



IVAN LAM WAI HOE (B.1975)

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he still lives and works. Ivan Lam graduated from the Maine College of Art USA with a Bachelors in Fine Art Painting in 1998. Starting off as a printmaker, he used silkscreen as a means to create works that dealt with colour fields and reflected international issues. In 2005, Ivan was regarded as the country's most relevant contemporary printmaker, having mastered the silkscreen with the back-breaking CMYK series (consisting only of 10 pieces). At this juncture, Ivan made the bold move of shifting his focus from printing to painting.

Ivan Lam's art career spans over 23 years, making significant contributions to contemporary Malaysian art through innovative practices in printmaking and contemporary painting. His use of resin adds a hyper-realistic layer to his works, exploring themes of duality, tension, and contradictions, while engaging with popular culture, current affairs, art history, and autobiography. The continuation of his artistic journey includes pivotal series like *'After All These Years...'*, *'Panorama'*, and *'Together Alone'*, which demonstrated his exploration of new mediums, techniques, and large-scale works. Meanwhile, his exhibitions such as *'Machines'* and *'The Zero Hero'*, addressed themes like multicultural coexistence and identity.

The conceptual turn in his practice tackled deeper questions about authorship and the nature of art, exemplified by works like *'Compendium of Malaysian Art (COMA)'* and *'The Death of a Nation / The Birth of a Nation'*, which critiqued consumerism and Malaysia's racial divisions. His *'FAUX'* series and works like *'Nine Paintings of Bouquets'* and *'Stone'* examined truth, imitation, and impermanence. Lam's performance pieces, such as *'66:06:06'* and *'U-Turn'*, invited viewers to reflect on the passage of time and political inaction.

In his later works, like *'THE SOIL ON WHICH I BLEED'* and *'Aesthetics of Silence'*, Lam engaged with the pandemic, political tensions, and the importance of presence in a digital age. His 2022 *'Catharsis'* series reflected deeply on physical pain, while *'Blind Side'* (2023) focused on creating inclusive art for the visually impaired. He explored cultural dialogue between Malaysia and Singapore, reinforcing the theme of progress and unity in Southeast Asia with his work *'Merdeka Project - In(ter)dependence'*. For the 2025 S.E.A Focus held in Singapore, Lam's works explored the human condition through geopolitical conflict, using symbolism, contrast, and crosshair motifs to reflect on war, memory, and the dehumanisation of modern warfare. Throughout his career, Lam has continuously evolved, pushing boundaries and questioning the role of the artist in society.

Lam has exhibited extensively both locally and internationally, receiving multiple awards throughout his career, which includes numerous solo and group exhibitions. His achievements have been recognised by esteemed institutions across Malaysia, Europe, and the USA. His career milestones include a 2015 retrospective, *'Ivan Lam: TWENTY'*, showcasing 20 years of his artistic journey at Wei-Ling Contemporary. In



2013, he became the first Malaysian artist to debut at Art Basel Hong Kong with a solo presentation of '*COMA – Compendium of Malaysian Art*'. Also, Lam's work '*beLieVe*' (2014) sits in Louis Vuitton's permanent collection. Lam debuted at Volta New York in 2016 and was invited to the Karachi Biennale in 2017. In 2019, he represented Malaysia at its first National Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale with '*One Inch*' (2019), a work exploring dualities and layered meanings. Ivan's work for the 2025 S.E.A Focus was also acquired by the Singapore Art Museum as part of the S.E.A Focus Art Fund.



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EDUCATION

- 2006 University of East London, UK, MA in International Contemporary Art and Design Practice (Final Semester, Graduating Jan 2007)
Professors: Hedley Roberts, Dr. Daniela Leva
- 1998 Maine College of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting (Full Honours)
Professors: Johnnie Ross, Honor Mack, Peter Sucheki, George Larou
- 1994 Lim Kok Wing Institute of Technology, Graphic Design Certificate

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 The Dichotomy of opposites, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2023 Blind Side, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2022 catharsis, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2021 THE SOIL ON WHICH I BLEED, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2020 small works + drawings, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 FAUX, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 Hymen, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2017 Curating Human Experiences 66:06:06, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- You said you'll never leave, Karachi Biennale 2017, Narayan Jagannath Vaidya, Karachi, Pakistan
- Vanity Project X, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- For those who don't believe, no proof is possible. 56/200, Art Stage Singapore 2017, Southeast Asia Forum - Net Present Value: Art, Capital, Futures, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre, Singapore
- 2016 Cutting the lines that bind, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- VOLTA NEW YORK 2016, The Pier 90, New York, USA
- 2014 IVAN LAM: TWENTY, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 Day Zero Night Hero, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Art Basel Hong Kong 2013, Hong Kong Convention Centre, Hong Kong
- 2012 MACHINES, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 Together Alone, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Art Stage Singapore 2011, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre, Singapore
- 2009 Panorama, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 Ivan Lam: After all these years....Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 Plosive, Taksu Gallery, Singapore
- 2004 Plosive, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 911, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1999 Bright side night light, Gallery Wan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998 Ins and Outs, Crank, Portland, ME, USA
- MECA Senior Thesis Show, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland ME, USA
- Exit Removals, Artworks Gallery, Portland ME, USA



SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 A Colloquy, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
S.E.A. FOCUS 2025, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore
- 2024 18@8 pLAy, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2023 Merdeka Project - In(ter)dependence & A Tapestry of Us, Henderson Industrial Park, Singapore
White Space: Lines at the Door, NAFA, Singapore
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
- 2021 The Field Beyond, Lim Hak Tai Gallery @ NAFA Campus 1, Singapore
"Aesthetics of Silence", Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
100 Pieces: Art for All, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 18@8 Turning Points, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Holding Up a Mirror, Malaysia Pavilion, Palazzo Malipiero, 58th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia
- 2018 Teh Tarik with The Flag, curated by Wei-Ling Gallery, in association with The National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Seen, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2017 18@8 RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016 The Past Is Never Where You Think You Left It, curated by Gowri Balasegaran, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art Stage Singapore 2016, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- 2015 The Space Between, curated by Anurendra Jegadeva & Rahel Joseph, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 The PEAK Group Show- HO MIA, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 18@8 Mirror, Mirror on the wall, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2012 18@8 KUL-SIN, ION Art, Singapore
18@8 KUL-SIN, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Timeless, Group Exhibition, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Directional Forces, Artoll, Bedburg-hau, Germany
- 2011 18@8 Save The Planet, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 18@8 Vice and Virtue, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Christie's SEA Art Auction, Hong Kong
CIGE (China International Gallery Exposition) China World Trade Center, Beijing, China
Force of Nature, Pace, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- 2007 Filtered, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The Force of Nature, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 Larasati Art Auction, Singapore



- "18@8", KUALA LUMPUR-KARACHI, AMIN GULGEE GALLERY,
KARACHI, PAKISTAN (in collaboration with Wei-Ling Gallery)
Au Naturel, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3 Young Contemporaries (1997-2006), Valentine Willie Art Gallery,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nasi Campur 2006, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2005 "18@8", Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Identifying Landscape, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2004 Philip Morris Asean Art Awards 2004, National Art Gallery, Bangkok,
Thailand
10th Anniversary, Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Footsteps, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
ArtFair Singapore, Singapore
2003 Taksu Singapore Opening, Singapore
Taksu Jakarta Opening, Jakarta, Indonesia
2002 ArtFair Singapore, Singapore
2000 <1000, Valentine Willie Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Transformations, Sculpture Square, Singapore
Untitled, Galeri Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Arus: Flow (Australia-Malaysia Electronic Art, Joint Show), National
Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1999 Philip Morris 99, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Aku: 99 Portret Diri, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1998 Sequence 11, Timed Based Art, Imaging Center, Portland, Maine,
USA
1997 Maine Art Auction, Selected for Live Auction, Portland, Maine, USA
Artworks, Portland ME, USA

AWARDS

- 2006 Group Exhibit, Sovereign Art Prize (Top 10 Finalists), Hong Kong
2003 Group Exhibit (Grand Prize Winner), Philip Morris 2003, National Art
Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2001 Group Exhibit (Honourable Mention), Phillip Morris 2001, National Art
Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1999 One person Exhibit, Bright Sight Night Lights, Galeriwan, Kuala
Lumpur, Malaysia
1996 Merit Scholarship Exhibit, 1st Place, MECA, Portland, ME, USA

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Artoll, Germany
Catlin Re Collection, Switzerland
Crank Design Consultant, Maine, USA
Galeri Petronas, Malaysia
HSBC, Malaysia
Louis Vuitton
Merrill Lynch, Maine, USA
National Art Gallery, Malaysia
Singapore Art Museum
The Aliya & Farouk Khan Collection, Malaysia Private Collectors



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