

## Take a Walk in the Gardens of Life



### DT9: Botanic Gardens

#### *WHAT IS A TREE?*

Shirley Soh

"The reason behind having different facades and different representations is precisely to question the concept of 'tree-ness' or tree-being. It also serves to create a Deja Vu feeling in the commuter as she navigate, in hurried fashion, through the station. As she catches glimpses of a semblance of a tree, perhaps on repeated visits, she might ponder if it was the same tree. Hopefully, the commuter will then notice a tree."

- Shirley Soh



## About the Artwork

The artist presented three different facades of Singapore's best-loved trees, the Tembusu on the front lawn of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

- Steel inlay of the trunking system
- Sandblasted granite wall
- Photographic image

Musings on trees have also been captured from local poets, artists, nature lovers and visitors to the Botanic Gardens: Dr Geh Min, Danielle Henricus, Keith Hillier, Kuo Pao Kun, Madeleine Lee, Rahmah Mirza, Salima Nadira, Ong Kim Seng, Tan Chu Chze, Tham Pui San, Robert Treborlang and Arthur Yap. The artist carefully layout their words and have them engraved onto the granite floor at the platform level.

## About the Artist

Shirley Soh is an artist, lecturer, an erstwhile journalist and a perpetual student. Trained first in ceramics, she has branched into various mediums spanning embroidery to video making exploring recurrent themes of biodiversity and sustainability. Interested in how individuals, community, economy and the environment interdependently connect in constantly shifting—and not often benign—ways, she has grown plants, worked with migrant workers and prison inmates, and created a retail shop. She has exhibited in Singapore, Malaysia, Switzerland, the United States and France.

