

# HEARTLAND

CHEN WEI MENG & WONG PERNG FEY

5 July - 30 July 2010



Cover

Top : Chen Wei Meng - Nostalgic (detail) . 75cm x 130cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010

Bottom : Wong Perng Fey - Brief Encounter (detail) . 122cm x 136cm . Oil on Canvas . 2010

Right : Chen Wei Meng -Surreal Evening (detail) . 75cm x 130cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010

Left : Wong Perng Fey - Red (detail) . 122cm x 157cm . Oil on Canvas . 2010



Which Way Are You Going? . 75cm x 130cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010

# CHEN WEI MENG

b. 1965

## EDUCATION

1984 Central Academy of Art, Malaysia

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2009 *two three six*, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2007 *Within 30 km*, Reka Art Space, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2010 *Heartland*, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2006 *Asia Pacific Ocean International Art Exhibition*, Mu Gung Hwa Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*1st Art Exhibition*, Mu Gung Hwa Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2005 *Ulek Rasa* (Exhibition of Terengganu Artists), National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2004 *Seoul International Star Exhibition*, Gyeongju Annex Building of Seoul Museum of Art, Korea

*Second Annual Reka Free Show 2004*, Reka Art Space, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2001 *Malaysian Open Show 2001*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*'Manusia, The Human Being'* Exhibition, NN Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
(Charity Exhibition in Aid of the International Movement for a Just World)

2000 *Buncho National Water Colour Award 2000*, S.I.T Klang, Malaysia

*Philip Morris Malaysia Exhibition*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1999 *Aspiration Work 2000 Exhibition*, Hotel Helang, Pulau Langkawi, Malaysia

1991 *Figurative & Drawing Exhibition*, Westminster Institute, London





Surreal Evening . 75cm x 130cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010



Nostalgic . 75cm x 130cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010





Where Have All The Miners Gone? . 92cm x 244cm . Acrylic On Canvas . 2010

***“Each painting is a journey. It speaks about the artist’s attitude towards life, and about his experiences living his life. Each painting is a piece of the brick wall, of the jigsaw puzzle, that makes the complete picture. Like defining moments in life, each painting is an episode of the total sum of a person”***

*-Chen Wei Meng*

***“A painting is an accumulation of experiences projected on to canvas. It is a composite of events, memories, experiences, and impressions. A painting is therefore a result of a quest for the meaning of life.”***

*-Wong Perng Fey*

These beliefs resulted in a body of work that is the sum of the artists’ lives to-date.

Chen Wei Meng has been dabbling in one form of creative expression or another almost all his life. He studied interior design but tried out several different vocations before settling down to work on canvas. In the early years he worked on forms and portraiture but felt that he needed to focus his energy on something that he could excel in and be passionate about.

He experimented with abstract art, but after some time felt that there was still a vacuum in his life. He then realised that he needed to express his thoughts and feelings in a simpler way using things or images familiar to him. To Chen Wei Meng, one needs to stand still before making decisions in order to get the panoramic perspective of life.

While he was living in Terengganu, his panoramic perspective resulted in an exhibition of landscapes but the exhibition was really for Chen Wei Meng a record of that time in his life. In this collection of paintings for ‘Heartland,’ it is about another journey, a different journey, building on his past journeys elsewhere, but focusing on his experiences and reflections in his new home state of Selangor. Hence the collection of landscapes; the result of forays to the hinterland and the ‘growth’ land of the state. He observed; he recorded; and he painted his individual reflections to tempt the viewers to ‘read’ and to reflect too.

For Chen Wei Meng, 'Heartland' is a very solid documentation of the impact of his many journeys to-date. To him, it is about life; one can plan but one will never know exactly what would eventuate.

Hence, the restless artist in him is happy to let things happen; to see and observe everything around him and later to express visually his interpretation of what he feels and observes and his responses to the experiences.

The idealistic person in him worries that there is so much to do and to record before things or places change and not enough time to do everything. To the extent that Chen Wei Meng does not know where or what he will focus on next in his art making.

When Chen Wei Meng and Wong Perng Fey met a few years ago, they realized that they shared a mutual understanding of and beliefs about the artistic process. They discovered similarities in their perspectives and their views about life in addition to the shared position that art making is a very individual process; and that pace and time are concepts very individual to the artist.

There is 'chemistry' between the two artists. 'Indefinable chemistry', according to Wong Perng Fey when describing his connection to Chen Wei Meng.

Like Chen Wei Meng, Perng Fey speaks of his paintings as portraying his accumulated personal experiences. He is unable to paint about things of which he has no direct experiences. For him, making art is about finding the right direction, going the right way and getting to the right place. Otherwise, the result will be 'null and void'; the painting will feel empty to him and will not work.





b. 1974

#### EDUCATION

1996 - 1998 Fine Art, Malaysian Institute of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010 *I'll Wait For You To Come Back*, SLOT, Sydney, Australia  
*Recent Works*, RK Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2009 *Role Play*, Vivi Yip Art Room, Jakarta, Indonesia

2008 *In New Light*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2006 *Habitat*, B4-4 Binova Industrial Centre and 67 Tempinis Satu, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Appearance*, Alliance Francaise de Penang, Penang, Malaysia  
*Picturesque*, New Asia Hotel, George Town, Penang, Malaysia

2005 *Still Views*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2004 *Works 2003 - 2004*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2002 *New Landscape*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2000 *First Solo*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2010 *Heartland*, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Ruang Berikutnya*, Sangking Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*Fresh Decade*, The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*MAP Art Festival*, District Art Box, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*International Art Fair*, Royal College of Art, Kensington, London, UK

2009 *Art Bazaar Jakarta*, Pacific Place, Jakarta  
*Personal Effects*, Rogue Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Headlights*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur & Singapore

2008 *Headlights*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Shifting Boundaries*, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia

2007 *Between Generations*, Asian Art Museum, University of Malaya & Muzium & GaleriTunku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia

2006 *Signed & Dated*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Feed Me! An Exploration of Appetites*, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia

2005 *ART Singapore*, Suntec City Convention Centre, Singapore  
*Petronas Collection Series Three: Narrative Strain*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2004 *Paradise Lost, Paradise Found - WWF Art For Nature*, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia

2003 *ART Singapore*, Suntec City Convention Centre, Singapore  
*Puncak - Alami II*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Melbourne Connection Asia*, City Tram Shelter, Melbourne, Australia

2002 *Touch - WWF Art For Nature*, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia

2001 *Face The Act*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2000 *Landscape to Landscape*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1999 *Aku - 99 Self Portraits*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1994 *Malaysian Art Open*, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### AWARDS

2002 Artist In Residence, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia  
1996 Scholarship Award, Malaysian Institute of Art  
1994 Honorable Mention, Malaysian Art Open



New Horizon II . 88cm x 173cm . Oil On Canvas . 2010



To Wong Perng Fey, his paintings must 'speak' to him. The 'conversations' between him and his paintings are effortless and smooth when the subject matter is something to which he as the artist, truly belongs. In other words, the subject matter is authentic to him; every stroke in his painting represents a part of his life, an experience he has personally lived.

It explains why he constantly adds and deletes from his painting-in-progress. The on-going 'conversations' with the painting triggering fresh recollections or different understandings of the lessons of life.

Wong Perng Fey shares the same concerns with Chen Wei Meng that many people forget about the need to understand the lessons of life. As an artist, he feels it is vitally important that there is space to think and to inspire himself before he can inspire others.

'Heartland' for Wong Perng Fey is a creative milestone. He has reached a stage in his artistic life where he has learnt to be more disciplined and controlled in making his art. His earlier works contained a lot of aggression, at times leaving him totally exhausted after completing them.

The paintings in 'Heartland' come from a more disciplined stage of his life. The simple lessons of his life have taken Wong Perng Fey through a 'sift and reflect' process. He believes he now has the patience to be calm and structured; to wait patiently for the paint to settle down and to use that time to reflect.

For Wong Perng Fey, his art making process has changed. Like Chen Wei Meng, he does not know what the future will be, but he has learnt to be patience and calmly waits.

'Heartland' the exhibition is about places and the experiences that each of the two artists with those places. 'Heartland' is about their connections to the land, and in the case of Perng Fey, particularly about authentic connection to the land and his place in it.

'Heartland' is also about the art-making process. It charts the journeys of two artists finding common beliefs in the art-making process; independently concluding some very fundamental philosophies: the need to focus on form or subject matter that inspires passion; the need to appreciate individual concepts of pace and time; the need to be patient, calm and sincere in the presentation of their experiences through their art.

'Heartland' is about two artists who believe that their paintings contain the DNA to their lives.

**- Mas Zetti Atan**

Mas Zetti Atan studied traditional Malay arts at university and spent 10 years of her working life in the Malaysian visual arts industry. She has been a regular contributor to the arts pages of the local papers. In recent years, her professional interests have seen her focused on self-awareness, self-realisation and the use of lessons of life in leadership development. She is now a corporate trainer by profession.

Note: Conversations with the artists Chen Wei Meng & Wong Perng Fey abouts the 'Heartland' exhibition took place at their respective studios on 6th and 10th June 2010.





Brief Encounter . 122cm x 136cm . Oil On Canvas . 2010



Red . 122cm x 157cm . Oil On Canvas . 2010



