

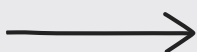


THE ELECTRIC SERIES



A COLLABORATION BY
ALBA ESCAYO (SPAIN)
SHIH YUN YEO (SINGAPORE)

2022



Going Electric

by Joe Nolan

Alba Escayo and Shih Yun Yeo in collaboration



The “***Electric Series***” isn't a triptych presenting a single artwork in three sections, but when these three paintings hang together as an installation, the visual breadth of Alba Escayo and Shih Yun Yeo’s collaboration is greater than the sum of its parts. These paintings interact with one another through mutual movement and common colors, creating a conversation about balance and harmony that mirrors the ongoing creative relationship between the artists themselves.

Going Electric



Escayo is based in Spain and Yeo is based in Singapore. The pair first met in July 2008 at the LINDART International Fine Arts Colony in Slovenia. The creative duo clicked on their first collaboration at Lendava Castle, and the artists have continued to meet regularly in Spain and Singapore to co-create several projects. Escayo and Yeo have made a number of elegant works on paper since 2008, but their latest project reads like the most fully-realized version of their combined practice.

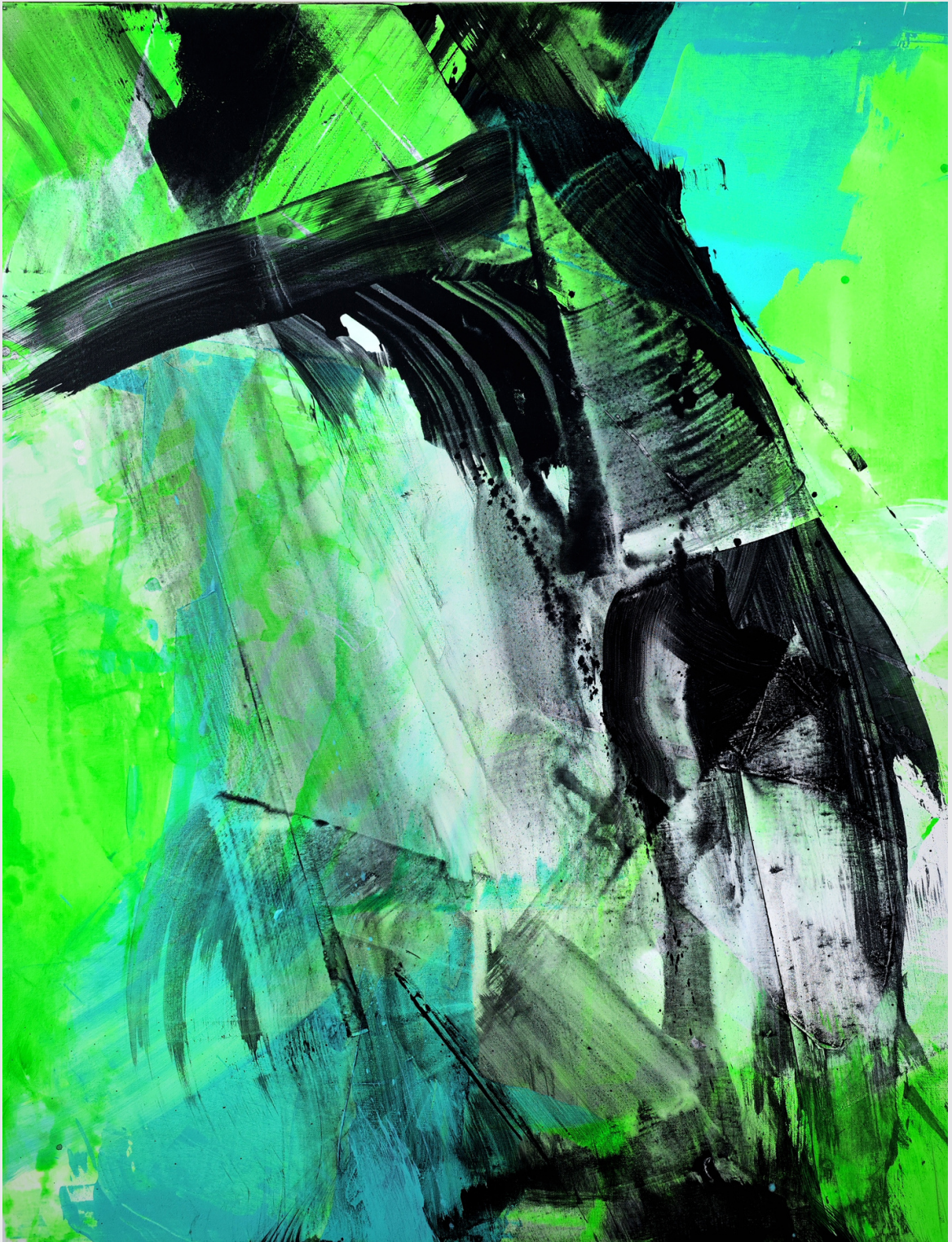
Escayo

X

Yeo

The painters created the "**Electric Series**" in Yeo's studio after Covid 19 travel restrictions were lifted and Escayo was able to fly to Singapore in November, 2022. Escayo's multimedia paintings generally feature abstract landscapes rendered in candy-colored palettes. Yeo's works marry ancient Chinese calligraphy traditions to energized lines inspired by mid-century abstract expressionists. A collaboration between the two artists might not seem like an obvious match, but Escayo's soft forms and fields of colorful acrylics help to define these compositions where Yeo's rough and angular brushing highlights and energizes the underlying arrangement of hues and tones.

"Electric Series #2
SINGAPORE"
122cm x 92cm
acrylic on canvas
2022



Alba Escayo & Shih Yun Yeo
Electric series #1, 2022
92cm x 122cm
acrylic on canvas



Alba Escayo & Shih Yun Yeo
Electric series #2, 2022
92cm x 122cm
acrylic on canvas



Alba Escayo & Shih Yun Yeo
Electric series #3, 2022
92cm x 122cm
acrylic on canvas

Esaya

X

Esaya

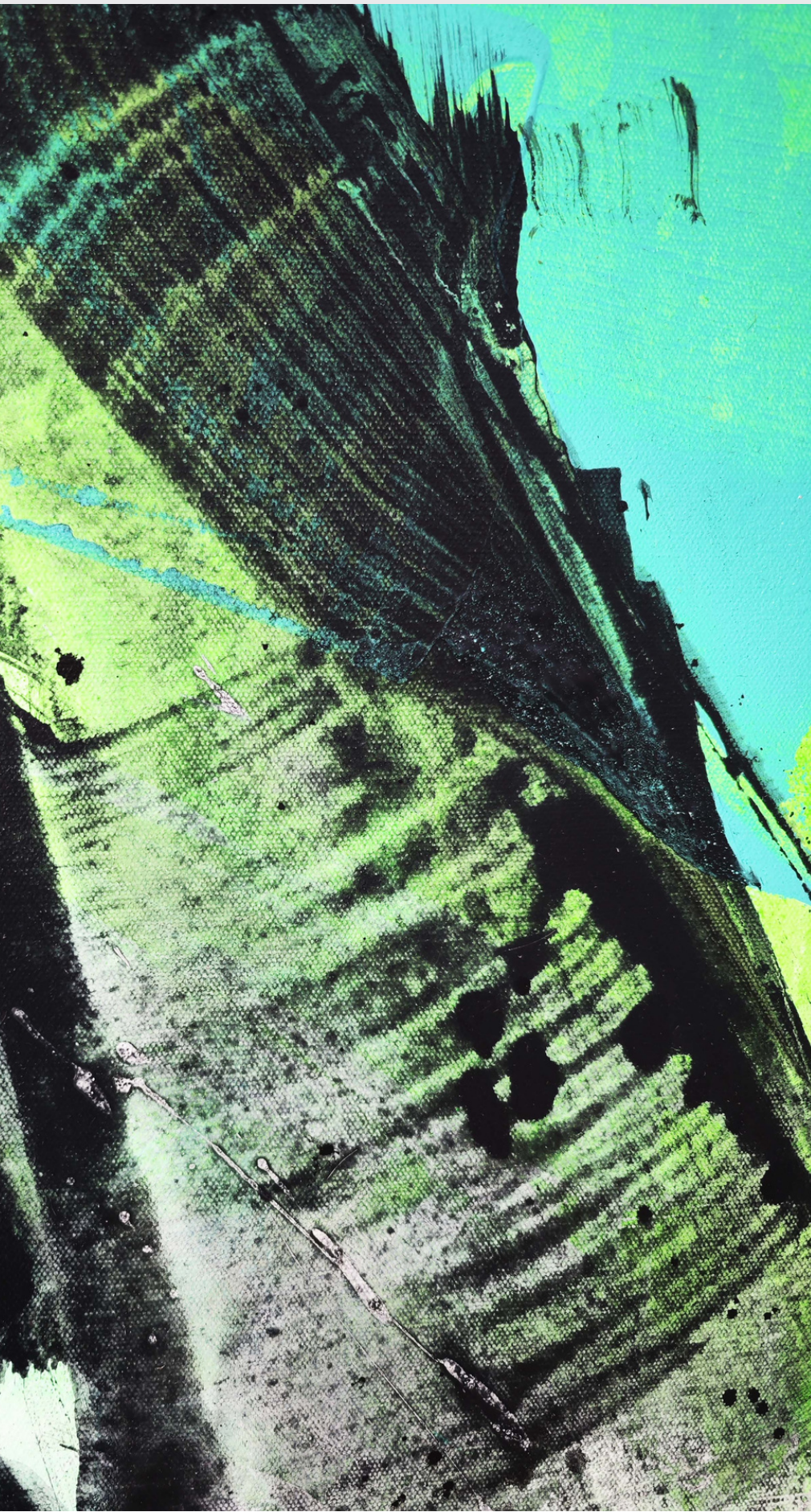
"Electric Series #2
SINGAPORE"

122cm x 92cm

acrylic on canvas

The "**Electric Series**" explores a verdant palette from delicate yellows to cool blue greens to turquoise. They're all tied together with slashes and splashes of black ink. This limited range of colors puts the emphasis on these painters' lines, forms and gestures, and the textures they bring to the surfaces of each work. There are lots of instances where the painters' contributions intersect, putting competing and colluding layers of paint and ink in play. The surfaces of each of these panels – and across the series as a whole – find these artists talking over one another and finishing each other's sentences in a lively, formalist conversation about color, movement, form and line.

Going Electric



The title “***Electric Series***” speaks to the energetic movement in this succession of painted canvases, but it also calls to mind electrical series circuits in which a charge travels through various components in the order in which they’re connected to one another. Each of the three stretched canvases is simply titled with a number – emphasizing that each piece occupies a specific place within the larger arrangement. With this in mind, it’s compelling to consider the “***Electric Series***” paintings in order, looking at the paintings from left to right, from “Electric Series #1” to “Electric Series #3”. The first canvas is mostly white with a touch of green playing against the black ink. The second work also has green accents, but the overall painting is blue. The last painting in the series offers a more balanced mix of all the colors, reading like a synthesis of the first two works. “Electric Series #3” ends the sequence with a sense of balance and fulfillment – a resolution that’s emblematic of the shared creative practice that’s emerged from the disparate-seeming aesthetics of these two unique artists.

BIO of Alba Escayo

Alba Escayo was born in Asturias, Spain in 1981. She lives and works in Madrid. Travelling and discovering new places is an inspirational force in her work.

Escayo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Complutensian University in Madrid and attended the National Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, Italy. In 2011, she received a Master's in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Belgrade, Serbia.

Her work is present in museums, public, and private collections. Escayo has been selected for many art residencies and collaborated on international projects. Escayo has had several solo and collective exhibitions throughout Madrid, Singapore, Balkans, France, and Portugal, among many other venues.

Vibrant, masterful, and implicitly expressionistic, Alba Escayo's paintings converge artistic ingenuity with new media principles in practice which is entirely contemporary. With reference to natural elements, oceanic-landscapes, and travel iconography, Escayo's painterly collage work is a reinterpretation of the artists international travels— acting as both a signifier for contemporary re-engagement, and preservation of, the tradition of exploration place, afar and familiar.

Informed and inspired by the collective multiculturalism observed during her travels, Escayo employs a similar hybridization of cultural and natural influence in her work, engaging an immersion of icons, colors, and environmental influence in her paintings.



Bio of Shih Yun Yeo



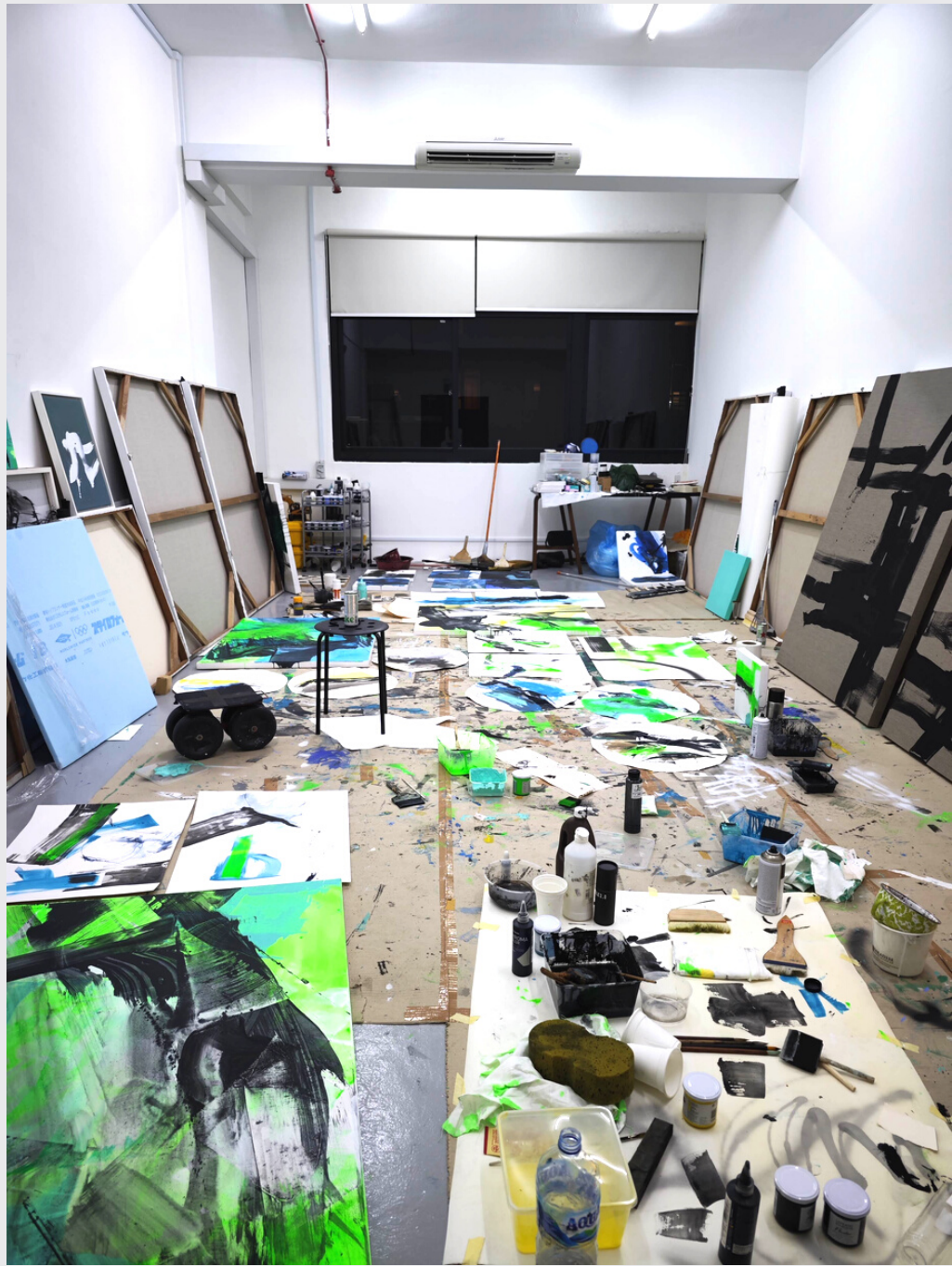
YEO Shih Yun (1976, Singapore) graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1998 with a Bachelor degree in Business Administration. She then joined LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts and completed a Diploma in Communication Design in 2001, prior to her pursuit of the Post Baccalaureate Programme in painting at the San Francisco Art Institute in 2002.

Professionally, Yeo is known to reinterpret the very act of ink painting with striking results. Her experimentations with the fusion of the traditional form and contemporary mediums, such as new media or performance art, have garnered much acclaim, including a commission by the Singapore Art Museum in 2011. Her “Conversations with trees” painting was nominated for Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists and awarded People's Choice Award in 2012, with her painting auctioned by Christie's Asia. She also won the UOB Painting of the Year Competition (Distinction in Abstract category) in 1999 & 2007. Additionally, Yeo has held exhibitions in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei, Shanghai, Tokyo & New York on the international scene. Her recent commissions include National Gallery Singapore, ‘My Ink-credible Adventure’ and solo exhibition at Esplanade titled ‘Chance Encounters’ in 2021.

In 2017, her first book, INKPULSE: the art of Yeo Shih Yun, was published. The volume conceptualizes Yeo's pulsating pursuit for new depths and new perspectives within and beyond the realm of Abstract Expressionism.

YEO is also the Founder of the independent art space “INSTINC” in Singapore, where she currently lives and works.

Contact



We are very excited about this and love to speak more about this collaboration project with you! Let's chat online!

We can be contacted at : shihyunyeo@gmail.com/ escayo@gmail.com

IG:

https://www.instagram.com/shihyunpaints_/

<https://www.instagram.com/escayo/>

Websites:

<https://www.shihyunyeo.com/>

<https://albaescayo.com/>