



Cheong Kiet Cheng  
**FOLLOW NATURE**



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Cheong Kiet Cheng

8 June – 29 June 2024



Front cover & Close-up image: 'Angel' (2024)

Wei-Ling Contemporary is pleased to present Cheong Kiet Cheng's sixth solo exhibition, 'Follow Nature'. With over a decade of painting experience, the Malaysian artist has evolved from using watercolours to employing intricate linework and inking techniques, as seen in her works from 'Dust and the Silence in the Sun' (2019) to 'The Last Star Before the Dawn' (2023).

Cheong Kiet Cheng's art is deeply influenced by a decade of Zazen meditation, focusing on nature and depicting life's journey from a Buddhist perspective. This exhibition will, for the first time in her career, feature live painting sessions accompanied by Zen meditation music, known to enhance concentration and emotional regulation.

Each painting takes about a month to complete, with Kiet Cheng dedicating four to five hours daily to painting on-site at the gallery. This precise attention to detail allows audiences to observe her process closely as she works directly on the canvas laid out on the ground. The exhibition, aptly titled 'Follow Nature', showcases her technique of splattering colors across the canvas before meticulously drawing animals and characters inspired by the natural shapes that emerge.

During these live painting sessions, Kiet Cheng will demonstrate her methods by completing a piece, blending the contemplative aspects of her process with a performative element. Her years of dedication have refined her craft, allowing her to enter a state where creativity and meditation merge seamlessly.

"I first render a large area on a blank canvas, then I use my eyes to carefully observe the rendering details. I can see many animals and people, and then I draw them one by one according to the shadows I see. The purpose of my live painting is mainly to make my creative process public. It's just like when we look at the white clouds in the sky; sometimes they look like dragons, sometimes like rabbits. The principle is the same," explains Cheong Kiet Cheng.

Kiet Cheng describes painting as a visual experience of light, believing that this approach fosters a deeper understanding of artistic expression between the artist and her audience, and aims to educate the public on the beauty of art and the authentic process of creation.

Wei-Ling 画廊荣幸宣布张洁菁的第六次个人展览《跟随自然》。经过十多年的绘画经验,这位马来西亚艺术家从使用水彩到采用复杂的线条和墨绘技法,其作品从《尘与日光之静》(2019)到《黎明前的最后一颗星》(2023)皆有所体现。

张洁菁的艺术深受十年座禅冥想的影响,关注自然,并从佛教的角度描绘生命的旅程。这次展览将首次在她的职业生涯中,呈现现场绘画环节,伴随禅意音乐,这种音乐有助于增强注意力和情绪调节。

每幅画作大约需要一个月时间完成,张洁菁每天在画廊现场创作四到五小时。这种对细节的精准关注使观众能够近距离观察她的创作过程,她直接在铺展在地面的画布上进行创作。此次展览名为《跟随自然》,展示了她在画布上泼洒颜色后,细致地绘制出动物和人物的技法,这些灵感来源于自然形态中浮现的形象。

在这些现场绘画环节中,洁清将通过完成一幅作品来展示她的方法,将她创作过程中的沉思元素与表演元素无缝结合。她多年的奉献精神使她的技艺臻于完美,能够进入创意与冥想自然融合的状态。

“我首先在空白画布上进行大面积的渲染,然后用眼睛仔细观察渲染的细节。我可以看到许多动物和人,然后根据我看到的影子一一绘制。我的现场绘画主要是为了公开我的创作过程。这就像我们看天上的白云,有时像龙,有时像兔子。原理是一样的。”张洁菁解释道。

洁菁将绘画描述为一种光的视觉体验,她认为这种方法能够在艺术家与观众之间培养更深层次的艺术表达理解,并旨在向公众传递艺术之美与真实创作过程的教育意义。



Close-up image from 'Angel' (2024)



### **The ship**

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas  
190cm x 127cm  
2024

Individual and society. We are always individuals, alone. The so-called society is also a noun, but what we see and touch are individuals. This work is a metaphor for attachment in human society. It's as if we are on a ship, feeding each other, standing and nourishing amidst the raging waves.

### **船**

个体与社会。我们总是个体的，单独的。所谓社会也是一个名词，但我们眼见的，所接触的都是个体。此作品隐喻在人类社会里，依附着。犹如上了一艘船，我们彼此喂养。在汹涌的海浪中屹立着，滋养。



Close-up view of 'The ship' (2024)



## Angel

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

191cm x 124cm

2024

We have our wings; each of us is an angel. In times of exhaustion, we seek a way out, a dialogue with nature. Mother Earth will give us comfort. To start again, it is also time to spread our wings and fly, so the rest is to go further.

## 天使

我们有我们的翅膀，每一个人都是天使。在疲惫的时候，我们寻找出路，与自然对话。大地母亲会给我们安慰。待从新出发，也是展翅飞翔的时候，所以休息是为了走更远的路。



Close-up view of 'Angel' (2024)





**Flowers blooming from stones**

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

188cm x 145cm

2024

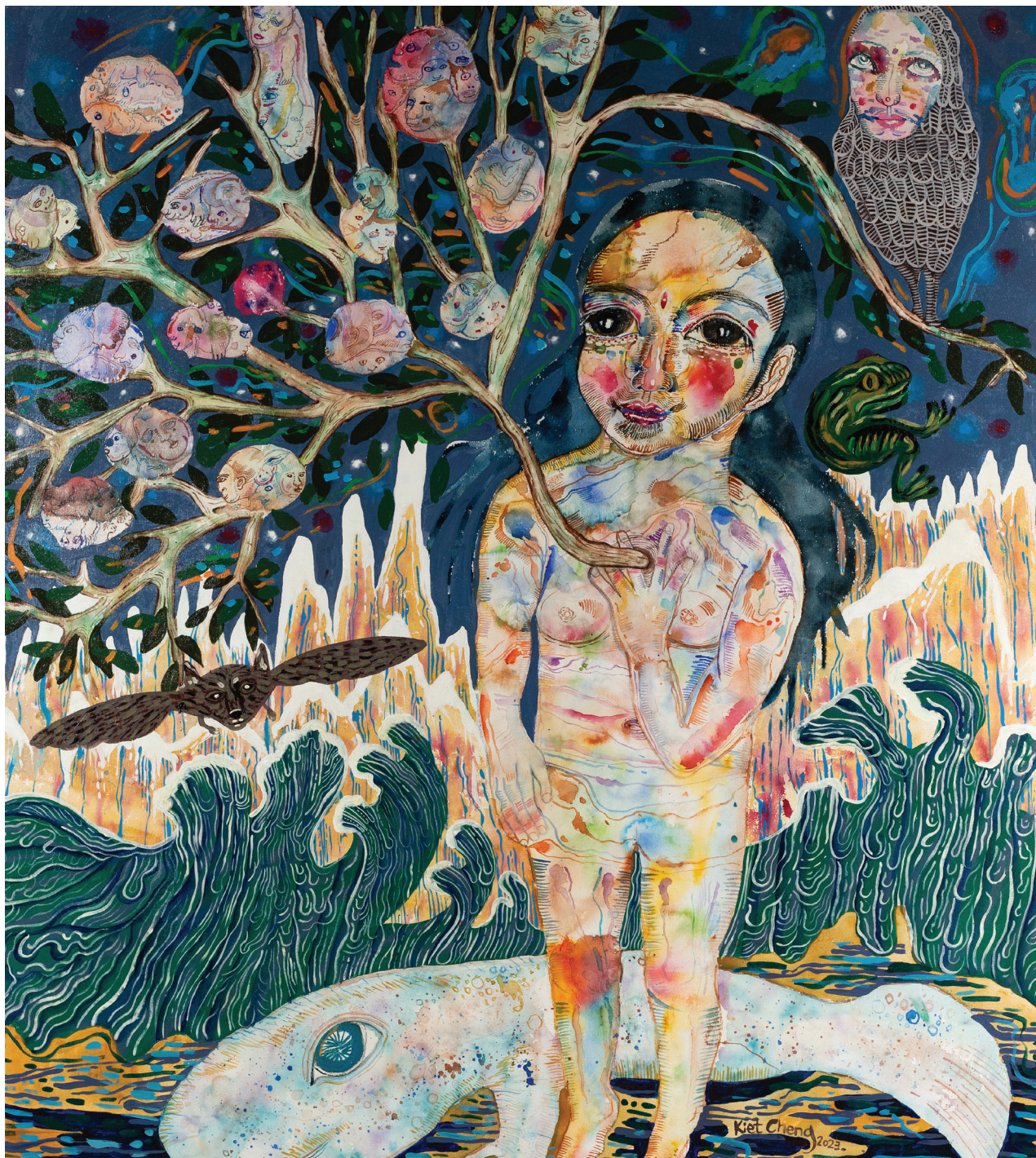
This work is a human head, developed from a stone. Metaphors bloom by deriving energy from hard objects. Despite obstacles, we flourish in our lives.

**从石头中盛开的花朵**

此幅作品是一个人头，从石头中开展。隐喻从坚硬的物体中获得能量而盛开。纵使有阻碍物，我们也在生活中各自盛放。



Close-up view of 'Flowers blooming from stones' (2024)



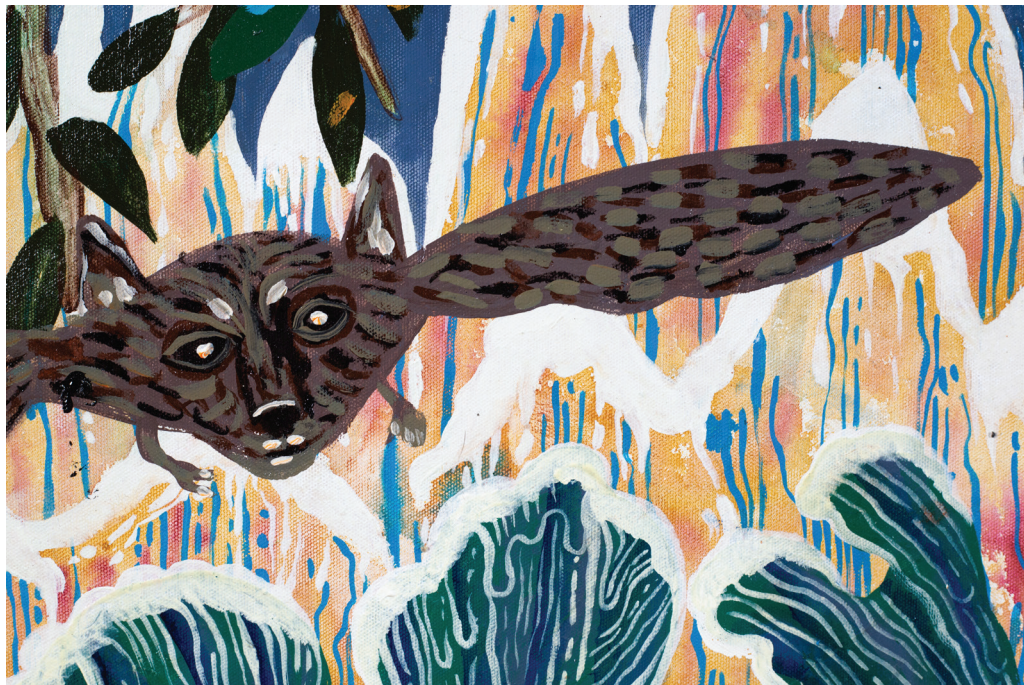
## Heart

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas  
127cm x 143cm  
2024

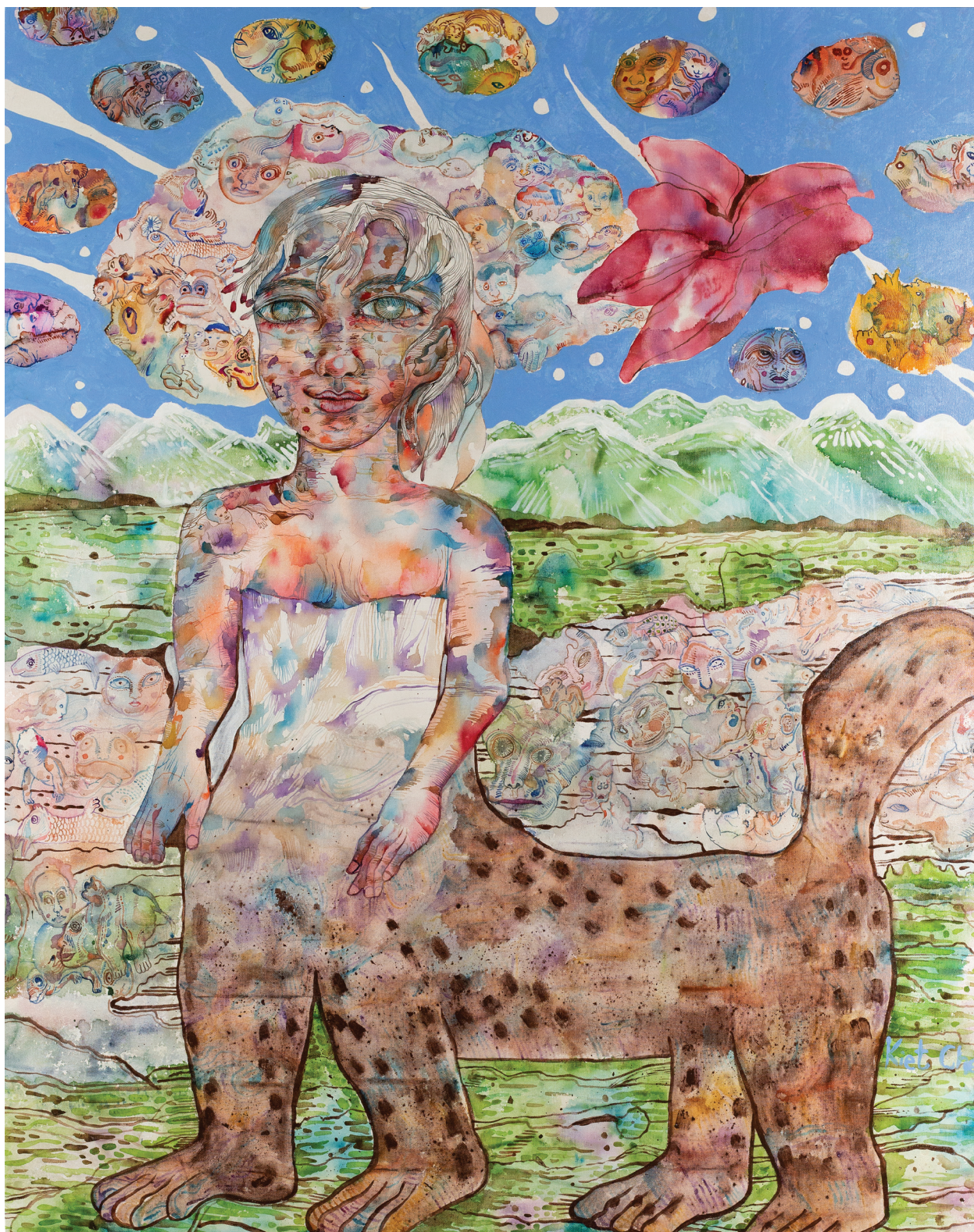
Walking alone in the depths of the desolate mountains, despite all the difficult circumstances, the mind and the natural universe can survive safely. This describes us in real life. No matter the situation, comfort or hardships, if the seeds in our hearts germinate and grow, we can stand, blossom, and bear fruit.

## 心田

在荒芜的山林深处中，独自前行，尽管遇到种种困难境遇，心中与自然宇宙一起，也能安然无恙度过。这描述了现实生活的我们，无论处境如何，舒适或种种艰辛，若心中的种子发芽成长，我们也能屹立不倒，开花结果。



Close-up view of 'Heart' (2024)



### **Walk in the field**

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas  
142cm x 112cm  
2024

This work is mainly a metaphor for the leisurely form of a person and the moment of harmonious co-existence with nature. With a half-human, half-animal body, when integrated with nature, we open ourselves to the sun with pure hearts, co-existing peacefully with all living things.

### **散步在田野**

此作品主要隐喻一个人悠闲的形态和与自然和谐共处的刹那。半人半兽的身体，当与自然融为一体，我们以赤子之心坦荡在阳光下，与所有生物共存。



Close-up view of 'Walk in the field' (2024)



## Same River

Watercolour and acrylic on canvas

148cm x 188cm

2024

The river from the sky brings you and me together. A river composed of stars from the universe. We are together yet we are divided. The meeting of causes makes countless stories. When the river circles around the earth once, I know you. Thank you.

## 同一条河流

来自上天的河水，把你我凑在一起。由星河组合的河流。我们是一起的，也是分割的。因緣的相遇成就了無數的故事。當河水繞了地球一圈，我才知道你。謝謝。



Close-up view of 'Same River' (2024)





## Nirvana II

Mixed media on canvas

154cm x 226cm

2023

If it were not for prolonged suffering, years of bitter trials, it wouldn't be what it is today, nor would there be any sublimation after suffering. God's arrangement is not accidental; it is certainly meant for the lessons we learn later. This work is for all who understand.

### 浴火重生

若不是漫长时间的苦难，长年累月的苦煎。。并不能成就今天。也没有煎熬后的升华。上天的安排不是意外，肯定到后来我们知道的功课。这幅作品致所有懂得的人。



Close-up view of 'Nirvana II' (2023)



**Tree 1**

Ink on canvas

33cm x 49cm

2021



Close-up view of  
'Tree 1' (2021)



**Tree 2**

Ink on canvas

42cm x 54cm

2021



Close-up view of 'Tree 2' (2021)



**Tree 3**

Ink on canvas

42cm x 79cm

2021



Close-up view of  
'Tree 3' (2021)





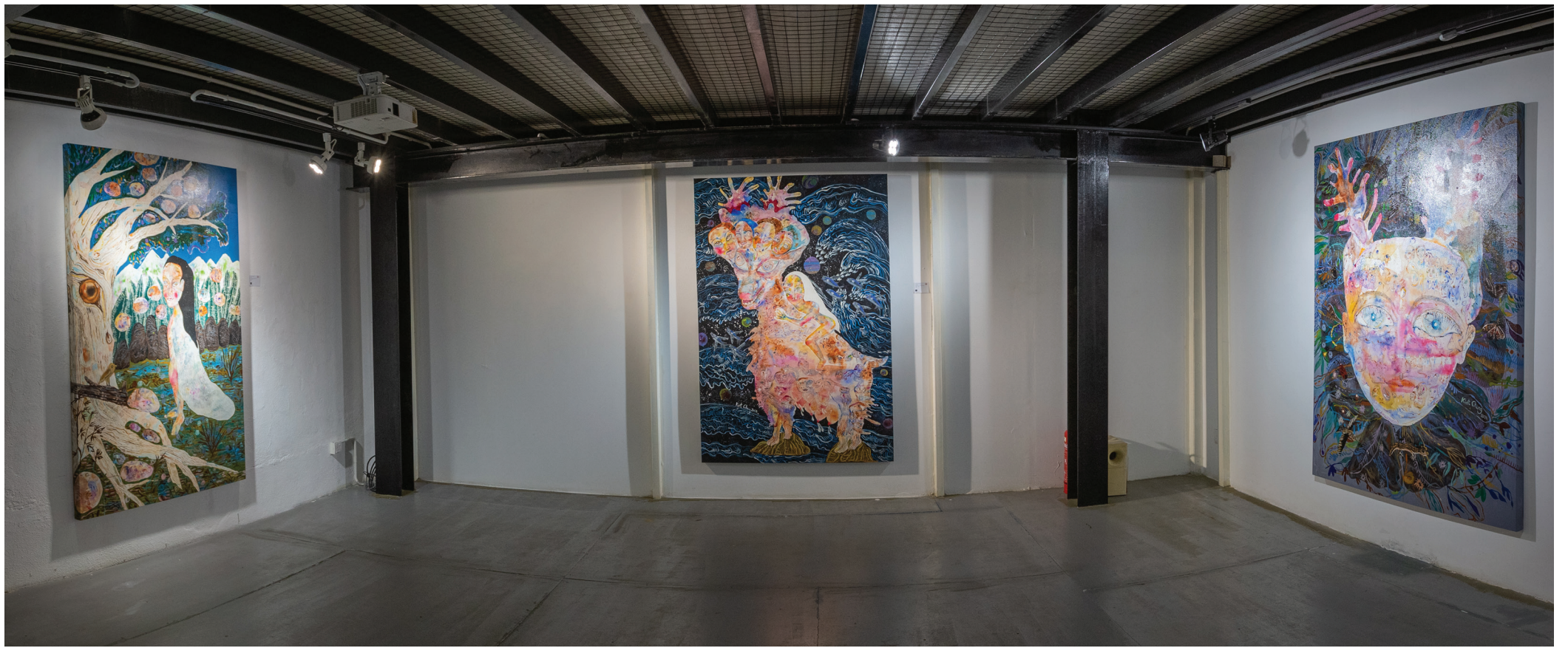
Photo of Tree 3, Tree 1 & Tree 2 (from left to right)

## Forest

These three works were created during the difficult times of 2021, while I was meditating and painting simultaneously. In moments of confusion and helplessness, I transformed my melancholy and pain into the power of mindfulness, expressing it through the lines. Each stroke is a product of the sedimentation and awareness of my thoughts. Painting has always been my outlet. These three pieces are titled "Forest" because, as I painted, the energy flowed and the subjects gradually multiplied. They were created spontaneously and improvisationally, without any preconception, growing naturally like the trees in a forest.

## 树林

这三幅作品是我在2021年艰难时期，一边禅修一边作画的成果。在茫然无助时，我将忧郁和痛苦化为静心的力量，挥洒在线条之中。每一笔都是念头和思想沉淀与觉知的产物。绘画永远是我的出口。这三幅作品名为《树林》，是因为我当时作画时，随着能量的流动，从一个物体逐渐增多。它们是随机即兴创作的，没有任何构想，就像树林里的树木一样自然生长。



Insitu at Wei-Ling Contemporary



Insitu at Wei-Ling Contemporary



#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

##### **Cheong Kiet Cheng (B.1981)**

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 'The Last Star before the dawn', was held at Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur (2023).

## **EDUCATION**

- 2006 Diploma in Fine Art, Dasein Academy of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 Certificate in Drama Acting Course (Pin Stage)
- 2002 Certificate in Journalism, Hang Xing Academy of Journalism, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 Certificate in Basic Photography Course, PCP Art of Photography, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 Follow Nature, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 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

- 2023 CIMB ARTOBER - ART & SOUL, MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 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
- 2019 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  
Iskandar Malaysia Contemporary Art Show, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
- 2009 Global Warning-eleven, 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

## **ART RESIDENCY**

- 2019 UOB-Fukuoka Asian Art Museum's Artists Residency Programme, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2012 Art-Residency in Sasaran Art Foundation, Selangor, Malaysia

## **AWARDS**

- 2018 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) winner, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016 Creative M50 Awards, Shanghai, China
- 2015 Nanjing International Art Festival Competition (Bronze Prize), China
- 2013 Finalist of Bakat Muda Sezaman, The Young Contemporaries '13, National Art Visual Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 Finalist of VAA - Visual Art Award, Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 2nd Prize, Water Color Category, Tanjong Public Limited Company, Malaysia
- 2005 Finalist Upstart 05: The NOKIA Creative Arts Awards Exhibition, ARTrageously Ramsay Ong-The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 Finalist Upstart 04: The NOKIA Creative Arts Awards Exhibition, ARTrageously Ramsay Ong-The Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

To accompany the exhibition entitled '**Follow Nature**' by **Cheong Kiet Cheng**  
from **8 June - 29 June 2024**

**Live performace by the artist runs every**

Tuesday to Friday, 11 AM - 2 PM

### **Gallery Information**

*Free Admission for visitors with appointments.*

Walk-ins permitted upon registration, otherwise a RM10 fee will be imposed.  
(Applicable to individuals aged 12 years and above.)

**Operating Hours:** 10 AM - 6 PM (Tuesday to Friday), 10 AM - 5 PM (Saturday)

**Closed:** Sundays, Mondays, and Public Holidays

### **Image Courtesy**

Wei-Ling Gallery & Cheong Kiet Cheng

### **Wei-Ling Gallery**

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SPECIFIC ARTWORK IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHED BY: PHNG KHENG HWA

FRONT COVER IMAGE: *Angel, Close-up* (2024)

BACK COVER IMAGE: *The Ship, Close-up* (2024)

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*The ship* (2024), Close-up

