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## Binary 2.0

Art Porters Gallery and Jada Art Gallery have relaunched Singaporean artists **Ren Zi & SZTO**'s double-bill exhibition as **Binary 2.0**. The works of each artist are now installed in their respective dedicated room, opened to the public until **August 15, 2017**. The collection of original multimedia artworks is showcased at Art Porters' beautiful peranakan shophouse space located at 64 Spottiswoode Park Road, Singapore 088652.

Artologist **Guillaume Levy-Lambert**, co-founder of Art Porters emphasised: "you will be mesmerised by the craft, the detail, the imagination of both artists, who have worked hard to create works of **rare beauty** and share their universes where each detail shines -- SZTO's dioramas, anchored in Singapore the garden city with **flying animals searching for music** while RenZi produced multi-layered expressions of **intense operatic psychological landscapes** of Kabukiesque archetypes..."

Fellow artologist and co-founder of Art Porters **Sean Soh** added: "I decided we had to give **one of our spaces to each artist** to do justice to both of the universes they created. Having lived with the works in the gallery for a few weeks, we discovered new layers of meaning: RenZi's polished works belies the **traumas** of one's past which we as individuals strive to transcend, while SZTO's greenery assemblages are seen as **a vision** of theme parks to be built one day in Kagoshima. Furthermore we have repriced SZTO's works as we acknowledged a mistake by the gallery due to our internal miscommunication".

**Valerie Cheah**, owner of Jada Art Gallery stated: "It is a real honour and a great pleasure to collaborate with Art Porters. We want all of our friends to see and see again the works, which they can at their leisure now that the exhibition is extended till August 15."

**Binary 2.0** offers a conversation between the contrasting works of two artists, from SZTO's parallel worlds built on imagination, to Ren Zi's sensitive philosophical dimension and digital imagery. Incorporating **diverse materiality**, fusing text, organic matter, acrylic, this exhibition explores different **dimensions, proximities, registers** and **experiences**. Within SZTO's dreamy landscapes and Ren Zi's refined aesthetic tendencies, viewers encounter the concepts of courage, friendship, time and divinity, all emerging to articulate a **philosophy of fabulation** that reframes their personal experiences and contradicting emotions.

Yet rather than a fixedness on boundaries, their mixed-media works involve the permeability of states. Keeping certain aspects in plain sight while camouflaging others. As **self-taught artists**, both bypass the rule-book to co-opt the black, the white and nuances into their respective cosmologies, weaving figurations and language into something else altogether. In juxtaposing their works, collectors and aficionados are invited to tease out the **intersection** and **divergence** of their philosophies. To explore the paradox of appearing **binary** from one angle and, under different light, reveal the fuzzy nature of being human.

**Exhibition** until August 15, 2017  
**Location** Art Porters, 64 Spottiswoode Park Road, Singapore 088652  
**Tel** +65 6909 0468  
**Opening Times** Daily from 10.30am to 7.00pm (Monday by appointment)  
**Exclusive dinner** **June 23, 2017 from 7.30pm**  
"Eat the Season" by Chef Candice Leong [click here](#) for more info

To view the full catalogue [click here](#)

For high resolution images please [click here](#)

For images from the well-attended May 17 Binary opening please [click here](#)

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## About Ren Zi

Ren Zi majored in Psychology in university. His artworks emphasise the role memory plays in our sense of identity, especially concentrating on the idea of change. In 2013, he launched his first public showcase, funded through a Kickstarter campaign. More recently, in late 2015, his works were simultaneously presented in a solo exhibition at Charles B Wang Centre at Stony Brook University (New York), another solo in Singapore and a two-person exhibition at OCBC Art space. Since then, he has been recognized and engaged in Singapore's art platform by being awarded several grants from Singapore's National Art Council & Singapore International Foundation. Additionally, he participated in the International Artist Residency at NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, New York. His exceptional artworks and shows have been mentioned in traditional and online media, including *Asia Art Pacific 2016 Almanac*.

Ren Zi's artistic practice and works are mostly digital. This comes from the fact that technology plays a significant role in Ren Zi's belief, as he considers that "*technology has come to mediate our perceptions and interactions with the world. Working with a machine reflects this growing techno-mutualism, not with technology displaying the artist's hand – but augmenting it.*" Ren Zi's artworks in **Binary 2.0** are based on his personal experience and represents his polar aesthetic tendencies, mixing visually dense burning bright colours with conceptual quieter and less figurative work, including much more text.

## About SZTO

In his early years, SZTO entered a competition by Caran d'Ache to *imagine Switzerland*. After graduating with a Visual Communication major from Temasek Polytechnic, School of Design, his whimsical interpretation of the country won him the competition and spurred him to a career in advertising and visual arts. Currently Creative Director with a Japanese branding agency, his job requires frequent stays in Kyoto & Tokyo, where the culture and philosophies influence and inspire him - especially on his belief in the coexistence of all things in Art.

SZTO's work in **Binary 2.0** gathers assemblages & dioramas, describing a parallel world built on imagination, dreams, stories, philosophies and symbolism. Incorporating texts and a variety of found objects into his works, his dense visual narratives evoke the wonder of spinning patterned understanding from chaos. Driven by the urge to interrogate his own understanding of the world, he is following a quest for rootedness and his vision of utopia. Along with that, his art is an invitation to explore and discover what can come alive in our own imagination. His works debuted at Our Elusive Here, Volvo Art Loft in 2014. He was also featured in the Kult Studio-curated show Little house of horrors (2015).



Detail from:  
SZTO, *Killer Notes*, 2014,  
Diorama / Assemblage, L33 x D33 x H164 cm



Detail from:  
Ren Zi, *If Death Were Never to Seek our Twilight Shore*, 2014,  
UV-resistant ink on archival photopaper, H40 x L40 cm

## About Jada Art

Jada Art was conceived out of a passion to help gifted Asian artists locate opportunities to showcase their talents not only in their communities, but also further afield. Committed to cultivating and building long-lasting relationships with both its artists and valued patrons, Jada Art conscientiously nurtures promising artists and shortlists artworks of high quality and integrity, whilst providing dedicated advisory services. □

## About Art Porters Gallery

With its belief in the power of art to transform lives, Art Porters' mission is sharing happiness with art. Art Porters believes in art's unique power to contribute to the viewer's journey of self-discovery. When one feels connected with an art piece, deep emotions, including the all-important appreciation of beauty, can be triggered. One's sense of well-being can be enhanced, uplifting hearts and inspiring creativity.