

Henry Lee

b. 1981, Singapore



King Of The Hill, 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.

Henry finds multi-storey carpark claustrophobic, and apparently, he was not alone in his dislike for them. His estate became the first in Singapore history to turn down HDB's Main Upgrading Programme where one of the key items was to convert the traditional carpark into a multi-storey one. "King of the Hill" features one of the four Chinese mythical creatures, the Black Tortoise, which is always accompanied by a snake, holding court over a multi-storey carpark. Henry wonders how long more his estate can hold out before it succumbs to Singapore's relentless urbanisation exercises.