



THE SCIENCE OF ART

Artist Ivan Lam shares with **Diana Khoo** his baker's dozen of top artistic rules to observe – and to break – as he celebrates 20 years of a stellar journey with a survey exhibition.

PHOTOGRAPHY EDMUND LEE ART DIRECTION PENNY CHEW

"I believe in rules only to break them," says Ivan Lam with a grin. Slight and slim, the 40-year-old US-educated artist continues his reign as one of Malaysia's most exciting and sought-after names in contemporary art. As a testimony to his talent, Wei-Ling Contemporary inaugurated its 9,000 sq ft space in The Gardens Mall, Kuala Lumpur, with *Ivan Lam – Twenty*, an important survey exhibition that documents Lam's 20-year career and artistic journey.

The show at the mall's sixth floor runs from now until 1 March 2015. Fans and art aficionados alike may, for the first time and in a single space, view this retrospective, which includes five new pieces out of a total of over 50 works. Ever pushing the boundaries, Lam tells us how he keeps the fount of creativity flowing and the works of art coming with the 13 cardinal rules one should always break. As he always says: "Knowing and following the so-called rules make you a good artist. But choosing how and when to break them makes you a great one."

#1 YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO ART SCHOOL TO DO ART

"One of the keys to achieving success as an artist is perseverance and being prolific. To do so, one needs a form of structure and a sense of discipline, which is best achieved via education and training of some sort. Only when you build on this will your discipline be strong. I like to cite Jackson Pollock as an example; he managed his