



Kay Mei Ling Beadman

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Kay Mei Ling Beadman was born in England of mixed Chinese and English heritage. Since graduating with a BFA from the University of Reading, UK, she has maintained a focus on mainly figurative work. Her initial art training was in sculpture but now her practice is inter-disciplinary and includes painting, video, text and installation. Her interests are the representation of culture and personal identity, especially the primacy of the body as a repository of meaning. Since 1999, Kay has lived and worked in Hong Kong and is currently completing her MFA studies with RMIT, Australia.

Recent Selected Exhibitions

2014 *SIX*, Lightscape Projects, Melbourne, Australia (group)

2014 *This Must be the Place*, RMIT School of Art Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (group)

2012 *Stepping Out*, Barefoot Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka (solo)

Notes from the solo show *Stepping Out*

"This series of paintings takes the shoe as a motif that evokes a human presence; that may literally contain the imprint of the wearer. The shoe substitutes for the absent human figure. Whilst the individual shoes are depicted realistically, they float on flat colour backgrounds that remove obvious narrative, allowing colour and the representation of a single object to evoke a reality without overtly defining it.

I chose shoes for both their physical variety and the associations that they provoke. Here is a man-made artifact that encompasses the mundane to the iconic, that may be workaday functional or an aspirational object of desire.

The poem *The Broken Sandal*, by Denise Levertov, was the starting point for the series. In it she dreams her sandal strap breaks leaving her barefoot and meditating on life's direction: *Where am I standing, if I'm to stand still now?*"