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EXTRA • Ordinary People

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A U C T I O N S

American Neo-Pop Artist Jan Larsen to Team up with Park Royal On Beach Road to Give Back to Extra•Ordinary People, a Registered Charity and Institution of Public Character

Unveiling a New Set of Larsen's *Synchrony Series* Paintings

Introducing Extra•Ordinary Artist Genine Tham
with the Debut of Larsen's First Exhibition of 2021: "NEW YEAR | NEW NORMAL"

Presented by Larsen's Charitable Arm "JLA Cares" and "Robertson House Auctions"
in its Second Benefit Auction

Singapore, 3 February, 2021 – In celebration of **Chinese New Year 2021**, American Neo-Pop artist Jan Larsen (www.janlarsenart.com) today announced his collaboration with **Extra•Ordinary People** (www.extraordinarypeople.sg), a Singapore-registered charity and Institution of Public Character (IPC) supporting persons with special needs. Debuting his new exhibition entitled "**NEW YEAR | NEW NORMAL**", Larsen will unveil his **Synchrony Series** paintings. Works by **Genine Tham**, **Extra•Ordinary People's** art therapy client, will also be introduced at the exhibition, which will be presented at Larsen's dramatic, historic, double-wide shophouse home-base production studios and exhibition space called **Robertson House** (robertsonhouse.sg).

"We're delighted and honored to announce the launch of this new exhibition of **Synchrony Series** paintings called **NEW YEAR | NEW NORMAL** in partnership with **Extra•Ordinary People**" says Larsen, "and in so doing, sharing **Genine's** works with you. Though there are a number of things that are distinct between Genine and myself, like decades of age and continents of experience, where I am from the States and she is from Singapore, we nonetheless have similarities in our approach to painting, and it is a delight to celebrate that commonality with Genine, while bringing her work and **Extra•Ordinary People's** mission to public attention."

Ms. Wee Wei Ling, Co-founder of **Extra•Ordinary People**, said: "Extra•Ordinary People exists to empower persons with special needs towards independent living. Through therapy, access to performing arts and employment programmes, we provide platforms and opportunities to discover and nurture talents like Genine. We are grateful for partners like Jan Larsen, who has chosen to give back to the community through his stunning work. This has enabled Genine's first exhibition, and we look forward to developing her potential together with her and her family."

Genine Tham, a beneficiary of the charity's **Art Therapy Programme**, creates glimpses of her inner world through her artwork, motivated solely by self-discovery, inquisitiveness, and play. Each of Genine's paintings projects new awareness emerging from her artistic process and her use of her hands and feet in creating panoramic 6-foot long landscapes that engage the viewer in their complex textures and details.

Art Therapy is an integrative mental health and human services profession that involves active art-making, creative process, applied psychological theory, and human experience within a psychotherapeutic relationship. Facilitated by a professional art therapist, the sessions effectively support personal and relational treatment goals as well as community concerns.

With the support and care of her art therapists, Genine has grown from a shy and hesitant girl to an expressive individual. Through her weekly therapy sessions, she gradually found the space and freedom to express herself through her art, in one particular session finding the voice to say, 'I want to choose', referring to her next choice of paint colour.

Showing new works inspired by the process of collaborating with **EPL** on his third exhibition in Singapore since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Larsen brings a fresh set of **Synchrony Series** paintings to meditate on what this new COVID era means for us as individuals, and for our societies as a whole. Paired with fresh editions from his entertaining and popular pop-culture-inspired prints and sculptures, each work is a metaphor for elements of our 'new normals,' and for reflecting on how the COVID era has prompted a 're-set' for our societies in general.

The site for the exhibition is a dramatic and historic two-storey, double-wide converted shophouse Larsen calls **Robertson House** in Singapore's River Valley district, which he has been developing into his production studios, exhibition space, and home-base space since the start of 2020, starting a family of his own there in late 2020.

Extending and deepening his engagement with Singapore will also be two initiatives Larsen launched in his final exhibition of 2020: **JLA Cares** and **Robertson House Auctions**.

JLA Cares is Larsen's not-for-profit initiative embodying the cause-related aspect of Larsen's practice, where he and his team raise awareness and funds for causes he cares about, such as social services, education, and the environment. Half of the proceeds from these sales go to charitable causes, and the other half to participating artists and organisations.

Robertson House Auctions (<https://robertsonhouseauctions.com>) is a for-profit auction practice that sells works from Larsen and participating artists and organizations on primary and secondary markets, and which administers the not-for-profit aspects of the **JLA Cares** benefit auctions.

Online bidding for the **NEW YEAR | NEW NORMAL** charity auction will open on 7 February, and the sale will close with a live-streaming auction and 'wrap party' on Friday, 5 March. The first of these auctions, in December of 2020, raised \$38,950 for the Singapore registered charity **Samaritans of Singapore**.

The exhibition will kick off with an opening week of socially-distanced events the week of 7 February, and run for 4 weeks, through the weekend after the conclusion of the charity auction, the weekend of 6-7 March.

Due to prevailing public health regulations and government requirements, viewing is by appointment only by emailing enquiries@janlarsenart.com, and is limited to 10 persons at a time.

About Jan Larsen

Please see the artist's profile [here](#).

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