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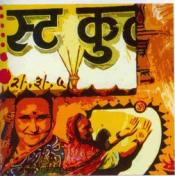
EA(S)T OUT
OF THE
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BOX

FEATURING THE WORKS OF JOHN KERRIDGE, ROB PAULUS AND SEBASTIAN MARISCAL. CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART TAKES CENTRESTAGE. INTERVIEW WITH TOM DIXON ON EDUCATIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE CITY AND A SPECIAL FEATURE OF ISH'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST!

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Asia Pop

Ketna Patel's dynamic collages at Vanilla Home

*text by Serena Nairin
images courtesy of Vanilla Home*

For a different take on Asia, you might want to visit Vanilla Home for their aptly-named Asia Pop showcase. The collection of artwork by the talented Ketna Patel brilliantly juxtaposes high art with contemporary Asian popular culture, portraying a positive vision of today's confident Asia.

British-born Patel is one of Singapore's most talented award-winning artists and has always been bravely experimental with her art pieces. She is already renowned for her vibrant mixed media work and this time, she decides to pay homage to the explosion of Pop Art in the 1960s. For Asia Pop, her photographic images are firmly rooted in everyday Asian life, but she also acknowledges Pop Art techniques alongside Asia's advancements with a finish of slick resin, which was painstakingly created layer upon layer. The end products reflect street paraphernalia that are shown side by side with familiar motifs such as an orchid, rickshaw or religious figure.

"I try to compress an illustrious past, a changing present and a rapidly unfolding future, so the observer gets multiple messages. In a few seconds they have to get the message – this is Asia, this is what I see," she explains.

The distinctive colour palette is kept gaudy to reflect the resplendency of Asian life. Strong chromatic colours like bandung pink, day-glow orange, vermilion, aqua and lime give her works a sense of vibrancy.

As part of a new generation of young Asian artists who are drawing on their own culture for inspiration, Ketna's candid portrayal of the lives of everyday people are refreshing and thought-provoking, splendidly reflecting the exuberance of Asian life.

Asia Pop is now on showcase in a lifestyle environment at Vanilla Home, 48 Club Street, Singapore 069425. Tel: (65) 6324 6206; Fax: (65) 6324 6207. For more information on the artist, visit www.ketnapatel.com.