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## Venus Rising with the Moon

S1999-0010-001-0

Type	<a href="#">Painting</a>
Materials	<a href="#">Charcoal on paper</a>
Measurements	150 cm, 150 cm
Creator name	<a href="#">Jimmy Ong</a>
Where it was made	<a href="#">Singapore</a>
Time period	<a href="#">20th Century</a>
Function	An artwork
Acquisition	Purchased from private collector
Copyright	
Acknowledgements	
Owner	NUS Museum, NUS Centre For the Arts
Museum	<a href="#">NUS Museum, NUS Centre For the Arts</a>
Credit line	

### Why this is a masterpiece

Venus Rising with the Moon belongs to the later category in Ong's practice. The drawing may well be interpreted as an allegory of narcissistic self-absorption as the female figure turns her gaze onto herself and appears to admire her reflection. But it is equally plausible that her inward gaze proceeds from a longing for self-knowledge and self-affirmation. Her robust form defies contemporary notions of beauty, and while this may add to the narrative issues of the impact of social conventions on women's sense of identity, it is also true that Ong's figures are generally robustly built in the manner of [Rembrandt's](#) style to which Ong acknowledges influence.