



BANALITY OF EVIL
IN OUR DAILY LIVES

Certificate

FINALIST OF THE COMPETITION

CHEE HUI CHUA
SINGAPORE



Indifference

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SINGAPORE

Artist's Commentary

"At the turn of the 21st century, as our world experiences a great deal of social unrest, tension is rising and scepticism is manifesting. More than ever, people are becoming cautious, defensive, neurotic and even aggressive. Interdependence and mutual trust then becomes questionable. A man crossing into an empty, burning, flooded metropolis, finds himself caught in a strange spectacle between a predatory vulture and a vulnerable red peacock. He turns a blind eye to his surroundings and continues advancing into a make-believe serenity. Shutting down emotionally may be a form of self-preservation but it is also fuel for countless insidious crimes. Indifference and apathy are contagious, though the opposite may also be true. While I truly believe that indifference in our daily living is the new banality of evil, courage on the other hand could be the antidote to insouciance."

ARTWORK CATEGORY

Paintings / Drawings

TECHNIQUE

Papier-mâché and Oil on Canvas

Banality of Evil in Our Daily Lives
A project created by +Art e. V.

www.boeart.org

We would like to honor the achievements of Chee Hui Chua during the participation of the Banality of Evil in our Daily Lives Art Prize. Their outstanding artwork and interpretation of the theme awarded them a place as a finalist amongst 575 qualifying entries from 89 countries across 4 different artistic disciplines.

The artists' work was featured in the exhibition at Alte Münze, Berlin Germany from 12 September to 17 September 2020 along with the other 39 Finalists and Winners.

The Banality of Evil in our Daily Lives Art Prize, initiated and sponsored by artist and social activist @SaySay.love, who was inspired by Hannah Arendt, wanted to encourage artists to interpret the theme and relate what they perceive the banality of evil in "their" daily lives and the thoughtlessness of our society. The awarding of winners was curated by an esteemed panel of international judges like Andrey Bartenov and Aram Haus, to name but a few

575 qualified entries from 89 countries that met the submission requirements were posted on BOE social media channels for public voting between November 2019 and March 2020.

One winner in each artistic category received prize money of US\$2000 for their artwork which made an impression on the judges and the public.

HISTORY AND IDEA BEHIND THE COMPETITION

How can we harness thought to eradicate evil in the world? How can art help us to evolve social consciousness? Can creativity change the future?

An initiative using art as a mechanism for social change, is stimulating discussion and creative representation of a topic that affects us all.

The theme of this exhibition is inspired by the work of philosopher Hannah Arendt, who reported on the Nazi trials for the New York Times in a famous book called Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil.

In a time where we are at a global tipping point on so many critical matters, from climate change to gender violence to refugee crisis, we encouraged artists to play a role in vocalising the importance of all individuals to take a stand and make a difference.

Hannah was famous for her analysis of Nazi Germany, discovering with surprise that many of the worst perpetrators had not committed atrocities with the intention of doing evil. In fact, the opposite was true. It seems that the worst evil was committed by people who had not given their actions moral thought. They were not acting with intention but simply following instructions – and in fact obeying the law.

This highlights for us the danger of complacency, of acting without independent thought. The sad truth of the matter is that most evil is done by people who never made up their minds to be or do either evil or good.

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