



CHEONG KIET CHENG

The Last Star
Before the Dawn

6th June - 8th July 2023

The Last Star Before the Dawn

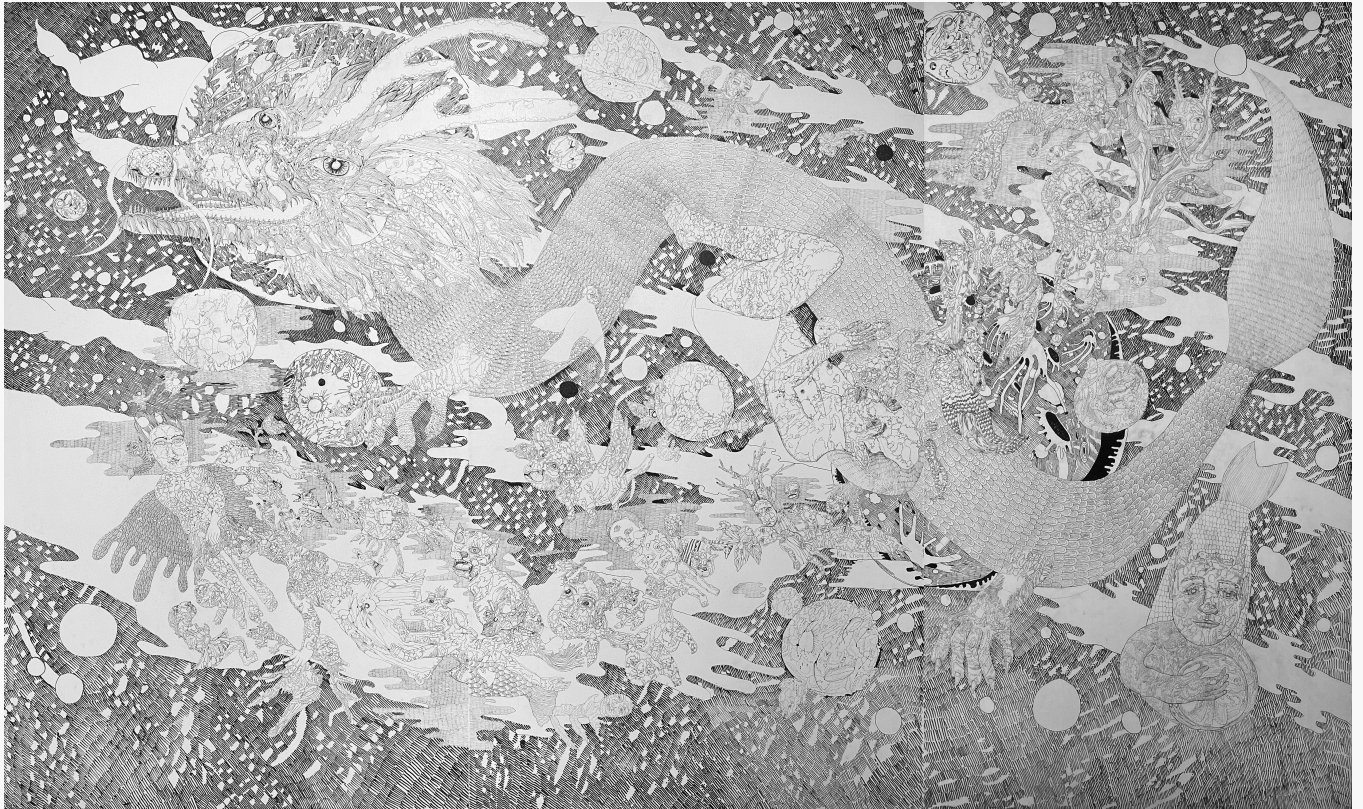
Malaysian artist Cheong Kiet Cheng is known for her diverse range of mediums that she has used over the years. From oil to acrylic to ink to watercolor, Kiet Cheng has explored various mediums to express her artistic vision. In a statement, Kiet Cheng noted, *"Each medium has its own unique qualities, and I enjoy experimenting with them to capture the essence of my ideas."*

In *'The Last Star Before the Dawn'*, her highly anticipated fifth solo exhibition, Kiet Cheng showcases a collection of paintings created over a year and a half. This collection includes a batch of paintings created during the later stages of the epidemic spanning from 2022 to 2023.

Inspired by the concept of enlightenment and the impermanence of all things, this exhibition invites viewers to contemplate the fleeting nature of existence and the idea that all things must eventually come to an end.

Kiet Cheng's artistic process is grounded in daily life, and she incorporates lessons and ideas into her work. As she puts it, *"There are always unseen hands that give me strength and guidance as I share my inner mysteries and elements."* Through her use of vibrant colours and intricate details, Cheng captures the beauty and fragility of life, encouraging visitors to reflect on their own journeys.

In keeping with her unique artistic vision, *'The Last Star Before the Dawn'* is a testament to Kiet Cheng's ability to capture profound philosophical concepts through her art. This exhibition is a must-see for anyone seeking a moment of contemplation and reflection. As Kiet Cheng notes, *"I hope that visitors will find a sense of peace and inspiration in my paintings and leave with a renewed appreciation for the beauty of the world around us."*



Reunion. Come together

Ink on canvas

168cm x 274cm (Triptych)

2022

"One night, as the virus that had plagued us for three years was finally receding and getting under control, this theme came to me. It was then that I felt a glimmer of hope. The dragon in the painting is depicted as blessed, with a figure holding its body, signifying that we have the power to "hold" the world in our hands. This signifies that the world has entered a new phase, one that is worth celebrating as good news."



Reunion. Come together
(Right Panel)



Reunion. Come together
(Insitu for scale)



Morning meeting

Oil on canvas

152cm x 116cm

2022

"Every morning now, I wake up at 5AM to get my daughter ready for school. Once she's off, I turn on my speaker and listen to music while I spend an hour meditating and watching the dawn sky outside. Although I miss the mornings of my childhood, when I woke up to the sound of birds singing and rode my bike through the misty woods, living in the city means that I must make do with what I have."



Twins Flowers

Oil on canvas

168cm x 154cm

2023

"Twins, a boy and a girl, strong and gentle, together created this world. The law of the world is based on the concept of Yin and Yang - one representing the feminine and the other representing the masculine; one representing darkness and the other representing light; one representing positivity and the other representing negativity; one representing goodness and the other representing evil."

"Both sides of every energy are complementary and interconnected. The morning brings the night, and the presence of valleys is only made possible by the existence of mountains.

This principle also applies to the ups and downs of life.

The two flowers of the twins have the power to create countless stories and worlds."



The Mermaid's Oath

Oil on canvas
162cm x 157cm
2022

"Mermaids are fascinating creatures. They are considered as the princesses of the sea, and when they dance and sing, it brings joy to all the creatures of the sea, including whales."

"In society, we are all like mermaids, unique and individual. The concept of a group is merely a construct of the mind. It is the individual that is truly alive and significant. Therefore, the key to living a fulfilling life is to embrace our individuality and strive to be the best version of ourselves."



You and me
Ink on canvas
158cm x 178cm
2023

"In this arrangement, there is a sense of interconnectedness, where you and I are not separate but rather two parts of a greater whole. Like a drop of water in the ocean, we are small yet significant. Each individual is like a universe, experiencing both independence and a connection to the world around us."

"I feel the weight of the world's pain, and it can be overwhelming. But in that pain, there is also a sense of unity and shared experience. We are all part of this life, with its ups and downs, and we are all in it together."



Seed

Ink and acrylic on canvas

180cm x 160cm

2022

*"A small seed grows into a tree,
producing flowers that bloom and renew the cycle of life,
as it is with all living things."*

*"A tree contains a universe,
holding the world within its endless expanse.
One world, born from one seed."*



The Last star before the dawn

Ink on canvas

132cm x 160cm

2023

"This piece was made as an imaginary letter to my husband."

"At the end of the Dharma, 2,500 years after the Buddha, chaos and chaos filled the world. I want you to keep your heart to yourself. Better than keeping everything safe. The last morning star given to the subject. It is said that one morning after the Buddha meditated under the Bodhi tree for six days and nights, he gazed at a distant morning star. As the star slowly disappeared, everything in his mind gradually fell down, and then in an instant he was enlightened. When the last star has fallen, the world and all are put down. The works took a year and a half to complete. At the same time of each painting, I also meditate through daily life. Sometimes a lesson or idea comes to me, and I write it down and make it the subject of my painting. When the atmosphere of the big time, the influence of the world, perhaps everything is no longer important. Our ancestors, the masters of Ascension and the guiding Spirit, who helped guide us in the dark, always believed that everything was the best and necessary arrangement, no matter what situation we encountered. In the end, we always go back to the source. Everyone must go home."



Installation view at Wei-Ling Gallery, Brickfields



Installation view at Wei-Ling Gallery, Brickfields



Creator and caregiver

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

174cm x 275cm (Triptych)

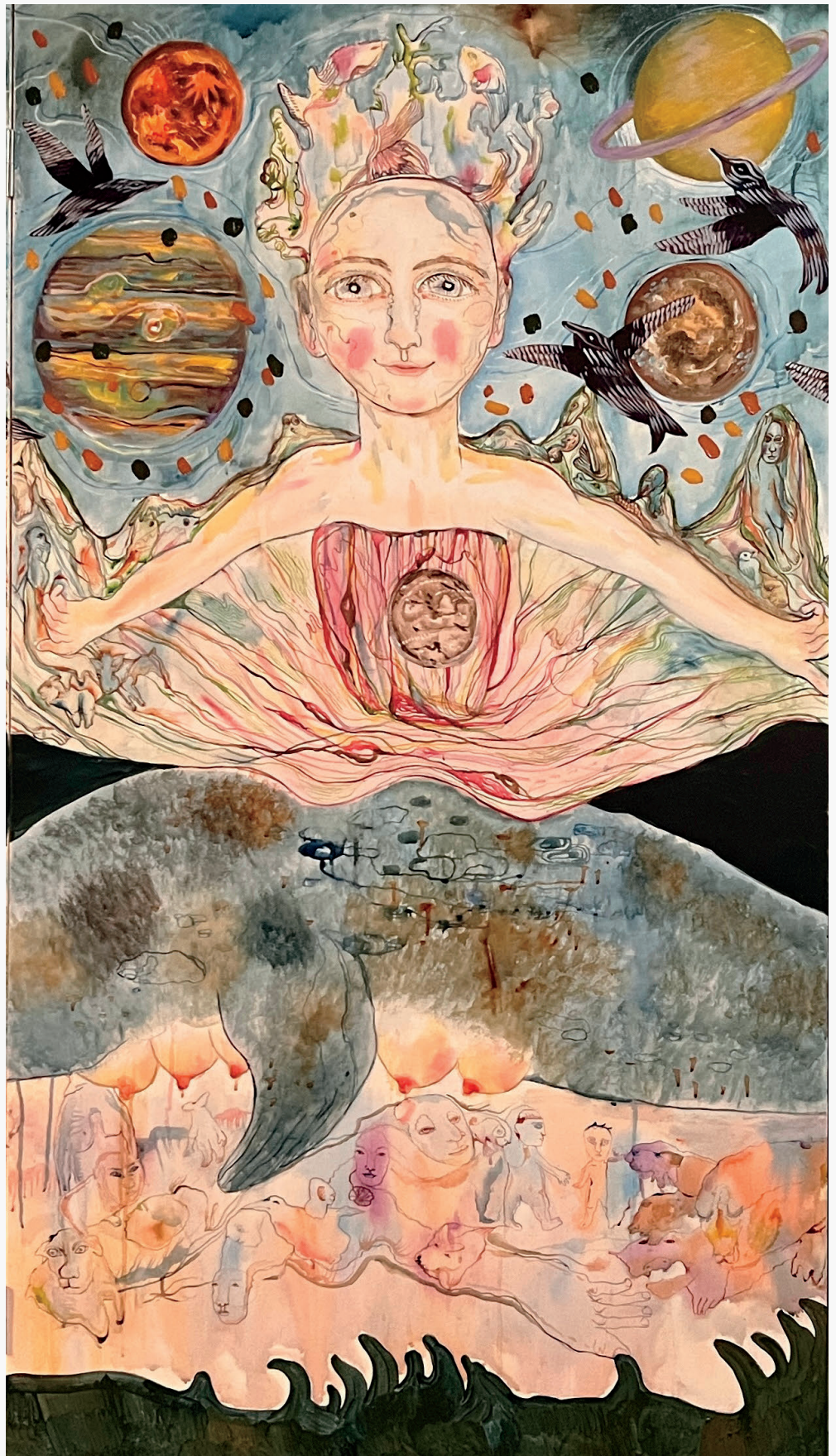
2022

"The painting explores the themes of creation and nurturing. It highlights that the source of life and the nourishment of life are derived from the same energy, which is as soft and strong as a woman. Life gives silently, without uttering a word, and we receive and consume.

Additionally, the story behind the painting mentions the five planets which represent the five elements: Mercury, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Venus. These planets were created by the creator, God."



Creator and caregiver
(Left Panel)



Creator and caregiver
(Middle Panel)



Creator and caregiver
(Right Panel)



Creator and caregiver
(Insitu for scale)



Cosmic wanderings

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

144cm x 160cm

2023

"I have been obsessed with the practice of tai chi for my whole life. When I am in the midst of practicing, people and things in my mind and in the world around me seem insignificant, as if they are floating in a vast sea of stars. As I move through the postures, it feels as if I am flying amongst the stars and everything around me fades away into emptiness".



Cosmic wanderings
(Insitu for scale)

CHEONG KIET CHENG

(B . 1 9 8 1)

Cheong Kiet Cheng's paintings have consistently highlighted the relationship between humans and nature. Although the situations she creates seem to convey over-riding feelings of beauty and love, the underlying elements of tension between the human and animal figures emphasize that imperfection is unavoidable. Yet, one is still likely to find a tranquility within each of her works – an effect she achieves through a unique method of meditative, repetitive forms. As an artist, she is most interested in sharing positive energy through her work, rather than conforming to the conventional aesthetics in art.

Cheong Kiet Cheng is unrestricted by any particular medium, choosing instead to experiment with materials- from acrylic paints in earlier bodies of work to black ink in her latest series.-which allows her to evolve into new discoveries. The romantic quality of her work is a direct result of her own personal feelings towards nature, drawing much of her inspiration from philosophy, literature, poetry, music and theatrical drama.

She has won several major awards and prizes over the years, including the main prize at the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) competition; Creative M50 Awards in Shanghai, China (2016); Nanjing International Art Festival Competition in China (2015); Water Color Category at Tanjong Public Limited Company, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2006). Cheong Kiet Cheng was also the recipient of the esteemed UOB-Fukuoka Asian Art Museum's Artists Residency Programme in 2018, where she spent two months expanding on her practice in Japan.

She has participated in a number of solo and group exhibitions both within Asia and in Malaysia. Her last solo exhibition '*We Are Dreaming and Awake In the Air*', was held at Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur (2021).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

The Last Star Before the Dawn, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
S.E.A. Focus 2023, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore

2021

We Are Dreaming and Awake In the Air, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2019

Dust and the Silence in the Sun, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2019

Life as a Stream of River, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

2017

Between Two Hills - The Chorus of Life, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2015

Sing to the land of my heart, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2013

Jojo in the Wonderland, MAP – White Box, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
With Two Solo, Paradise of Gods by Hoo Kiew Hang

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

A Paradigm Shift - Reflecting on Twenty Years of The Malaysian Art Scene, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
WLG IGNITE, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art Expo Malaysia 2022, GMBB, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2021

100 Pieces: Art for All, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2019

18@8 Turning Points, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Art Jakarta 2019, Jakarta Convention Center (JCC) Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia
Singapore 2019 Art Event, Gillman Barracks

2018

Art Jakarta, The Ritz-Carlton Jakarta, Pacific Place, Indonesia
Art Stage Singapore 2018, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

2017

Through Rose-Tinted Glasses, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The 101 Women Show, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Group Show Art Expo Matrade, A2 Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2016

Shanghai M50 Emerging Artist Exhibition 2016, Shanghai, China
Malaysia Art Expo 2016, Matrade, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Intellectual, 3rd Nanjing International Art Festival, Baijia Lake Museum, Nanjing, China

2015

Nanjing International Art Festival 2015, China

2013

Young and New Part IV, HOM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Malaysian Philippines Contemporary Art Exhibition, Mutiara Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
Measuring love, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2011

VAA – Visual Art Award, Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2010

'Self Conflict, Social Cohesion', Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTiC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Malaysian Vietnamese Contemporary Art Exhibition, Mutiara Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
Asia Art Link, Philippines

2009

Iskandar Malaysia Contemporary Art Show, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
Global Warning-e11even, a2 Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
Reborn group exhibition, a2 Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
Art Expo group show, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2008

Global Warming Group Exhibition, a2 Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
No Big Size Group Exhibition, Findars Space, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2005

Upstart 05: The NOKIA Creative Arts Awards Exhibition, ARTrageously Ramsay Ong-The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Pameran Terbuka Malaysia, National Art Visual Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2004

Upstart 04: The NOKIA Creative Arts Awards Exhibition, ARTrageously Ramsay Ong-The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Produced by Wei-Ling Gallery

To accompany the exhibition entitled '*The Last Star Before the Dawn*' by Cheong Kiet Cheng from 6th June - 8th July 2023

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COVER IMAGE | *Cosmic Wanderings* (2023) (Close-up)

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