

Koh Hong Teng

b. 1969, Singapore



No. 01-510, 2011

Acrylic on Canvas

H 90 x 120 cm

Hair Accessories Shop at Toa Payoh

Koh Hong Teng brings to his work the benefits of meticulous observation. No. 01-510 belongs to the *Blks & Nos series*, a continuation of his interest in the landscape of Singapore, particularly in the disappearing elements of the heartlands, glimpses of which can now only be had in old HDB estates such as Toa Payoh. He describes his journeys to these places, where he spends time conversing and gathering knowledge of their histories: "I usually take pictures with my phone and use them when I sit down to paint these scenes." But, beyond their significance as archival material, it is the rich visual quality and metaphoric elements of these pictures that are most striking.

The refined quality of draughtsmanship that marks Hong Teng's works is also a result of extensive experience and persistence in his artistic practice as an illustrator, which includes many commercial graphic assignments, a journalistic graphic artist stint and a graphic novel titled *01321*.