

## Box on Mama's Wardrobe

UMA G

Sat-Jun 18

With her latest exhibition at UMA G, Vivian Poon attempts to make high art more accessible without losing its conceptual dimensions.

"I want my artworks connected with my daily life, but that doesn't mean I forsake so-called high culture," says the 24-year-old Chinese University fine arts graduate. "I don't want people to see art as something difficult or to treat my works as ordinary products. I've been striking a balance between the high art and the popular culture since I was at university."

Box on Mama's Wardrobe manifests Poon's eclectic view of art. The exhibition of 13 major paintings - acrylics on wood - is nothing to write home about. And the theme of childhood is well worn.

But dig deeper and you'll discover something dear to the artist. Despite all her subjects having the same plum-like faces (detail, right), the portraits are based on photos of Poon and three of her secondary school friends. She regards the show as a tribute to her peers.

"I'd like to represent honestly the times of my childhood through painting - my most well-versed artistic medium. So I simply repainted the photos in a straightforward way."

Poon pays a great deal of attention to details such as clothes and accessories. Those born in the early 1980s will relate to many of the features in the paintings: a little red deer toy, an orange striped umbrella, a duck-shaped name tag hooked on a kindergarten uniform.

"Although I find the works very intimate, they're not personal," Poon says. "Exhibition-goers tend to dwell on the artist's motifs, but they overlook what the works actually mean to them and what they can recall from them."

## PREVIEW



As the exhibition title suggests, memories of what we cherish fade with time - things we might have kept under our bed or on top of wardrobes, or our childhood itself.

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