

Roselyn Yap

aka TITS The Artist / www.titstheartist.com

Biography

I am a visual artist based in Berlin (DE) who works in performance art, installation, photography, painting and research.

My journey becoming an artist began in mid 2013 when I quit my career in finance after many years working for Australia's largest finance corporations. In 2015, I bought a one-way flight ticket from Sydney to Berlin because I wanted to have a fresh start and develop my art in a place that was foreign to me. I had never been to Berlin before, nor spoke a word of German, but my blind faith paid off as Berlin turned out to be the fertile ground I was looking for.

I was born in Indonesia and migrated to Australia as a teenager. My grandfather was a poor textile merchant who immigrated from China to Indonesia in search of better prosperity. My father (the 2nd generation Chinese-born-Indonesian) was a hardware store owner. He was one of the first people who imported Japanese sanitary wares such as toilets, wash basins, bathtubs, etc, in the 70's (<https://www.toto.com/en/neorest/>). I loved playing in his store as a kid, to the point of him having to kick me out so I could do my homework. I believe this is where my interest working with objects came from.

My other influences came from my grandmother, mother and aunts (the sensible women in the house) whose cooking and utilitarian paper & textile handcrafts would soothe anyone's soul. Their resourceful way of thinking, as they often upcycled materials, has not only influenced my creativity, but also my appreciation for "worthless" materials. I find their ethos noble and spiritual. It is my guiding light in making works.

Overall, my works are an ensemble of my identity as a woman and an immigrant, of 3 different cultural upbringings and of the newly adopted European social, cultural and political landscapes I live in today.

Lastly, my pseudonym T.I.T.S. does not stand for anything. I saw the name above a university building the week I quit my job. I dreamed of being a street artist when I was starting out and thought I needed a pseudonym in order to avoid the police. That dream has not come true.

Education

2013 University of the Arts, London (UK) - Interior Design Summer Course

2012 RMIT University, Melbourne (AU) - Textile Design Summer Course

2001 Macquarie University, Sydney (AU) - Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting

Awards

2021 NeuStart Kultur Scholarship from **VG Bild Kunst**, Berlin (DE)

2020 Scholarship for Special Program from **Senatsverwaltung für Kultur & Europa**, Berlin (DE)

2018 Finalist of **Arte Laguna Prize**, Venice (IT) in Performance Category

Research Projects

2021 "Zu Verschenken (To Give Away)" (Open Development Research) funded by NeuStart Kultur Scholarship from **VG Bild Kunst**, Berlin (DE)

2021 "Women's Work: Celebration of Women & Homage to Their Occupations Out of Love and Necessities" (Installation Research/Art Residency) at **Im Grünen Bereich Art Space**, Berlin (DE)

Exhibitions in Berlin

2019 "Who's Gonna Save Us" (Film). Directed by **Adam Munnings**

2018 "Child Oddity" (Performance) in Immaterial Arts Festival at **BermelVonLuxburg Gallery**

2018 "Homage" (Performance) in **LEGS 9 Hour Performance Marathon** at **Grüntaler9**
2018 "Experimental Cooking" (Performance/Discussion) in **48 Stunden Neukölln** at **Museum für Werte**
2018 "My Transformation from Banker to Artist" (Performance/Talk) at **Les Enfants Terribles**
2018 "Japanese Tea Ceremony" (Performance) at **The School of Nothing**
2018 "Discarded Objects - A Personal Journey" (Talk) at **WikiStage**
2017 "The Wash" (Performance) in **Immaterial Arts Festival** at **Forum Factory**
2017 "Out beyond wrong doings and right doings, there is a field. I'll meet you there" (Performance) at **Grund Gallery**
2017 "Bad Art Party" (Visual Exhibition) at **BermelVonLuxburg Gallery**
2017 "The National Anthem Exercise", "The Horizon Where We Can Never Touch", "Laughing Exercise", "Walking Exercise" (Guest Performer). Pieces by Isaac Chong at **HKW**
2016 "Hitting Body/Touching Body", "Where to Put the Body?" (Guest Performer). Pieces by Isaac Chong at **Meinblau Projektraum**
2016 "To Lose" (Performance) at **Forum Factory**

International Exhibitions

2018 "The Wash" (Performance) at the **Award Ceremony of Arte Laguna Prize**, Venice (IT)
2015 "Bang" (Visual Exhibition) at **Hub Sydney**, Sydney (AU)