



## **CHOY CHUN WEI (B. 1973)**

Choy Chun Wei is an artist whose predilections and ideals of art are based predominantly on design language. His immersion in Graphic Design studies at the tertiary level has provided design oriented conceptual reading and contextual imagination into his chosen practice in the fine arts. This confluence of design and fine art is germane to an exciting development of his art, clearly distinguishing Chun Wei from his contemporaries. An articulate and demanding artist, Chun Wei is never one to rest on his laurels constantly seeking to develop and improve himself as an artist. Already an established artist in the Malaysian art scene, Choy Chun Wei is much sought after by Malaysian public collections, as well as, international collectors.

His multi-layered collage works, have occasionally been misconstrued as being located within the premise of abstraction, however the intent of the artist was to use this abstraction as an entry point for viewers to partake in his pictorial dialogue. Through the compactness and tensions created from the placement of different mediums on a canvas, his works possess a tactile quality. This constant need to experiment with and discover new materials, lend his works an edge which deviate from the conventional or expected.

Upon moving from the countryside, to an urban city environment, it changed his perception of space, where little pockets of green, became big structures with artificial lights. This shift affected the way he perceived the world –a world where he now felt suffocated and encroached upon- and in turn, the way his works were made changed.

Material and material culture are therefore, also important considerations in his practice, highlighting the influence of ‘seeing’ as the crucial element in the identification of texts and found objects within his dense, intricate collages.

The significance of objects are related directly to Malaysian material culture, as he is interested in exploring the process of seeing, and to a further extent how seeing leads to the selection and handling of materials. Due to the different properties of layered objects and its transformations. The dialogue for his works run around the entire canvas, generating visual stimulations at different trajectories. Each piece is carefully formulated to reflect highly-layered surfaces mapped in a convoluted manner. Hence the textures, correlation and intertwined compositions provide fresh openings to discuss the mediums and their interlocked connotations. Though visually similar in some ways, every piece displays its own characteristics.

He has always been captivated by the inherent meanings that come with fonts and texts. Simple words like ‘go’ and ‘new’ are indications or markers, for him to create narrative(s) within a painting. Significant found words are important to the construction of a dialogue within his pieces, conveying pertinent and recurring subliminal messages that form a personal dialogue of his concerns interrelated with his life and work.

In 2014, he was the only Malaysian artist to present a solo booth at *‘Insights’*, the curated section of Art Basel Hong Kong. For this project, the artist used the large number of visitors to ABHK as his source of inspiration, hoping to embark on an art-making process that involves collecting visitor’s personal information and representing it as art. With the advent of the world we live in today - gadgets, computers, brands, smartphones – the presence and



essence of each individual human being is often overlooked, replaced instead by material goods, and this is where the seed of *The Human Landscape* was conceived. The result: one gargantuan painting on canvas, which required human interaction in order for it to be completed.

His most recent exhibition, *'Tectonic Traces'* at Wei-Ling Contemporary in 2017, marked a progression from his previous works, notably through the process of assembling more relief and adding more layers to his collages. Pushing boundaries through the use of tectonic materials, the works in the series accentuate the complexities and contradictions inherent in life's fragments. Dealing with information and facts, at the same time interrogating our current state of mind, Chun Wei observes how our identity is transforming into numbers and codes.



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### **EDUCATION**

- 2016 Master of Arts (Visual Art), University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1998 BA (Hons) Graphic Design, School of Art & Design, Central Saint Martins, London, England

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2017 Tectonic Traces, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2016 Investigating Materiality Through Art-Based Research, Piyadasa Gallery, Cultural Centre, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2015 Unknown Landscape, Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
2014 The Human Landscape, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention Centre, Hong Kong  
2011 Here and Now, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2008 Trails, Red Mill Gallery, Vermont, United States  
2007 Kaleidoscopic Landscapes, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 Art Jakarta 2019, Jakarta Convention Center (JCC) Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2018 Patriots: By Malaysians for Malaysians, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Teh Tarik with The Flag, curated by Wei-Ling Gallery, in association with The National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
2017 18@8 RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2016 Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
The Past Is Never Where You Think You Left It, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2015 Prudential Eye-Zone, Art Science Museum, Singapore  
18@8 Heirlooms, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2014 The Space Between, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
The PEAK Group Show- HO MIA, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2013 18@8 Mirror, Mirror on the wall, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2012 18@8: KUL-SIN, ION Art, Singapore  
18@8: KUL-SIN, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Timeless, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Snapshots, WWF Art for Nature, Rimibun Dahan, Seangor, Malaysia  
2011 Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
2010 Negaraku: Nationalism and Patriotism in Malaysian Contemporary Art, The Aliya and Farouk Khan Collection, Galeria Sri Perdana, Kuala Lumpur  
Survival, WWF Art for Nature, Rimibun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
Absolut 18@8, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2009 Iskandar Malaysia Contemporary Art Show (IMCAS), Danga Bay City Mall, Johor, Malaysia



- 2008 Tanah Air, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
Shifting Boundaries, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
18@8 Vice & Virtue, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Tukar Ganti: New Malaysian Paintings, Valentine Willie Fine Art Singapore,  
HT Contemporary Space, Singapore  
La Galleria, Pall Mall, London, United Kingdom  
China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE), China World Trade Center,  
Beijing, China  
Force of Nature, Pace Gallery, Malaysia
- 2007 00:15 Sperstar, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
Artriangle: Malaysia Philippines Indonesia, Soko Gakkai Malaysia, Kuala  
Lumpur, Malaysia  
Between Generations: 50 Years Across Modern Art in Malaysia, Asian Art  
Museum, University of Malaya, Selangor, Malaysia & Muzium dan Galeri  
Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia
- 2006 Rimbun Dahan Artist in Residency Show, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
Signed and Dated, Valentine Willie Fine Art 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Valentine Willie  
Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Feed Me! An Exploration of Appetities, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan,  
Selangor, Malaysia  
18@8 KUL-KARACHI, Pakistan Show, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2005 Rooster Mania, Townhouse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
The Power of Dreaming: Taman Sari, The Garden of Delight and Identity,  
WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia  
18@8, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Below 1000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Free Show, Reka Art Space, Selangor, Malaysia
- 2004 Young Contemporary Finalist Exhibition, National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala  
Lumpur, Malaysia  
Paradise Lost/Paradise Found, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan,  
Selangor, Malaysia  
Home Improvement, Two-person Show, Reka Art Space, Malaysia  
Semangat: Artists for Theater, Fundraising Exhibition for 5 Arts Centre,  
Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Art Below 1000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Fifteen, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Free Show, Reka Art Space, Malaysia
- 2003 Philip Morris Art Exhibition, National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia  
Games We Play, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Singapore, Malaysia  
Art Below 1000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 Touch, WWF Art for Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia  
Works on Paper, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 Open Show, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Inhabitant: Two Person Show, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia  
Exhibit A: Malaysian Still life, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia



- 2000 Art Below 1000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1999 Art Below 1000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1999 Aku: Portret Diri 99, Petronas Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1998 Mental Saint Tart Tins, Degree Show, Long Acre, London, United Kingdom  
1997 Young Designers, Malaysian Design Council, Menara Tan & Tan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1996 WaterWorld, Bank Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
1995 Dialogue, Maybank Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **AWARDS**

- 2007/ 2008 Vermont Studio Center Asian Artist Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, United States  
2005 Artist in Residence, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia  
2004 Juror's Choice Award (2D category), Bakat Muda Sezaman (Malaysian Young Contemporary)  
2003 Honourable Mention, Philip Morris Malaysia / Asean Art Awards  
1997 The London Institute (University of Arts, London) Full Scholarship  
1995 Higher National Diploma (HND) Teo Soo Ching Full Scholarship

#### **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

- National Visual Arts Gallery, Malaysia  
Bank Negara Malaysia  
Hijas Kasturi Association / Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia  
Aliya and Farouk Khan collection  
Architron Design Consultants  
Veritas Design Group, Malaysia  
Australian International School, Malaysia  
Zain& Co. Advocates and Solicitors  
Edward Soo & Co. Advocates and Solicitors  
Seksan Design  
CWL Design, Malaysia  
Amerada Hess, Malaysia  
Big Dutchman Asia