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**who** ARTIST MARISKA MEIJERS  
**why** HER BRIGHT, ORIENTAL-INFLUENCED PAINTINGS  
ARE MAKING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSLATION TO  
STATIONERY AND CUSHIONS  
**she loves** PURSUING ART AND DESIGN  
**she hates** NEGATIVITY

"I want people to smile when they see my work," says Mariska Meijers. And smile they will, for the 47-year-old Dutch artist's paintings – of a bag against a background of rainbow stripes, or a vase of flowers on a cabinet – are colourful depictions of still-life objects she sees in her mind. "The image starts in my head," she says.

The root of her inspirations lie right here in Singapore, as Mariska was a corporate lawyer working here in the late '90s when she first took up painting to relax. She left in 2001 for Stockholm, but it wasn't till 2005 that she decided to be a full-time artist. Having found her passion, she told herself: "If I don't do it now, I'm going to regret it."

Since then, her work has been popular in her native Netherlands. She has created an eponymous line of stationery and cushions, and made cards for the Dutch women's hockey team to bring to the 2008 Olympics (they won gold). Her creations will be coming to Singapore in an exhibition at the Originals showroom in October.

Mariska is now actively building her brand, whose logo is the Chinese character for double happiness. She is putting her art on textiles and eyeing the American market. She says: "I feel double lucky, like my logo. My life is really rich now." ●

**Mariska Meijers** Check out [www.mariskameijers.com](http://www.mariskameijers.com). Her exhibition **Fashion, Food & Follies** runs from Oct 1-11 at **Originals**, 7 Lock Road tel: 6471-9918.

Mariska's limited-edition silk pillows are made in The Netherlands. Get them at Originals during the exhibition, or from her website.

