

The Mobiles of Anita Nevens

BY NGIOM

ARE ANITA NEVENS CREATIVE ARTEFACTS
CONSIDERED AS SCULPTURES, FURNITURE
OR, ARE THEY INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE?
OR, ARE THEY ALL OF THESE?





These artefacts are of designs rather than of art, as they possess functional intent, and they veer toward use and production. They could be interpreted as metaphors of sorts, and they are narrative of the products of confined urban spaces.

When folded back into their original form as mobile chests, which could be left at the corner of a room, they become no more than ancillary furniture; and when unravelled and reconstructed they could become as complete as a room.

To the author, they are like metaphorical games. In which she describes them as "symbolic and ritual meanings of furniture addressing the needs of the contemporary urban nomad." For example, 'My Vehicle' is a mobile chest that unfolds into a room with a seat, a desk and a storage space. The design becomes a verb as it can travel with its user, providing a space to land and serving functional needs. It is also a vehicle for the achievement of something, whatever that may be...."

Anita's most complex piece (or pieces) is perhaps 'My Vehicle'. Here, the author's pluralistic training and vocation explains the rather intersubjective character of the artefacts when she describe herself as being trained as an artist, interior architect, stage designer, performer, carpenter, educator and sculptor as undoubtedly the components give hints of all of these.

Of particular appeal are the precision of the components on the one hand and their playfulness on the other. There is nothing frivolous in the way they are measured to fit with human ergonomics and in the faultlessness of the geometries; indeed, the geometries are rather pure, and synthesised together, they appear as a cubist composition.



When unravelled and reconstructed, the composition also appear like a frozen performance, as humorous as performers on stage, with overlaying narratives. The process of unravelling must be like stage performance, part and parcel of a larger narrative – a world of language games, metaphors and possibilities.

The artefacts tell also the story of a life, and the origin and experiences through which that life has undergone. Originating from Belgium, and now residing in Singapore, the life of the author has been a nomadic, restless and eventful one. Her songs are found in her furniture, and the stories, carved with precision are embedded there. ●

