

GR8 THE NEXT GENERATION

Curated by Izan Tahir

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up"

Pablo Ruiz Y. Picasso

Curiosity did not kill this cat. In fact it was curiosity that enlivened the proceedings. Questions begat more questions and encouraged the impulse to organise this show. It was questions about how young Malaysian artists think, work and live. What are the issues that interest them enough to want to express it in their art? Arranging a show like this necessitates getting to know the artists and allows for the many quite personal questions to be asked and received.

Much of the resulting works are based on meditations on change and a deep concern with the well-being of mankind and the planet we live on. Heavy subjects, it seems for such young minds but the actual works indicate that a degree of serious 'play' was experienced during the creative process leading to a mastery of the materials used. The use of novel materials does not amount to regeneration. What is vital is the expression and the language of Art. Materials are just the means to an end. The artists showed deep commitment and experienced excitement in the form of frustration, plenty of laughter, a few tears and great satisfaction at the end of the process.

What is it that attracts us in Art? Isn't it the mystery it evokes? The questions that arise in looking at Art? Isn't it the artist's desire to express his sense of the incommensurable? And isn't it the viewer's wish when surveying an artwork to feel the incommensurable?

The best way towards that, for the artist, is to have a subject. In the history of Art Primitive peoples resorted to fetishes and then this was superceded with mythology and religion. With the development of science the subject assumes a character of observation, comparison, reflection.

Art that deals directly with nature should not be a copy but an effort to penetrate the mystery of nature through observation resulting in expressing the feelings received from the phenomenon observed.

Art is the sense's grindstone. Sharpening the eyes, the mind and the feelings. Not only the conscious but subconscious mind absorbs the social atmosphere, the zeitgeist, which can be translated into Art. The artist interprets ideas and concepts through his own media. Every work of Art is a different experience to both the maker and the observer. As different as a walk in the park is to a climb over a mountain. At this point the work should be an authentic experience in the art-maker's life. It reflects the profoundness of life according to the artist's capacity to live. The work then is capable of becoming a part of the lives of other people and take its place in the structure of the world and in everyday life. In other words the work becomes universal.

Art is considered to be the creation of beautiful lines and colour harmonies. But it is more than that. Art addresses itself to the mind and not just through the eyes. Primitive peoples have always believed it so and they are right for Art is a language, an instrument of knowledge and an instrument of communication. Art opens the doors to the inner dance of the artist's mind.

Artists are like alchemists of old. We all know that beneath the everyday appearance of objects and things are hidden truths, grasped only by intuition. So artists produce objects, things, that make viewers aspire beyond themselves. Questions arise and probe at the difficulties of dealing with each other day upon day, the games people play, inevitable changes in Life, injustices and joy. Art makers will always be part of Life and Change. The artist is not just a receptacle or simply a reflection of his time. An artist's role is an active one and he has it in his hands to modify our concept of Reality.

The creation of Art is research into the unknown, adding layer upon layer, piece by piece to the fund already built up by earlier generations.

To keep check on the development of these young artists and their works all through the last year, I used a personal and very grown up mantra as a yard stick for each part of the way. PREPARATION. INCUBATION. ILLUMINATION. VERIFICATION. They successfully jumped through these four hoops. They grew up but retained their childlike curiosity and exuberance. I believe these are seven young Malaysian Contemporary artists whose names should be remembered and lives followed. Their journeys hold great promise for the future.

(The writer is grateful to Picasso, Duchamp, Maholy-nage, Ben Nicholson, Dubuffet, Tapias, Baerling, Tinguely, Oldenberg, Rothko, Mark Tobey and also Juhari Said, Kim Ng and Zulkifli Yusoff)

Azharudin Mappon b. 1985



Friday . 122cm x 152cm . Acrylic on Canvas . 2010



Iqra' . 122cm x 152cm . Acrylic on Canvas . 2010

Azharudin Mappon has used the 'kain sarong pelikat' in his works because it stirs memories of his childhood and portrays his sense of spiritualism and tradition. The lines, patterns and colours create grids and spatial forms on his canvases.

The piece 'Iqra' evokes the amazement he experienced in learning to read the Arabic text. From the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge.

EDUCATION

- 2008** BA Fine Art, Universiti Teknologi Mara Shah Alam (UiTM), Selangor, Malaysia
- 2005** Diploma in Fine Arts, Universiti Teknologi Mara cawangan machang, Kelantan, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010** **GR8 - The Next Generation**, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nando's art competition, NN gallery/One Utama shopping mall, Damansara Utama, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009** **Iskandar Malaysian contemporary art show (imcas)**, young artist art fair, Danga city mall, Johor, Malaysia
- 2008** **Nando's art competition**, 'peri-fy your art' Nando's restaurant, Malaysia
Rosa Antarabangsa Exhibition, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.
Degree show, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Open exhibition, Galeri Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Parade of animal: a global collage international mail art Exhibit, T rail, B.C, Canada.
Watercolour competion, Putrajaya, Malaysia
- 2006** **Diploma show**, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Kelantan, Malaysia
Citra Terengganu Competition, Muzium Losong, Terengganu, Malaysia

AWARDS

- 2009** Malaysia emerging artist (MEA) art award, 2009 Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM)
3rd place – Anugerah Seni MRCB, open category, Balai Seni Lukis Negara (BSLN), Malaysia
- 2008** Finalist - Mekar Citra competition, In conjunction with 50 years of merdeka, Galeri Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Consolation - IMU International art competition, history of medicine, Malaysia

Cheong Tuck Wai b.1979

Tuck Wai's paintings are about the desecration of the environment and history. His mixed media works are richly textured and largely monochromatic. They express the erosion and decay that besets our world and our traditions. Some of the images are akin to ancient walls of stone seemingly still standing and fighting off the ravages of time



Mythology Series - The World was formed ages ago when an ancient legend ran dry . 105cm x 227cm . Gauze, Silk Screen, Tempera, Charcoal, Acrylic, Oil Colour, Drawing Ink, Pencil, White Glue, Varnish on Canvas . 2010



Divine Land - Long ago people believed that the world was flat II . 146cm x 114cm . PVC Glue, Clear Glue, Plaka White, Tempera, Acrylic, Oil on Canvas . 2010

EDUCATION

- 2004** Diploma in Fine Art, Dasein Academy of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001** Diploma in Illustration, Dasein Academy of art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010** **GR8 - The Next Generation**, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The Energy Trap: painting & sculpture, The Annexe Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009** **MEA, Malaysia Emerging Artist Award Exhibition**, Wisma Kebudayaan SGM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
ARTERI : Suitcase of Stuff, Art Expo Malaysia 2009, MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Centre (MECC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008** **Find Art Group Show**, They Art Studio, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007** **The Pact Max Malaysian Art Awards 2007 Exhibition**, Penang, Malaysia
- 2006** **3 New Artists**, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Mind Body & Soul II, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004** **The Young Contemporary 2004**, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Solo Exhibition of Nokia Arts Awards 2003 : My perspectives Artrageously Ramsay Ong - The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

AWARDS

- 2003** Grand Prize Winner, The Nokia Arts Awards, Malaysia

Shahrul Jamili b. 1978

Shahrul Jamili may have coined the word 'metallanguge' as a title for his work, a play on the words 'meta', 'metal' and 'language'. 'Meta', Greek for with, across, after. He has always been intrigued by Islamic geometrical patterns. His metal sculptures have such designs etched onto the surface. Blind embossed prints are taken before the sculptures are assembled. The metal sheets are also cut into, creating new spatial areas. He is dealing with the concepts of 'perfect and imperfect', the realization of 'space' and the circular character of his process: Infinity.



Metallanguge . 142cm x 142cm x 12.7cm . Aluminium . 2010

EDUCATION

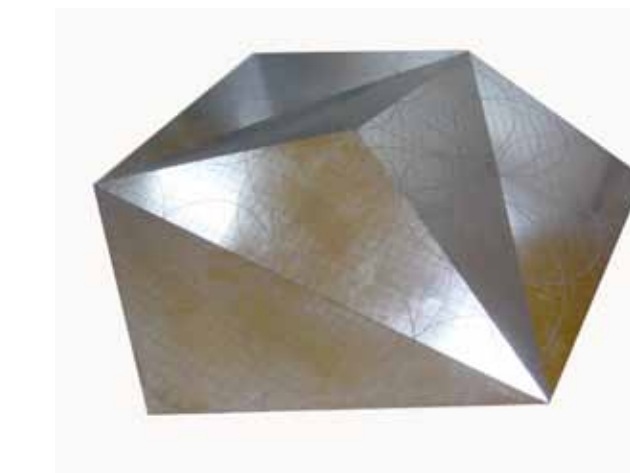
- 2003** B.A. (hons) in Fine Arts, Surrey Institute of Art and Design University College, Surrey, England
- 2000** Diploma in Visual Arts, Central Academy of Arts, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998** Diploma in Foundation Studies of Art and Design, (The London Institute), Kolej Bandar Utama, Selangor, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010** **GR8 - The Next Generation**, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Content : Content, Singapore Management University, Singapore
- 2009** **Bangun Penang Arts Projects**, Clan Jetty, Penang
Go Block : Five Malaysian Contemporary Printmakers, Petronas Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008** **Participating artist, HAO : Confronting the Future**, Sentosa Island, Singapore.
Pameran Jejak; Galeri Nasional Indonesia
- 2006** **British In Print - Print In Malaysia**; National Art Gallery, Malaysia
- 2005** **co-currating Art Yours!**, Wondermilk Gallery, Selangor, Malaysia
- 2004** **Taman Saya; Tropics**, Damansara Perdana, Selangor
- 2003** **KLue Urbanscapes**; KL Sentral Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002** **Speak To Me**, Fairhaven Garden, Surrey, England
Farnham Maltings, Surrey, England

AWARDS

- 2009** SMU – ASEAN Artist Residency Programme, Singapore Management University, Singapore



Metallanguge . 142cm x 142cm x 12.7cm . Aluminium . 2010



Metallanguge . 142cm x 142cm x 12.7cm . Aluminium . 2010