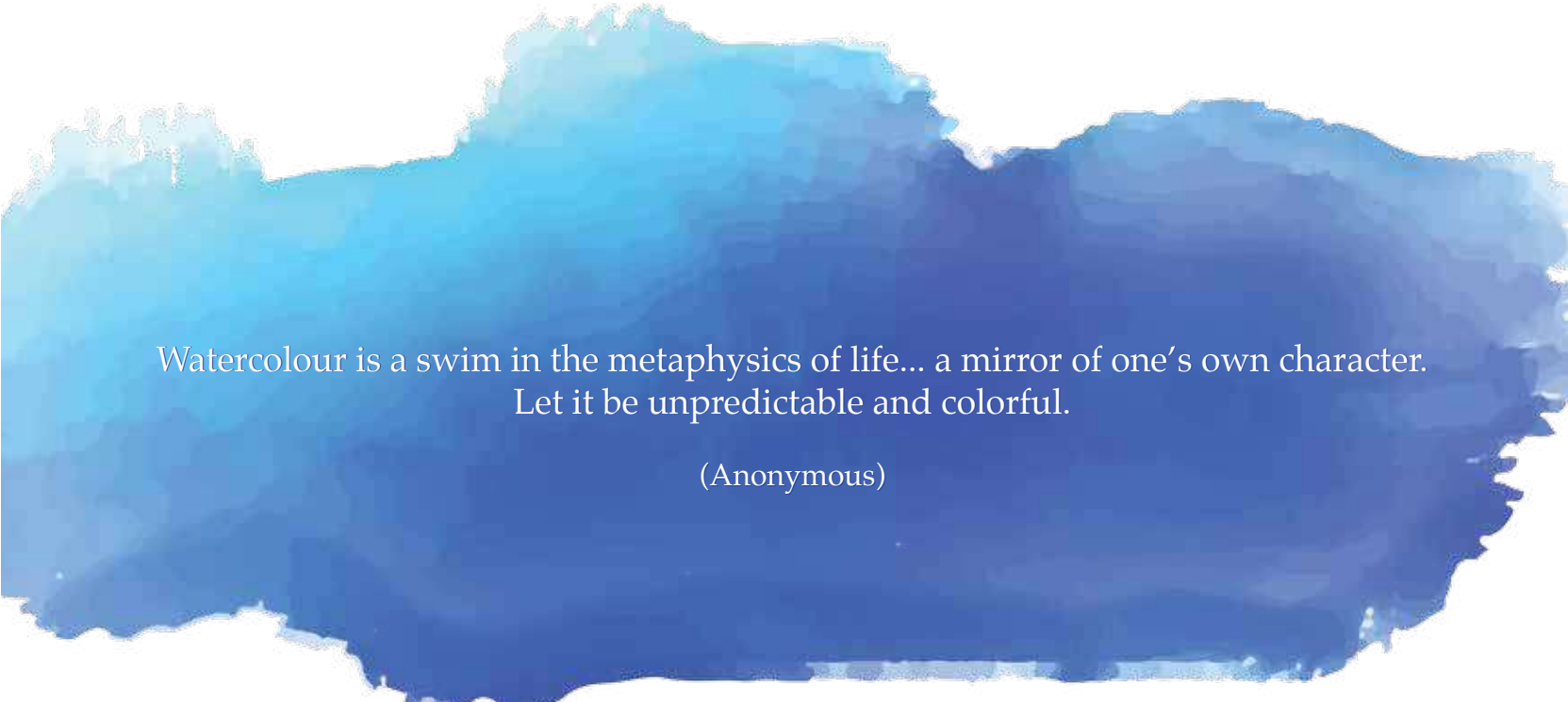




Maybank

*Of Moments and Memories:
A Malaysian Watercolour Experience*



Watercolour is a swim in the metaphysics of life... a mirror of one's own character.
Let it be unpredictable and colorful.

(Anonymous)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the artists in this exhibition for their participation. Special appreciation to Mr. Calvin Chua Cheng Koon, the president of the Malaysian Watercolour Society and also to Mr. Long Thien Shih for both their invaluable advice and insights.

OF MOMENTS AND MEMORIES:

A Malaysian Watercolour Experience

This catalogue is published in conjunction with the exhibition 'OF MOMENTS AND MEMORIES: A Malaysian Watercolour Experience' held at Balai Seni Menara Maybank from 14th October - 3rd November 2019.

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The Malaysian
Watercolour Society
马来西亚水彩画会

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CEO's Message



Balai Seni has had a long history following its inauguration in 1988. Maybank's commitment to arts, culture and heritage has been sustained with a long history of support for local artists, photographers, graphic designers and writers. Balai Seni has touched the lives of thousands of people with the artistic works of more than 300 artists displayed in more than 25 exhibitions have inspired and encouraged new artists to pursue their dreams. In continuation of our acclaimed Balai Seni Art Series, we are proud to present the latest art exhibition to commemorate one of the most influential artistic styles of the modern era; watercolour art.

As part of Balai Seni Art Series 2019, 'Of Moments and Memories: A Malaysian Watercolour Experience' Art Exhibition stands as the testament of our appreciation for such an expressive artistic medium and its technical aspects transcending the boundary of time and era, and our drive to empower the artists in all facets of life. We are especially excited with the bright and exciting future looming on the horizon for our art scene and this art exhibition could be the impetus for these talented artists to continue sharing their visions of the world and the future we would be living in.

The exhibition features 74 promising and established artists who are well-versed in the intricate watercolour art that highlights the qualities of the many creative individuals with glistening and vibrant perspectives on the slice of life of being a Malaysian and its nuances. Their experience curating their visions would surely tell compelling stories on how their valuable worldviews could materialize a future we would be proud to claim as our own. We believe in supporting the artists to explore the world and curate their adventures through their lens. Our country is a nation rich with culture and it is great to see our local artists expressing their values and experiences encapsulated by their view of our society and deep appreciation for a country we call home.

Shahril Azuar Jimin
CEO
Maybank Foundation

MWS President's Message

Malaysia is a fantastic place for watercolour artists. We are blessed with good weather all year round. From tropical rainforests, to rivers, mountains and lakes, we are constantly surrounded by natural beauty. Our multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society also inspires artistic creations.

The Malaysian watercolour art scene has always been a reflection of the sketching culture amongst art enthusiasts here. As you can see, many of the artworks depict village scenes, streetscapes, and fishing villages. This is also a portrayal of the unique attributes of our region.

Contemporary Malaysian watercolour artworks also offer a glance into cultural trends and the artists' individualities. You will notice that watercolour artworks today extend beyond the traditional application of materials. In addition to innovative methods of painting, it is important for artists to apply their imagination and thoughts to the creation of their pieces.

The Malaysian Watercolour Society is pleased and grateful to have received the support and generous sponsorship from Maybank Foundation to organize this exhibition and making it possible. We are also very honored by the presence of many veteran Malaysian artists here today. Throughout the period of this exhibition, we will be organizing an art workshop and art demonstrations. We hope that we can continue to hold more meaningful events like this in the future.

Thank you for your support.

Calvin Chua Cheng Koon
President
Malaysian Watercolour Society

OF MOMENTS AND MEMORIES: THE STORY OF WATERCOLOUR PAINTING IN MALAYSIA

Watercolours is a popular and affordable medium of art available to people of all ages. However, it is also one of the most difficult media to master. Besides its affordability (oil paints were beyond the means of many ordinary people even today) watercolour paints could easily be found in stationary shops and family-run convenience stores. Due to its fluid nature and quick drying properties, it allows or pushes the painter to capture or create images quickly, spontaneously and even creatively, leading some to arrive at distinct styles of strokes or translucency. Besides a personal approach to making pictures in watercolour, the subject matter or themes too are important. Some watercolourists are instantly recognized by their choice of subject matter, thematic approaches and use of metaphors. Aesthetically, watercolour paintings are pleasing. When done right, it draws out the poetic and contemplative from the deceptively ordinary and mundane while preserving forever the magical feelings of the momentous and the serendipitous. It can also induce a sense of nostalgia or poignancy for peoples and places, real and imaginary. Watercolour painters were the earliest promoters of an idyllic image of the country and its people which accounts for its popularity with expats and tourists who bought them as gifts and mementos. Today, watercolour paintings are highly regarded with some local watercolourists commanding princely sums for their work.

Watercolour painting has a special place in the story of our local art history. It is no coincidence that ordinary Malaysians were first exposed to water based media such as poster colours and watercolours in schools during the colonial era. Among the upper echelons of society in 18th century Great Britain, to be proficient in painting, among other artistic disciplines, was a sign of having received a well rounded education. As a practical tool to document and illustrate, it was used by British mapmakers, military officers, botanists, engineers etc during the age of exploration and colonization. The British brought with them their influences including artistic practices i.e naturalistic representations of reality, through the education system. In the west, water based media such as watercolours is traditionally used in preparatory sketches for a painting, usually oil. It is a quick and rudimentary way for an artist to document or compose an image. The subject matter is captured in a few deft strokes and completed with swift translucent washes on a sketchbook or paper to be reproduced later in detail on a canvas. The earliest practitioners of watercolour painting during colonial times would have been the British themselves who came as expats, traveler-artists, merchants and colonial officers. Among the earliest works found in the country's national art collection were the watercolour paintings of **Frank Swettenham** (1850-1946). As a colonial officer serving from 1896-1901, he helped to shape British policy and the structure of British administration in the Malay Peninsula. Frank Swettenham was also prolific as a writer and an amateur painter. Together with two unknown artists, **William Samwell** and **George Gilles**, both whom he had hired to join him on expeditions, mostly by river to the remote parts of the Malay peninsula, North Borneo and Sarawak which were under the British administration, the trio documented their journeys, the surrounding terrain, the local and immigrant workforce and their activities.

The British did not established art academies or museums during their 131 year rule to provide formal training or recognition of art in Malaya unlike other colonial powers in the region which had done so at least half a century earlier. Even though art was taught in some private schools since the 1900s, it was only introduced into government schools in the early 1920s. Art became a subject that can be taken by students sitting for the Overseas Cambridge School Certificate examination. Importance was placed on its practical aspects rather than aesthetics. Decades later, art teaching was standardized under the supervision of **Peter Harris** (1923-2009) the Superintendent of Art education in 1951.

Those who pursued art as a discipline at that time were mostly self taught with the exception of a few foreign born who did received formal art training in their country of origin. Educated Chinese emigre, most who had received instructions in calligraphy and ink painting were drawn to the medium due to the similarities of its approach and application. There was also the shared sentimental and philosophical outlook towards nature behind the creation of such paintings. Idealized depictions of the local people and their surroundings were the usual tropes. Landscapes, scenic spots, *kampung* houses, fishing villages and towns were presented in a picturesque way. Prewar artists who were regarded for their watercolours were **Yong Mun Sen** (1896-1962), **Kuo Ju Ping** (1913-1966), **Khaw Sia** (1913-1984) and **Abdullah Ariff** (1904-1962). As a self taught artist, Abdullah Ariff also had the distinction of being one of two non Western members of the Penang Impressionists Society which was founded in the 1920s. A number of noteworthy watercolourist to emerged from the post war and independence era were **Tan Choon Ghee** (1930-2010), **A.J Rahman** (1922-1995), **A. B Ibrahim** (1925-1977), **Nik Zainal Abidin Nik Salleh** (1933-1993) and **Tay Mo Leong** (b.1938) just to name a few. According to **Long Thien Shih** (b.1946) a post Merdeka watercolourist and painter who went on the established himself as a leading printmaker of popular symbolic imagery, there were no groups or societies for watercolourists at that time. Most artists were skilled in various media and watercolours was one of them. Local watercolourists would look to the works of Singaporean artists especially **Lim Cheng Hoe** (1912-1979) and **Chen Chong Swee** (1910-1985), both teaching staffs of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Art (NAFA) which was established in 1938. The former students of NAFA would return and established the Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA) in 1967 and the Kuala Lumpur College of Art (KLCA) in 1968. Together with the then Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM) formed in 1967, these 3 institutions have trained the majority of the artists in this country, with not a few who are today's significant exponents of watercolour painting. The founder of KLCA, **Cheah Yew Saik** (b.1939) a respected educator, painter and watercolourist, had also established the Malaysian Watercolour Society (MWS) in 1985. With this society, practitioners now have an exclusive platform with which to present and promote their works to the wider public.

The 1980s and 1990s were exciting times for watercolour practitioners with many names that became synonymous with the media. They are **Mansor Ghazali** (1930-2009), **Mokhtar Ishak** (b.1939), **Khalil Ibrahim** (1934-2018), **Lam Siong Onn** (b.1937), **Mohd Sani Md Dom** (1944-2019), **Abdul Ghani Ahmad** (b.1945), **Keng Seng Choo** (b.1945), **Tham Siew Inn** (b.1946), **Victor Chin** (b.1949), **Lye Yau Fatt** (b.1950), **Chin Kon Yit** (b.1950), **Osman Akbar Long** (b.1948), **Shafie Hj Hassan** (b.1958), **Chang Fee Meng** (b.1959), **Calvin Chua Cheng Koon** (b.1961), **Maamor Jantan** (b.1961), **Chow Chin Chuan** (b.1961),

Yong Look Lam (b. 1962), **Khoo Cheang Jin** (b.1963) and many others. The list of artists presented here is by no means exhaustive. Other important figures such as Dr. **Wong Seng Tong** (b.1939) and Tan Sri **Samsudin Osman** (b.1947) had played significant roles in bringing attention and support to this media.

Indeed, there were many outstanding and respected practitioners, especially those based outside of the capital which this modest writing does not cover. Their invaluable contributions to the art of watercolour painting in this country was to make the medium interesting, accessible and appreciated by society through exhibitions, workshops and in their capacities as art teachers.

Today, a new generation of watercolourists have also emerged, continuing the passion for this medium that began in this country more than a century ago. Among those active in the local watercolour painting scene are **Hishammuddin bin Salmin** (b.1973), **Tan Suz Chiang** (b.1974), **Rizalman Misran** (b.1976), **Abey Zoul** (b. 1976), **Brian Tai** (b.1976) and **Azman Nor** (b.1985) just to name a few.

This exhibition, entitled 'Of Moments and Memories: A Malaysian Watercolour Experience' is supported by Maybank Foundation and organized by the MWS as part of its annual show. Comprised of professionals and amateurs, it features the works of 74 artists, some who are deceased. The works in the exhibition are divided into different categories by subject matter namely still life/nature (Flora & Fauna), *kampung* scene/landscape, boats and fishing villages, towns and cities, abstraction, human activities and others. Each category highlights the medium's flexibility and the practitioner's dexterity.

'Of Moments and Memories...' offers a unique take on a slice of local life, its daily nuances deftly captured and immortalized by different generations of Malaysian watercolourists.

'Of Moments and Memories...' is also a paean and homage to the people and places in this blessed land we call home.

Tan Sei Hon
Curator

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Still life/Nature (Flora and Fauna)



Aminah Abd Rahman
b.1962 Selangor



Angelo Chia Seng Chai
b.1968, Selangor



Sarenande
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Five Elements III
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Grace Choong Ai May (Dr)
b. 1968, Penang



Summer Grace
Watercolour on paper
36 x 56 cm
2019



Chuah Teong Meow
b. 1974, Perak



Swirl 2
Watercolour on paper
42 x 60 cm
2019



Double Happiness
Watercolour on paper
54 x 79 cm
2019



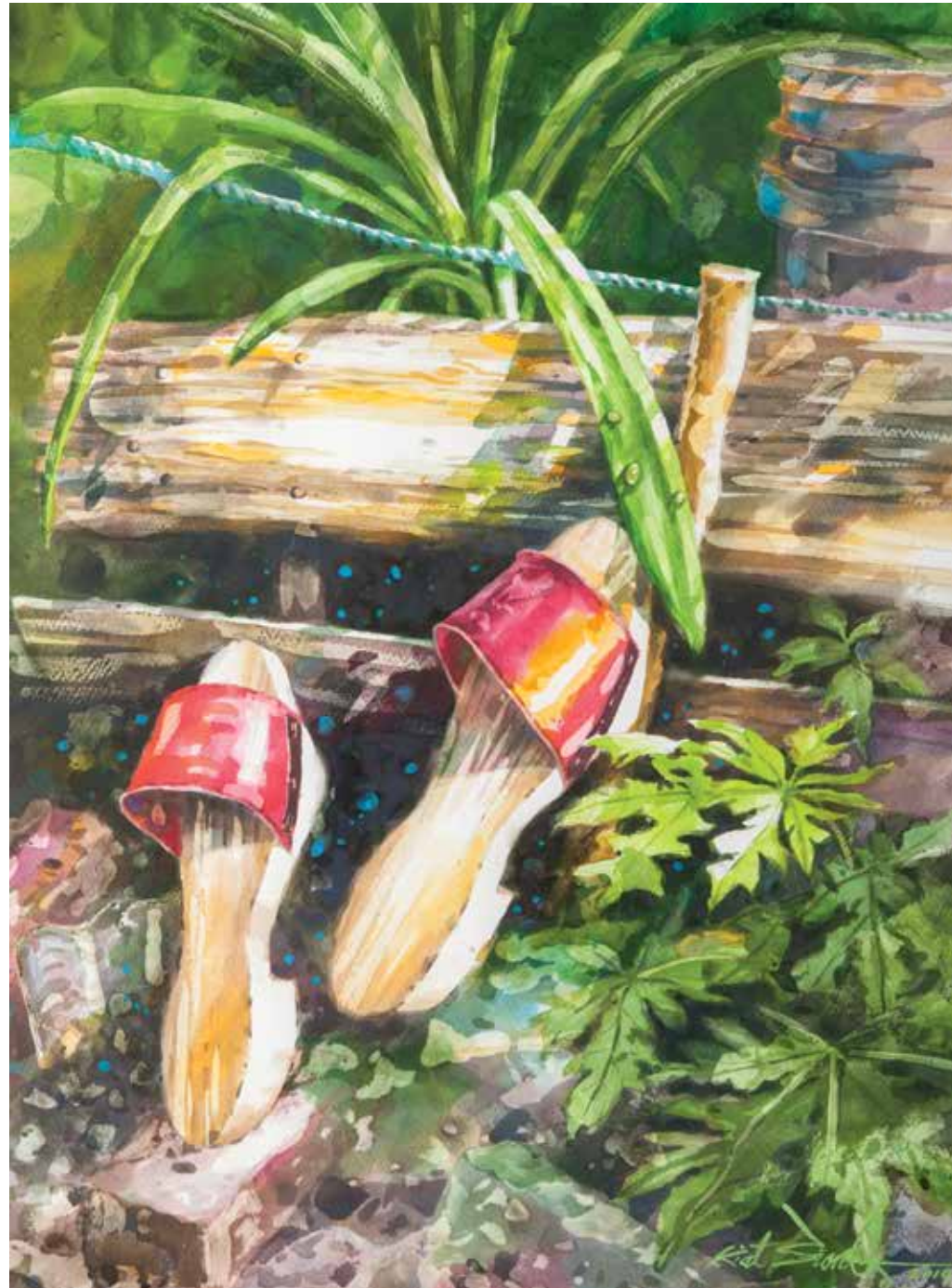
Chuah Phaik Hoon
b. 1973 Selangor



Delaila binti Abdullah
b. 1975, Selangor



Quietly Loud
Watercolour on paper
56 X 76 cm
2019



A Glorious Morning
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Choh Kiat Siong
b. 1968, Kedah



Kho Choon Lee
b.1970, Melaka



Identity
Watercolour on paper
38 x 51 cm
2019



Koay Shao Peng
b.1960, Penang



Lee Sing Pan
b.1969, Johor



Glowing Moment I
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Harvest
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Tan Hock Tong
b.1970, Selangor



Long Thien Shih
b.1946, Selangor



Banana Series: Pontianak
Watercolour on paper
58 x 46 cm
2017

In Those Days...
Watercolour on paper
46 x 56 cm
2019



Tan Gim Ghe
b.1981, Perak



Loh Soon Teik
b.1969, Johor



Red Throated Barber with Fruiting Fig Tree
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Derivative
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019



Tean Wei Gin
b.1969, Kedah



Rebirth
Watercolour on paper
54 x 74 cm
2019



Tony Ng Chit Keong
b.1980, Negeri Sembilan



Pineapple on Batik
Watercolour on paper
44 x 60 cm
2018



Wong Fook Liung
b.1968, Johor



Yeo Eng Peng
b.1975, Kuala Lumpur



Sunflowers
Watercolour on paper
37 x 56 cm
2019



Joy of Sharing # 1
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Zaharuddin Sarbini
b.1966, Kuala Lumpur

Kampung Scene/landscape

Rambutan
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm



Abdul Ghani Ahmad
b.1969, Penang



Sehening Pagi
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2015



Cheung Pooi Yip
1936-2019, Kedah



Red Flowers in the Village
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2001



Hisham Salmin
b. 1973 Johor



Waktu Rehat
Watercolour on paper
51 x 37 cm
2019



Loh Kheong Foh
b.1968, Johor



Morning Shine at Garden
Watercolour on paper
45 x 60 cm
2019



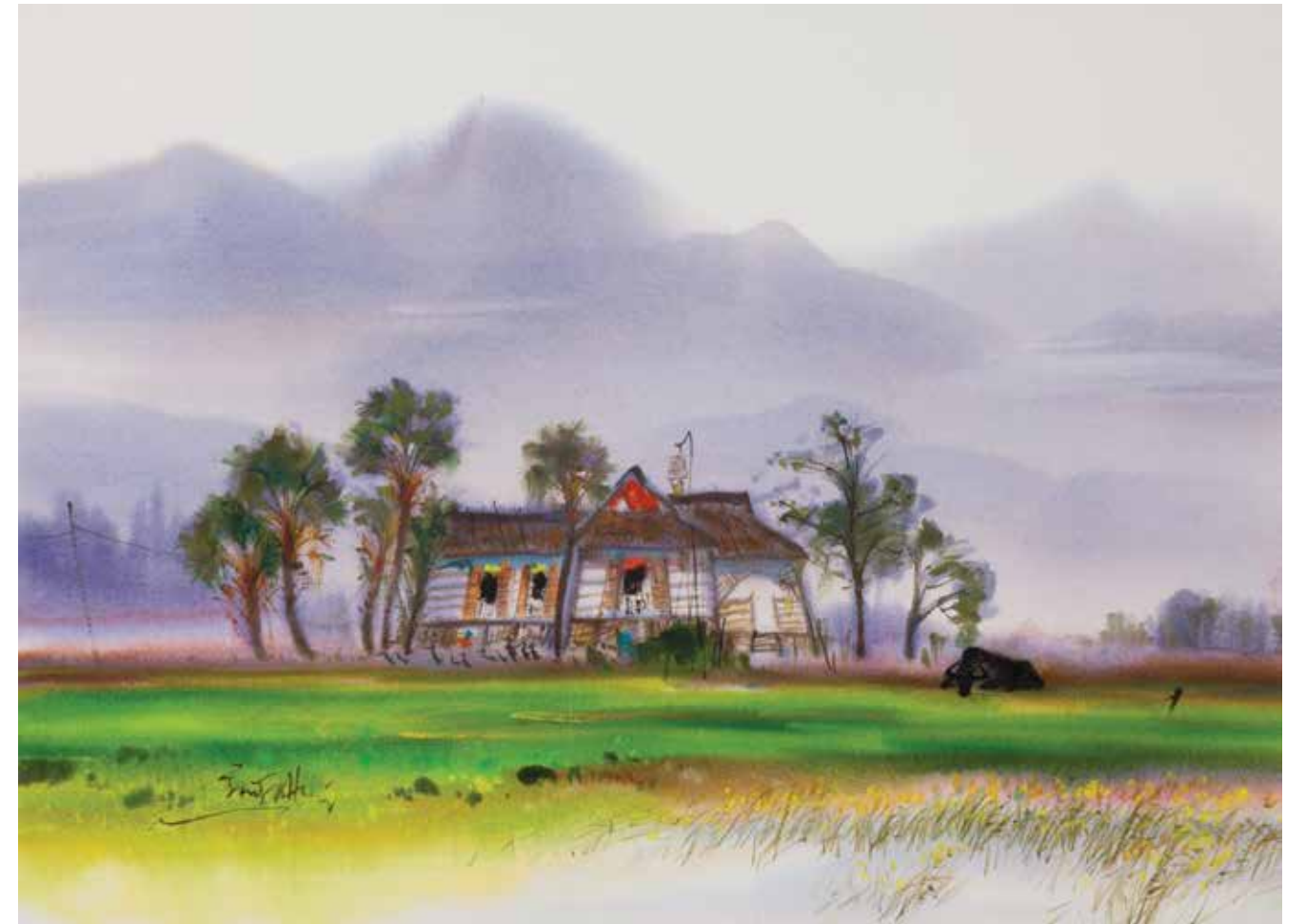
Loo Hooi Nam
b.1965, Kedah



Lye Yau Fatt
b.1950, Kedah



Morning Walk
Watercolour on paper
40 x 57 cm
2019



Misty Morning
Watercolour on paper
57 x 76 cm
2019



Nancy Chang Choon Heong
b.1965 Johor



Osman Akbar Long
b.1948, Johor



Golden Field
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Rumah Desa
Watercolour on paper
21 x 29.7 cm
2019



Phang Chew
1945-2017, Perak



Lotus
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2014

Boats / Fishing Villages



Cheong Bee Ling

b.1969, Johor



Goh Siao Shan

b.1981, Perak



The Beauty of Semporna Island

Watercolour on paper

54 x 78 cm

2018



Long Voyage at Sea

Watercolour on paper

23 x 70 cm

2018



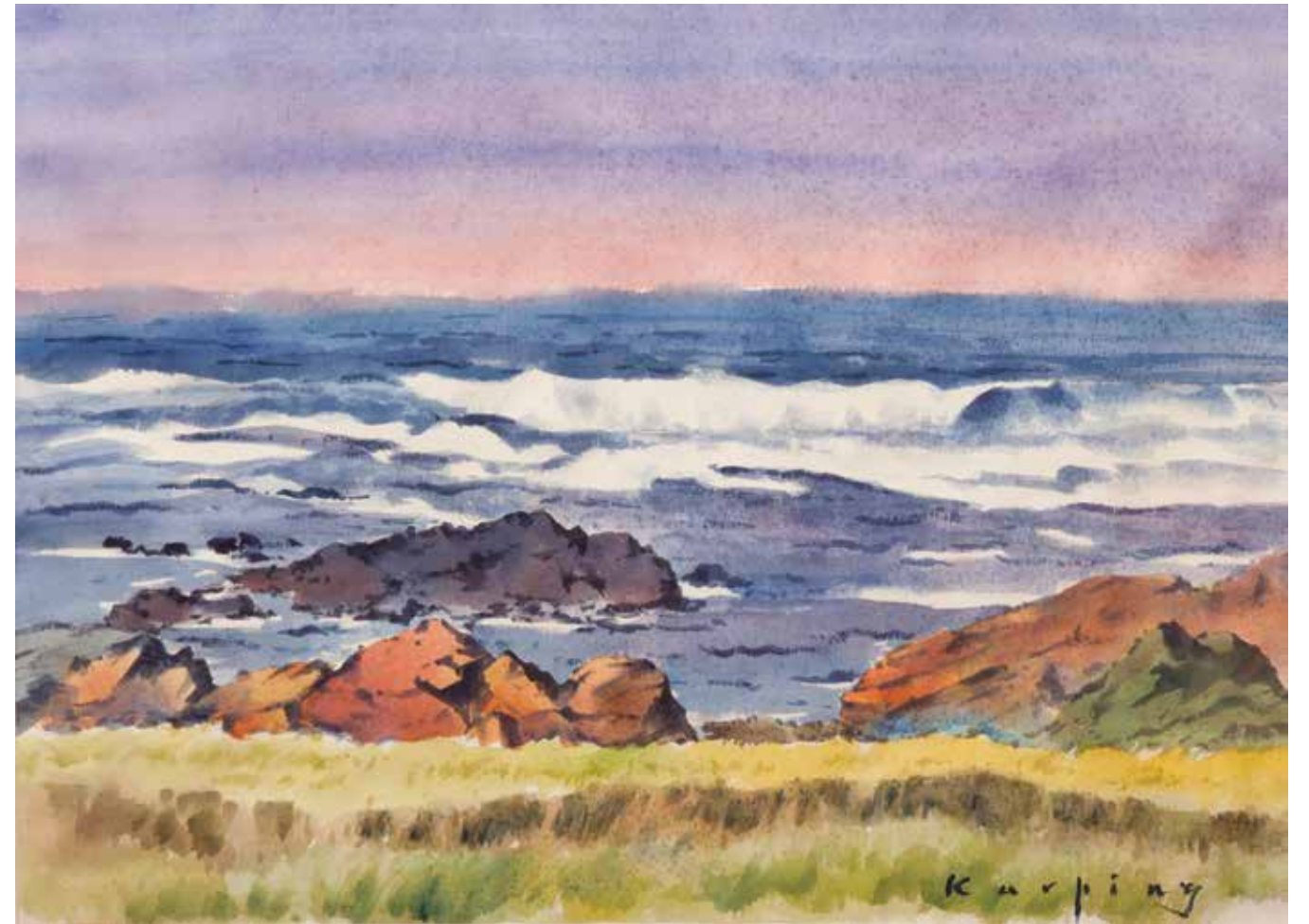
Hia Chin Ngan
b. 1971, Selangor



Ong Kar Ping
b.1961, Perak



Sea Turtles
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Seascape
Watercolour on paper
58 x 78 cm
2019



Jamal Tommy
b. 1967 Johor



Lam Kim Sah
b.1960, Johor



Berkasih dengan Air
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019



Fishing Boat
Watercolour on paper
57 x 38 cm
2019



Lee Chin Chian
b.1979, Johor



Keng Seng Choo
b.1945, Kedah



Till We Meet Again!
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2018



Kampung Nelayan
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
1992



Yong Li Yun
b.1965, Kuala Lumpur



Yong Look Lam
b.1962, Selangor



Ready to Sail
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Kuala Lukut
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019

Towns & Cities



Alex Leong Yim Kuan

b.1969, Penang



Ch'ng Beng Hin

b.1954, Kuala Lumpur



Jalan Pantai Tali, Penang

Watercolour on paper

56 x 76 cm

2019



KTM Berhad Building (KL)

Watercolour on paper

54 x 78 cm

2019



The Glorious Era
 Watercolour on paper
 76 x 56 cm
 2019



Chow Chin Chuan
 b.1961, Selangor



Jansen Chow
 b.1970, Selangor



Daybreak in Venice
 Watercolour on paper
 56 x 76 cm
 2019



Khor Seow Hooi
b.1946, Perak



Amsterdam
Watercolour on paper
36 x 56 cm
2019



Lee Weng Fatt
b.1967, Selangor



Petaling Street
Watercolour on paper
38 x 54 cm
2019



Street Scene, Bukit Mertajam
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2018



Liao Sin Fah
b.1954, Perak



Loo Win
b.1945, Perak



The Waller Court
Watercolour on paper
80 x 60 cm
2019



Lok Kerk Hwang
b.1973, Johor



Window of Light No 12
Watercolor on paper
38 x 56cm
2018



Ong Choon Hoo
b.1965, Penang



Petaling Street at Twilight
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2018



Shireen Lee
b.1973, Selangor



Nocturnal Symphony #2
Watercolour on paper
57 x 76 cm
2019



Tang Mun Kian
b.1969, Selangor



Flags
Watercolour on paper
76 x 56 cm
2019



Tiong Lay Ling
b.1966, Kuala Lumpur



Wong Kean Choon
b.1943, Perak



Jalan Tun H. S. Lee (KL)
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2018



My Home Town, Menglembu
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2016



Yap Lei Kuan
b.1965, Selangor



The Vibrant City
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Yap Yeen Yee
b.1967, Kuala Lumpur



Kuala Lumpur Road Scene
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019

Human Activities



Treasure Hunt
Watercolour on paper
76 x 56 cm
2018



Anita Goh Tuan Hon
b.1976, Johor



Azman Md Nor
b.1985, Terengganu



Street Hawker
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019



Brian Tai Hock Hai
b.1976, Kuala Lumpur



Calvin Chua Cheng Koon
b. 1961, Selangor



Real vs Virtual
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Musim Mengail
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Wau Master
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019



Jacky Chin Huei Leong
b. 1973, Selangor



Khoo Choo Kian
b.1973, Selangor



Café @ Old Café
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Lee Eng Beng
b.1967, Penang

Father & Sons
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Maamor Jantan
b.1961, Selangor



Keroncong Rimba: Kemensah
Watercolour on paper
53 x 75 cm
2019



Rizalman Misran
b.1976, Johor

Abstraction

Catch of the Day
Watercolour on paper
76 x 56 cm
2019



Anne Koh
b.1960, Selangor



Symphony of Love
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76cm
2019



Choo Kok Choon
b. 1980, Johor



Blue Highway
Watercolour on paper
56 x 38 cm
2019



Tan Suz Chiang
b.1974, Johor



Wong Seng Tong (Dr)
b. 1939, Selangor



Border
Watercolour on paper
56 x 76 cm
2019



Memory 3
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019

Others



Denis Chai Kah Yune
b. 1974 Kuala Lumpur



Tham Ze King
b. 1980, Melaka



In Search of Lost Memories #4
Watercolour on paper
52 x 76 cm
2019



Ornamental Girl: Pietersite
Watercolour on paper
38 x 57 cm
2019



Lee Fu Kaw
b.1974, Johor



Seow Yong Khin
b.1998, Selangor



Still
Watercolour on paper
76 x 56 cm
2019



Lim Sze Hong
b.1996, Johor



Precious Memory
Watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm
2019



Tay Hock Eng
b.1968, Johor



The Road to Find Your True Self
Watercolour on paper
36 x 57 cm
2019



Terrie Liew

b.1967, Kuala Lumpur



Who is the Winner?

Watercolour on paper

38 x 56 cm

2019



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.

ABDUL GHANI AHMAD • AMINAH ABD RAHMAN • ALEX LEONG YIM KUAN • ANGELO CHIA SENG CHAI • ANITA GOH TUAN HON • ANNE KOH • AZMAN MD NOR • BRIAN TAI HOCK HAI • CALVIN CHUA CHENG KOON • CHUAH TEONG MEOW • CHUAH PHAIK HOON • CHOH KIAT SIONG • CHOW CHIN CHUAN • CH'NG BENG HIN • CHEUNG POOI YIP • CHEONG BEE LING • CHOO KOK CHOON • DELAILA ABDULLAH • DENIS CHAI KAH YUNE • GRACE CHOONG AI MAY (DR.) • GOH SIAO SHAN • HIA CHIN NGAN • HISHAM SALMIN • JAMAL TOMMY • JACKY CHIN HUEI LEONG • JANSEN CHOW • KENG SENG CHOO • KHOO CHOO KIAN • KHO CHOON LEE • KOAY SHAO PENG • KHOR SEOW HOOI • LAM KIM SAH • LEE CHIN CHIAN • LEE SING PAN • LEE FU KAW • LEE ENG BENG • LEE WENG FATT • LIAU SIN FAH • LIM SZE HONG • LOK KERK HWANG • LONG THIEN SHIH • LOO WIN • LOH SOON TEIK • LOH KHEONG FOH • LOO HOOI NAM • LYE YAU FATT • MAAMOR JANTAN • NANCY CHANG CHOON HEONG • ONG CHOON HOO • ONG KAR PING • OSMAN AKBAR LONG • PHANG CHEW • RIZALMAN MISRAN • SHIREEN LEE • SEOW YONG KHIN • TANG MUN KIAN • TAN SUZ CHIANG • TAN GIM GHE • TAY HOCK ENG • TAN HOCK TONG • TERRIE LIEW • THAM ZE KING • TEAN WEI GIN • TONY NG CHIT KEONG • TIONG LAY LING • WONG FOOK LIUNG • WONG KEAN CHOON • WONG SENG TONG (DR.) • YAP LEI KUAN • YAP YEEN YEE • YEO ENG PENG • YONG LI YUN • YONG LOOK LAM • ZAHARUDDIN SARBINI