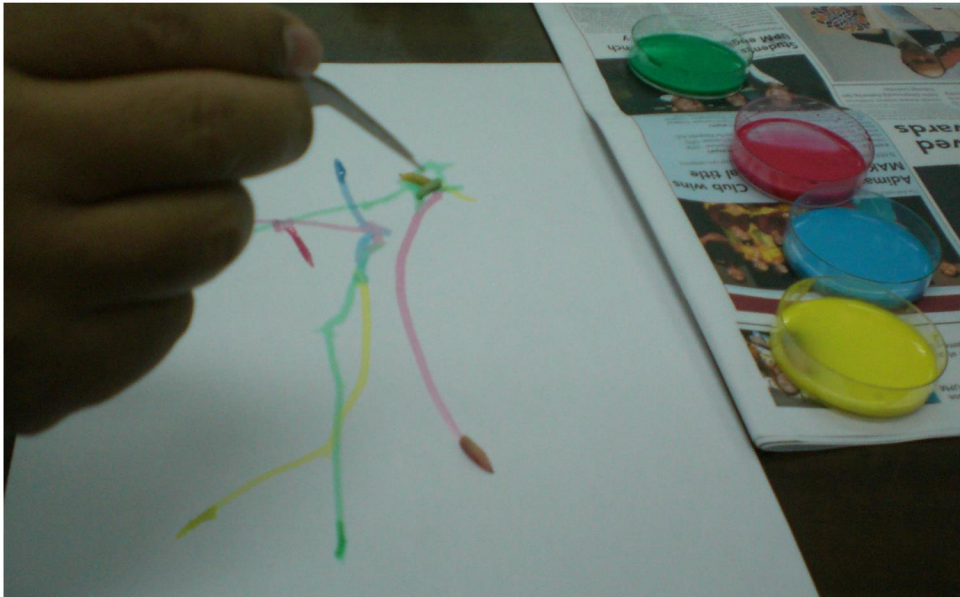


## Wriggling Across the Canvas

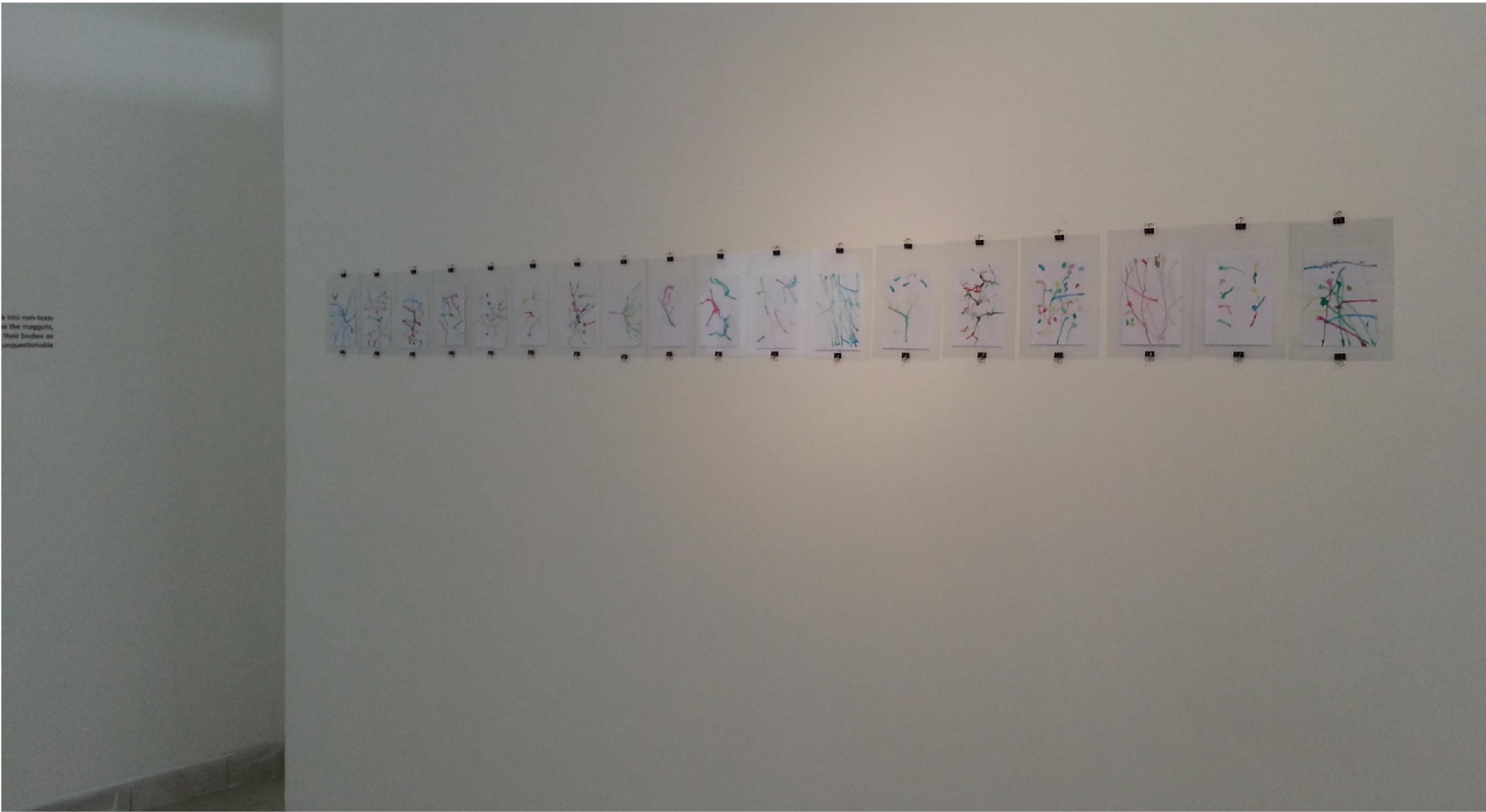
Law Yao Hua



*The beauty of an art cannot be  
predicted from the artist's hands.  
Especially if the artist has no hands.*



# NYAWA 2013





Flies. Irritating, dirty little thing. They spoil our meals with the filth they carry, eat our sweet fruits on the trees, and some spread diseases that kill.

Flies. They cannot possibly be of any good to us. Just like those pesky mosquitoes. Little wonder, for flies and mosquitoes are related—they are both in Family Diptera. How could you tell? All Diptera insects have only one pair of flying wings; their second pair is reduced to small bars that help them balance in flight, similar to gyroscopes in planes. Impressive, right?

Flies. They can paint. Yes, they can be artists too. In fact, they can paint exceptionally well even before they have turned into adults. The young juveniles of flies are called maggots. Maggots have soft bodies that are often pale yellow or white in colour. Feeding on everything from fruits and vegetables to carcasses to live animals, they typically grow very fast. Furthermore, maggots do not have eyes or limbs.

So how could they paint?

They can, with a little help from us. First, we give these painters their paint by dipping live healthy maggots into non-toxic paint. Once they are covered in paint, we gently pick them up and place them onto the canvas. We release the maggots, and the maggots unleash their creativity. Defying the handicap of being limbless, the maggots paint with their bodies as they crawl and wriggle across the canvas. It's not known if maggots do figurative art, but so far they are unquestionable masters of abstract art.

And so, though maggots look plain and simple, their art is beautiful. The colours we pick, the painting they create. It is our honour to lend them a hand (or two) in their expression of beauty.