



## **WONG CHEE MENG (B. 1975)**

Wong Chee Meng's view on the world is skewed by the blurring of lines and double images- the result of an accident that left him with permanent damage to his vision. Playing on the way he sees things, in multiple layers, sometimes crossing over and overlapping, his works are complex and multi-faceted. By meticulously painting layer upon layer of images, he camouflages many stories and hidden vistas, creating harmonious compositions that reveal deeper references, as we focus and look beyond the surface.

Wong Chee Meng's interest lies in the investigation of image-making through additive and subtractive transformation. He weaves random objects and subjects into intricate forms that are seemingly there, but fade into an absolution of colour chains. To him, art has a strange presence in our daily lives; it occurs anytime and anywhere. Through his paintings, which are often combined with techniques such as paper cut and stencil, he responds to social issues and cultural interventions that play on his subconscious, urging him to question and ponder their significance. Drawing on traditional symbolism, and subjects gleaned from fables of yore, he crystalizes his irreverent position and stance on the subject.

Through his latest exhibition '*Good Days Will Come*' (2020), Wong Chee Meng worked with familiar visual elements including Chinese homophones, hidden numbers, lucky phrases and charms: iconic symbols found in Chinese culture, believed to carry positive energies and blessings. Hiding key elements within his paintings' multiple layers, the artist invites the audience to slowly reveal them. He was inspired by the science of optical illusion in applying the "anaglyph 3D" effect to his paintings, achieved by encoding one image to one coloured filter. The result is a painting that reveals three different images, as seen through a red-tinted filter, cyan-tinted filter, or without a filter.

His 2017 exhibition, '*Have You Ever*', featured seven paintings, each depicting a familiar scene from everyday life yet fraught with deep underlying symbolism and meaning. In this series, beach balls – caught in mid-air or placed on higher planes, as they are tossed up and juggled – act as metaphors for new perceptions, actions, willingness, optimism and opportunities in life.

Active as an artist since 1996, Wong Chee Meng has been represented on numerous local and international art platforms. His work can be labeled as Contemporary Pop with a focus on Social Realism. He was selected as the artist in residence at the Mali Hom Residency in Penang in 2007 and represented Malaysia at an exposition of Malaysian art in Havana Cuba in 2006. His works have been widely collected by both private and public institutions and can be seen in the collections of Axiata, Rimbun Dahan, ABN Amro Bank, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, and the National Visual Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



## **WONG CHEE MENG (B. 1975)**

### **EDUCATION**

- 2011 MA in International Contemporary Art and Design Practice, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia  
2006 Bachelor of Arts, Curtin University, Australia  
1996 Diploma in Fine Art, Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA), Malaysia

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2023 Rasa Sayang, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2020 Good Days Will Come, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2017 Have You Ever?, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2015 [F]ortune of Lives, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2013 THE URBAN ABYSS, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2023 HansaeYes24 Foundation International Culture Exchange Exhibition  
"Embrace Malaysia, Insa Art Center, Seoul, Korea  
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  
Fragilità, curated by particle in collaboration with Fondazione ICA Milano (Online exhibition)  
2019 18@8 Turning Points, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2017 18@8 RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2016 Art Stage Jakarta 2016, Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2015 18@8 Heirlooms, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Blue Garden: Petite Tour, Kuandu Residency Program, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan  
THE SPACE BETWEEN, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2014 HO MIA, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
18@8 MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2012 PRECIOUS LITTLE PIECES, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
18@8 SAVE THE PLANET, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
A DECADE OF COLLECTION FEATURING- BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS, Wei-Ling Gallery and Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
SOUTHEAST ASIA ART GROUP EXCHANGED RESIDENCY (SAGER), HOM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
SOUTHEAST ASIA ART GROUP EXCHANGED RESIDENCY (SAGER), Perahu art Connection Art Space, Yogyakarta. Indonesia.  
2011 ART CAGED, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
WHAT'S YOUR PORN?, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
ABSOLUT 18@8, 'Safe The World" Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2010 ABSOLUT 18@8, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



- A METER PERSPECTIVE, Matahati & Friends at HOM Gallery. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- MALAYSIA BOLEH, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ANNIVERSARY SHOW 2009/2010, Pace gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 ISKANDAR MALAYSIA CONTEMPORARY ART SHOW 2009 (IMCAS) , Danga City Mall, Johor, Malaysia
- FAB 4, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ART SINGAPORE 2009, Singapore
- 2008 LOCALS ONLY, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- PENINSULA & ISLAND, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- EXHIBITION # 3, Artist in Residency Program Exhibition, One Menerung Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 EXHIBITION # ONE, Artist in Residency Program Exhibition at ABN AMRO Building, Penang, Malaysia
- FORCE OF NATURE, Darling Muse, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 18@8 2007, Weiling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 KATA DI KOTA: a Malaysia Exhibition of Contemporary Art in Cuba: In conjunction with the 9th Havana Biennale 2006
- MERDEKA SCULPTURE EXHIBITION, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
- FEED ME WWF Charity Show, Rimbun Dahan Art Gallery, Malaysia
- 2005 ANNIVERSARY SHOW, Darling Muse, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 THINKING SPACES, Soka Gakai Tower, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 CHOW KIT FESTIVAL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 MALAYSIA STILL LIFE, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- OPEN SHOW 2001, National Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- CIVILIZATION DIALOGUE - INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION, Metro Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2000 SAN, a cash and carry art exhibition at Wan Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS (LIFA), Ibrahim Hussien Museum, Langkawi, Malaysia
- 1999 HUMAN EXPRESSION, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998 COMING TOGETHER, Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
- GEMA: RESONANCE (MALAYSIA CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION), Manes Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
- 13<sup>th</sup> ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
- 1997 14 EXPRESSION, Graduation Show, Malaysian Institute of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- PEKAN SENI IPOH II, Town Hall, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia
- WU GROUP EXHIBITION, Wan Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
- 12<sup>th</sup> ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION, Macau
- 1996 YOUNG TALENT 96, Bank Negara, Kuala Lumpur
- CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP, Malaysian Institute of Art, Kuala Lumpur
- MALAYSIAN YOUNG CONTEMPORARY 96, National Gallery Kuala Lumpur

#### ART FAIRS

- 2016 Art Stage Jakarta, Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City, Indonesia
- 2014 THE 13<sup>TH</sup> KOREA INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION 2015, COEX Hall, Seoul

#### AWARDS



- 1997 Honorable Mention in “Philip Morris Malaysia Art Award”  
1996 “Merit Award” in Malaysian Institute of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
International Art Competition, Malaysia