

I-S

RESTAURANT
GUIDE
INSIDE!

it's free!
every week

shop new local labels
gig the radio dept.
dine mall eats
film leo's back!

I-S MAGAZINE NO. 503 FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2010
www.is-magazine.com

BATTLE OF THE MALLS



STATE OF THE ART *Is Text Cheating?*



No, it's not a show about cheating through SMS, but multi-hyphenate Matthew Bax's latest series of works which seeks to investigate the hide-and-seek nature of personal/public communication in today's twitter and blog-charged world. *I-S* catches up with the mixologist-slash-artist before his show to take stock.

Can you tell us more about the exhibition?

It's essentially about the hide-and-seek games we play; about hiding our feelings from people and how much we show of ourselves; as well as the things we keep private.

What was your source of inspiration?

It's a continuation from the show I had at FOST last year which was about books and that was looking at how we try to balance different things in life. Some personal messages and comments started coming up while I was working on that series. So this year's exhibition delves deeper into them. I guess most of my new paintings are sort of autobiographical and it's about me trying to make connections with people. As artists, we're expected to open up and expose ourselves.

There seems to be a recurring theme in your recent works—Text, ruled canvas and books. Is that something you're exploring?

Yes. I'm interested in finding the abstraction at ordinary and everyday things like my previous shows where I used books, walls and tiles. This time, it's texts, lined paper and blackboards. The imagery aims to draw attention to the implications and nuances carried in words and dialogue.

What's the message you want to convey to viewers?

I think that this new exhibition is sort of a personal/private kind of show. I don't aim to broadcast one particular message through my paintings but I do hope that it questions the viewer—how we manage our identities and emotions, and what we choose to disclose or keep private from the world.—Zaki Jufri

See Matthew Bax's latest paintings at *Is Text Cheating?* from Apr 9-30 at FOST Gallery, 65 Kim Yam Rd., 6838-2661. Free.