

A TAPESTRY OF TALES:

A MERDEKA ART EXHIBITION

08.19 - 09.03.'23



ARTISTS

AHMAD AMIRUL . ELLIS KHAN . FAKHRIQ ZULKIFLI
HARIS RASHID. KHO XUN FU . LIU CHENG HUA

Exhibition Details.

EXHIBITION VENUE

Hotel Lobby, Four Points by Sheraton Kuala Lumpur, Chinatown
2, Jalan Balai Polis City Centre, 50000
Kuala Lumpur

IN COLLABORATION WITH
FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
Kuala Lumpur, Chinatown

PRESENTED BY
THE ART PEOPLE GALLERY
Malaysia | Hong Kong

CURATED BY
LISA WONG SOOK KUAN



ALL ARTWORK DISPLAYED ARE FOR SALE, TO ENQUIRE ON PRICE

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A TAPESTRY OF TALES: A MERDEKA ART EXHIBITION

This Merdeka season, **The Art People Gallery (TAPG)** and the **Four Points by Sheraton Kuala Lumpur, Chinatown**, are proud to present **A Tapestry of Tales: A Merdeka Art Exhibition**. Malaysia has had an incredibly storied path, from her beginnings as a trading port, her independence from the Colonial British in 1957, and now her present as a piercing skyline. What better way to tell her tale than through the handiwork of six talented artists: **Ahmad Amirul, Ellis Khan, Fakhriq Zulkifli, Harris Rashid, Kho Xun Fu and Liu Cheng Hua**. These artists are the assigned storytellers in this ode to Malaysia's history, present and future, right in the heart of one of Kuala Lumpur's most historic districts.

Ahmad Amirul had an interesting interpretation of the idea of what Merdeka is to him; blooming sunflowers emerge amidst the colours of the Jalur Gemilang – the national flag of Malaysia. An expert draftsman, Amirul's linework straddles the mediums of paint and graphite, blurring the lines between drawing and painting. Expressive and forward, the sunflowers are representative of the blooming of the new country of Malaysia after her independence.

Playful, surreal, and full of whimsy, **Ellis Khan's** digital collage works incite the imagination of the viewer. Her piece "Pahang" is a clear display of these attributes. Batik accents frame a sky-dwelling tapir, an animal native to the landscape of Pahang, which in turn dreams up a city scape that emerges from its back. The emergent city is likely a nod to the highland city of Genting, a city that essentially was built from the ground up for the purpose of being a hub for entertainment. As one of the 13 states that make up Malaysia, Pahang has much to offer, and what better way to allude to Merdeka than to celebrate the individuality of each post-independent state.

If you've had the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the Malaysian art scene, you'll immediately be able to identify a **Fakhriq Zulkifli** work on sight. His paintings are distinctly graphic in feel, with strong lines that resemble gridwork. Titled "Nostalgic Moment", Fakhriq's pieces offer the viewer a spanning scene of Merdeka Square, the historic city center. This location plays an integral role in the formation of Malaysia today, and Fakhriq pays tribute to the history of the location with the sepia-toned colour scheme, almost resembling an old photograph. A marriage of nostalgia, fine art, and design, "Nostalgic Moment" is almost an exploration into the category definitions, spanning many.

Haris Rashid's works elude a certain elegance that is also quite plain to see from the artist himself. The colours are bright and soft at the same time, and the flora and fauna he paints are somewhat elusive. Each work celebrates a species distinctly Malaysian, from a somewhat fantastical depiction of the Rafflesia to the fierce decorated Malayan Tigers that prowl the surface of the work. His pieces are a mystical retelling of the stories of Malaysia's wildlife, a delight to the eyes and senses, with aspects of magical realism and fantasy. If his paintings were a book, you'd be sure they'd leave you in intrigue for days.

One of Malaysia's promising newcomers to the art scene, **Kho Xun Fu** is fresh off the University track. "East Malaysian", a self-portrait, is a commentary on the way Peninsular Malaysians presume East Malaysians to act or behave. Decked in tribal regalia, Kho Xun Fu stares directly back at the viewer, crowned almost callously with a Nike baseball cap. As an East Malaysian, it's easy to ruminate on what it means to be labelled a "Malaysian"; Sabah and Sarawak were only inducted into the nation in 1963, 5 years after Merdeka. The Bornean states are also inhabited by a great number of tribal groups, which in turn contribute to the diversity of cultures that make up the country today. This juxtaposition of tribal and contemporary is presented to the viewer, which leaves us to wonder on the trials and tribulations of having multiple ethnic and cultural identities.

A veteran in the Malaysian art scene, **Liu Cheng Hua** is a painter, an educator, and multidisciplinary visual artist. “Legacy II” is a visual love letter to his parents, both tailors, and his childhood in Taiping, Perak. The historic Hotel Peace, a stalwart in the town, was a daily sight upon the young Cheng Hua’s life, as his parent’s shop was situated just behind the building. However, as time wore on, his parent’s business had to relocate, and their original shop was demolished. Despite this, the Hotel Peace has remained standing and operating till today. An anchor to the artist’s own idyllic childhood days, this colonial-era Hotel Peace also is a monument to pre-independent Malaya. We are reminded of how much change the land has gone through in its journey through the annals of time, from our beginnings as a colony to our present state.

To each artist, Merdeka is interpreted in such an individual manner, which in turn is what makes Malaysia such a diverse ground for creativity. A Tapestry of Tales is indeed what has been weaved through some of the most creative minds in our city, and to be weaved into existence in the heart of Chinatown serves as a reminder of what our country, Malaysia, has come to be. The juxtaposition of both old and new weaved with the threads of local and international; this is what Malaysia is today. From its opening in 2019, the Four Points in Chinatown has served as a support for the local art scene and is proud to display this exhibition in conjunction with The Art People Gallery. Past collaborated exhibitions hosted have included Luxurious Luminescence, a solo by Lisa Wong Sook Kuan and Two Sides of the Sarong, a duo-artist show featuring Afi Sulaiman and Florence Khoo. In the spirit of Merdeka, creative individuals of all experience levels have an opportunity to thrive in the moment – not just celebration of the independence of the country, but also a celebration of the independent spirit of every artist. Merdeka!

We invite you to view the exhibition in person from 19th August – 3rd September 2023 at the Hotel Lobby of The Four Points by Sheraton Kuala Lumpur, Chinatown. A total of 8 artworks will be on exhibition by 6 artists.

ELLIS KHAN

b.1991, Kuala Lumpur

Artist



Ellis Khan is a multi-media Malaysian artist who specializes in Digital Collage (Photo-montage) using Adobe Photoshop. Her affinity for this medium stems from a love of photography, and she is also very much influenced by her father's career as a film/ television Director and Scriptwriter. Much of her childhood was spent visiting film sets, and the cinematographers working quietly behind the camera beguiled her the most.

"My passion has always been the arts, whether managing exhibitions or visiting museums all around the World. I never worked up the courage to make my own art because drawing is not my strongest suit. I always thought that the ability to draw well is the basis for becoming an artist. Everything changed with the Covid-19 Pandemic. To keep my sanity intact, I began taking on several Instagram Challenges, placing photos of myself in 'magical' realms - the layer edited using Adobe Photoshop. My almost non-existent self-esteem took a 360-degree turn with my husband's ceaseless encouragement, and this belief led me to participate in various art competitions and exhibitions."



Pahang

2023

Digital Illustrations & Collages on Image Transfer

30cm x 42cm (Framed)

LIU CHENG HUA

b.1985, Taiping Perak

Artist



Liu Cheng Hua obtained his Master's Degree in Art Education from Sultan Idris University of Education (UPSI). Liu was invited to ASEAN Art Management Series in the Creative Industry in Manila, Philippines in 2010, and ASEAN Youth Art Camp in Singapore in 2014. Liu, the Finalist in Japan's 10th Oita Asian Art Competition in 2012, and he was also invited to the Indonesian 4th East Java Biennale (JATIM Biennale) in 2011 and "Young Art Global," Museum of Young Art (MOYA), Vienna in 2013. Besides lecturing, Liu among other Southeast Asian contemporary artists exhibited at "Secret Archipelago", Palais de Tokyo Museum, Paris which was brought over under the National Heritage Board of Singapore in 2015. Throughout his career, Liu has produced artwork for exhibitions in Malaysia and abroad and won several awards and recognitions.

He exhibited his artworks in France, Monaco, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Mauritius, Italy, Bulgaria, and the United Kingdom. His artwork was collected by the National Art Gallery of Malaysia, the Consulate General of Malaysia in Hong Kong, Galeri Seni Johor, AirAsia Group, and private. Liu is currently the Head of the Fine Art Department and Senior Lecturer at the Malaysian Institute of Art.



Legacy II

2022

Acrylic on Canvas

96cm x 69cm (Framed)

FAKHRIQ ZULKIFLI

b.1993, Kuantan, Pahang
Artist



Fakhriq Zulkifli had participated in many group exhibitions in Malaysia since graduating from a renowned art school in Malaysia, in 2016. He continues to paint his series of beach destinations. Fakhriq's painting took inspiration from David Hockney's work. In most of his paintings, there are no human figures to be found. It was reviewed to resemble solitude, isolation, and loneliness. Howbeit, won't this be the ideal getaway that any man would want to go to?

"My passion to involve in the art world came since my childhood times. When I was a kid, I always draw a cartoon on my textbooks until my mom called by school because it was a vandalism to school property. When I grew up I have a choice to continue my studies, and I choose art as my passion to do it in the right way."



Nostalgic Moment

2023

Acrylic and Dermatograph Pencil on Canvas

30cm x 92cm (Framed)

KHO XUN FU

b.2001, Miri, Sarawak

Artist



Kho Xun Fu is an East Malaysian artist currently based in bustling Kuala Lumpur. A graduate of the Dasein Academy of Art, Xun Fu's work is an exploration of identity and current events skilfully rendered in a manner akin to the classical masters. As an advocate for traditional techniques, he favours the usage of oil paints and prizes the luminosity and transparency of the medium.

"I am a person who likes natural. My artworks almost are natural realism or photorealism. I have the habit of drawing since I was a child. I will consider all the steps before I paint, but sometimes I also like unexpected beauty made by accident. Most of my artworks are presented by oil painting, currently using direct painting methods. I feel very excited while painting something new for me or using new ways to paint. I often go online to search for videos of different artists with different painting styles. I look forward to painting hyper-realistic someday in the future."



East Malaysian

2022

Oil on Canvas

100cm x 75cm

AHMAD AMIRUL BIN MUHAMMAD

b1996, Terengganu
Artist



Amirul Md. Noor graduated from UiTM, Shah Alam majoring in painting. This Terengganu-born artist despite being only 26 years of age has joined numerous exhibitions since 2009. Francis Bacon once mentioned, "The best part of beauty is that which no picture can express". Amirul question as well does beauty needs to be a pretty picture or beauty can come from just expression itself.

"The sunflower still life by Vincent van Gogh served as an inspiration for my artwork. From a distinct perspective, where the flowers are arranged in accordance with various circumstances, I attempted to create sunflowers. The phrase "the sun and flower" conveys the idea of light as it relates to flowers since all living things must be enlightened by the bright light in order for there to be harmony in the world."



The Sun and Flower 1

2023

Acrylic Charcoal Pastel on Canvas

46cm x 61cm (Framed)



The Sun and Flower 2

2023

Acrylic Charcoal Pastel on Canvas

46cm x 61cm (Framed)

HARIS HASHID

b.1992, Kedah

Artist



Malaysian Art has been a part of Haris' life from early on, particularly since his high school days, encouraged by his mother, who also was his school's art teacher. For a short period, Haris Rashid studied Textile Technology at the tertiary level, but later switched to Illustration, obtaining his diploma from The One Academy. After completing his formal studies, he opted to pursue art as a career and is today a full-time artist. As he continues to develop his visual language, Haris often experiments with various media combinations and surfaces, wood and textured pressed paper being two surfaces he likes working with most. In recent years, nature has become the mainstay of his topical focus.

Exploring folklore and mysticism in Asian cultures that relate back to a modern context. His narratives in his works are also personal journeys as self-reflection. Haris has collaborated on artworks, murals, and designs extending his point of view with brands like Bokitta, F&N, The Body Shop, Guardian, Petronas, Thomson Hospital KD, and Toppen Shopping Centre.



Tenjuk Belang

2018

Mixed Media on Paper

75cm x 94cm (Framed)



Seluruh

2022

Color Pencil & Acrylic on Wood

100cm x 90cm (Framed)

THE ART PEOPLE GALLERY

MALAYSIA | HONG KONG

The Art People Gallery (TAPG) is a homegrown art space established in 2015. With its flagship situated in Klang, Malaysia, this art gallery is a celebration of creativity, openness, talent and generosity. Committed to innovation, TAPG highlights a diverse range of modern and contemporary art and represents both prominent living and promising budding artists from Malaysia and Southeast Asian spheres.

Since our inception, our ongoing goal remains to be the foremost art institution in the nation that not only provides an extensive range of modern and contemporary art, but to become the bridge that affixes local and international artists with art collectors and enthusiasts. Through TAPG's lineup of art exhibitions, fairs, talks and digital platform, the gallery engages both local and global audiences.

Together with TAPG's international arm in Hong Kong inaugurated in August 2018, we strive to inculcate understanding and awareness about the art realm and its sensibilities for artists and culture, as well as render consulting services to individuals and corporate collectors.



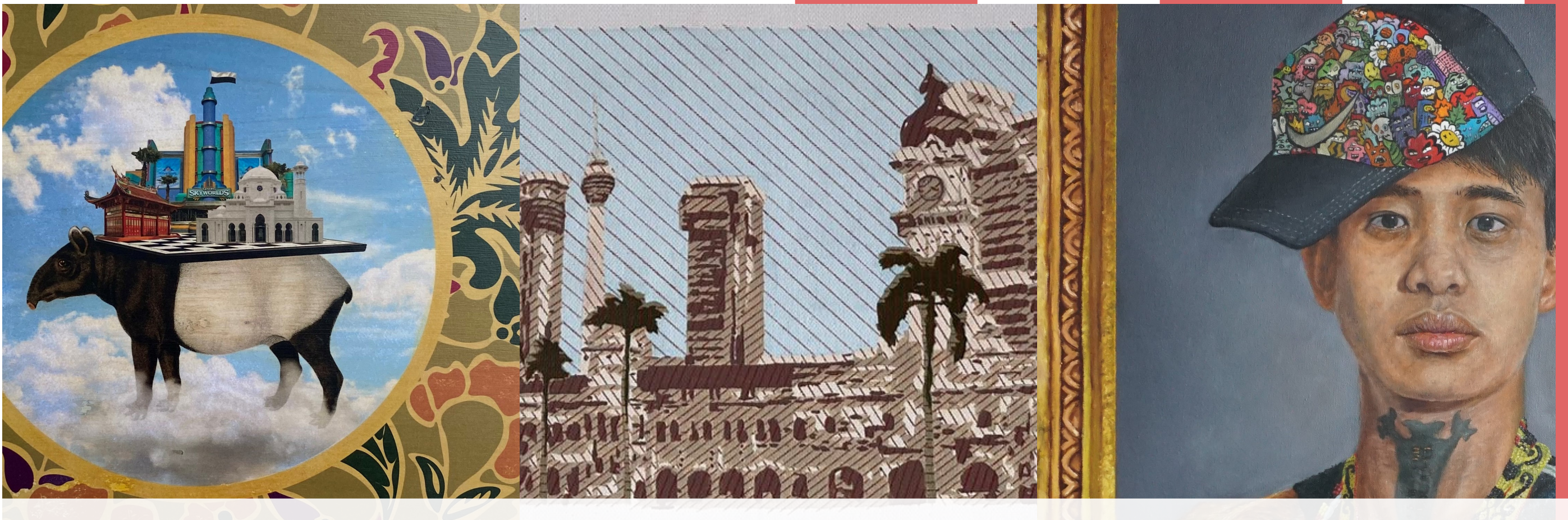
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