

WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023

**ALICIA
LAU**

8th February 2023

-
4th March 2023

**KHABIR
ROSLAN**

Wei-LingGallery

WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023

‘WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023’ featuring Malaysian artists Alicia Lau and Khabir Roslan, both artists were mentored by prominent Malaysian artist Yau Bee Ling.

Bee Ling remarks, *“It is a privilege to mentor such talented artists, who will be the voices of tomorrow. Alicia and Roslan are fully committed to their art, in spite and despite of personal adversities. It is my hope that they will persevere, and bloom into the artists they are destined to become.”*

Alicia Lau and Khabir Roslan both give audiences haunting evocations and relevancy to our vexed times; these are profound and insightful thoughts by young minds possessing ‘old’ souls. In *‘Diary of a Journey’* and *‘Inter-Connectivity’*, they take us into remarkable labyrinths which expose their vulnerabilities, their hopes, faith, incertitudes and sorrows while softly saying, *“This is me. I am here. Remember.”*

The WLG Incubator is an initiative by Wei-Ling Galleries that was launched as a platform to highlight and collaborate on projects with emerging Malaysian artists. It is dedicated to help artists create a sustainable art practice, which allows them to develop their confidence towards making art that is authentic, experimental and progressive. Through this Incubator, we hope to discover and nurture artists and projects, which are critical towards shaping the voice of the next generation.

The WLG Young Artists Collaborative Mentorship Program is a WLG Incubator program that provides the opportunity for emerging artists to be advised and guided by an established artist. The program was launched in 2020, through a research conducted to identify the next generation of young progressive artists from Malaysia. The identified group of artists were invited to submit their portfolios for consideration and selection. The 5 shortlisted candidates were then involved in a two-tier interview process, whereupon two artists were finally selected for participation. Over a six-month program, these selected artists worked with an established artist as their mentor to discuss, research, explore, experiment, and develop new concepts. This platform aims to provide a safe space for these artists to express the challenges they face in their professional and artistic practices, as well as to support them in the aspects that they choose to develop further. The results were presented through the ‘WLG Incubator Young Artists Show’ at Wei-Ling Contemporary, which served as a channel to introduce their work of art to a wider audience.

The first ‘WLG Incubator Young Artists Show’ was held in 2020 which featured Anas Afandi and Tang Tze Lye, followed by Alya Hatta, Anwar Suhaimi and Shika in 2021.

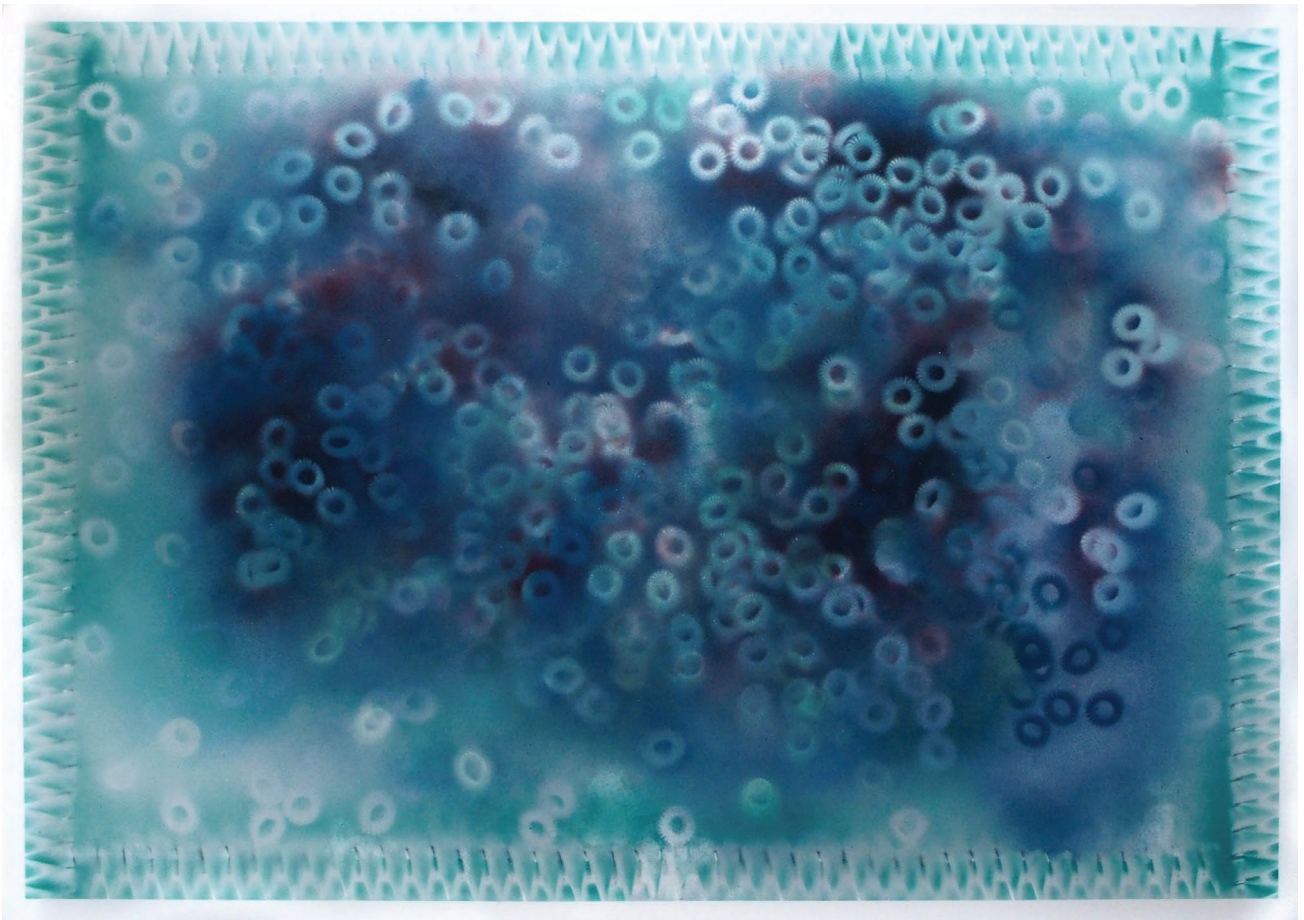
Diary of a Journey

Alicia Lau

Alicia Lau's *'Diary of a Journey'* is an autobiographical journal stemmed from a recent life-altering experience. Diagnosed with Stage 3 Nasopharyngeal Cancer, what followed was an emotional roller coaster ride of "isolation", of pressure and tension, a hiatus from work, and repeated visits to the hospital.

"During my convalescence, I often related to things which surrounded me. The one object that fascinates is my elastic hair rubber band. It was like a spring. Elastic, yet snapped into two ends when it was pulled. It was similar to my own trauma, that act of absorbing 'hurt' and bouncing back. After much soul-searching, I decided to forego chemotherapy/ Radiotherapy, and chose a holistic approach, much to the chagrin of my doctors. I began to "speak" to the cells invading my body, I was gently taught to see them as beautiful entities."

Alicia elucidates further, *"The materials used, from rubber hair grips to metal clothing pins, carvings out of tree branches and x-ray scans are self-portraits. The arrangement of the stainless steel clips for my work, 'WE' looks organised and controlled, but when observed from another angle, they appear haphazard. When you look at this sculpture from the side, there is a ventilation gap formed between the structure. They are all holding on to each other, the clips and my inner-self. Every thing in life is connected - a web that culminates into a cohesive support-system."*



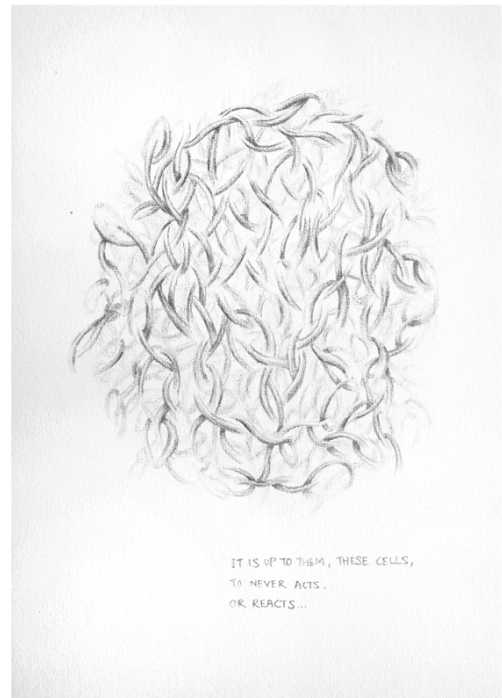
Beneath Them

Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

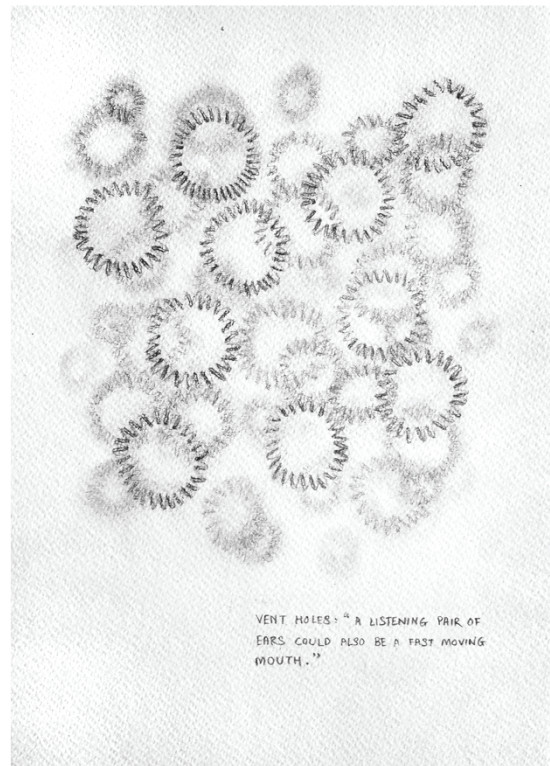
75cm x 105cm (without frame)

92cm x 122cm (with frame)

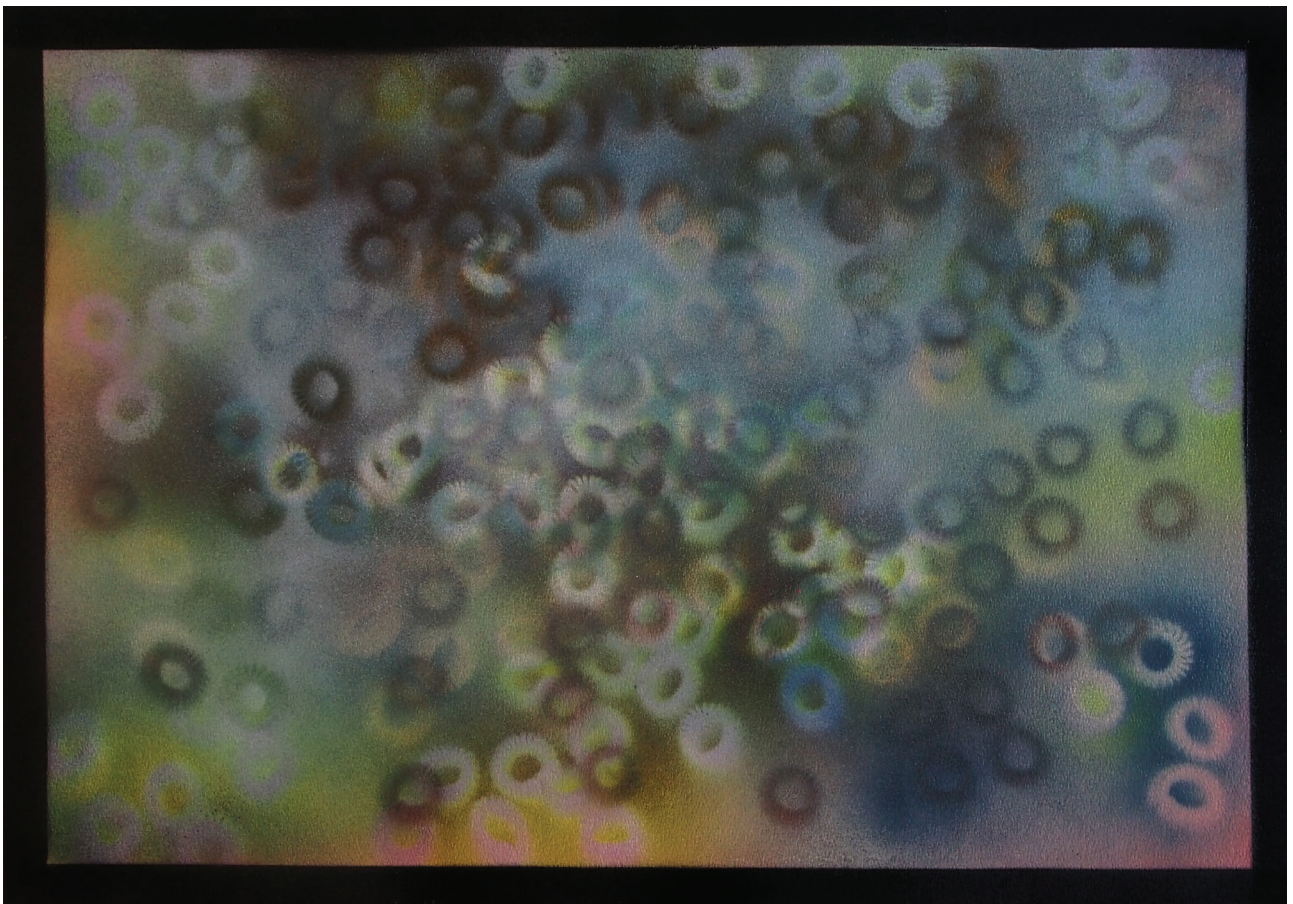
2023



To Act or To React
Acrylic Spray Paint and Graphite on 300gsm Watercolour Paper
47.5cm x 64.5cm (with frame)
2022



Vent Holes
Acrylic Spray Paint and Graphite on 300gsm Acid Free Paper
47.5cm x 64.5cm (with frame)
2022



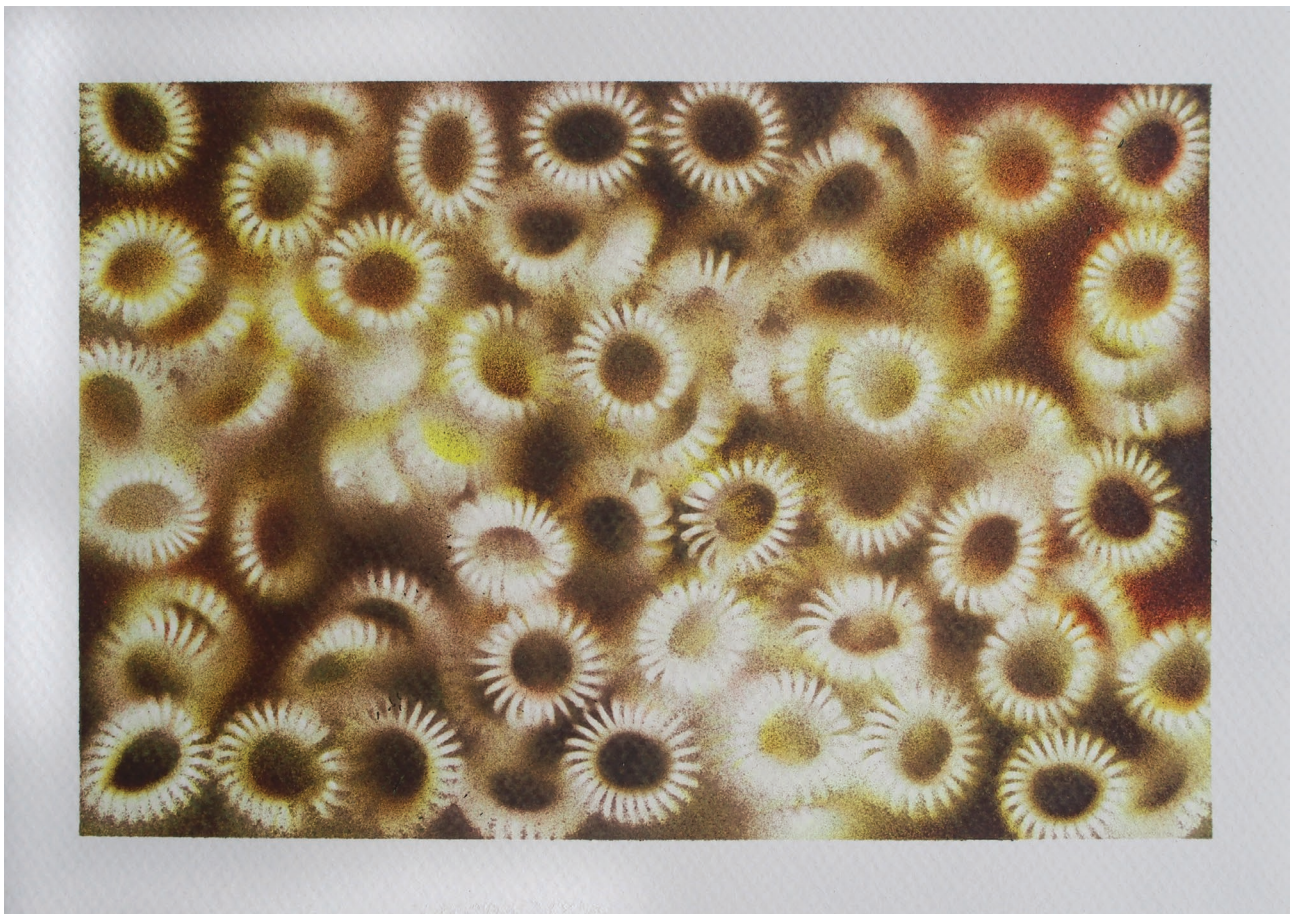
Bubble's Breathe

Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

42cm x 59.4cm (without frame)

59cm x 76.5cm (with frame)

2022



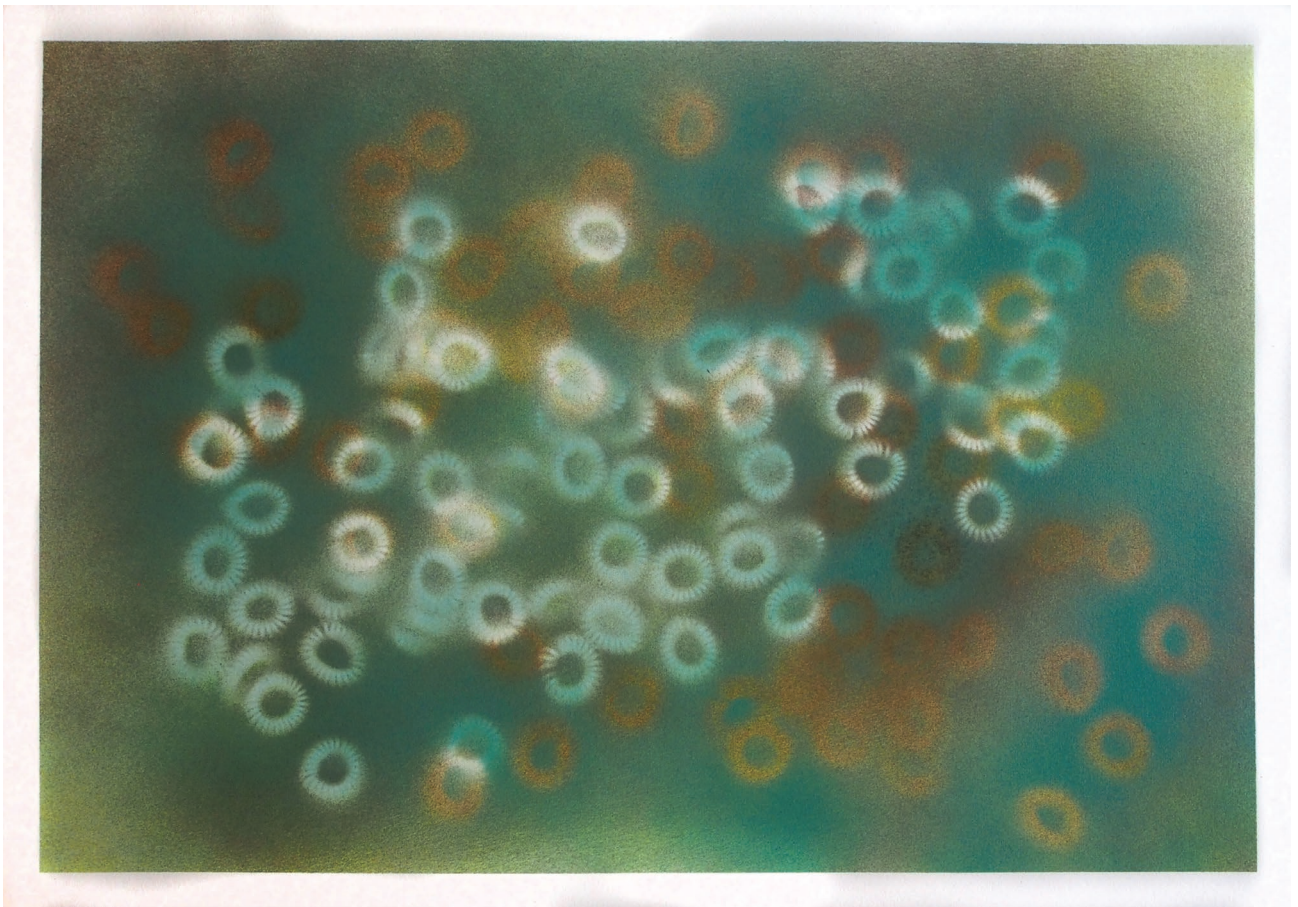
Sunflowers VS Me

Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

21cm x 29.7cm (without frame)

38cm x 46.5cm (with frame)

2022



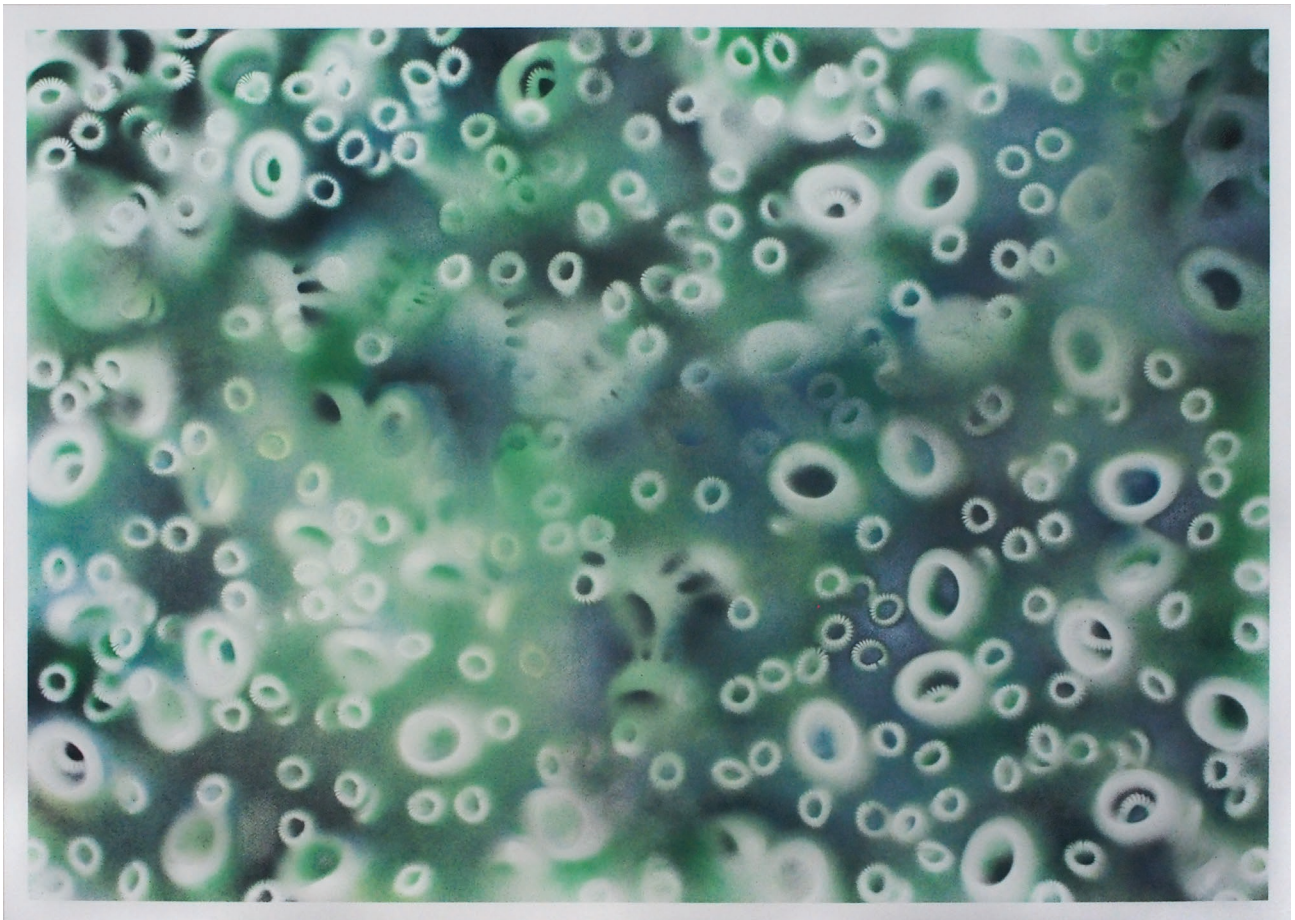
Breathing Bubbles

Acrylic Spray Paint on 300gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

42cm x 59.4cm (without frame)

59cm x 76.5cm (with frame)

2022



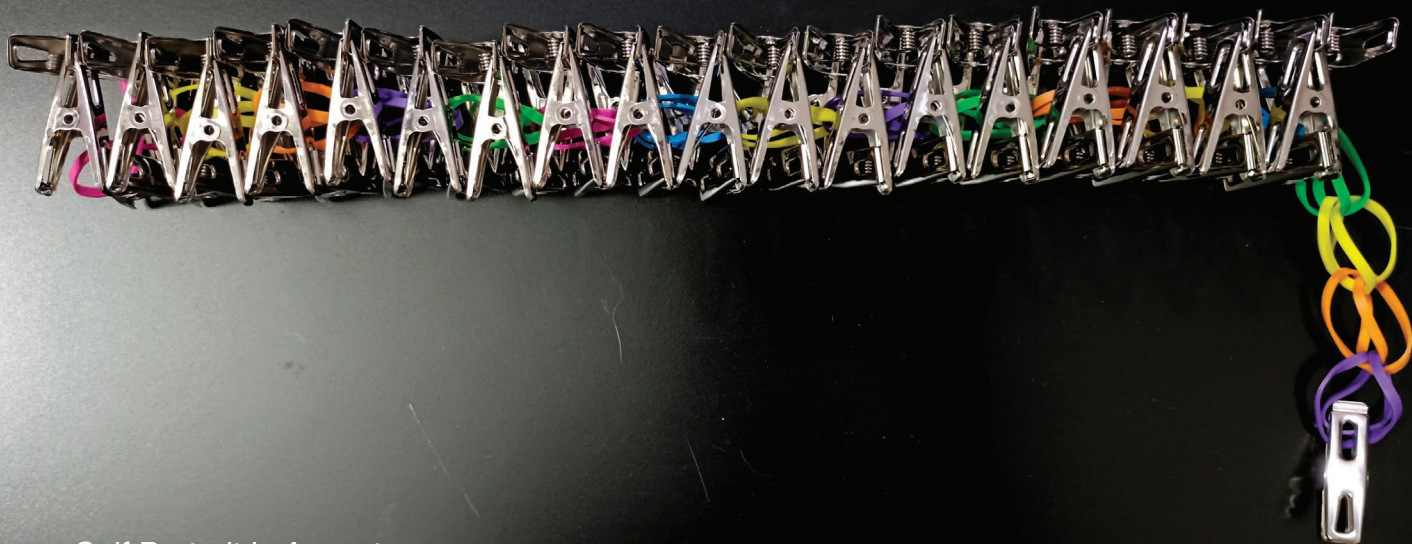
Green is Great

Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

75cm x 105cm (without frame)

92cm x 122cm (with frame)

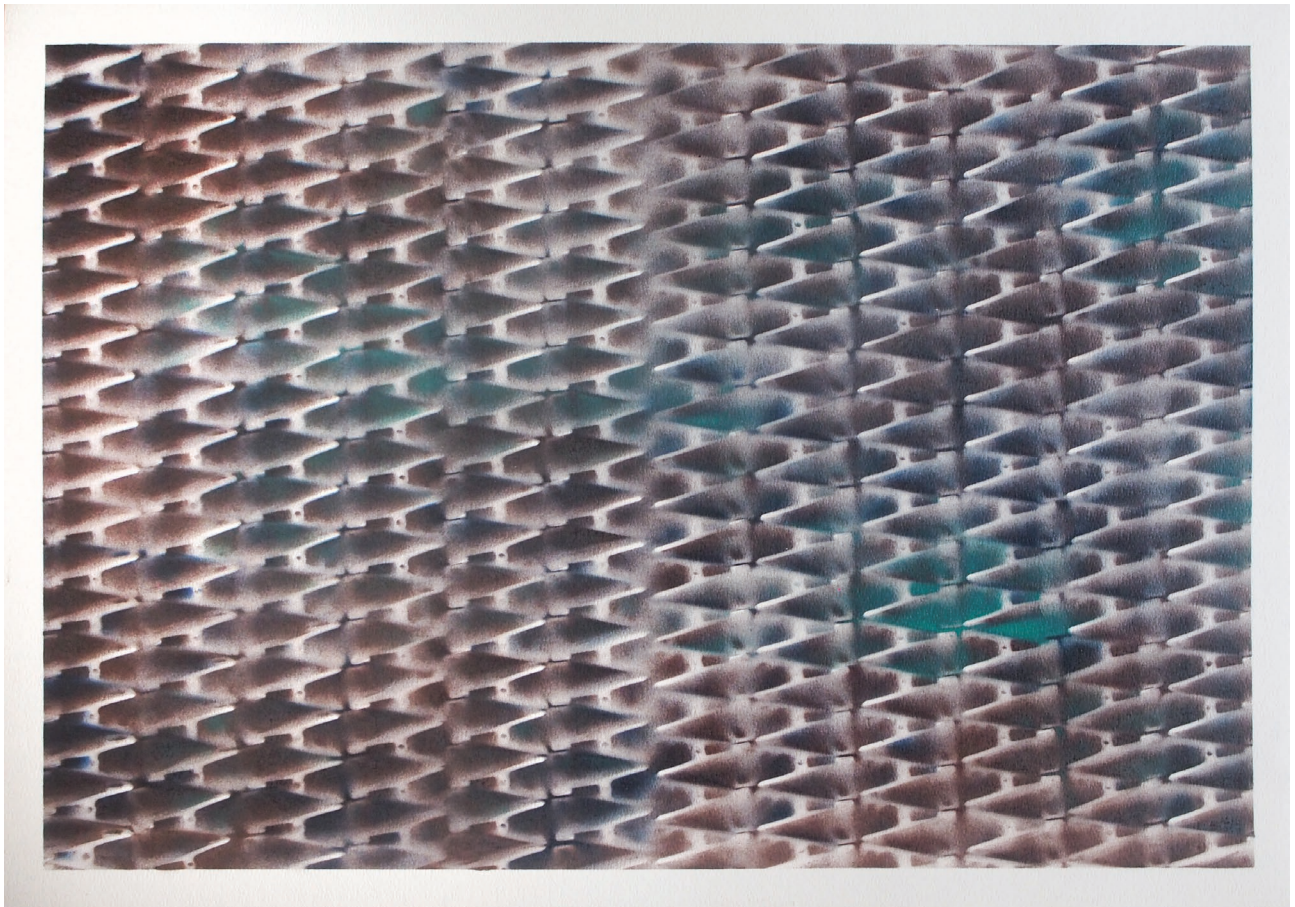
2023



Self Portrait in August
Spray Paint on Stainless Steel Clips and Elastic band
Size Variable
2022



WE
Stainless Steel Clips
Size Variable
2022



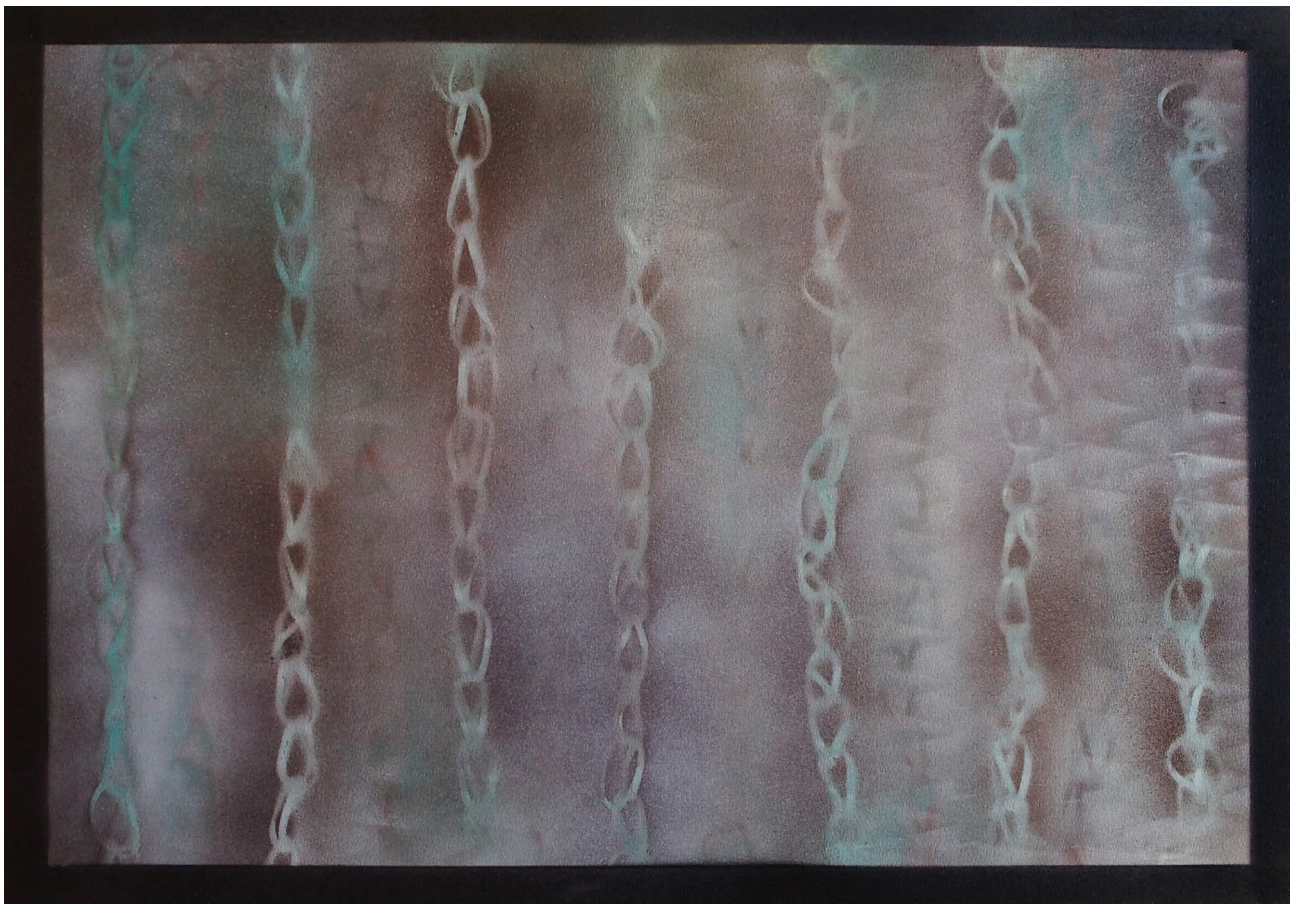
HAHAHA

Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper

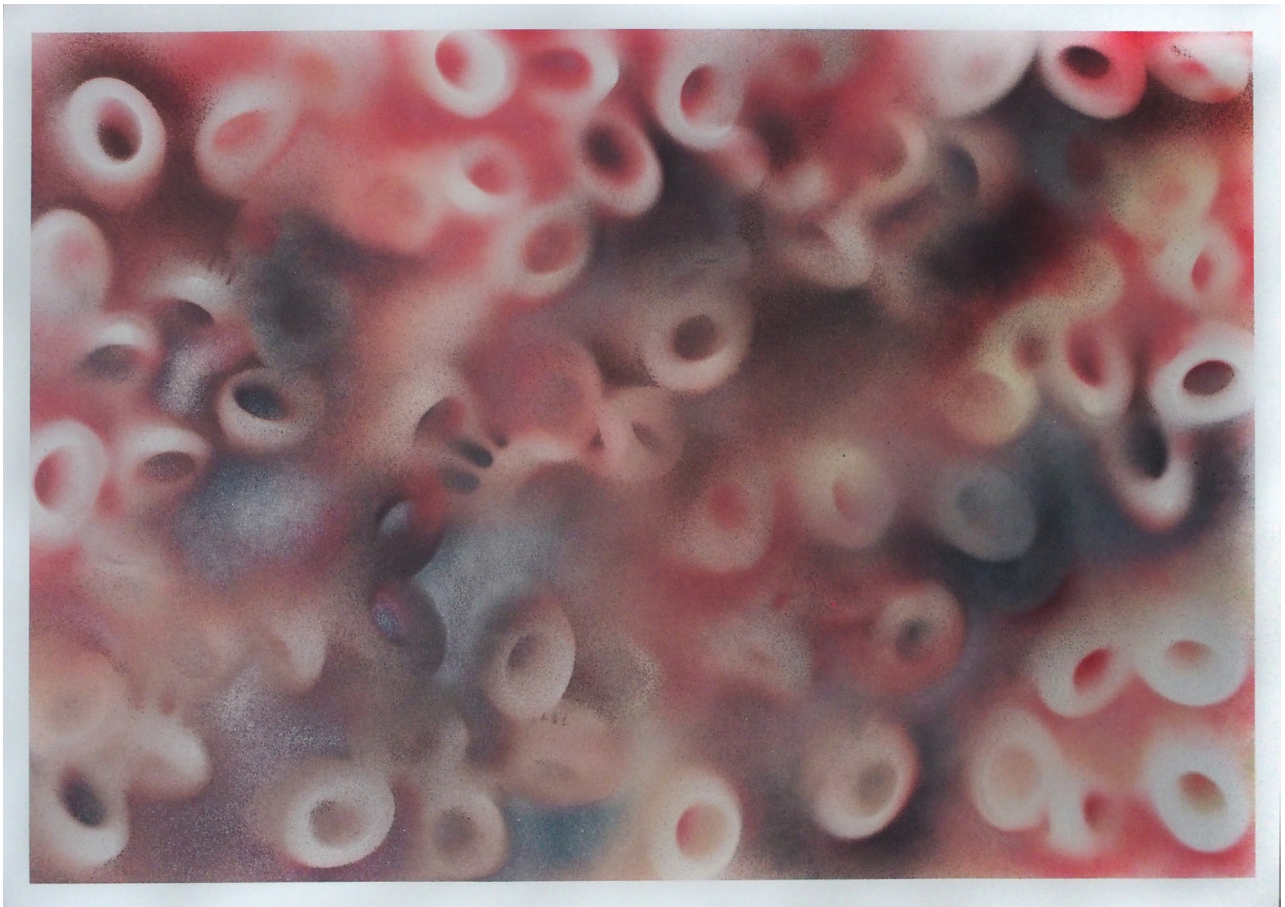
42cm x 59.4cm (without frame)

59cm x 76.5cm (with frame)

2023



Elastic Chains, Expandable or Not
Acrylic Spray Paint on 200gsm Acid Free Watercolour Paper
42cm x 59.4cm (without frame)
59cm x 76.5cm (with frame)
2023



Closed Loop, Like A Circuit

Acrylic Spray paint on 300gsm Acid Free Acrylic Paper

59.4cm x 84.1cm (without frame)

76.5cm x 101cm (with frame)

2023



Inter-Connectivity

Khabir Roslan

Khabir Roslan's '*Inter-Connectivity*' is a conceptual interpretation of interrelationships using soil and other seemingly-ordinary materials as metaphors inspired by his understanding of Physics and 'Nusantara' (Archipelago) Cosmology.

"In Physics, the notion of 'entanglement' (inter-connectivity) refers to atomic and molecular structures, which very much involves geometry. This can be seen (for example) in the molecular constitutions of honeycombs and H₂O, the chemical symbol for water. Carbon, the primary component of life on Earth forms hexagonal bonds. It is in our DNA. My works are allegories for 'the act of binding together' and 'forming a solid, strong yet flexible root of our social fabric'. The scope of my work is deeply embedded in the idea that soil becomes a common denominator that binds us all to the Motherland, the 'Akar Bumi' (Root of the Earth) which shows what being human is about - we are intrinsically linked because of our ability to love and empathise."



Nilai kaseh
Compost soil, burnt soil
4' diameter (383cm)
2023

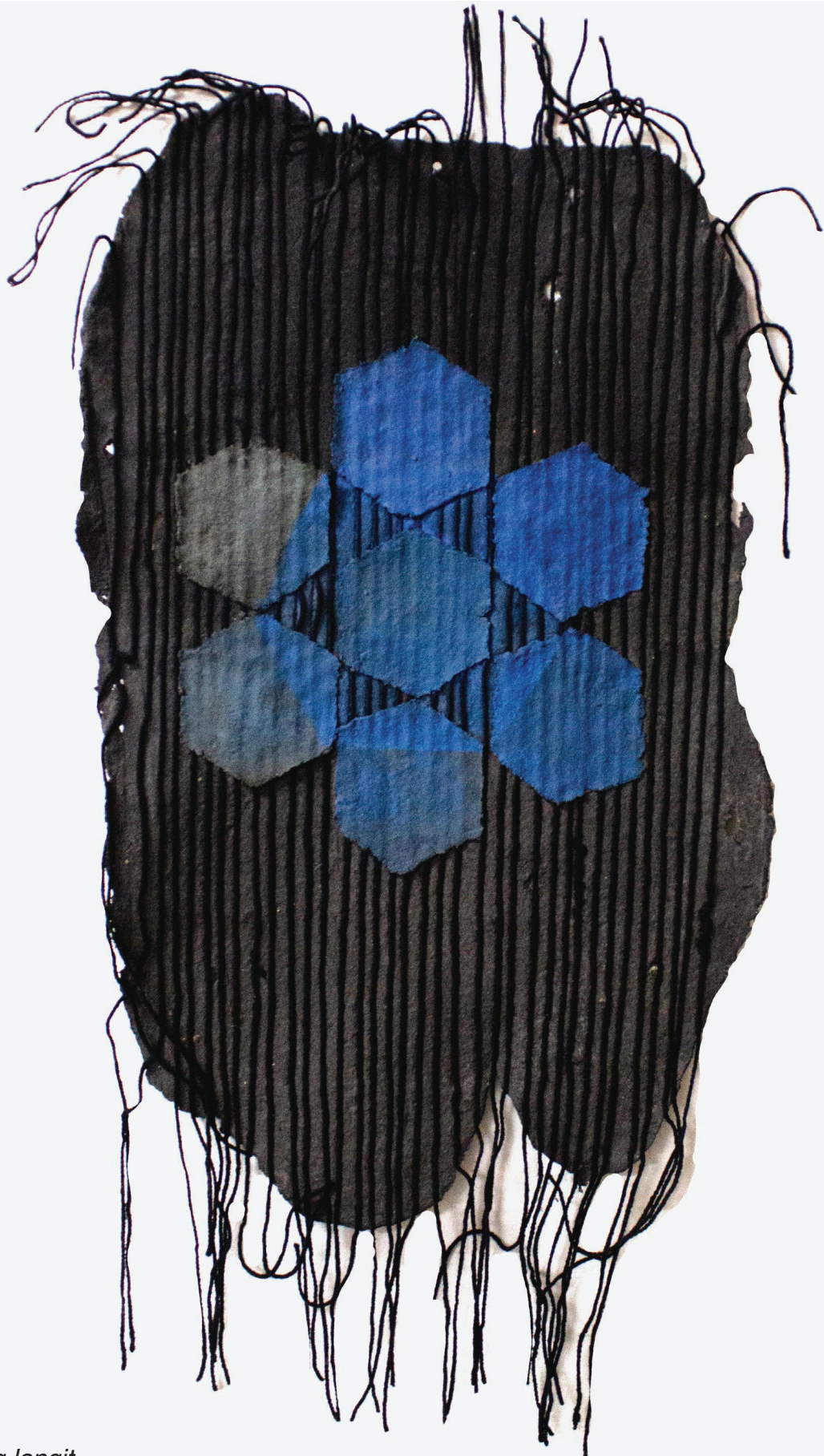


Lepih bumi

Compost soil, burnt soil, fiber, industrial paint

46cm x 30.5cm

2022



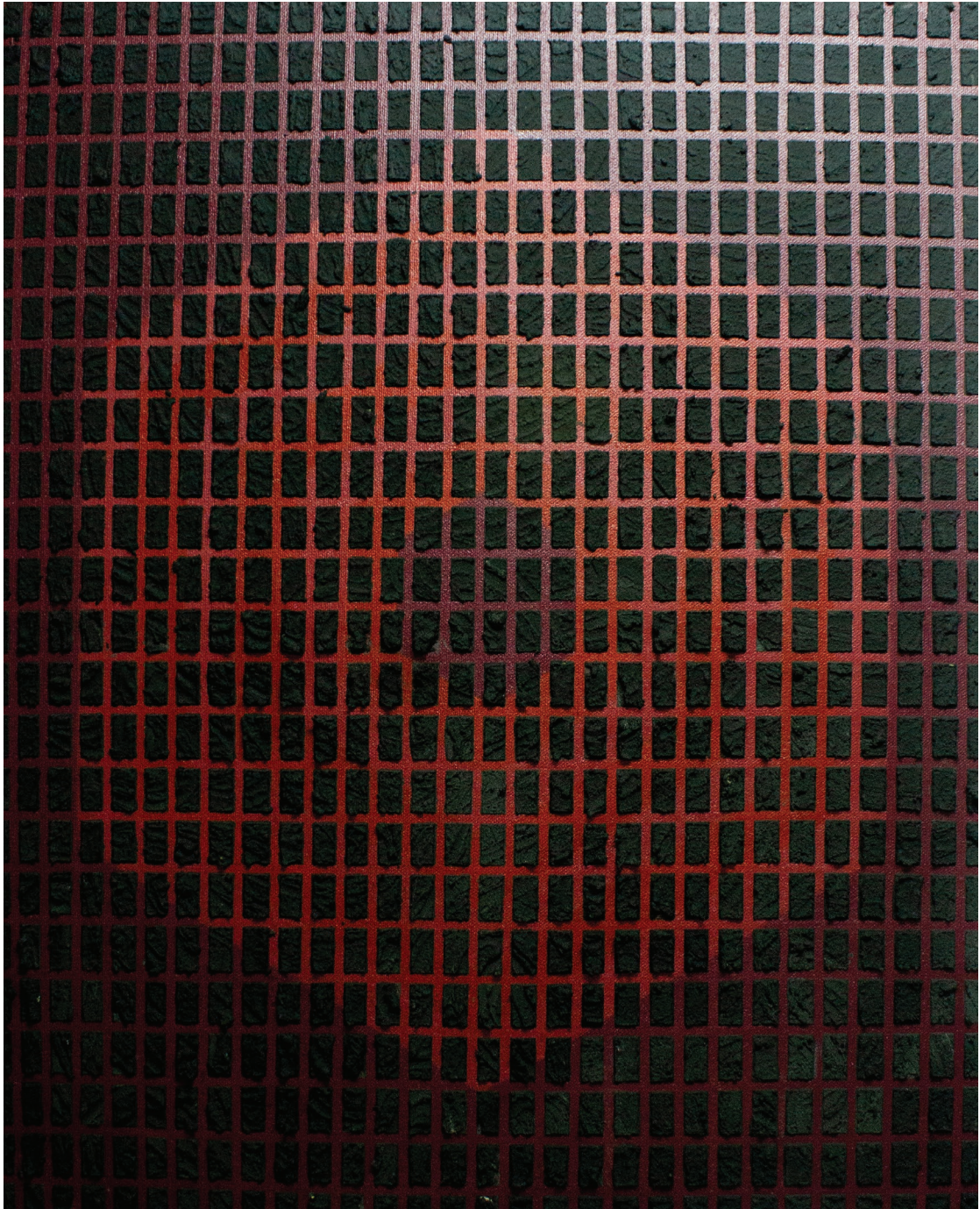
Kembang langit
Compost soil, fiber, industrial paint
61cm x 46cm
2022



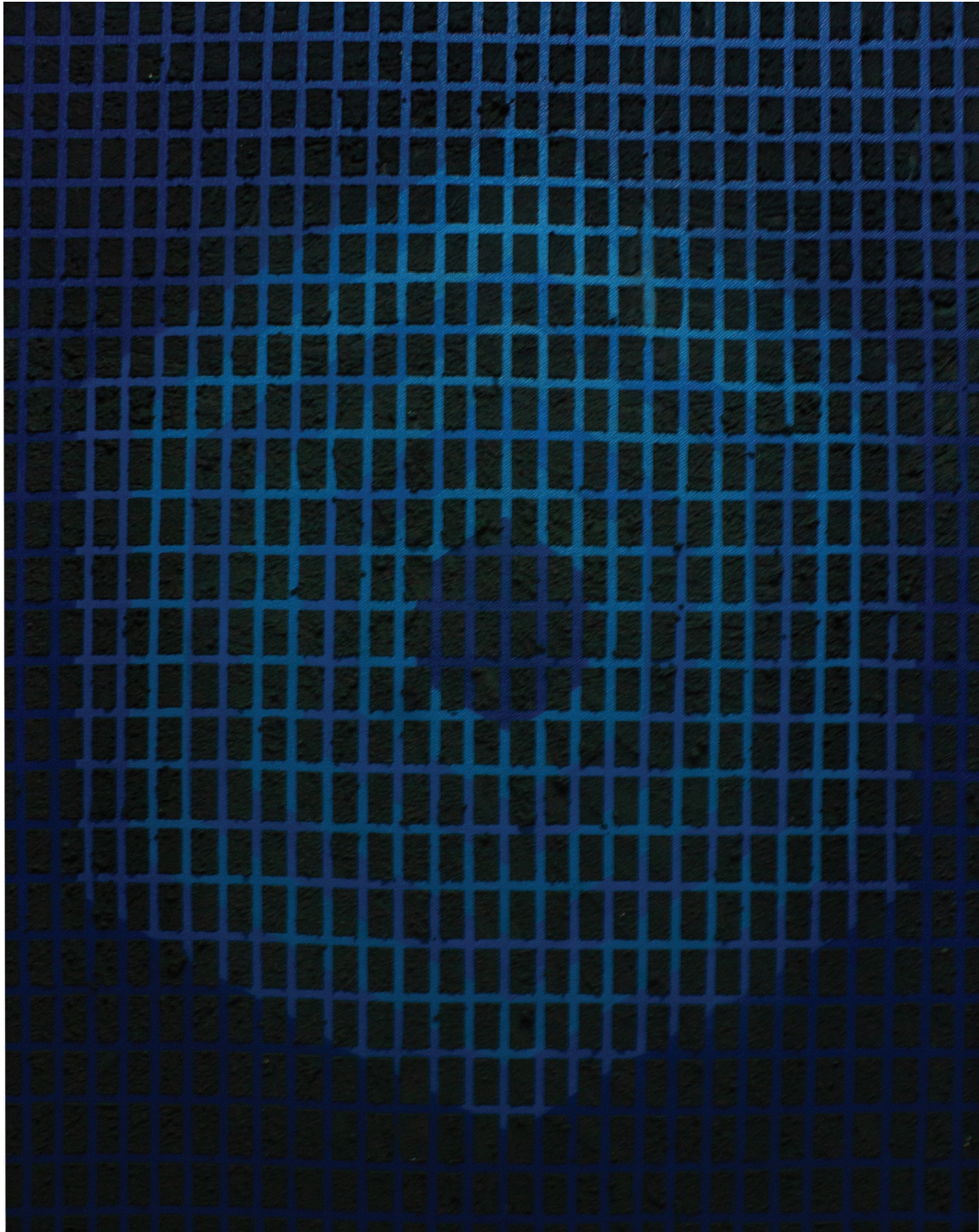
Kembang wangi
Compost soil, fiber, industrial paint
61cm x 46cm
2022



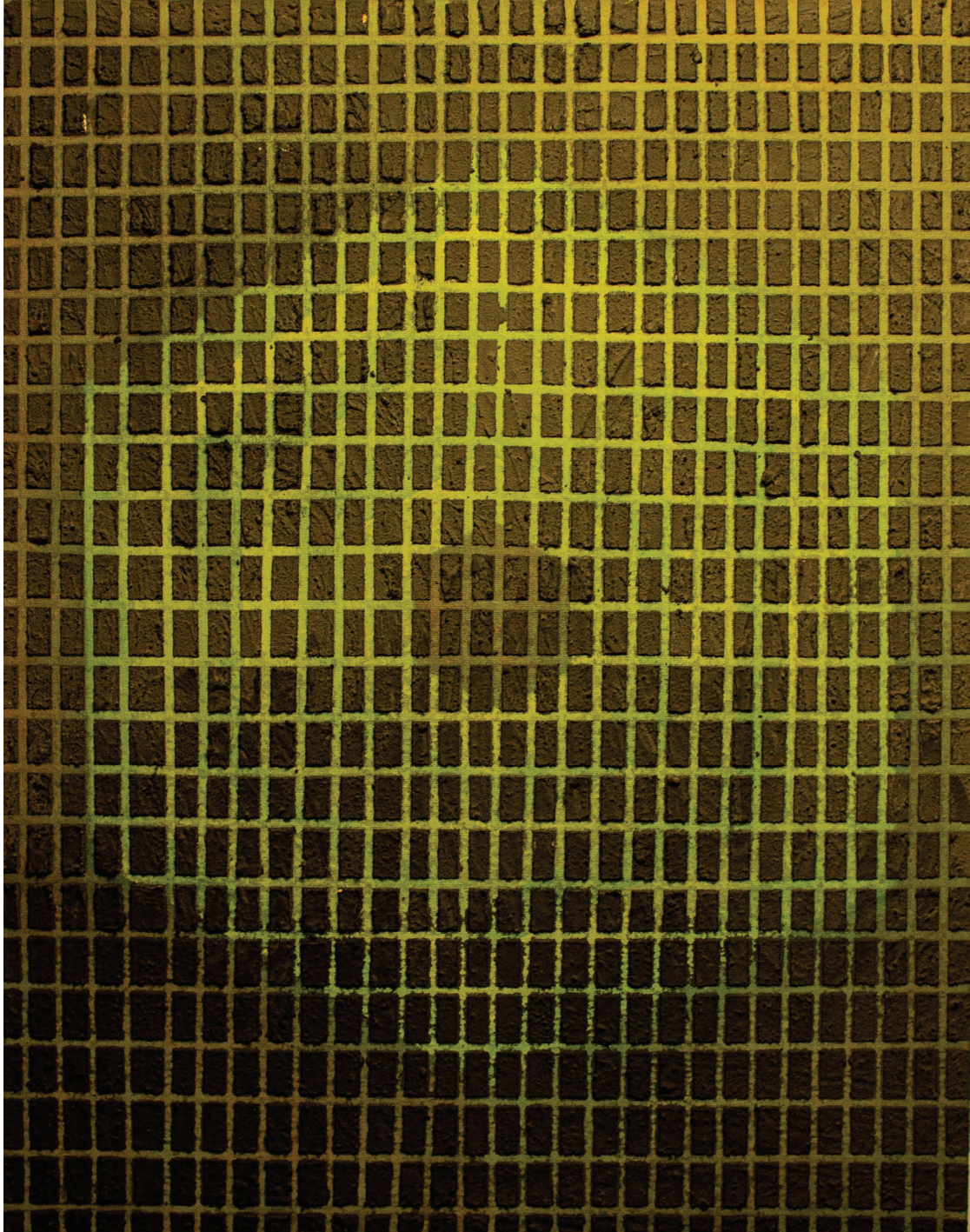
Kembang pohon
Compost soil, fiber, industrial paint
61cm x 46cm
2022



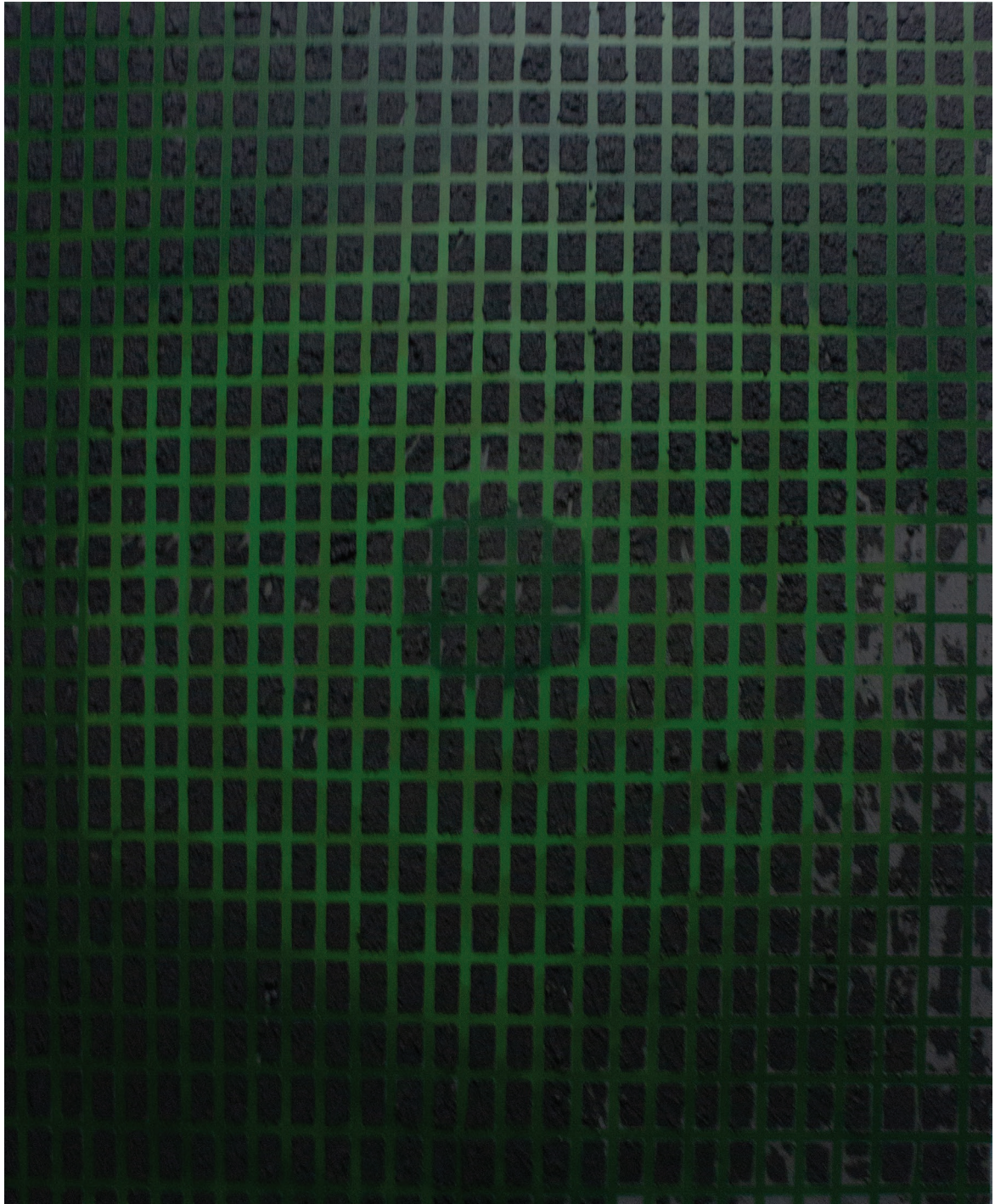
Sang merah
Compost soil, oil paint on jute
152cm x 122cm
2023



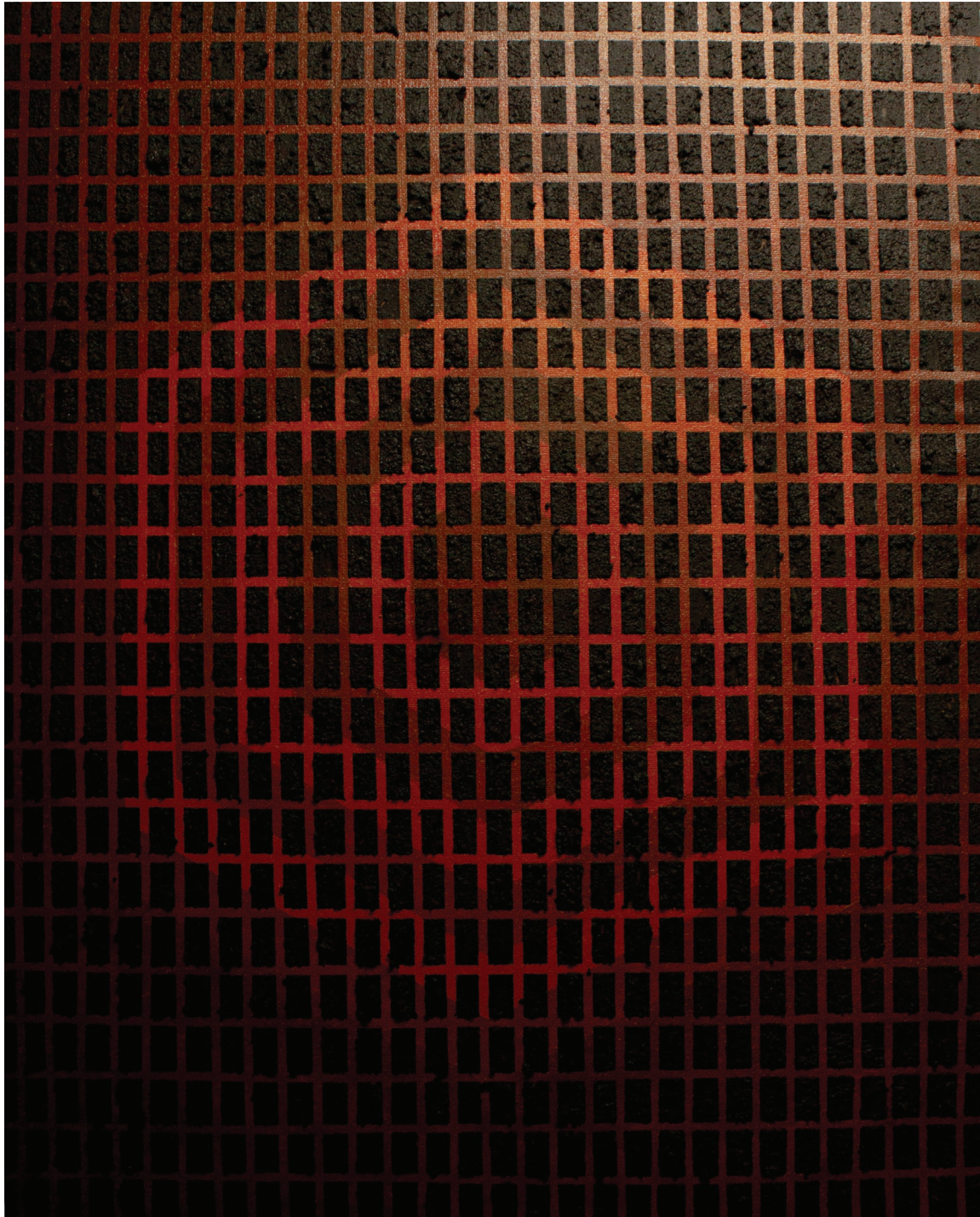
Sang biru
Compost soil, oil paint on jute
152cm x 122cm
2023



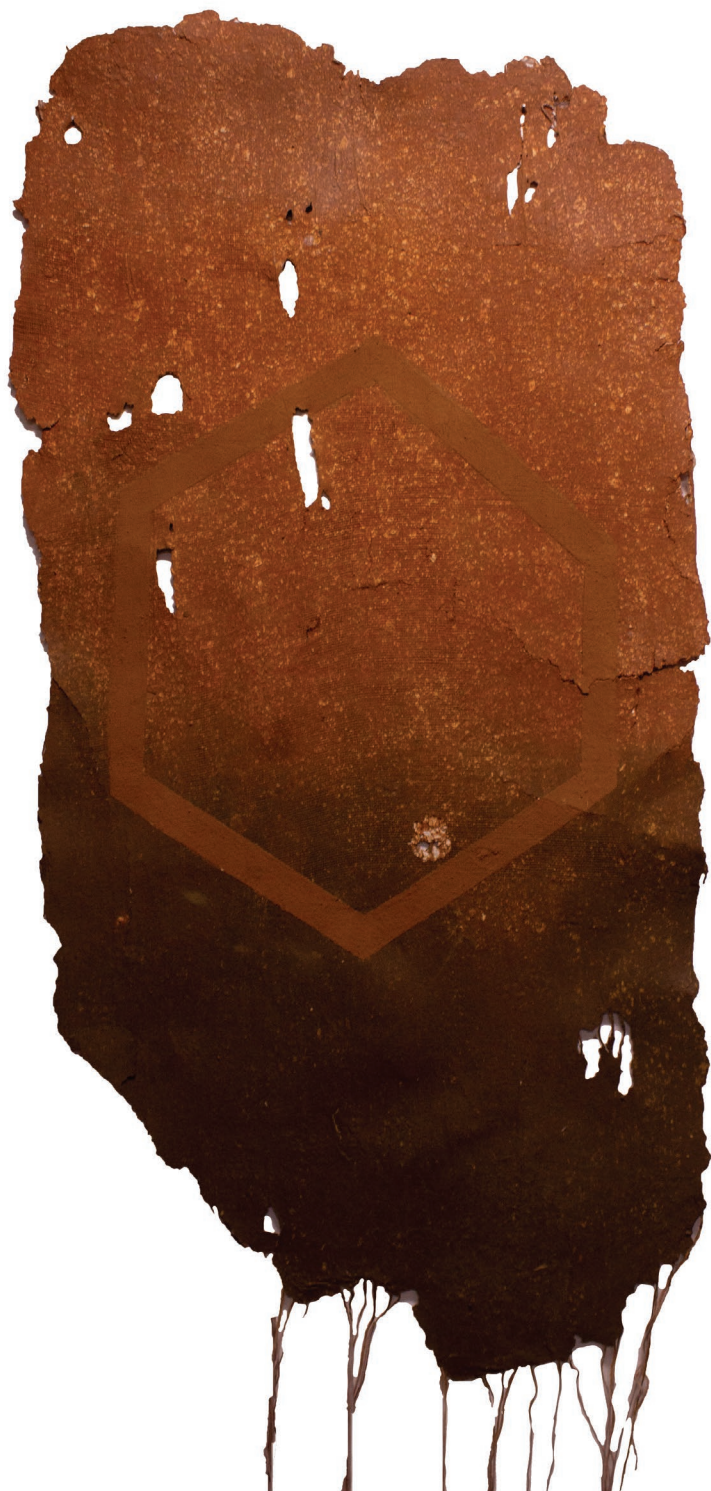
Sang kuning
Compost soil, oil paint on jute
152cm x 122cm
2023



Sang hijau
Compost soil, oil paint on jute
152cm x 122cm
2023



Sang pinang
Compost soil, oil paint on jute
152cm x 122cm
2023



Tanjung
Burnt soil and fiber
183cm x 91cm
2022



Teluk
Burnt soil and fiber
183cm x 91cm
2022



Jiva
Compost soil and fiber
183cm x 91cm
2022

ALICIA LAU (B.1995)

Alicia Lau's artistic practice is rooted in the interconnection between memories that linger in our minds and response towards past memories. Her creative process contemplates meanings, beginning with creating a mark making process on different 2-dimensional surfaces. Through the method of repetition, an element of therapeutic effect is achieved. The actions that are performed are results between the current mental states and earlier experiences through the subconscious. This idea draws the artist to further explore artworks in 3-dimensional forms between several disciplines such as sculpture and installation. Alicia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from Middlesex University, London and has been active in the art scene since 2014. She has participated in various exhibitions across Malaysia.

In 2019, Alicia took part in the 5th Bangkok Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center (BACC), Thailand.

EDUCATION

2015-2017 BA(Hons) Fine Art, Middlesex University, London

2013-2015 Diploma in Fine Art, Dasein Academy of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SOLO EXHIBITION

2020 From Lines to Gaps by Alicia Lau, G13 Gallery, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2021 "1000 Tiny Artworks", The Backroom KL, Malaysia

"Segaris Art Centre 10th Anniversary Show: 2011 – 2021", Whitebox Publika, Malaysia

"Hotel Art Fair", Element by Westin Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

"RRRAWRRR! 2021: Nafas – Maybank's Emerging Women Artists Exhibition", Balai Seni Maybank, Malaysia

"Niskala", Segaris Art Centre, Malaysia

"PAUSE II", Tun Perak Co-op, Malaysia

2020 "So(ul) Art", Artas Galeri, Malaysia

"Mending Fence: Tales from an Isolation", G13 Gallery, Malaysia

"WRWT: What Real/ Reasonable/ Rational/ Women Think", Segaris Art Centre, Malaysia

"Possibilia", Rumah Seni Selangor (RUSSEL), Malaysia

2019 "5th Bangkok Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition", Bangkok Art and Cultural Center (BACC), Thailand

"ARTAID 19", Whitebox Publika, Malaysia

"M...Reinterpreting Minimalism", Segaris Art Centre, Malaysia

"Victress Niche", G13 Gallery, Malaysia

"Tikitiboo", Suma Orientalis, Malaysia

"Diversity & Inclusivity", Concourse Bangsar Shopping Center (BSC), Malaysia

"Catalysis- Phases of Transition", HOM Art Trans, Malaysia

"Young Contemporary 2019", National Art Gallery, Malaysia

"RRRAWRRR!!! Maybank's Emerging Women Artists Show 2019", Balai Seni Menara Maybank, Malaysia

2018 "ReAksi 20", Galeri Aswara, Malaysia

"PURE Painting: An Exposition of Non-Figurative Art", Balai Seni Maybank, Malaysia.

"Malaysia: Rebirth (Publika Art Show 2018) by Segaris Art Centre, Publika Shopping Gallery, Malaysia

"Harapan", Taksu Gallery, Malaysia

"Oddly Quirky", Suma Orientalis, Malaysia

"RRRAWRRR!!! Maybank's Emerging Women Artists Show", Balai Seni Menara Maybank, Malaysia

“KLIMEX 18: Kuala Lumpur International Miniprint Exhibition 2018”, National Art Gallery, Malaysia

“Malaysia-Thailand Art Exhibition (Sasaran International Art Exhibition)”, Sasaran Art Gallery Kuala Selangor, Malaysia

“Thailand and Malaysia Fusion 4 Art Exhibition”, Galeri Seni Mutiara, Penang Island, Malaysia.

2017 “Watch This Space”, Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall, London

2016 “Yeah, Next!”, Islington Art Factory, London

“Japan, Phillipines & Malaysia” Art Exhibition (Sasaran International Art Exhibition), Malaysia.

2014 “Pangkor Island Festival Art Exhibition”, Pangkor Island, Malaysia

“Future Generation Art Exhibition”, Le Geo Art, Malaysia

“Printmaking Exhibition”, Le Geo Art, Malaysia

RESIDENCY

2021 K[otak]ku Virtual Art Residency and Exhibition, HAUS KCH, Malaysia

AWARDS

2019 Shortlisted in Drawing Category, “5th Bangkok Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition”, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center (BACC), Thailand

Shortlisted, “Young Contemporary 2019”, National Art Gallery, Malaysia

2014 2nd Prize in Printmaking Category, Tanjong Heritage Awards, Malaysia

KHABIR ROSLAN (B.1995)

Khabir Roslan is a Transdisciplinary artist who explores the possibilities of various forms of art that links with his personal observations of science, cosmology and philosophy. A graduate from Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, Malaysia (UiTM) with a Bachelor in Fine Arts, he was awarded 'The Most Promising Artist Award' after winning the UOB Painting of The Year 2020 in the 'Emerging Artist' category. He has participated in several exhibitions and residencies between 2019-2022. His works examine the inter-connectivity that 're-imagines' the value of language which returns us to the notion of Nature (Fitrah). Khabir is mostly inspired by the impressions of Physics and 'Nusantara' Cosmology, which also ties in with 'Wabi-Sabi', Theosophy and Islamic philosophy. In early 2021 he was selected as 'Pelatih Tamu (Guest Trainee): Ilmu Program' by Museum Gallery Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) where he delved into site-specific installations at old Malay traditional houses related to traditional arts and culture.

EDUCATION

2018-2021 Bachelor in Fine Arts, UiTm Campus, Shah Alam, Malaysia
2013-2016 Diploma in Culinary Arts, UiTM Campus, Dungun, Terengganu, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2022 'Kongsi KI, open day, Projection mapping
'Alir/Flow, Klang river festival, Projection mapping
'Alchemy, Sareng Gallery
2021 'EUPHORIA : A virtual return, Final year show Bachelor of Fine Art, University Technology Mara
'Rumah Tokmah Virtual presentation, Museum and Gallery Tuanku Fauziah, University of Science Malaysia
2020 'UOB Painting of the year, Virtual Award
2019 'VOID, Phenomenology of Spirit (Performance), University Technology Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia
'Art and Style, University Technology Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia

RESIDENCY

2021 'Pelatih Tamu: Inap Ilmu Rumah Tokmah', Museum & Gallery Tuanku Fauziah (MGTF), University Science Malaysia (USM)

AWARD

2020 Most Promising Artist of The Year award, UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia)

MENTOR

YAU BEE LING (B.1972)

Throughout her 25 year career, Malaysian painter Yau Bee Ling's work has consistently echoed her observations on the world and reflect autobiographical themes. Her works are deeply personal and profound in their symbolism, as she struggles to reconcile the broad gambit of human experiences and the complex roles of contemporary women in present-day society. Highly regarded as one of the country's foremost painters, her work pays homage to a life-lived.

Over the years, Yau Bee Ling has moved from one identity to another: from single woman to wife to mother. Each move, each curve in the winding road leading to where she is today is a journey of searching and looking for answers. Answers to the conflicts brought on by the transition from one phase of life to another: of being a woman, a wife and a mother. Answers to the conflicts brought on by the multiple responsibilities she carries. Despite the façade presented she struggles to understand who she is: a mother, a wife, an independent woman. Despite the serenity of motherhood and the meaningful ties within the family and the community her inner self lives a complicated tangles of ties and responsibilities within the family and the larger communities. It is a responsibility laden with hopes and fears: hopes for successes and later being able to celebrate those successes; and fears of the traps and failures that may lead to a meaningless existence.

For Yau Bee Ling, it is the moment that defines the person she is and will be. Introverted and thoughtful, her onwards journey takes her to her inner self. It leads her to ask the all important question: "What is my inner self?" "Who am I?" "What am I here for?" "What purpose am I serving?" "What will I leave behind?"

Through her works, she challenges and ponders the questions that inhabit her mind and soul. Each series of paintings are charged with their own distinctive energy, reflective of her state of mind, her emotional well-being and the way she perceives her place in the world at the time. Her works are therefore a cathartic process for her, as she struggles to reconcile the meaning of life, through the layering of and scraping back of paint, and colour, navigating her way through the twisting terrains of her paintings in the search for truth.

Bee Ling has exhibited extensively in exhibitions across China, Pakistan, Singapore, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia and represented Malaysia at the Asian Art Biennial in Dhaka, Bangladesh and at the Fukuoka Triennale. Her works are in the permanent collections of numerous private and public collections including Mulpha, Maxis Berhad and the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum.



Alicia Lau
Installation view at Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Khabir Roslan
Installation view at Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Produced by Wei-Ling Gallery

To accompany the exhibition entitled '*WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2023*'
by Alicia Lau and Khabir Roslan from 8th February - 4th March 2023

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IMAGE COURTESY | Wei-Ling Gallery

COVER IMAGE | Alicia Lau - *Beneath Them* (2022) close-up view
Khabir Roslan - *Sang biru* (2022) close-up view

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