

For Immediate Release:



L O S T T H I N G S

Emily Eldridge

Venue : *ēpōch coffee bar & desserterie, 12-14 Wing Fung Street, Star Street Precinct, Wan Chai, Hong Kong*
Opening Reception : *18th June 2009. Exhibition continues through 18th September 2009*

MobArt Gallery is pleased to present Lost Things, an installation of plywood and cardboard paintings by Hong Kong-based American urban artist, Emily Eldridge. Showcasing an exciting collection of her old and new works in Wanchai's chillaxing hotspot ēpōch coffee bar & desserterie, the exhibition will be a narration of the artist's childhood memories and nostalgic moments inspired by the bits and pieces of everyday life in her new home, Hong Kong.

Lost souls, lost teeth, lost virginity, lost dog, long-lost lover, lost-and-found; I've always been the type to be wrenched apart at the idea or fact of losing something. Two occasions from childhood strike me most: my mom likes to embarrass me with a story from 2nd Grade in which I had lost a tooth at school (which I was accustomed to keeping for sentimental reasons after its natural procurement from my mouth) and then lost it, only to cry for hours and hours to not be able find it on the floor of my classroom, it being gone forever. The other event (which still gives me pangs of guilt) takes me back to a school locker room in 4th or 5th Grade, post-girls' basketball game, packing my gym clothes back into my bag, only to realize I had completely misplaced my mom's childhood necklace, which she had lent me to wear earlier in the day. I had taken it off for the game, and in between it had disappeared into the folds of my bag or into the cracks in the wooden floor or fallen down a heating grate or elsewhere. I never found it, and still feel shame for such a lovely memento to have vanished!

Maybe it's this sentimentality that drives me in my art, that leads me to create, and points to the body of work I intend to make. I question, "Can we resurrect a loss?" "Can we create something remarkable out of the discarded?" "In losing something, do we find ourselves?" I am sentimental for the past, sentimental for memories I can't recapture, sentimental for that which has been left behind, and sentimental for a city and time in my life that's vanishing day by day.

In Lost Things, I will give my attention to the discarded, the lost, and the overlooked. I intend to create a series of paintings, sculptures, and installations that react to and interact with forgotten Hong Kong, and that reflect my experiences here. I will find cardboard boxes, wood scraps, cracked windshields, and other salvaged bits of history to paint upon. I will utilize discarded objects from areas around the city; and through these, create remarkable items through painting, illustration, and drawing; and through figurative art and observational depictions of overlooked everyday items. My memories coincide with these misplaced things; together we have a very personal connection. That which appears worthless is again given value and purpose; resurrected, given a second chance. My work is hopeful; I am encouraging viewers to pay attention to their surroundings, to the things they value in their lives. If cardboard can be beautiful and made into something valuable, how do we perceive the rest of our surroundings? What is of value in our relationships with people, or in our everyday lives? This metaphor not only reflects me personally, but also is a very human characteristic that I feel is symbolic for us all. Can art help to show us what's missing within?

I truly like the idea of utilizing the materials I find around me to incorporate within my work. I'm fairly adept at finding objects and making it work; whether it's lack of budget or lack of materials or just using what's most attainable around me, I'm certainly no snob when it comes to my "canvas". This could include: locally-made household goods, hardware supplies, found and salvaged objects, wood or metal scraps, doors, walls, sidewalks, buildings, etc. In these troubling financial times, and certainly with the ever-present concern for our environment, this method of art making is more relevant than ever.

For price inquiries or more information on the artist, please feel free to contact Anne Cheung at 96880647 or anne@mobartgallery.com.

Emily Eldridge

An American-born, Hong Kong adoptee, Emily Eldridge is a self-professed magpie for all things striking, odd, or unique. From the peculiar objects that cross her path, to the everyday articles we take for granted, Emily's obsession with aesthetics translates into her quirky illustrations, which incorporate acrylic, ink, house paint, or whatever other tidbits she can get her hands on!

A graduate from the Savannah College of Art & Design's illustration program, Emily has exhibited in Hong Kong, the United States, and Australia, and has been featured in Canada's Applied Arts magazine, Hong Kong's U-Magazine, Galleri Magazine, and Perspective magazine. Emily has collaborated with top Hong Kong department store Lane Crawford, as well as creating murals in both Hong Kong and Rome. These days, she considers herself not only an illustrator, but also an artist in every sense of the word. With work ranging from murals to paintings to sculptures to installations to hand-painted wearable art to street art... the list only goes on. Stay tuned as this artist continues to make waves in the Hong Kong art scene and beyond!

About ēpöch coffee bar & desserterie

Located in the trendy dining and arts district around Star Street, ēpöch coffee bar & desserterie is an innovative lifestyle concept, specializing in authentic Italian coffee and divine desserts and pastries.

Its ongoing art showcase, ART@ ēpöch is an exploration of how art can be infused into a working shop-scape in innovative and unexpected ways. Previous exhibits include a multimedia interactive Mao portrait, a collaboration with a local street art collective and a showcase of locally designed tee shirts.

www.epochdesserts.com

About MobArt

MobArt is an art gallery with a twist. Unlike the traditional art galleries, we don't have a physical space, we are *mobile*. We "pop up" every where in the city and may one day appear just round the corner of where you live or work.

Our *Concept* is simple – we utilise urban spaces like restaurants, coffee shops, lounges etc. to curate Art shows, and these exhibitions will only last for 3 to 6 months.

Our *Goal* is clear – to make Hong Kong a better place for Art. Elevating people's interest and appreciation for Art by making Art an integral part of our everyday life would in turn foster an environment that supports and nurtures young, talented local artists.

Join us and become part of the MobArt movement!

Please sign up to our mailing list so we can keep you posted with our every move!

www.mobartgallery.com