

# WHAT'S THAT ARTWORK?!

You will take **45 – 60 mins** for this Activity | For **10 – 12 Years Old**  
Artwork: ***Singapore Idols*** by **Jing Quek**

## Through this activity, you will:

- Expand your understanding of different media used in contemporary art
- Develop skills to express yourself confidently
- Learn about a Singapore-based artist and artwork
- Discover how artists draw inspiration from the world around us

## STEP 1: PREPARE

- A photograph of any kind
- Two pieces of A4 paper
- Writing and drawing materials
- Tape or glue
- A postage stamp (optional)

*PSST! Instead of printing out this activity sheet, you can write your responses on a notebook or a piece of paper!*

## STEP 2: OBSERVE (PART 1)

Look at this artwork!



**Write down your answers to the following questions:**

What do you see in this artwork?

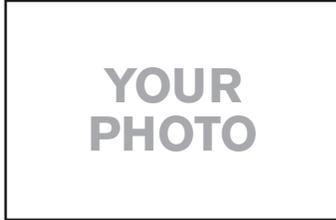
How did the artist create this artwork?

What do you think this artwork is about?

# What's that artwork?!

*Singapore Idols* by Jing Quek

## STEP 2: OBSERVE (PART 2)



Look closely at your selected photograph from Step 1!

Can you spot three similarities and differences between your photograph and the artwork above?

### Similarities

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Differences

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### PRO TIP!

Observe the details of your photograph. What is the first thing you notice, is it brightly lit or dark? Are there any shadows?

## STEP 3: DISCOVER



*Singapore Idols – Aunties & Uncles*



*Singapore Idols – Army Boys*



*Singapore Idols – Maids*

### WHAT'S THAT ARTWORK?

***Aunties & Uncles*** is part of a series of photographs called ***Singapore Idols***, completed between 2006 and 2009. The series features different groups of people, like the elderly, army recruits and domestic workers everyday situations in Singapore. The elderly in *Aunties & Uncles* and army recruits in *Army Boys* are posing confidently – like they are celebrities! However, the group of domestic workers in *Maids* stare seriously at the camera and appear as if they are in the middle of doing chores.

In these portraits, Quek shows groups of people whom he feels are overlooked in society. We may take them for granted or may forgotten have taken the time to appreciate their contributions. Through these photographs, he wants us to reconsider our feelings towards them.

### WHO'S THAT ARTIST?

Jing Quek was born in Singapore in 1983. His artworks document the people and places of Singapore to explore what is unique about the country.

# What's that artwork?!

*Singapore Idols* by Jing Quek

## DID YOU KNOW?

Before photography was invented, only the rich and famous could afford to have their portraits made. And these would be in the form of painting or sculpture! The earliest photograph was taken in 1826. Even with a camera, the subject would have to be still, staying in position for long hours for their image to be in focus. How different are such portraits from the selfies or “wefies” that you can take now?

## Who would you want to take a “wefie” with?

Draw the two of you in the phone screen.

*PSST! – If you have a phone or camera, you can choose to take a selfie too!*

## STEP 4: WRITE A LETTER

Artist Jing Quek takes portraits of people whom he feels society overlooks. Who are the people in your community that you may have overlooked or taken for granted?

### PART 1:

Write a letter to one person to whom you would like to express your appreciation! The person you write to is the recipient of the letter.

### PRO TIP!

Think about the groups of people in your school or your extended family! For example, your grandparents, teachers, school cleaners...

### PART 2:

Divide a piece of A4 paper into two parts as shown. On the left, draw a portrait of the recipient and on the right, write a letter to show them your appreciation!

Dear ...

Thank you for ...

Yours sincerely,

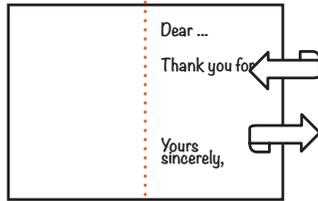
# What's that artwork?!

Singapore Idols by Jing Quek

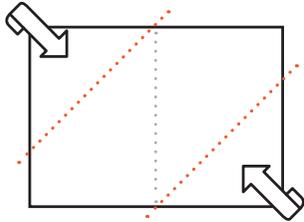
## STEP 4: WRITE A LETTER (PART 3)

Using the piece of A4 paper, make your own envelope!

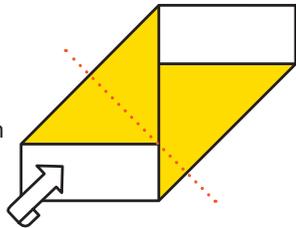
Fold along the dotted line!



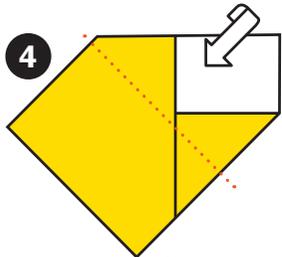
**1** Begin with your letter side facing up. Fold the paper in half and open it up again.



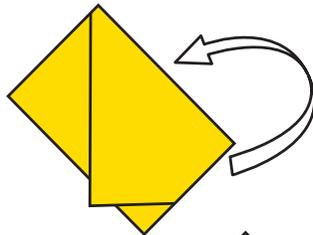
**2** Fold the top left corner and bottom right corner to the centre.



**3** Fold the bottom left corner so it aligns with the slanted edge on the left.



**4**

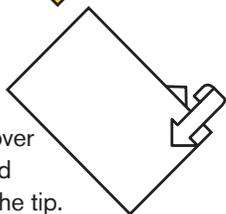


**5**

Fold the top right corner down until it looks like the diagram in 5. The tip of the paper should overlap the bottom by 1 cm.

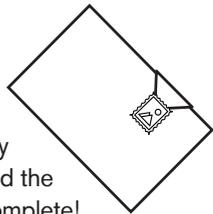
**6**

Flip it over and fold down the tip.



**7**

Tape down any open areas and the envelope is complete!



### PRO TIP!

Using colouring or craft materials you can find at home, decorate your envelope!



## STEP 5: TELL YOUR FAMILY

### Finished with your letter?

If the recipient you chose lives with you, pass the letter to him or her yourself. If not, hold on to the letter till the next time you meet him or her.

### Share your thoughts with your family member!

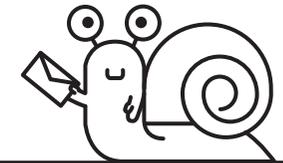
Here are some questions to begin the discussion:

- What is your favourite part of Jing Quek's photography series?
- What did you learn from this activity?
- Did you enjoy preparing your snail mail?

### DID YOU KNOW?

Snail Mail refers to mail delivered by a postal system.

Your letter can also be delivered through the mail! Ask a parent if they can help you with this. Remember to place a postage stamp on the front, top right corner of the envelope and write your own address on the back!



More information on this artwork and the artist Jing Quek can be found in the Singapore Art Museum's The Learning Gallery Guide. Scan the QR code and see page 8 & 9 to find out more