

MADE IN SINGAPORE

BY THIBAUT GAURIAU



*29 August -
12 September*

CURATOR'S NOTE

Canvas Creative Space has committed its programming to fostering local artists, who continue to push the frontier and foundation of culture in the country. In a year, we have curated 11 solo/group exhibitions and in-house creative programs like Speak and Imagination Cinema. Our belief in supporting the creative community will always be our objective. We really appreciate the support given by our audience who undoubtedly has been very patient in letting us explore creativity in every way possible.

The concept of progress as development, a process of betterment, a transition from a lower to a higher stage was one of the guiding principles for our country's growth. As a national tribute for our nation turning 50 this year, we decided to turn things around and invite our August, featured artist, Thibault Gauriau. His debut solo exhibition entitled 'Made In Singapore', from his latest portraiture series, 'Obvious Beauty'.

In the age of globalisation, a local majority could easily become a minority in the wider world. As global citizens, we hope for and embrace the belief that elastic and flexible identities can bring diversity and progress, rather than confrontation.

Certain aspects of one's individual identity such as race and nationality come naturally at birth. One could, however, consciously choose other aspects such as profession, religion, ways of life, gender expression et cetera, to make oneself more unique. From the moment people are born, they are tied to a nationality. Even though nationality is granted by a greater power, when it comes to daily life, the idea of practicing one's nationality is no doubt an abstract concept. Between this, there are aspects such as nationality, history and social roles, which influence our sense of identity.

Identity could simply be personal disposition, or an unwilling imposition by the society at large. What might it mean to be a Singaporean today in the current climate and what role did art play and can it continue playing in a context defined by the past, affect and belonging?

Are cultural-specific artistic trajectories decipherable in a contemporary art space where geographical borders are no longer decisive in the production of meaning, and cross-pollination and multiplicity of forms increasingly define the ecologies of artistic practice?

Thibault's portraits challenge the bio-cultural "foundations" of society and question gender norms from the perspective of sexuality, class, race and ethnicity. Being human is being beyond parameters—without sex, gender, ethnic, racial or social constraints. But, how can this ideal be attained? As a counterpoint to the modernist utopia even as we engage in artistic expression and cultural consumption, arguing that the state of democracy cannot exist merely by means of tolerance and inclusion. Self creation poses a question as to what today has remained of the idea of modernism and as to the directions in which contemporary modernisation is heading.

Thibault Gauriau's works allow us to rethink our own systems of chromatic classification and the social processes that are expressed through them. The photographs here have an almost cinematic, performative quality. It is precisely at this intersection between the life of an individual and the collectivity that "imagines" his/her social role and function that one may begin to re-investigate the embedded social situations.

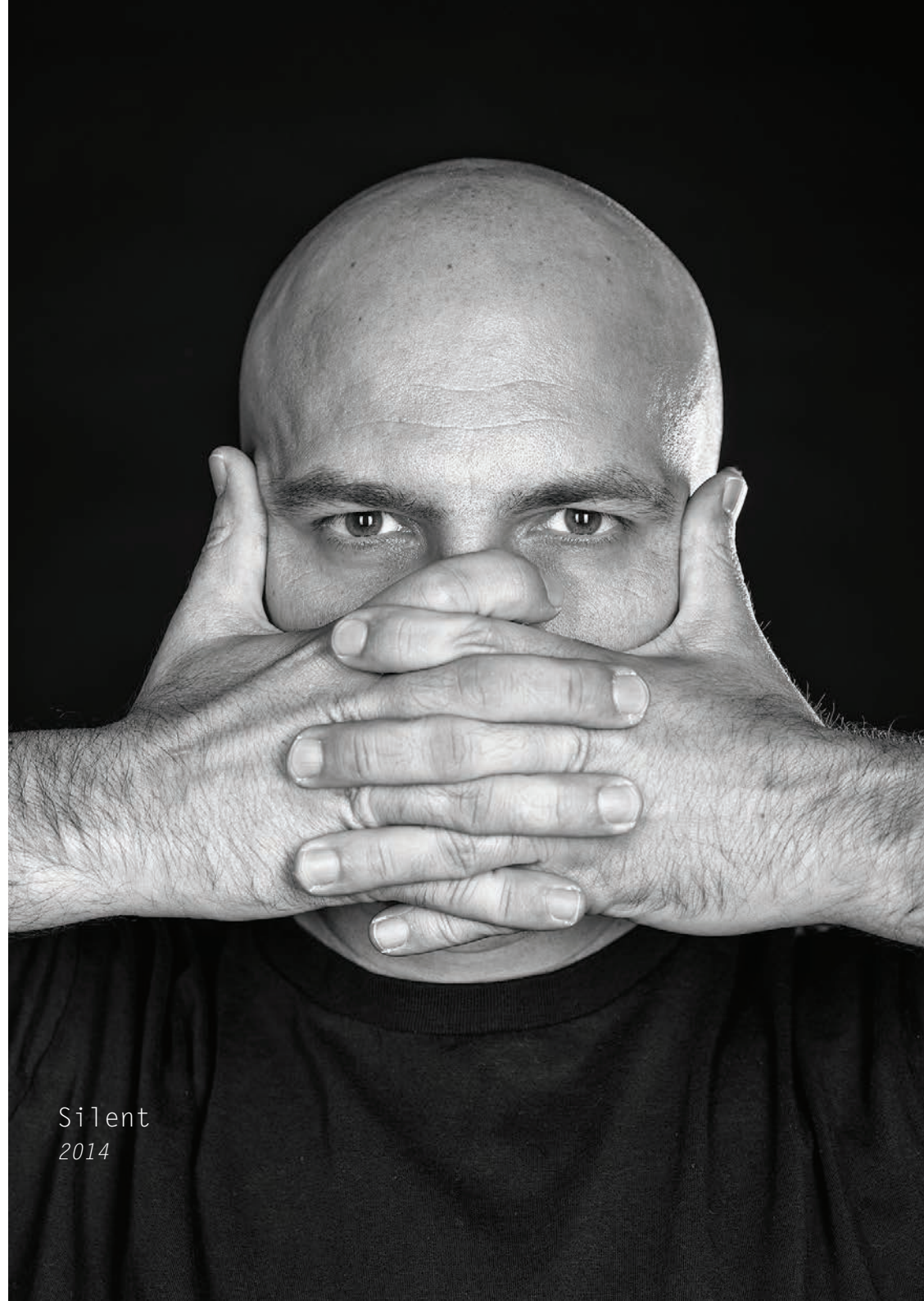
- RAZI RAZAK

The Artist 1
2015





The Hitman
2015



Silent
2014



Silence
2014



Fashionista 2
2014



Back Body
2015



Half Body
2015



Legs Up 5
2015



Legs Up 3
2015



Legs Up 4
2015



Kumar
2015



Comfy Skin
2015



Wings
2014



The Egg
2014

Heads Up
2014



Envy
2014



“OBVIOUS BEAUTY”

Thibault Gauriau’s selection from his latest portraiture series, ‘Obvious Beauty’ reflects on the artistic and the cultural community that gave voice to a new image for Singaporean citizens. This documentation of how modern life here can well stand to be reassessed and perceived anew on the future of our nationality.

The most engaging element is the representation on cultural identity of a growing society that generates dialogue between the artist himself and his subjects. It also plays an active role in focusing on emotions and empathy. While suggesting a multiplicity or variety of the concept itself, Thibault explores individuals, emotions, characters, elegance, simplicity and grace to construct perspectives.

His works and practice are undeniably of and re-discovering our world and re-educating ourselves to see it in all its beauty and glory as a physical-social matrix.





ABOUT THIBAUT GAURIAU

Thibault Gauriau (b. 1985) is a Senior Artist at Industrial Light & Magic/ Lucasfilm Singapore. He specializes in complex visual effects work for feature film and has been a professional photographer since 2006. After studying science, his interest diverted to the arts and creativity.

Thibault has worked in photography, live-action films, commercial spots, animated movies, editing, retouching and VFX post production.

With a background of more than 17 movies, Thibault is passionate about passing on the knowledge and has been teaching courses and master classes for art schools in Singapore and abroad.

