

Xin Xiao Chang

b. 1982, Singapore



Please Lah! Singapore - Folks #19, #23 & #30
2018

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| #30: Stoneware, Wheel Thrown, Hand-building | H 31.5 x 16 x 16 cm |
| #19: Stoneware, paper, Wheel Thrown, Hand-building | H 29.5 x 10.5 x 10.5 cm |
| #23: Stoneware, plastic safety eyes, Wheel Thrown, Hand-building | H 33 x 12.5 x 12.5 cm |

Xin Xiao Chang takes the idiosyncrasies of Singapore, her home and creative base, and all the emotions and thoughts they bring up, to produce works that stand firmly in the local context. These pieces are made at a scale that invites the viewer to intimately inspect and observe the details she obsessively places within her sculptures. Drawing from frustrations in her daily commute on public transport, Xin created these domed figurines to portray her observations of people around her. Each encapsulated figurine represents individuals living in their own worlds, disconnected from those around them, resulting in anti-social attitudes. Their closed up forms symbolize their judgemental or closed minded views of their worlds. These public versions of ourselves resulted from daily conditioning and exposure to those we come into contact with. The marks seen on the figures suggest a progressing infection of bad manners, just like a contagious virus. Xin draws examples of urban Singaporeans who are constantly engaged in their own activities such as playing on their mobile phones, reading newspapers in a crowded train, drinking and eating on public transport, alienating themselves to their surroundings. Xin also suggests the affected behaviour of people when they meet these 'aliens'; the dome form is like a shield from the outside world, about protection of oneself from its external physical environment.