhere" where our buses and trains are dumped, and they are eventually recuperated by Mother Nature. This piece is also inspired by the soil investigation works conducted on the Central Catchment Area in anticipation of the Cross Island MRT line and Henry's unease at the prospect of tunnelling works passing under Singapore's largest nature reserve.