





# LIGHT & DARK

Maybank's Balai Seni Art Series

# LIGHT & DARK

This catalogue is published in conjunction with LIGHT & DARK Exhibition, a virtual exhibition by Balai Seni Maybank

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## CEO'S MESSAGE

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As 2021 comes to a close, it is natural to look back at the year to reflect on what we've done and to take stock of what can be done better for the future.

After 2 years of struggling to understand, control and contain the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which continues to impact on almost all aspects of life in society, we must now resign ourselves to living with this highly infectious disease for some time to come as it has proven most resilient due to its uncanny ability to continuously mutate and thwart the best of our efforts to eradicate it. Therefore, our work and the way we interact with our surroundings necessitate approaches which minimizes physical contact to prevent transmission while maximizing safety and efficiency. Fortunately, at Maybank, we've taken stringent steps to ensure the safety of our staffs and clients as well as the smooth day to day operations of our institution including the Balai Seni Maybank.

By the middle of 2020, when it seemed that the lockdowns would be extended thus affecting many sectors including the local arts industries, we decided to move our exhibitions online by recreating the Balai Seni as a VR gallery so that we can continue to operate as a platform to promote and celebrate the visual arts. So far, all of the exhibitions organized by Maybank have proceeded accordingly as scheduled. The upside of course is that participating artists need not send their physical works to the gallery as it is a virtual exhibition that can be viewed from the safety of one's home with just a few clicks of a button or swipes on the screen. The downside of course is that we are not able to meet face to face with the artists and audiences at the physical gallery for now. Exhibitions are social events, and as social beings, we look forward to the company of other social beings be it for work or leisure. Given the less than encouraging situation taking place locally and abroad with regards to the pandemic, we will have to continue with the current arrangements until it is safe again for us to open the Balai Seni to the public.

This brings us to Maybank's last exhibition for the year.

Entitled 'Light & Dark', it features 27 artists specializing in various media and approaches, the exhibition is put together by guest curator **Mohd Amir Amin @ Tuk Kura** with an essay by guest writer **Elizabeth Low**. Most of the participants are young and upcoming artists, with more than a few of them having created significant presence in social media platforms as well as in the local art scene. From the formally trained to the self taught who've given up their careers in unrelated fields to pursue art full time, we can observe and appreciate how art as a visual medium provides us with insights into the minds and states of emotions of these artists during the lockdowns and uncertainties caused by the pandemic, which also reflects our own thoughts and feelings under such circumstance. From the quaint and quirky to the critical interspersed with melancholic thoughts or hopeful wishes, the 58 artworks in this exhibition assures us know that we are not alone and that we are only human when faced with such a life threatening and life changing calamity.

Light or dark, it really depends on whether we adopt an attitude of seeing a glass as half full or half empty. As such, we at Maybank will continue to play our role in supporting artists, art writers and curators through our exhibitions and other related activities.

My sincerest appreciation to the curator, writer and all the participating artists namely Adam Ummar, Adeline Shatsala, AhhaO, Aimman Hafizal, Api Husein, Azyan Zainal, Badrulzaman Abu, Danial bin Fuad, Dhaniya Yusof, Eugene Nandakumar, Fahmi Mustaffa, Fatah Taib, Ahmad Hakym Ahmad Hilmy, Ichie Imran, Ihsan@Izealist, Jolene Tew, Julianne Tan, Khairi Hamidi Abdul Wahab, Nazrin Saleh, Raden Hisbullah, Ranerrim, Rekha Menon, Taufik Abdullah, Visithra Manikam, Wan Muhammad Aiman, Yasmin Bawadi and Zalwana Jamaluddin for being part of Maybank's exhibition.

And to our viewers, thank you for your support. Take care and we hope to see you again next year.

**Khairudin Abdul Rahman**  
CEO, Maybank Foundation

The fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Malaysia and the rest of the world is nearing the finish line. Currently, many have come to consider Covid-19 as an endemic rather than a pandemic.<sup>1</sup> Nature, an online news portal, asked more than 100 immunologists, infectious-disease researchers, and virologists working on the coronavirus whether it could be eradicated. Almost 90% of the respondents thought that the coronavirus would become endemic. Meanwhile, according to CNBC quoting Malaysia's International Trade and Industry Minister Mohamed Azmin Ali, Malaysia will start treating Covid-19 as endemic starting October.

Today marks the 666 days since the first case of Covid-19 was recorded in Malaysia on 25th January 2020.<sup>2</sup> Throughout these 666 days, Malaysians have been on a roller coaster ride. We have seen many horrific scenes from hospitals in Malaysia and around the world. The pandemic has taken a toll on us, both physically and mentally.

Covid-19 has without a doubt put a halt us to our live in more ways than one. Throughout the first lockdown, many sectors had to cease operation temporarily unless they fall under the essential sectors ie food and beverages, and health. Art is not one of them and the industry had to cease operation throughout the pandemic. Some galleries even had to bring down the curtain on their operation. Such a loss to our Malaysian art scene.

It is true that the pandemic is an absolute disaster, but every cloud has a silver lining because Covid-19 has accelerated changes that were already in progress both in the arts and throughout society. For example, the online presence of many industries has grown exponentially. There was a major leap in bringing the world online. Schools and universities opted for online learning via Google Meet and Zoom.

The same can be said for the art world. In the early months of Movement Control Order (MCO), many galleries started to go online to engage with their audiences. Some galleries began to organise virtual exhibitions and discussions to keep them relevant and to sustain their business. This in a way has made the art world, which has always been seen

as an exclusive space, become more accessible – with just a tap on our smartphones. People now can enjoy and consume arts not only physically (by going to galleries) but also on social media by using platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

The curatorial intention for this show is to portray our everyday lives throughout the pandemic period, that ran for 1 year, 9 months, 3 weeks and 6 days, via art – or to be more specific, traditional, digital and new media art. In this exhibition entitled 'Light & Dark', we hope that these works by the 25 participating artists, consisting of familiar faces as well as a few new ones, will not only demonstrate what the pandemic is like with regard to all its horrors and the horrible times that have happened but also depict the hopes that have arisen during this troubling time.

To quote General Iroh, "If you look for the light, you can often find it. But if you look for the dark that is all you will ever see."<sup>3</sup>

The artists participating in this exhibition are, Adam Ummar, Adeline Shatsala, Jasonteojiahao, Aimman Hafizal, Api Husien, Azyan Zainal, Badrulzaman Abu, Danial Fuad, Dhan Illiani Yusof, Eugene Nandakumar, Fahmi Mustafa, Fatah Taib, Hakym Hilmy, Ichie Imran, Ihsan aka Izealist, Jolene Tew, Julienne Mei Tan, Khairi Hamidi, Nazrin Saleh, Raden Hisbullah, Ranerrim, Rekha Menon, Taufik Abdullah, Visithra Manikam, Wan Muhammad Eiman, Yasmin Bawadi, and Zalwana Jamaluddin.

We invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the exhibition from the comfort of your home!

Amir Amin

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<sup>1</sup> Endemic is describing a disease that is present permanently in a region or population ie chickenpox and malaria.

<sup>2</sup> As of the writing of this article.

<sup>3</sup> General Iroh is a character in the Avatar: The Last Airbender. He is depicted to be a wise, old general from the Fire Nation.

## ART IN THE AGE OF TECH: FROM THE SHOES OF A CUSPER

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By Elizabeth Low

The age-old debate if art imitates life, or if life imitates art is not dissimilar to the chicken or the egg paradox. Which is the reflection of the other? Aristotle deemed art as a reflection of how an artist sees the world, and so art imitates life, as life is what inspires a work of art.<sup>1</sup> However, Oscar Wilde believed that the appreciation for the beauty which is found in life and nature was cultivated through art in the first place, thus life imitates art far more than art imitates life.<sup>2</sup> The truth is, life and art undoubtedly continue to enlighten one another- does the question of which informs the other more really matter?

When I was invited to write for this show, I was asked to share my perspective of the upcoming generation's aesthetics and worldviews -such a broad topic for discussion under 1,200 words. What came to mind was how the digital age has influenced and evolved the taste, opinions, and ideas of the younger generation today regarding both life and art. How has that in turn reflected on the art world? I would like to think that being a "cusper", caught in between the Millennial and Gen-Z (Zoomers) generation, allows me some insight into the thoughts of both age groups.

Millennials and Zoomers are two generations that have either grown up seeing the world change rapidly with the development of technology or are downright digital natives. With the rise of the Internet, artificial intelligence and more, it is imperative to consider how our exposure to the digital age translates to our interests and values.

We have gotten creative with the way we communicate through clicks, likes, memes, TikTok videos, and more. After years of fumbling through the web trying to curate ideal online lives, I believe that we are finally starting to use these tools for the better. We have discovered our voices can be heard without screaming on top of our lungs and have taken to these online channels to share our opinions, beliefs, and thoughts. This is a uniquely subversive generation, having taken riots and protests that were once exclusive to the streets, to movements on social media platforms.

But what do we value? While utter perfection and curated Instagram feeds were a trend for a while, Millennials and Zoomers have now headed towards the direction of wellbeing, wellness, and awareness. We have

only gotten more unapologetic with the celebration of our imperfections and are moving in the direction of inspiring mindfulness towards mental health and sustainability, among other pressing concerns of the masses. While aesthetics will likely never be quite out of fashion, our taste has gone beyond just that. We do not just care about how it looks, but we want to know what it says, how it helps, and why it matters. The digital age has left more of a lasting impression on Millennials and Zoomers, than the generations before us, as the Internet has made available an abundance of information at our fingertips, completely transforming and reinventing the way we learn, express, and create.

In the same vein, the art world has never been more accessible; it is one tap away from the four corners of our smartphones. Art is now consumable on social media - for many, these online platforms are the first point of contact and engagement with a world that was once so exclusive and foreign. More so during the pandemic, the art world, like the rest of the world, was thrust into operating virtually to keep business running. We had to adapt to the circumstances of a global crisis, and thanks to the blessings and capabilities of technology, people were able to continue engaging with and consuming art.

Naturally, an interest in an artist and their practice can be developed when a work of art leaves a lasting impression on the average person. Who is this artist? What is this work about? What are the rest of their works like? While the library is still a sacred place of knowledge, social media and search engines are now often the instinctual route for quick research and investigation. Social media, landing pages, and websites are an opportunity to feed that curiosity. The urge to experience some sort of connection and understanding is like a flickering flame of interest.

Artists today recognise this interest and have chosen to fan those flames. By taking the time and effort to build their online presence, they are essentially creating a virtual portfolio of their creative practise that can be accessed by anyone and everyone across the globe. Through the flexibility and the tools provided by these platforms, they also have the option of further engaging their audience by providing an inclusive view into their lives and art studios; this allows for the opportunity to nurture and foster more professional relationships and collaborations.

After all, in the 21st century, it is not unusual for commissions and purchases to take place online. Thus, perhaps it is not far-fetched to state that a creative's relationship with the masses has become as important as their relationship with galleries, dealers, and collectors.

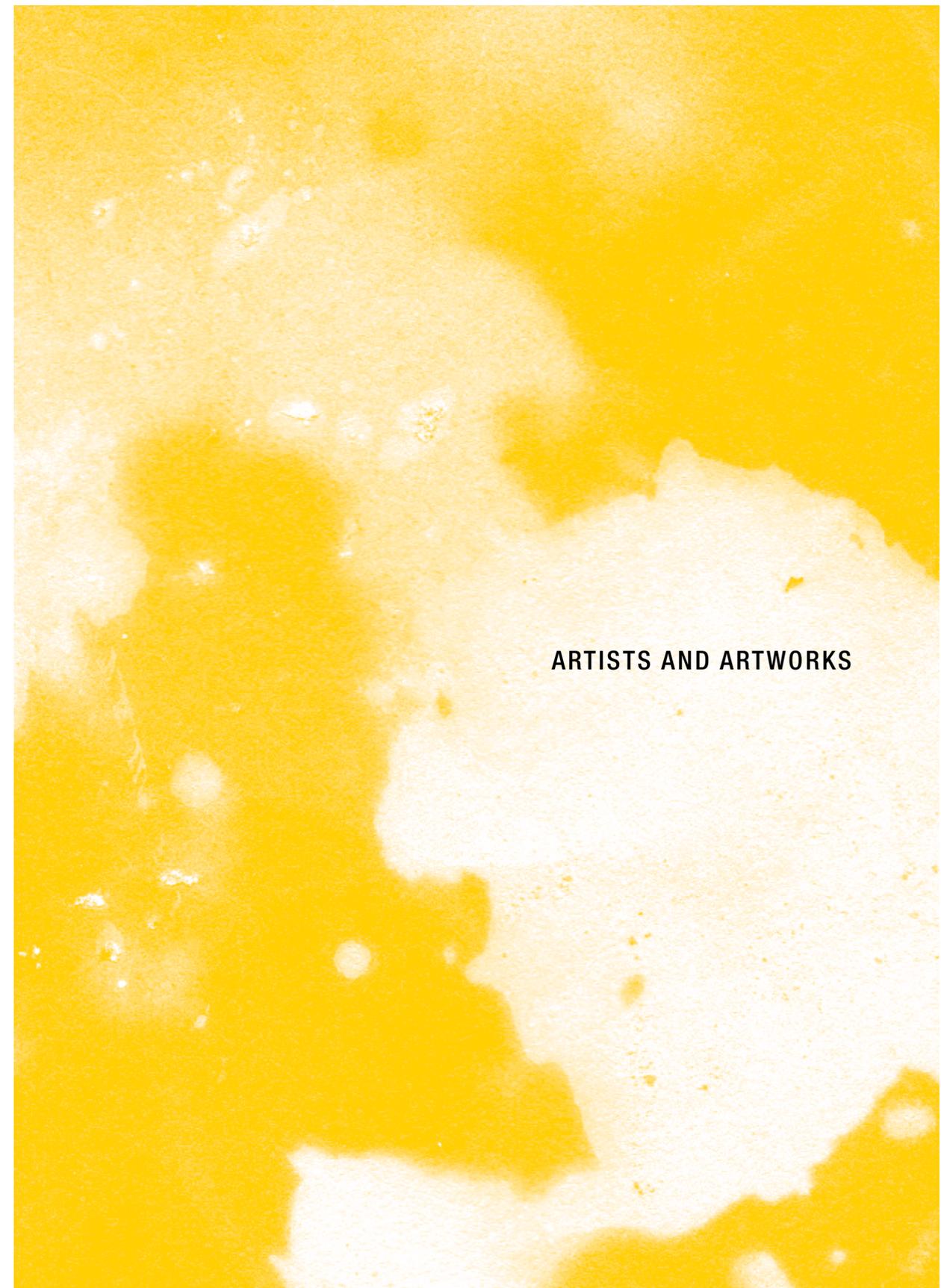
On that note, the art world has experienced an influx in the development of digital and new media art in recent years. How art is delivered has gone beyond the conventional tools and practices. With the technological revolution, new forms of art mediums have emerged; this includes but is not limited to sound art, interactive art, computer animation, game design, digital art, and 3D printing. Zoomers more so than Millennials perhaps, have been brought up with digital tools such as "Photoshop". iPads are the new sketch pads, and art is no longer even required to exist in a tangible form, let alone within a frame or a museum. In the past two years alone, millions have been spent on art that has been minted into Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs). Just like technology, the way art is defined, made, and experienced today has progressed and developed a great deal in the last century. There was a period when an object was not classified as art without being reworked or touched by an artist. Marcel Duchamp's infamous urinal entitled *The Fountain* (1917) is one example of an artwork that had changed the course of what was defined as art in history. Just as the world will continue to evolve with time, so will art.

Featuring a selection of artworks of both traditional and new media mediums, *Light & Dark | Pandemic Stories*, not only encapsulates stories of uncertainties, resilience, and hope but also celebrates the art of today. Boundless and fluid, the tools and mediums at our disposal have allowed for many more individuals to express and engage with art like never before. While there are still many gaps that exist within the art world, technology has helped in bringing art closer to the people. Circling back to the debate on how art imitates life in this context, technology has significantly influenced the way art is made today, and how it is delivered. In terms of life imitating art, our creativity, voices, and perspectives have been influenced by the art we consume. This in turn has cultivated a greater affinity, appreciation, and understanding towards art in the new generation.

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<sup>1</sup> Allen, J.S. (2002) Aristotle: Art and "The Blessed Life". P. 28 - 29. Arts Education Policy Review. Available at: <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/> [Accessed on 03/11/2021]

<sup>2</sup> Wilde, O. (1891) The Decay of Lying. Available at: <http://virgil.org/dswo/courses/novel/wilde-lying.pdf> [Accessed on: 03/11/2021]



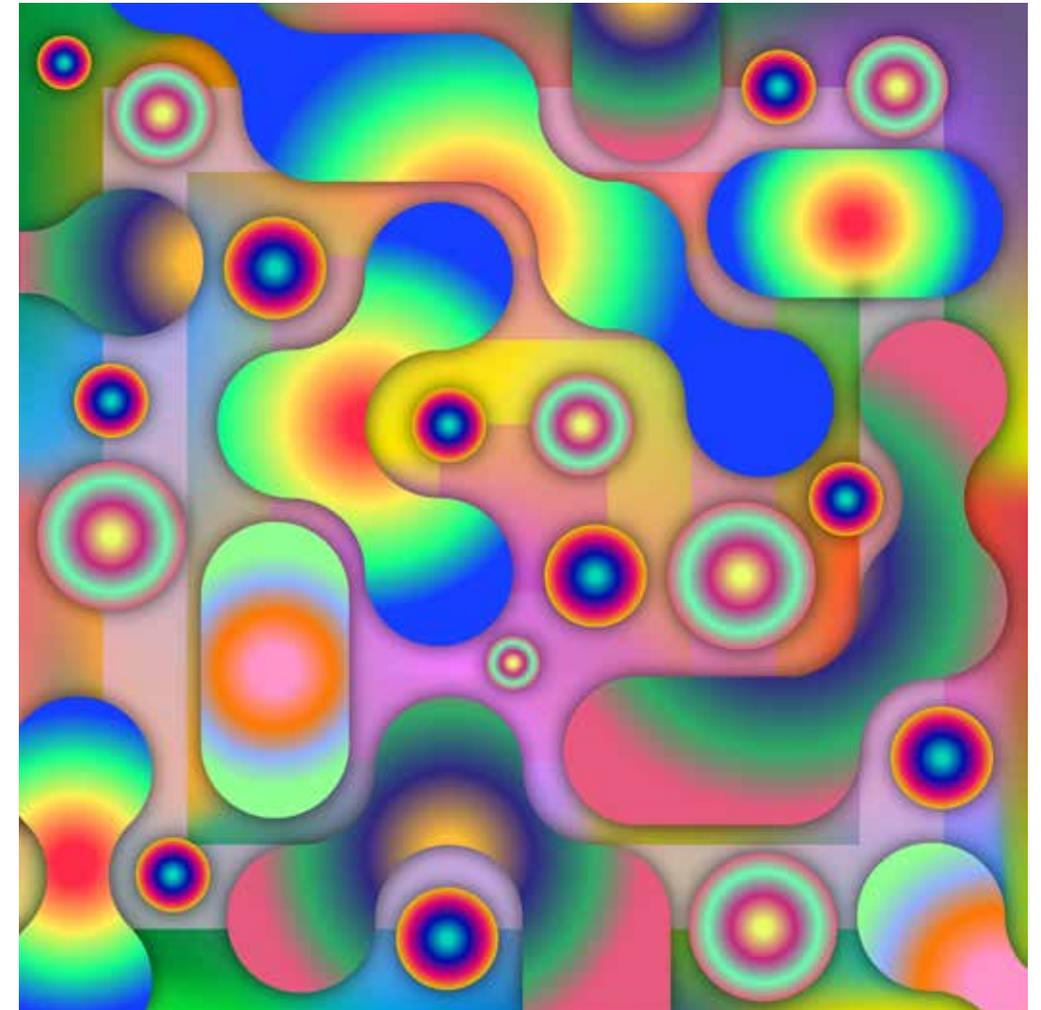
## ARTISTS AND ARTWORKS



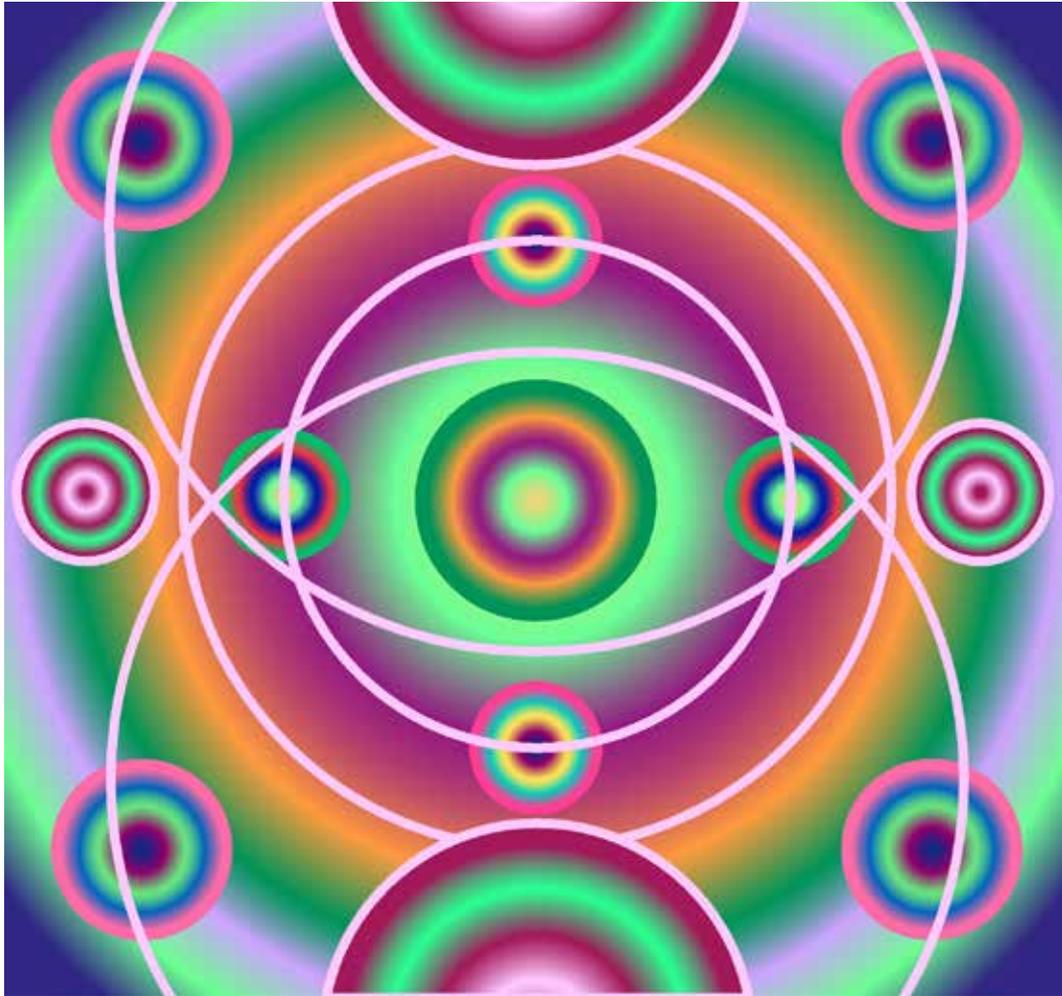
## ADAM UMMAR

b. 1996, Kuala Lumpur  
adam.ummar@gmail.com

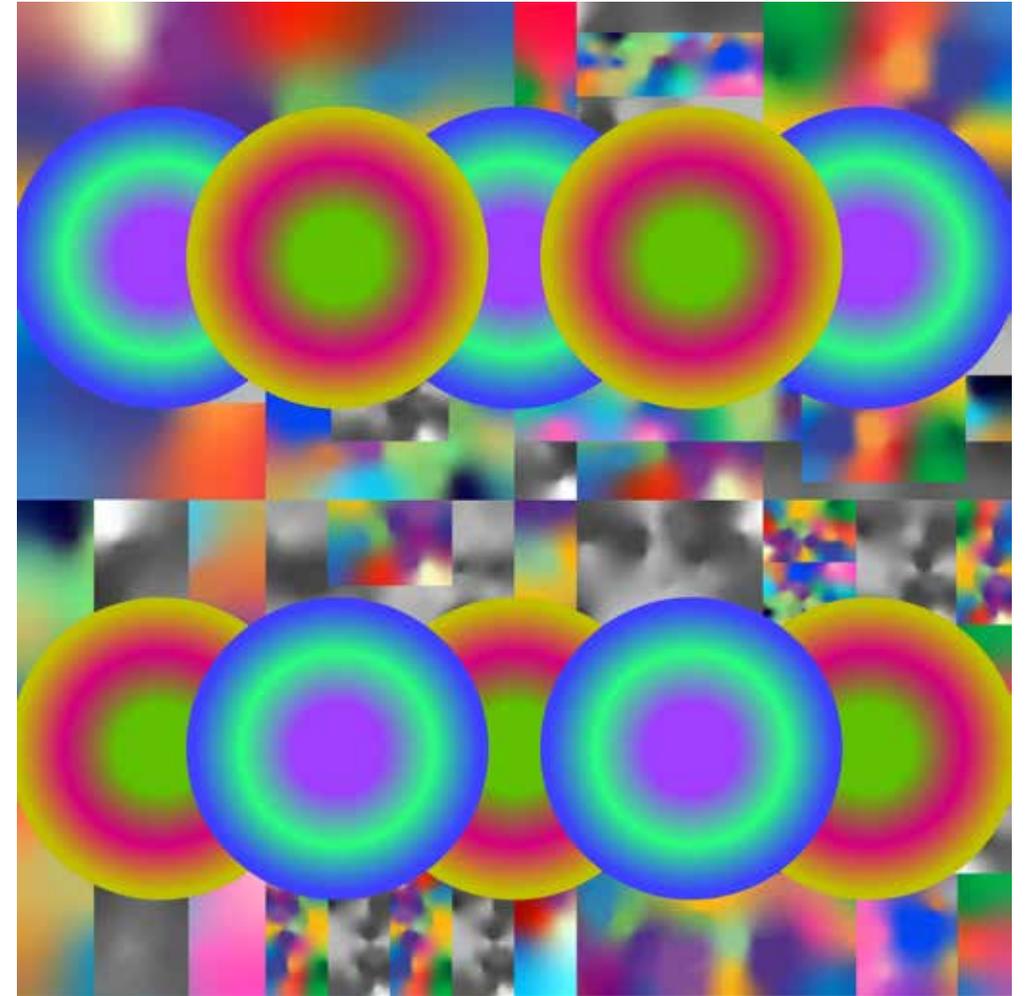
Adam Ummar is an emerging self-taught visual artist based in Kuala Lumpur. A full-time artist, he creates abstract, polychromatic and psychedelic artworks in various media which revolve around themes such as mental health, emotions, philosophy, spirituality, sociology and mythology. Projects that he has worked on include music videos, murals, painting workshops and community fundraisings. In 2020, he participated in the National Art Gallery's Young Art Entrepreneur programme. He has exhibited virtually and offline with artists from across Asia. Currently, he is working on a series entitled "Borderline" to document his journey of recovery while living with Borderline Personality Disorder with the intention of raising awareness about this misunderstood illness as well as facilitating discussions regarding mental health, trauma, and the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on human psyche.



**Coagulated Time**  
Digital illustration  
79.4 x 79.4 cm  
2021



Refraction of The Human Soul  
Digital illustration  
79.4 x 79.4 cm  
2021



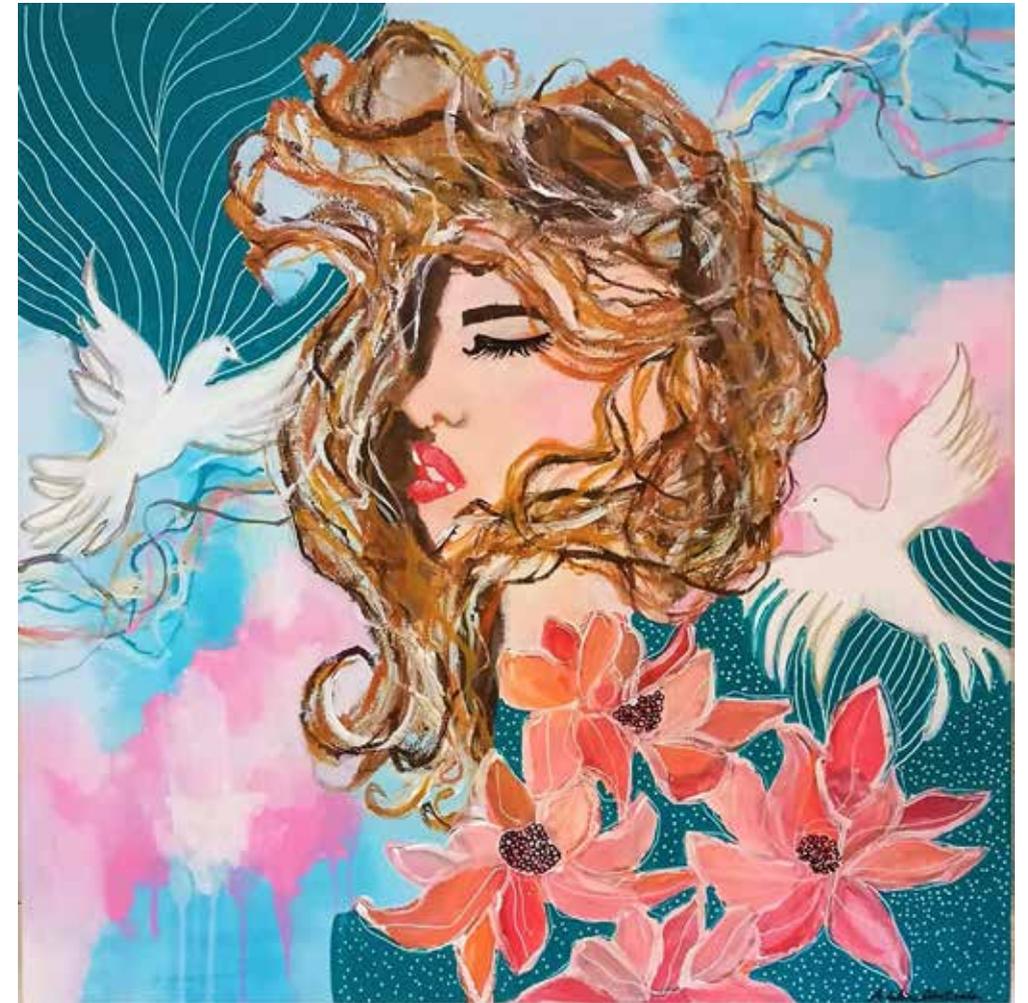
Vibrational Shifts  
Digital illustration  
79.4 x 79.4 cm  
2021



## ADELINE SHATSALA

b. 1974, Kuala Lumpur  
adel\_shat@hotmail.com

Adeline Shatsala is a self-taught multi-disciplinary artist. She holds an IT Degree in Business Computing from Staffordshire University, UK. Due to her love for art, she turned from someone who did painting as a hobby into an artist. Her abstract paintings mostly use earthy natural colours and lean towards dealing with the concepts of landscape. Skilled in various media like watercolour, acrylic, ink drawing and calligraphy, Adeline believes that artistic process is a progression of beautiful adventure. Her paintings have been exhibited in local art galleries, such as Galeri Shah Alam, Universiti Malaya Art Gallery and KL City Art Gallery. She is the co-founder of Artscape Malaysia.



**Pandemic Blur**  
Mixed media on canvas  
60 x 60 cm  
2021



**Thriving Nature**  
Mixed media on canvas  
60 x 60 cm  
2021



**Symphony of Light**  
Mixed media on canvas  
91 x 91 cm  
2021



## JASONTEOJIAHAO

b. 1995, Sabah  
teojh71@gmail.com

Ahha0 was born in Sabah, Malaysia. He graduated with Diploma in Quantity Surveying. However, after realising that the working environment bored him, he turned to painting that he has loved since childhood. From 2018 to 2020, he studied Diploma in Fine Art at Dasein Academy of Art. After graduation, he works as an artist. Working in different media and forms, Jasonteojarahao believes that the most critical factor in contemporary art is “attitude”. He has participated in group exhibitions in many countries, including Malaysia, China and India.



**White bread**  
Single channel video, color & sound  
33 seconds  
2021



White bread  
Photography  
53 x 80 cm (each)  
2021



## AIMMAN HAFIZAL

b. 1995, Johor  
aimmanhafizal@gmail.com

Aimman Hafizal obtained Diploma in Fine Art from UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak (2016), Bachelor in Fine Art (Hons) from UiTM Shah Alam (2018), and MA in Fine Art & Technology from UiTM Jalan Othman, Petaling Jaya (2019). He won Major Award in the MIDF Art Awards (2017), and Best Technical Art for Energy Present & Future in the Petronas Art Competition (Petronas Gallery, 2016). He participated in an artist residency programme at Saung Banon Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2017). Aimman has exhibited both locally and internationally, such as in the Mindscape Malaysia-India Interculture exhibition, the I Am An Artist 1.0 exhibition (Core Design Gallery), and the Sanggar Bambu dan Lingkaran Persahabatan exhibition (Yogyakarta, Indonesia).



**Hello Future: Renascence**  
Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 61 cm  
2021



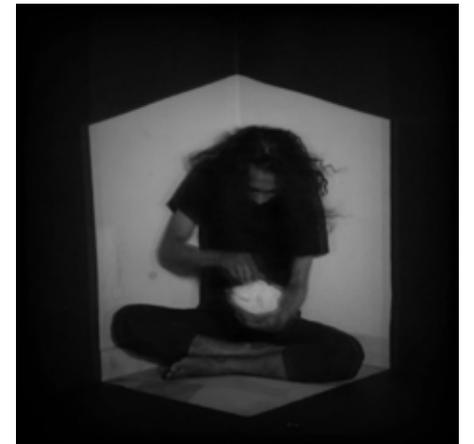
**Hello Future: Rebirth**  
Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 61 cm  
2021



## API HUSIEN

b. 1989, Temerloh, Pahang  
apihusien@gmail.com

Api Husien, a multi-disciplinary artist, connects, questions and converses with the world and people through his writings, performances and lens. Api's literary work has been published in several poetry anthologies, and his most recent publication, "Avenoir", talks about life, death and the things in between. As a performer, he is inspired by everyday life, film, music and Butoh dance. Just like his writing, the way he moves and acts speaks volumes. Api has always had an eye for photography. In his photographic work, he often portrays the simplicity of life that brushes us without us noticing. He is also an artisan craftsman, and does bookcrafting, printing and graphic designing.



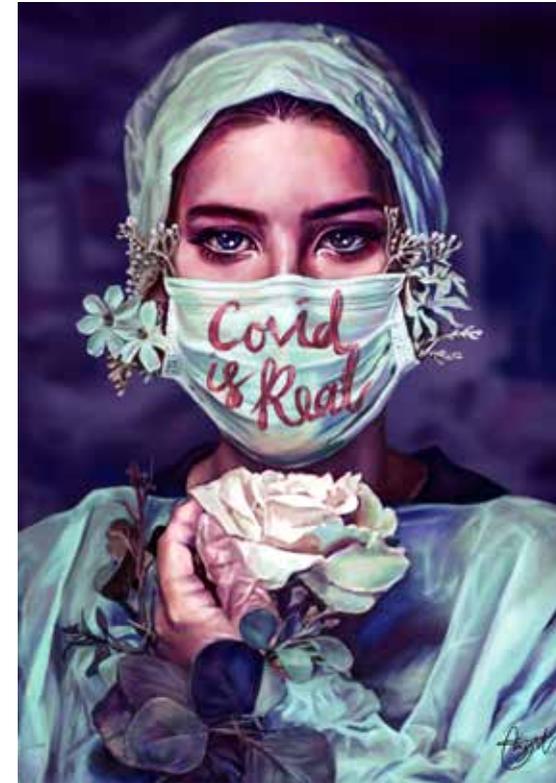
Rancu  
Single channel video, color & sound  
13:21 mins  
2021



## AZYAN ZAINAL

b. 1990, Selangor  
azyandraws@gmail.com

Azyan is a self-taught digital illustrator specialising in the feminine genre of illustration. She graduated from UiTM with BSc. in Architecture (Part 1) in 2012 and Master's in Architecture (Part 2) in 2017. Due to her academic background and her practice as a freelance graphic designer, she has the eye and passion for intricate details as well as good design. In her paintings, Azyan focuses on depicting the sense of softness and elegance through facial expressions, poses, and play of colours. She also loves exploring conceptual ideas and pop surrealism. In her self-learning journey, Azyan managed to receive recognition from Mstar and SelangorFM, and won second place in the SuriaFM x KLSketchnation art contest. She is currently active in NFT space, showcasing her art on various platforms. She was selected to participate in the "Rumah Tangsi Metaverse" exhibition.



Covid Is Real  
(After Albert Acosta's photography work,  
modelled by Joaquina Hormilla)  
Digital illustration  
93 x 65.5 cm  
2020



Fly Together  
Digital illustration  
93 x 65.5 cm  
2020



## BADRULZZAMAN ABU

b. 1995, Sg Petani, Kedah  
muhdbadrulzzaman@gmail.com

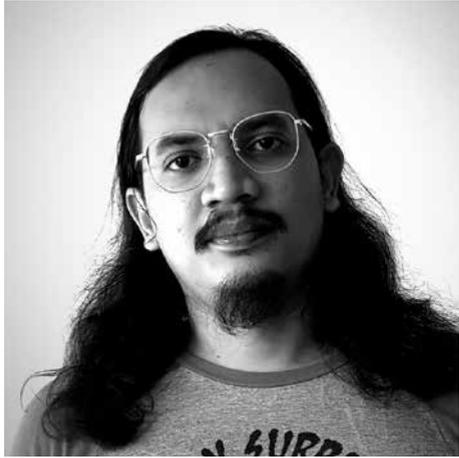
Born and raised in Sungai Petani, Kedah, Badrulzzaman Abu obtained his early art education at UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak. He then received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from UiTM Shah Alam in 2018 and 2019 respectively. An emerging painter known for his chaotic yet mesmerising landscape paintings, Badrulzzaman has produced a remarkable body of work, mainly in bitumen and oil, that glorifies mental images and explores the notion of personal reflection and socio-political themes.



**Siri Tanah Air: Kepala Air**  
Oil & bitumen on canvas  
152 x 91 cm  
2021

**Siri Tanah Air: Tanah Merah**  
Oil & bitumen on canvas  
91 x 152 cm  
2021





## DANIAL FUAD

b 1991, Kuala Lumpur  
a.danial.fuad@gmail.com

Danial, a graduate from UiTM Puncak Alam with a Bachelor (Hons) in Creative Photomedia in 2014, has always been interested in recording events and happenings. Acting as a witness to the world, he tries to record whatever he can to share his vision to the masses. In order to try to escape from the oversaturation of digital photography, he is currently exploring alternative photographic processes, especially cyanotype.



India in Blue: Chahal, Aug 2019  
Cyanotype on watercolour paper  
68 x 50 cm  
2021



India in Blue: Delhi, Aug 2019  
Cyanotype on watercolour paper  
51 x 70 cm  
2021



Jathilan, Jogja Jan 2016  
Cyanotype on watercolour paper  
51 x 102 cm  
2021



## DHAN ILLIANI YUSOF

b. 1997, Selangor  
dhaniyailliani@gmail.com

Dhan Illiani Yusof is a multi-disciplinary artist, fashion designer, and Editor-At-Large at MulaZine. She dabbles in conceptual contemporary art in various forms, such as film, installation, photography, poetry, clothing and performance. Mostly experimental, playful and interactive in nature, her works dive into exploring mental health and the female nature (examining the social, cultural and religious contexts of being a woman in Malaysia). In her art practice, Dhani explores unexpected combinations of different genres or forms of interest to reinvent boundaries through collaborative feats and interactive works that integrate art outside of its conventional understanding as a shared practice without limits, while emphasising on ways to incorporate and explore childlike play (the idea of play through the lenses of adulthood).

Lesu Upah Upaya  
Single channel video, color & sound  
1.29 mins  
2021





## EUGENE NANDAKUMAR

b. 1988, Kuala Lumpur  
eugenenandakumar@gmail.com

Eugene Nandakumar is a Fine Art graduate with the Best Student award from Malaysian Institute of Art in 2008. He has participated in several exhibitions and competitions and won numerous art awards. Eugene's love for dry mediums is the driving force for producing his artworks. He likes to explore his creativity with art techniques and mediums considered essential to the development and practice of his art. He currently works as a full-time art educator at Campus Rangers International School in KL.



Light of all Lights 2  
Charcoal on paper  
84 x 119 cm  
2011



Light of all Lights 1  
Charcoal on paper  
100 x 70 cm  
2011



Escapism  
Charcoal on paper  
84 x 60 cm  
2021



## FAHMI MUSTAFFA

b.1987, Kemaman, Terengganu  
f.emancipation@gmail.com

Fahmi Mustaffa is a multi-disciplinary artist working as an author, editor, visual artist, translator and designer. Professionally trained as a scientist, he produces works in arts and literature that deconstruct the molecular architecture of human biology into visual poetry and moving words. Celebrated in the local and international literary scenes, he is currently working on his fifth novel and a duo exhibition that will interact with each other through written words and visual compositions.



**...But If You Have To Go**  
Charcoal on paper  
42 x 29.7cm  
2021



**Ways of Mind**  
Mixed media on paper  
42 x 29.7cm  
2021



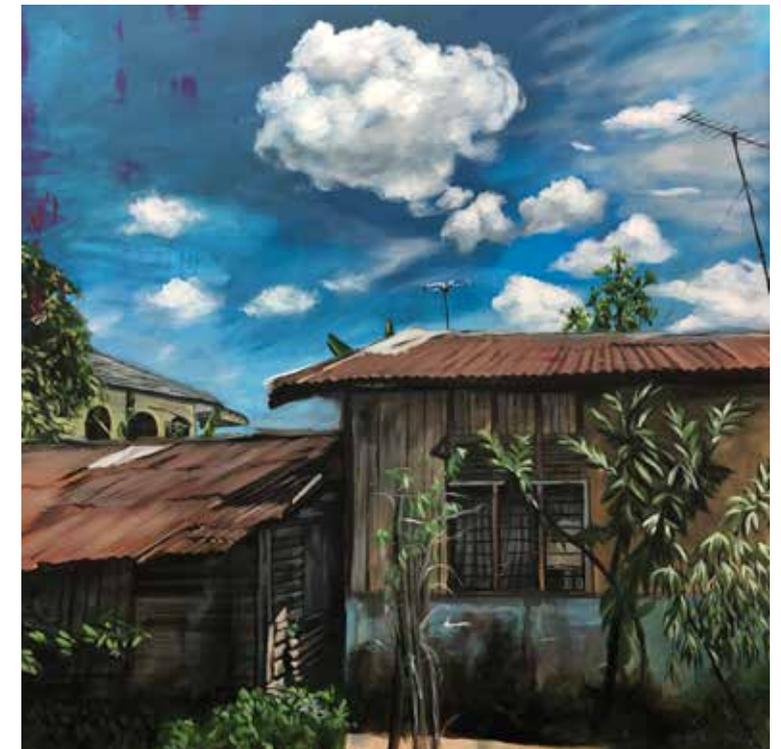
## FATAH TAIB

b. 1991, Kuala Lumpur  
abdfth91@gmail.com

Fatah Taib started his art journey in 2009 when he joined Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Lendu, Melaka to pursue his Diploma in Fine Art. He then obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art at UiTM Shah Alam, Selangor in 2013 and completed his Master's Degree in Fine Art at UiTM Jalan Othman in 2017. He now works as an art teacher at HELP International School in Subang Bestari, Selangor. His artworks, mostly in realist and surrealist styles, deal largely with social commentary. Among the subject matters he usually depicts are human figures, landscapes and slight abstraction. Very much inspired by both local and international artists, Fatah wants to bring out the fine values within himself as a Muslim and a human being. Subjects concerning human relationships, dreams, death and self-motivation often occupy his thoughts when he sits down and brainstorms the technical aspects of visualising his ideas on canvas.



**Light & Mono**  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 122 cm  
2021



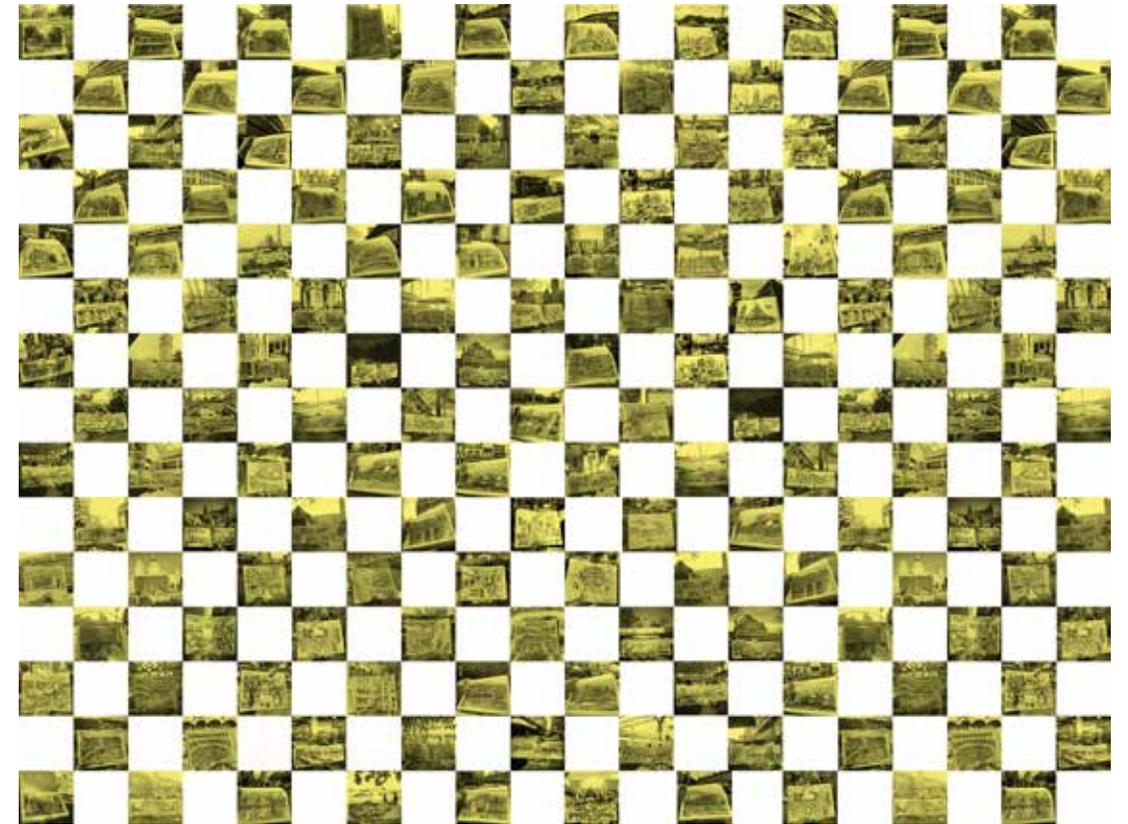
**Pulang II**  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 122 cm  
2020



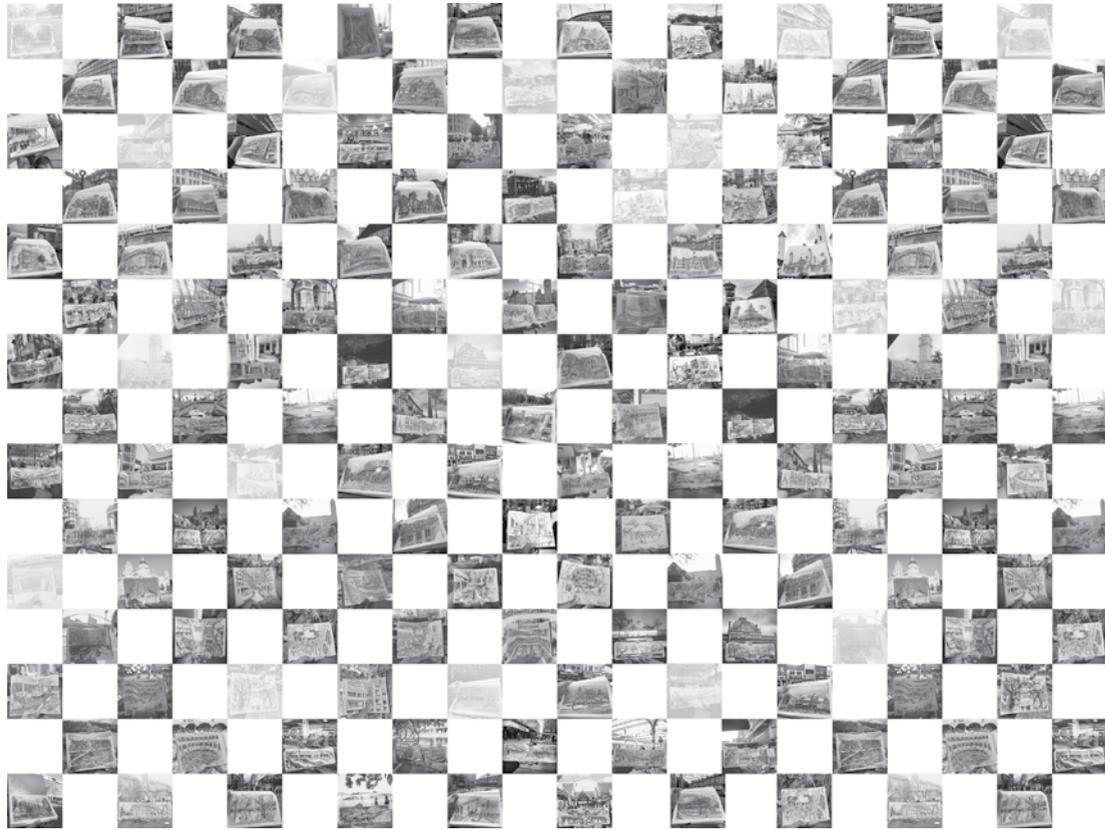
## AHMAD HAKYM AHMAD HILMY

b. 1990, Penang  
ahmadhakym@yahoo.com

Born in Penang and grew up in Kuala Lumpur, Ahmad Hakym, or better known as Kymio in the art industry, is an architect by profession. He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in architecture with a focus on cognitive psychology and the act of sketching in a built environment. In 2014, he founded KL Sketchnation, a non-profit NGO registered with ROS which runs sketching activities around Kuala Lumpur to promote sketching as a means of communication. His art practice revolves around travelling to do urban sketching and recording of times and places. He co-organised the 2016 World Sketching Symposium in Manchester which involved more than 450 sketchers from 44 countries, participated in the 2014 Open Show at National Visual Art Gallery Malaysia, and was one of the contributors to the internationally published book "ARCHISKETCHER: A Guide of Spotting and Sketching an Urban Landscape" by Simone Riyad. In his recent works, he explores blockchain and the metaverse through AR/VR/XR/MR applications.



Days of MCO 01  
GIF  
50 x 66 cm  
2020-2021



Days of MCO 02  
GIF  
50 x 66 cm  
2020-2021



Days of MCO 03  
GIF  
50 x 66 cm  
2020-2021



## ICHIE IMRAN

b. 1987, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
ichie.imran@gmail.com

Ichie Imran is an illustrator and printmaker currently based in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. A graduate with a BA (Hons.) in Graphic Design from Kuala Lumpur Metropolitan University, Ichie has a passion for doing illustration and paper sculpting in her free time. Her work, with a hint of playful colours, is mainly inspired by his childhood obsession with tall stories. Ichie Imran is a co-founder of Sukka Project.



**It's Nothing Here**  
Digital illustration  
20 x 20 cm  
2021



**Limpas**  
Digital illustration  
30.4 x 27.8 cm  
2021



## IHSAN @ IZEALIST

b. 1986, Melaka  
izealcreative@gmail.com

Izealist is an aspiring futurologist turn visual artists who is based in Subang Jaya. Been into futurology for the pass 10 years and started putting his thoughts & discoveries into NFT through the help of the collective from NFXT. Besides from being feature on virtual galleries from Cryptoart Week Asia & other local events, he will debuting his first physical exhibition at PORTALS : New Horizon & later at Artists of South East Asia exhibition : 1000 Tiny Artwoks.



**Pandemicons**  
Digital Illustration  
66 x 66 cm  
2021



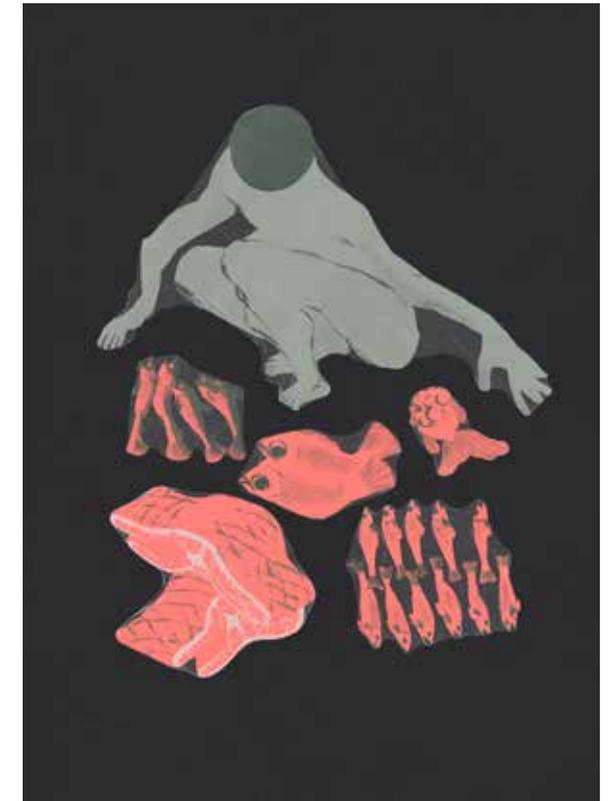
**Spirit Yearning**  
GIF  
66 x 66 cm  
2021



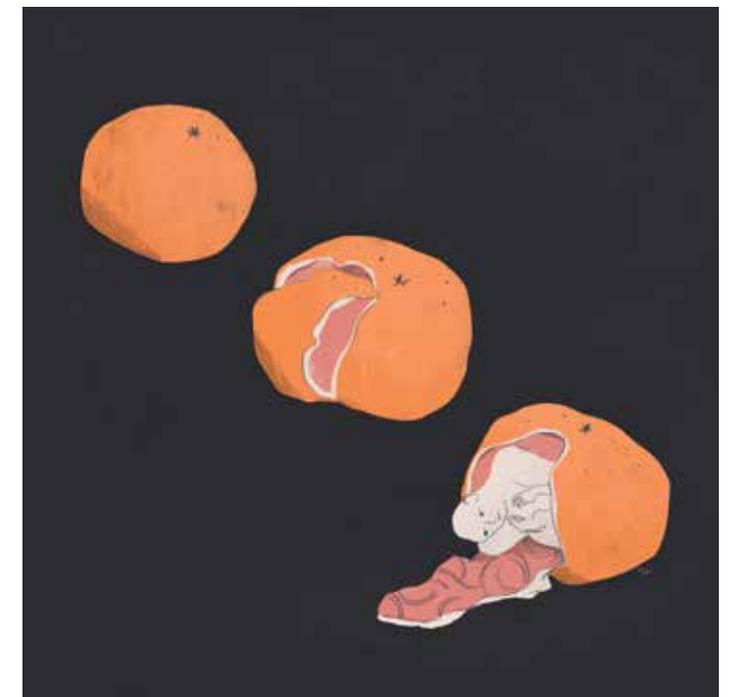
## JOLENE TEW

b. 1989, Kuala Lumpur  
jltew.illustrations@gmail.com

Jolene Tew is an illustrator and printmaker based in Kuala Lumpur. Jolene graduated from University of Arts London with an MA in Illustration. She gets many of her inspirations from her childhood and present encounters, and playfully expresses her thoughts through juxtaposition. Her works often feature supernatural and surrealist elements.



**Plastic Packets**  
Digital illustration  
30.5 x 42.5 cm  
2021



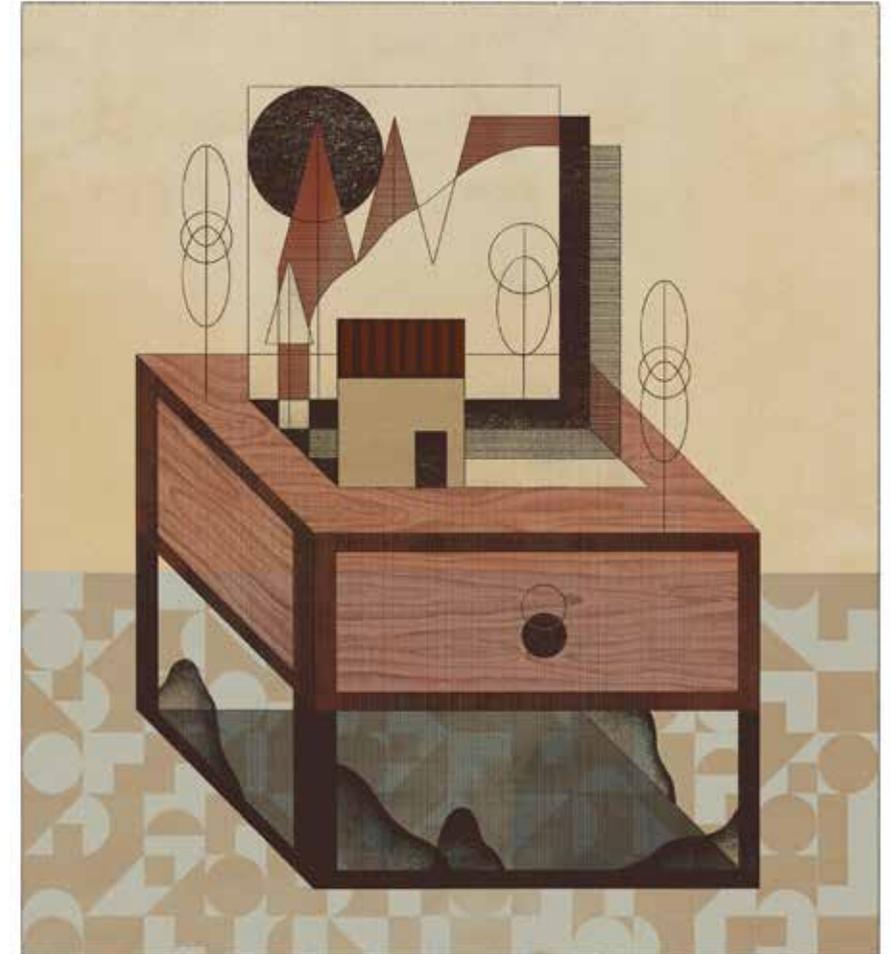
**Vitamin C**  
Digital illustration  
38 x 38 cm  
2021



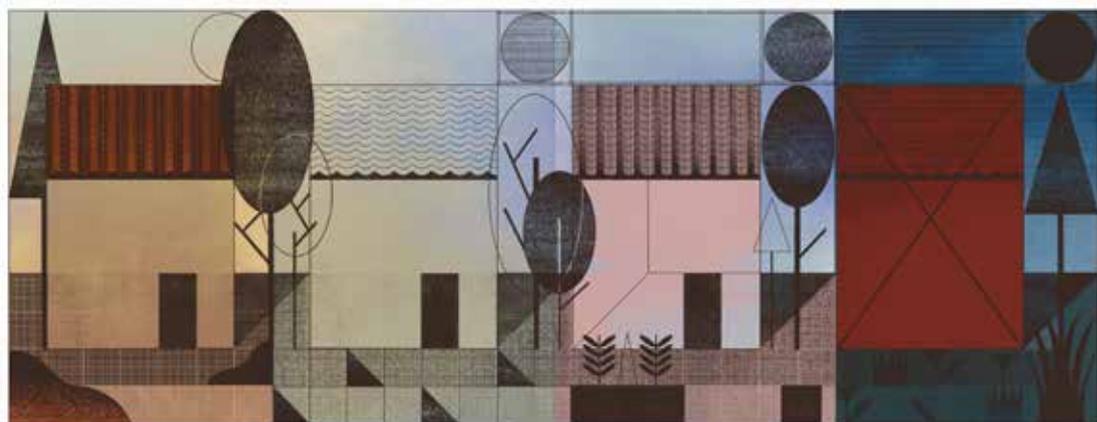
## JULLIENNE MEI TAN

b. 1992, Seoul, South Korea  
artjulienne@gmail.com

Julienne Mei Tan is a Korean-Cambodian illustrator and printmaker who works between Seoul and Phnom Penh. She enjoys working with limited colours and creating surreal or nonsensical settings in flat spaces. Julienne works primarily in silkscreen and experimental printmaking methods. She graduated in 2014 from the School of Visual Arts in New York City with a BFA in Illustration. Julienne is the co-founder and director, with Jane Stephanny, of Raksasa Print Studio. She often works collaboratively with Jane as she enjoys seeing her work through a pair of eyes as bizarre as hers.



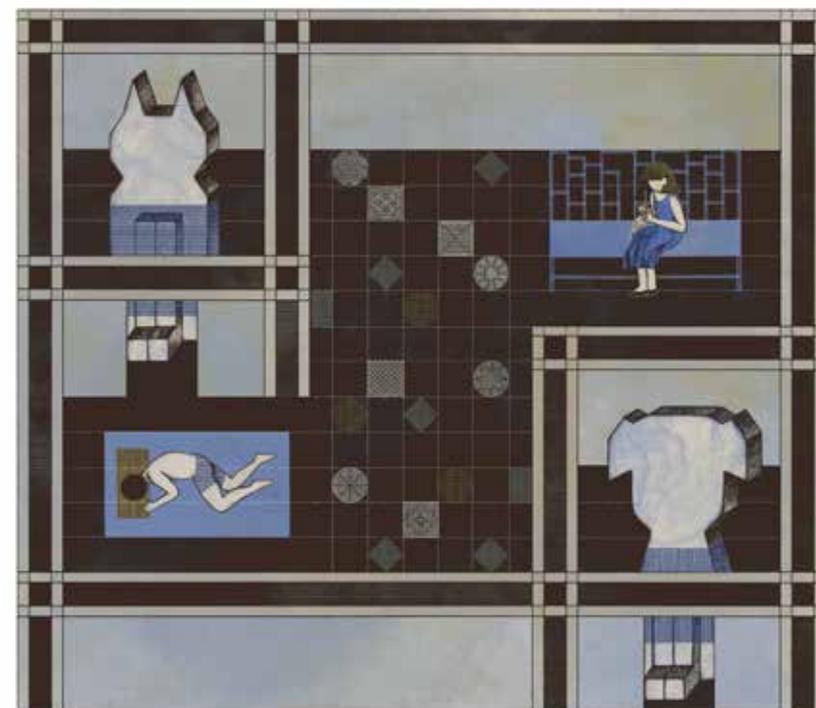
**Tiny House**  
Digital illustration  
18.7 x 20.7 cm  
2021



**Borey**  
Digital illustration  
43.8 x 17.2 cm  
2021



**Pandemic Purchases**  
Digital illustration  
25.1 x 19.2 cm  
2021



**Unraveling**  
Digital illustration  
25.1 x 19.2 cm  
2021



## NUR KHAIRI HAMIDI

b.1996, Kuantan, Pahang  
nurkhairihamidi.96@gmail.com

Khairi Hamidi received his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from UiTM Shah Alam. During his internship programme, he was trained by one of the pioneers of Malaysian modern art, Dr Sulaiman Esa. His artworks focus on abstraction, gestural abstraction, synchromy, colour strokes, and bold textures of colours. For his non-representational artworks, he employs musical concepts and terms to reflect his life as a musician, and for his representational artworks, a semantic/semiotic approach. He believes that art can serve as a medium to educate society.



**I Can't**  
Oil & charcoal on canvas  
61 x 61 cm  
2021



**For You**  
Oil & charcoal on canvas  
61 x 61 cm  
2021



## NAZRIN SALEH

b. 1992, Kuantan, Pahang  
nazrinsaleh@gmail.com

Nazrin's practice involves imagining himself existing in fictitious worlds. Although his paintings may look childish at the first glance, they actually address serious topics and themes, albeit in a humorous manner. Furthermore, his childlike paintings can also be deeply interpreted. Drawing in a humorous and childlike style is one of his ways to break down complicated issues and ideas.



Circle of Life (Migration) #1  
Digital illustration  
59.5 x 42 cm  
2021



Circle of Life (Migration) #2  
Digital illustration  
59.5 x 42 cm  
2021



Circle of Life (Migration) #3  
Digital illustration  
59.5 x 42 cm  
2021



Circle of Life (Migration) #4  
Digital illustration  
59.5 x 42 cm  
2021



## RANERRIM

b. 1995, Johor  
ranerrim@gmail.com

Ranerrim is a young and emerging visual artist based in Kuala Lumpur. Her works focus on social issues, such as mental health and class disparities, while revolving around the mundanities of life. Engaging with such themes, her works range from addressing dark-humoured messages juxtaposed with a colourful art style to romancing multi-layered stories intended to put viewers in a space to create their own thoughts, associations and endings. She views her art as experiments, and treats art as her playground. Keen on experimenting, Ranerrim also takes on multiple art projects to push her creative boundaries, and does various charity works and collaborations. She is part of the Projek Rabak collective and is passionate about fostering a collaborative and community-driven ecosystem in Malaysia's art scene. Ranerrim has a background in law and is an advocate for prison and drug policies reform.



A Long-Distance Relationship  
Single channel video & color  
24 seconds  
2021

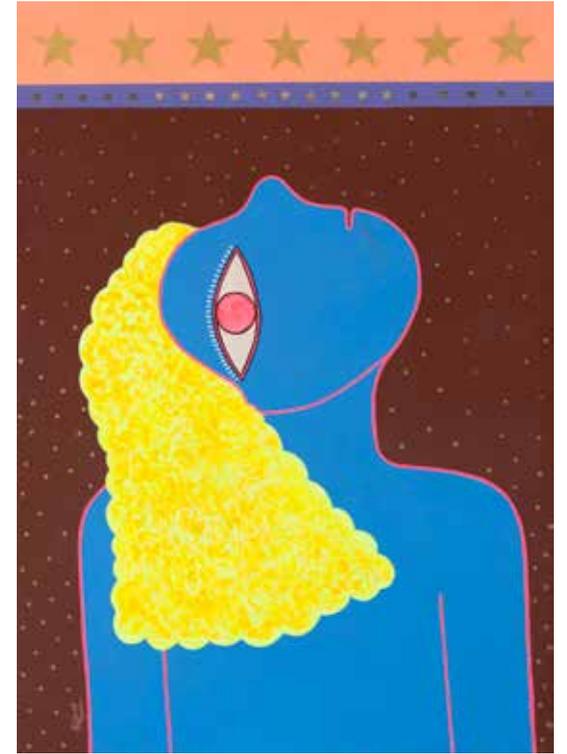




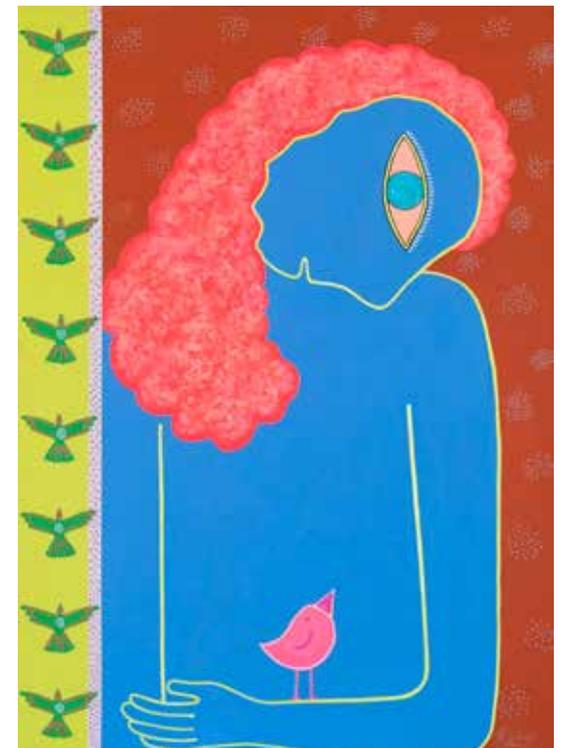
## REKHA MENON

b. 1976, Kuala Lumpur  
rekhamenonart@gmail.com

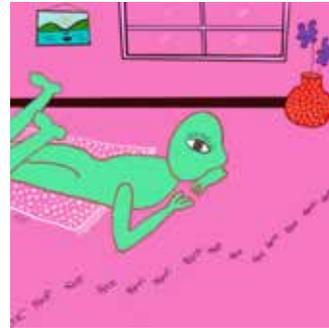
Rekha Menon is a self-taught artist who finally took the plunge to go full-time into visual arts after over a decade working as a branding and media relations professional. Born and based in Kuala Lumpur, Menon combines naive figurations and abstract motifs in her body of work. She loves to explore the mysteries of our subconscious mind. Her bright and colourful palette flows with lines, shadings, shapes, patterns and symbols to signify a plethora of expressions and feelings. Menon's artworks have been showcased internationally in Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and Thailand. She was recognised with an Honourable Award by the International Watercolour Society during its 2018 International Watercolour Biennale. Her works can be found in private collections in Italy, Germany, Norway, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, United States and Malaysia.



**In A Limbo – Future**  
Mixed media on canvas  
91 x 76 cm  
2021



**In A Limbo – Freedom**  
Mixed media on canvas  
91 x 76 cm  
2021



#coronatimes 1  
Giclée print on canvas  
30 x 30 cm (each)  
2020

from left  
Socialising  
What Day Is It?  
Stuck in the Middle With Me  
My Precious  
Over Thinking

#coronatimes 2  
Giclée print on canvas  
30 x 30 cm (each)  
2020

from left  
I Need A Haircut  
Cheers!  
Can I Follow You?  
Heightened Observation  
Got Bread?



## RADEN HISBULLAH

b. 1993. Kuala Lumpur  
hisbullahraden@gmail.com

Raden Hisbullah is a young artist who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in 2019. Since his first foray into the Malaysian art scene, Raden Hisbullah, or commonly addressed as Raden, has won several art competitions, including 3rd place in the 2021 Art Against Aids competition, 2nd place in the Open Mural Category of the Wall Battle Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur competition, and recently 3rd place in the Emerging Artist Category of the 2021 UOB Painting of the Year competition. Raden has participated in more than 20 exhibitions, both physical and virtual.



### Butterfly Effect

Acrylic & chinese ink on canvas  
137 x 107cm  
2021



## TAUFIK ABDULLAH

b. 1966, Kulim, Kedah  
taufik8866@gmail.com

Taufik Abdullah, born and raised in Kulim, Kedah, received his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art, with major in sculpture, in 1988. In 1989, he was chosen to be an intern sculptor at a Japanese porcelain company called K.K. Maruri Shokai and located near Nagoya, Japan. He worked there until he returned to Malaysia in 1993. He was invited to be a part-time and visiting lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK). In 2019, he enrolled for Master's of Art & Technology at UiTM, graduating in the following year. He is currently a full-time artist.



**Sidang Gagak Perihal Hati Itik Yang Pulang Petang**  
Acrylic on paper board  
70 x 86 cm  
2021



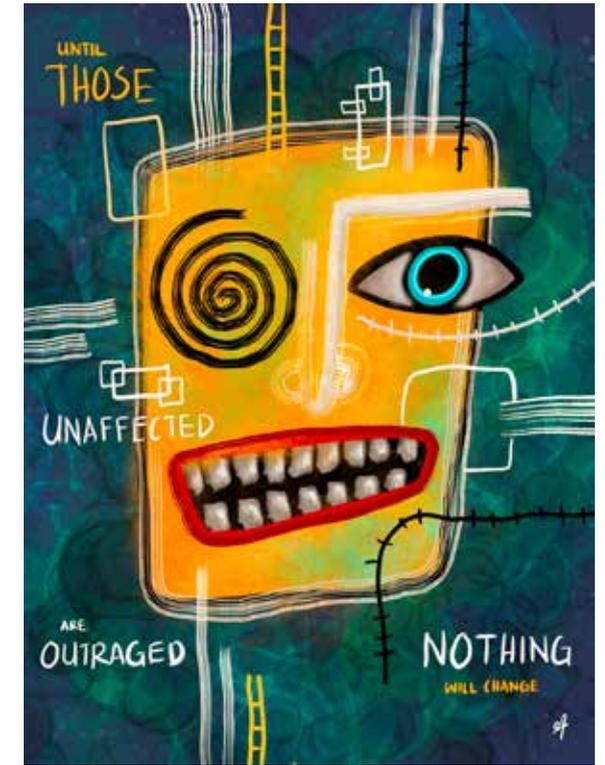
**Sweet & Bitter Ruling Heart of a Nation**  
Acrylic on paper board  
70 x 86 cm  
2021



## VISITHRA MANIKAM

Kuala Lumpur  
visithra@gmail.com

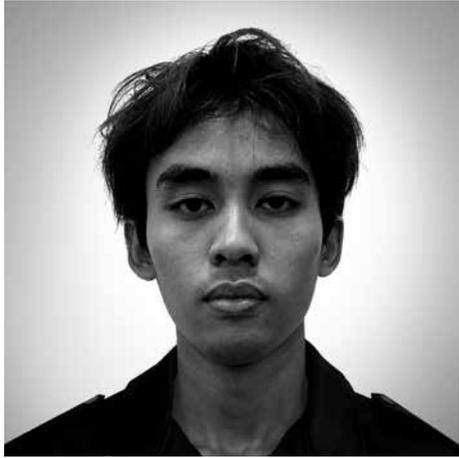
Visithra Manikam is a self-taught Malaysian woman visual artist and photographer based in Kuala Lumpur. She paints both expressionism and pop art/surrealism in the modern Indian art style, and also creates sculptures. She is one of the top and verified Malaysian NFT artists in Opensea. Her art is collected globally by more than 190 collectors, including Snoop Dogg, the owner of The Medici Collection. Besides themes such as racism, colourism, feminism and social issues, her art also focuses on human behaviour and experiences which she explores through psychology, eastern philosophy and symbolism. Some of her artworks with social messages were highly commended in the 2019 and 2020 Redline artworks Global award. She had her first NFT exhibition in New York in September 2021. Apart from participating in numerous shows in Malaysia, she has also exhibited in Manila, the Philippines (2018); West Bengal (Bangla Biennale, 2019), Udaipur and Mumbai, India; Yogyakarta and Jakarta, Indonesia; Osaka, Japan; and recently South Korea. Her solo exhibition was held at APW Bangsar in May 2019.



**Nothing will Change**  
Digital illustration  
211.5 x 167 cm  
2021



**Indifferent**  
Digital illustration  
106 x 106 cm  
2021



## WAN MUHAMMAD EIMAN

b. 1999, Kuala Lumpur  
wanmuhammadeiman@gmail.com

Eiman is currently pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art at ASWARA. His artworks are heavily influenced by social issues. In each of his works, he employs satire as a method of conveying messages about the development of local society. Acrylic and pen are the media he often uses in the production of his art. In creating his artworks, Eiman mainly refers to realism and largely uses glazing and stippling techniques.



**Tertipu**  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 42 cm  
2021



**Penjilat**  
Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 84 cm  
2021



## YASMIN BAWADI

b.1998, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan  
yasbawadi@gmail.com

Yasmin Bawadi graduated with a Diploma in Fine Art from UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak and a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art, with a major in Time Based Media, from UiTM Shah Alam. She has been involved in the art scene since 2016, actively participating in art exhibitions and competitions. As a multi-disciplinary artist, she works with a diverse range of mediums, such as video art, painting, animation and conceptual photography. Yasmin also actively participates in art talks, serving as emcee, moderator and panellist. She is currently conducting art workshops with children at KausarXcel Center and QST. Having a passion for writing and art history, she is now embarking on a path in art curating at Kapallorek Art Space, Perak.



### Necessities

Single channel video, color & sound

30 seconds

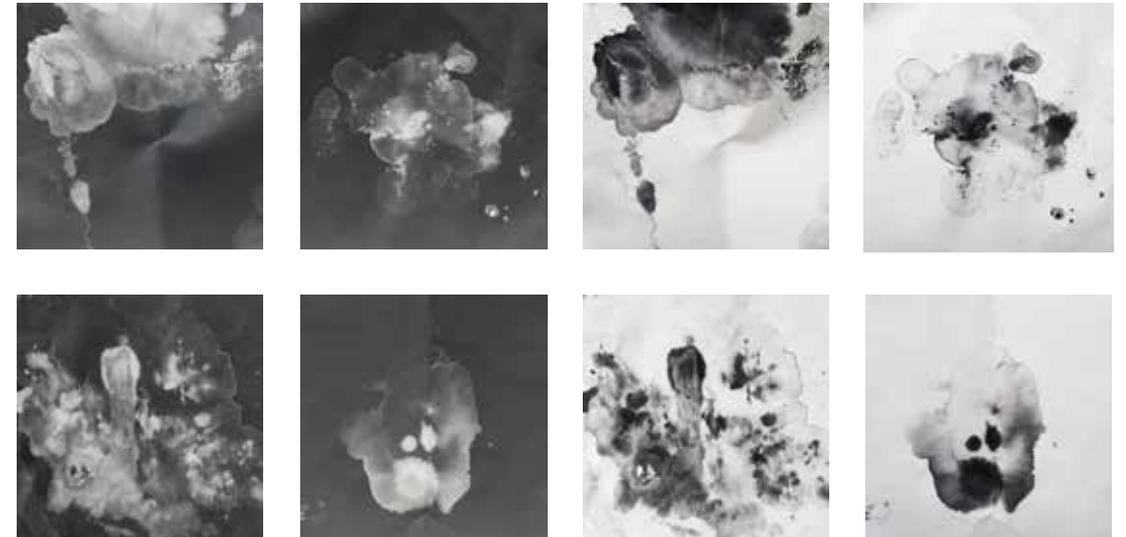
2021



## ZALWANA JAMALUDDIN

b. 1996, Johor  
zalwanazj@gmail.com

Zalwana Jay, a young artist from Johor, Malaysia, holds a Bachelor's Degree (Hons) in Fine Art and is currently pursuing her post-graduate studies at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPS), Tanjung Malim. A member of the ARTO Movement art collective, she co-manages a creative community called Projek Rumah Aql. She is also heavily involved in the literature scene and several years ago has published, under Projek Rumah Aql, a poetry zine entitled "Varian Bias" by Ruby M Aris. Presently, she is exploring the idea of combining both visual and poetry elements into a body of work.



*/sia/ng [malam] /-sia/ng (series)*  
Single print  
30.48 x 30.48 cm (each)  
2020



## CURATOR

Amir Amin

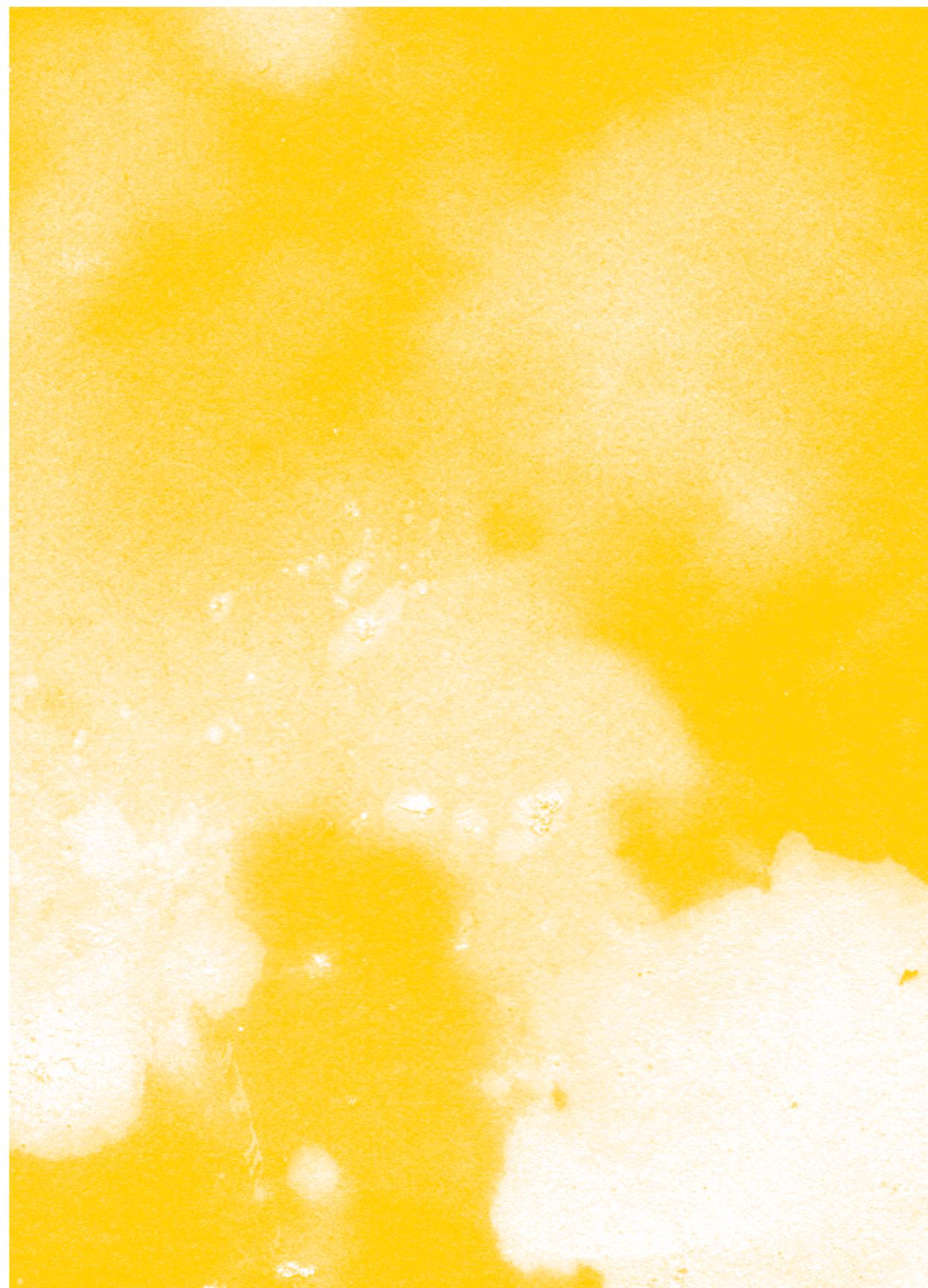
Muhammad Amir Amin, or popularly known as Tuk Kura, is a visual artist, curator and art writer with more than a decade of experience in the local art scene. Armed with a BFA in painting, Tuk Kura, who is currently pursuing his post-graduate studies at UiTM Shah Alam, has participated in over 20 group exhibitions, while his passion for art curation and management saw him working in those capacities for a number of galleries and art institutions both in and outside of the Klang Valley since 2011. He has curated more than 30 exhibitions, including the 2019 Young Contemporaries competition and exhibition (Bakat Muda Sezaman) as one of the guest curators. Tuk Kura is the founder of ARTO movement, a multidisciplinary art collective that highlights and celebrates diverse Malaysian art practices. Their first two exhibitions, #ARToHomeFest 2020 and Possibilia took place last year, while a virtual art exhibition called Virtue(al) 2.0 was held just last May. An active speaker and facilitator for several art events, Tuk Kura believes that art should not be taken too seriously to the point where its playful, fun and humorous aspects and intentions are overlooked.



## GUEST WRITER

Elizabeth Low

Elizabeth Low is an emerging art professional who is currently building her skills in art writing and exhibition curating. She holds an MA Degree in Art Management and Curating from Richmond, The American International University in London, as well as a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Painting and Drawing from the University of Northampton, UK. With a keen interest in accessibility and inclusivity in the arts, she has a great desire to bring more awareness and attention to the subjects through innovative projects and conversations. She is currently involved, on a part-time basis, with HOM Art Trans and seeks opportunities that will allow her to be involved in initiatives that focus on those gaps in the industry.



# ABOUT MAYBANK FOUNDATION



Maybank Foundation has been the strategic driver of Maybank Group’s community programs since it was inaugurated in 2010, in conjunction with the Group’s 50th anniversary. The Foundation’s mandate is to create positive, long-term impact in communities in the markets where Maybank operates. It strives to identify programs that will have the most tangible and sustainable results, in line with Maybank’s mission of humanising financial services.

Maybank Foundation focuses on six key areas, namely;

EDUCATION	COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT	HEALTHY LIVING	ARTS & CULTURE	ENVIROMENTAL DIVERSITY	DISASTER RELIEF
Empower future leaders in the finance community	Ensure inclusiveness of those in the communities	Promote community compassion	Promote artistic creativity of the youths	Help protect the planet’s diversity for future generations	Mobilize employees together with partners in disaster situation, locally and regionally

In all six areas and in every country it operates in, Maybank Foundation is focused on activities and programs that would create meaningful, measurable and sustainable impact, in line with Maybank’s mission of humanising financial services.