Welcome to NUS Museum!

1. There were a number of vanishing trades in Singapore that were performed by people with a particular kind of skilled work that had fast disappeared. With the advancement and economic development in our society, many of these trades become extinct as time passes when the needs of the community have changed.

A number of artists were deeply rooted to the culture and heritage in Singapore, and their works reflected the vanishing trades and social conditions of Singapore.

a. What type of vanishing trade is represented in the 2 works below? ____________

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b. What is the medium of the 2 works by Lim Mu Hue? __________________________

c. Spot The Difference! Circle 10 differences from the works above.
d. Can you find another image (vanishing trade) behind Lim Mu Hue’s woodblock?

What is the trade? ______________________________

2.

[Image of Koeh Sia Yong's 'Illegal Hawking, 1957']

Koeh Sia Yong
Illegal Hawking, 1957
Woodblock print on paper

a. What type of trade are these people portrayed in the artwork? ______________________________

b. What kind of emotion is depicted in their facial expressions? ______________________________

c. What/ who are they running away from?

____________________________________________

3.

[Image of Tan Tee Chie's 'Cigarette Seller / Transaction']

Tan Tee Chie
Cigarette Seller / Transaction
Woodblock print on paper

a. What do you think the young children are doing for a living?

____________________________________________

b. When was the work made?

____________________________________________

c. Another print depicts a different vanishing trade. What is the title of this work produced by See Cheen Tee?

____________________________________________
4. Woodblock Print Process

Woodblock print is a relief print process which originates from China around the 19th Century or earlier. In Singapore, woodblock printing also known as woodcuts came in as an artistic medium together with a group of immigrant artists from China who stayed on to teach at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Art. Although woodcuts as an artistic medium were known to have been practiced in Singapore as early as the 1930s, it is only during 50s and 60s where it would be described as ‘the eras of woodblock print in Singapore’.

The technique involves sketching a design and drawing it onto a woodblock. The Chinese boxwood was the most common and preferred material used in Singapore as they were readily available in bookstores. Following that, the artist using woodblock tools gouges and scoops away the surrounding parts of the wood leaving the outlines. Once inked, the woodblock is pressed onto paper or cloth which leaves the imprint of the design.

a. Using Lim Mu Hue’s *Backstage of a Puppet Theatre* as an example, what is the sequence of order in the woodblock print making process?

| Transfer for “Backstage of a Puppet Theatre” |  
| Backstage of a Puppet Theatre |  
| Studies for “Backstage of a Puppet Theatre” |  

Updated on 26 Jan 12
5. Below print features a Singapore house in the 60s.

What are the materials used in building this house?
_____________________________________________________________________

What do you think is the difference in lifestyle compared to then and now?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

*All images are available in the Prints prep-room at NUS Museum from 8 Feb – 30 June 2012.

We hope that you have enjoyed yourself. Thank you for visiting our Museum!