

# ARTWORK 2 HOME SERVICE

2003

You are planning a new artwork with two other artists, Twardzik Ching Chor Leng and Vincent Twardzik Ching. The three of you want to set up a "Home Service Agency" to find out how your services are valued and to explore the impact of domestic labour socially and culturally. For four months, the three of you offered real domestic work in exchange for critique and honest dialogue.

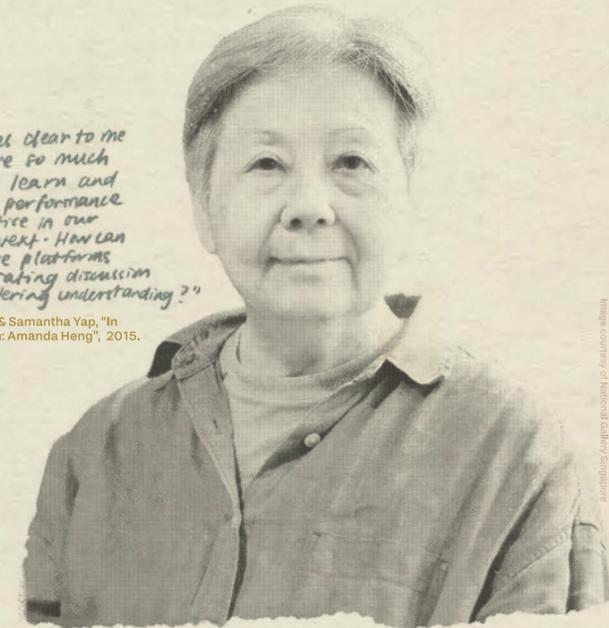


Amanda Heng, Twardzik Ching Chor Leng and Vincent Twardzik Ching  
*Home Service*  
2003  
Single-channel video, 4:3 aspect ratio, colour and sound (stereo), 27 min 5 secs, vinyl, posters, flyers, name cards and aprons  
Collection of the artists

**FEAR NO POWER**  
*fear no power*  
women imagining otherwise

"It becomes clear to me there are so much more to learn and develop performance art practice in our local context. How can we create platforms for generating discussion and fostering understanding?"

Bernice Ong & Samantha Yap, "In Conversation: Amanda Heng", 2015.



## AMANDA HENG

CHOOSE YOUR ARTIST  
ROLE-PLAYING TRAIL

This self-guided trail invites you to explore five pioneering Southeast Asian women artists who used their art to champion equality and justice. Follow their journeys through their artworks as they make choices that reflect the challenges they have faced.

1 How can others understand and appreciate this performance art through the video?

2 How might the reliance on domestic helpers affect the view of housework or shape the expectations of gender roles?

3 What feelings might the visitors have when domestic labour becomes part of an artwork?

## CREATIVE MISSION

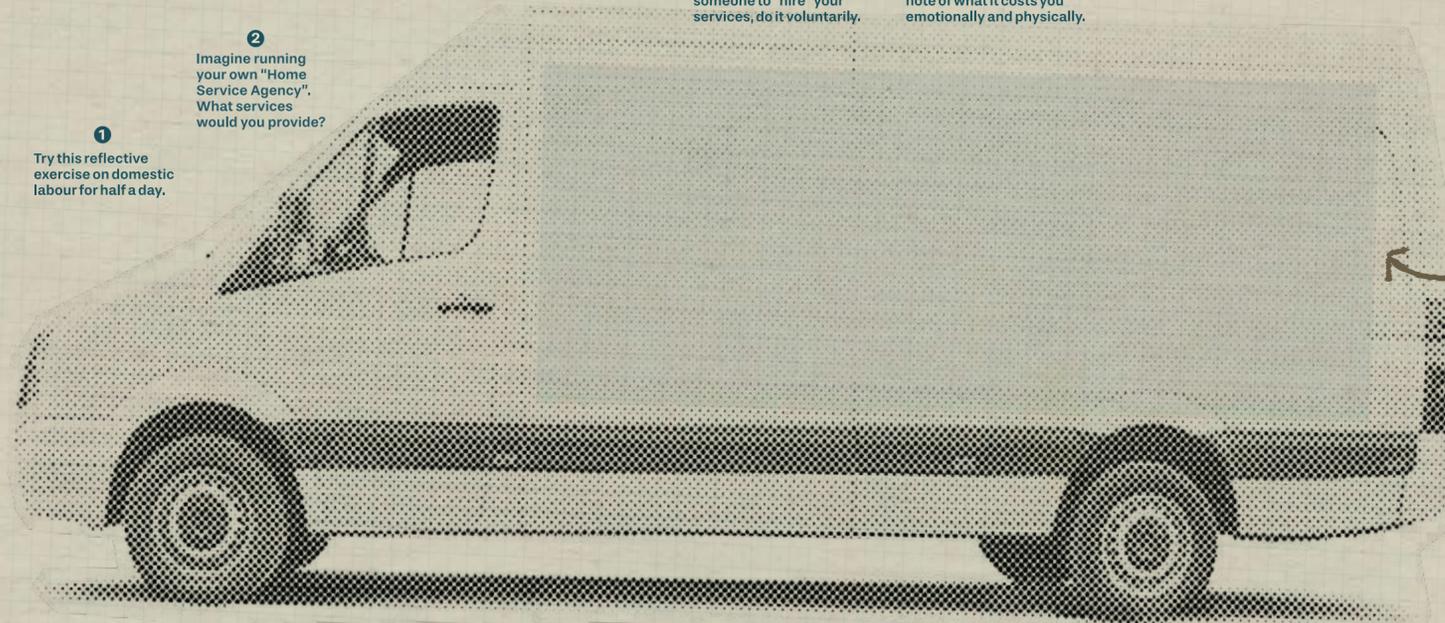
1 Try this reflective exercise on domestic labour for half a day.

2 Imagine running your own "Home Service Agency". What services would you provide?

3 Instead of waiting for someone to "hire" your services, do it voluntarily.

4 Rather than being paid, take note of what it costs you emotionally and physically.

5 Now, design a logo for your agency. Think about what it stands for and use symbols, colours, or a tagline to reflect the unseen effort and emotional contribution behind your services.

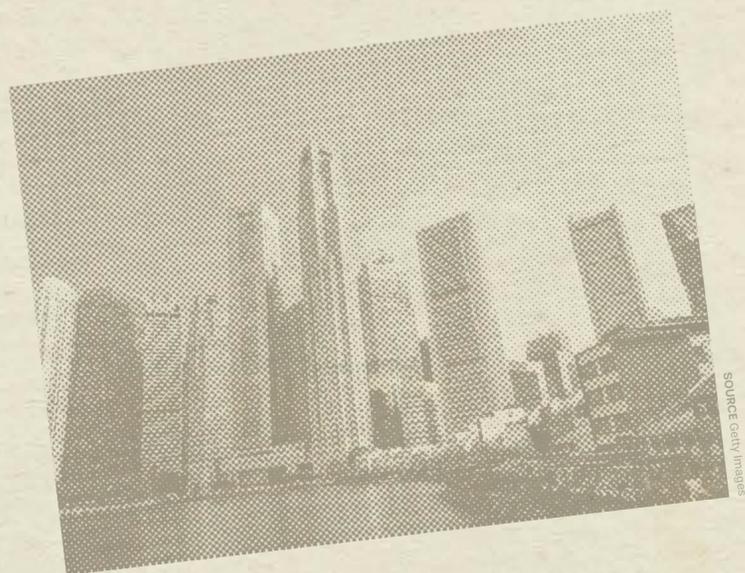


**REFLECTION** Who usually does the housework at home? How important is this role?

# FOLLOWING THE HEART

1980s

Rapid urbanization in Singapore since independence has boosted the economy. However, you wonder if there's more to life than climbing the corporate and societal ladder. After some thought, you decide to follow your heart and enrol in an art school. You want to reflect, question and examine social issues through art and be a catalyst for change.



SOURCE: Getty Images

# ARTWORK 2 SHE AND HER DISHCOVER

1991

You organise an exhibition called *Women & Their Art*, and will be presenting an artwork in it. You have gathered objects from daily life, such as a round table, a dish cover, a mirror and a tablecloth with words printed on it. You arrange them into an artwork that isn't just about meals or chores but about the invisible aspects of your life, such as exploring your emotions and inner life.



Amanda Heng  
*She and Her Dishcover*  
1991  
Table, tablecloth, mirror, dishcover, moon blocks and spray paint  
96 x 105 x 105 cm  
Lid: 28 x 60 cm  
Collection of Singapore Art Museum

**1** What does it take to pursue a passion and walk away from something stable to do something uncertain?

**2** What would "success" look like if it weren't just about grades or money but about meaning?

**3** Can art change how people think or act? How so?

**1** In what ways might the dishcover remind us of women's roles in housework and caregiving within the family?

**2** What are the kinds of domestic chores that are expected but seldom acknowledged as valuable work?

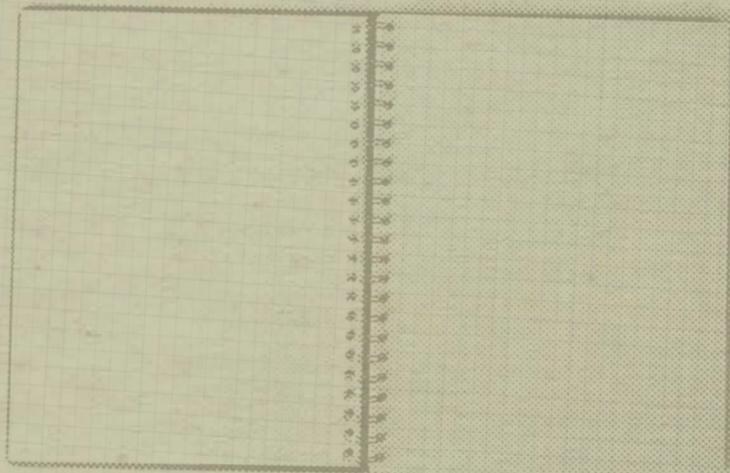
**3** What feelings might the visitors have when they uncover the mirror to see the moon blocks and their own reflection?

## CREATIVE MISSION

**1** Find yourself a place to sit down, pause and reflect.

**2** Recall a time when you turned away from your passion.

**3** How did it feel? Do you notice any feelings or sensations in your heart?



**4** Place your hand over your heart as a form of acknowledgement.

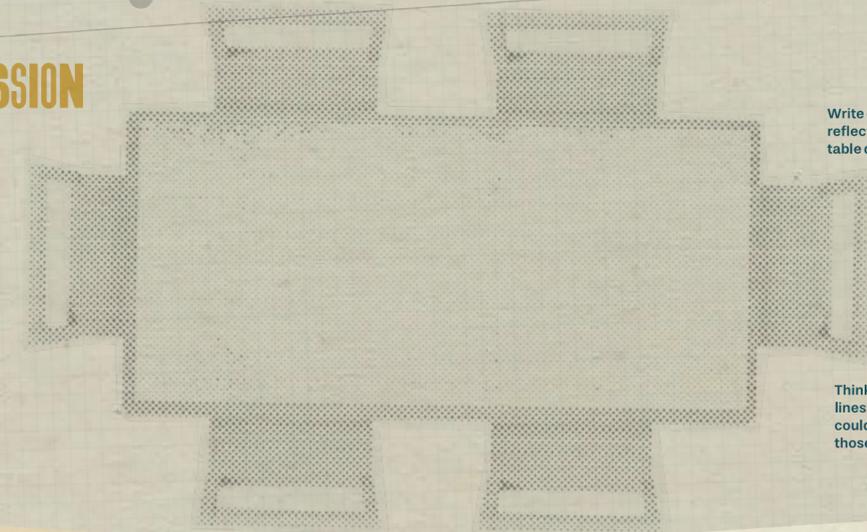
**5** Now, using lines, marks or words, draw in the space provided to represent what your heart was trying to say.

**6** Title your work.

## CREATIVE MISSION

**1** Think of some acts of care and concern you observed at home.

**2** How would the givers and recipients feel?



**3** Write or draw the words to reflect the emotions on the table diagram provided.

**4** Think of the colours, lines and patterns you could use to express those feelings.

**REFLECTION** Do you need courage to face your feelings, especially the uncomfortable ones?

**REFLECTION** Did you use words that are similar or different from Amanda's? What are they?