

Galeri Sasha

Ong Pei Yee

Perfect Imperfection

15 November 2025– 04 January 2026

Opening reception: 15 November, 2pm – 7pm

Gallery Hours: Friday to Sunday, 12pm – 7pm



Perfect Imperfection (2025), Galeri Sasha

Galeri Sasha is pleased to present *Perfect Imperfection*, the first solo exhibition by Ong Pei Yee (b.1999, Selangor). It takes its cue from the Mandarin phrase *tang ping* (躺平) — “to lie flat” — a term that has come to describe a carefree rhythm of life among Gen Z’s who are content with simply getting by. For Pei Yee, it reflects a kind of ease: an instinct to move without urgency, to let things remain slightly undone.

The paintings turn this reflection inward, into domestic space. Each work depicts a modest improvisation — a bucket used for washing, a cardboard sheet propping a table, a Styrofoam box turned planter. These small adjustments speak to a kind of everyday resourcefulness: practical, unselfconscious, and deeply familiar in Asian homes. Within these scenes, Pei Yee finds not neglect but a steady attentiveness to how life continues.

Her palette is drawn from the colours of sunset — pinks, ochres, and soft violets she observes and photographs. In these tones, she echoes the mood she associates with her generation. The light of dusk, with its mix of warmth and detachment, mirrors a relaxed, unbothered, almost careless state of mind — suspended between day and night. It becomes a way to hold stillness on the surface, to let the familiar feel momentarily distant. Beneath this calm, each painting is carefully built, its ease achieved through slow attention and restraint.

Perfect Imperfection sits within Pei Yee's ongoing exploration of memory and youth. Her earlier works examined how time and absence leave subtle marks; here, that sensibility turns toward the present, tracing the adjustments that hold daily life together. These paintings pay attention to what often goes unnoticed — the quiet order within disorder, acknowledging that the imperfect, the makeshift, and the unfinished can feel complete in their own way.

About Ong Pei Yee

Ong Pei Yee (b. Selangor, 1999) is a Malaysian painter whose practice traces the delicate interplay between memory, imperfection, and the quiet rituals of daily life. Working primarily in acrylic and oil, her paintings linger on the spaces and gestures that reveal how people inhabit time—moments that carry the residue of care, neglect, and persistence. She is drawn to the subtle textures of recollection: the traces of those who have departed and the ordinary objects that outlive them.

In her recent series, Perfect Imperfection, Ong Pei Yee turns her attention to the domestic sphere, reflecting on the Cantonese notion of “lying flat” (tang ping)—a quiet resistance to the pressures of constant striving. Her works observe how we make do, adapt, and find comfort in the imperfect: a bucket in the bathroom, a cardboard wedge beneath a table, a Styrofoam box turned planter. These scenes speak to the small negotiations of everyday life, where fatigue, ingenuity, and acceptance coexist.

Rendered in warm, sunset-toned hues and flattened planes, her compositions find poetry in what is makeshift and beauty in what endures. The title *Perfect Imperfection* captures this gentle paradox—where imperfection becomes not a flaw to correct, but a state of quiet grace.

A graduate of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, Ong Pei Yee received the Bronze Prize in the Emerging Artist Category at the UOB Painting of the Year (2022).



Artist Statement

‘Perfect Imperfection’

“Lying Flat” (躺平 tang ping) is a Mandarin phrase that has gained popularity among today’s youth. It describes the choice to “lie down flat and endure the blows” — to embrace a low-desire, low-ambition way of living. To me, it is more than a slogan; it represents a profound shift in the mindset of today’s younger generation.

This trend emerged as a rejection of the relentless pressure to overwork and overachieve, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. I see it as a kind of awakening — a simple question asked with quiet defiance: Why struggle endlessly when you can simply get by, even if that means being a couch potato?

When we reflect on our lives, we realize there are many times when we simply muddle through—skating by, ignoring the mess, and making do. As human beings, our energy and time are limited; we cannot manage everything perfectly. In this sense,

the spirit of “lying flat” is already present in each of us, though we rarely acknowledge it.

Take our homes, for example: tables wobble, walls stain, tubs crack, and boxes decay. We live alongside these imperfections and over time, they come to feel familiar—even comforting. This series of paintings captures such messes, the makeshift fixes, and the quiet resilience we practice every day. Through them, we see that imperfection itself can feel whole, even beautiful.

Joseph Heller once wrote: “Some people are born mediocre, some people achieve mediocrity, and some people have mediocrity thrust upon them.” Whatever kind of life you choose to live, if you follow your heart, you will discover your own inner peace.

Ong Pei Yee

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