

CHEONG KIET CHENG

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Blue Bird

Cheong Kiet Cheng

6 — 27 September 2025

Wei-Ling Gallery

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Cheong Kiet Cheng's seventh solo exhibition, *'Blue Bird'*, opens at Wei-Ling Gallery with paintings that serve as a personal memoir chronicling two decades shaped by illness, struggle, and renewal. Rooted in the long arc of lived experience, each work still carries the immediacy of the present moment. This exhibition situates her practice within a broader conversation on art as a conduit for healing, extending her inquiry into the entanglement of memory and resilience.

Drawing from Maurice Maeterlinck's tale, *'The Blue Bird'*, in which a brother and his ailing sister embark on a quest for hope, Cheong reimagines the story through the eyes of a guide leading her children towards light and safety. This vision comes through her ink and pen drawings that unfold in layered, accumulative lines. Each mark building upon the last, fashioning a living field of connections that are organic and unpredictable. Echoing life itself.

Her creative process is shaped by her experience with schizophrenia which resurfaced during the vulnerable periods following the birth of her daughters. She meets the condition without stigma, regarding it as a muse, filtered through her beliefs. *"If the illness I have is the result of the influence of my past karma, then perhaps this suffering has been my teacher,"* she reflects. Carrying that weight into her studio and letting it find form.

In this light, the works in *'Blue Bird'* become acts of transfiguration. Turning hardships into a visual lexicon that resists the familiar framing of illness as something to be conquered, choosing instead to embrace it as a source of learning. She treats it as a force that shapes and refines, tuning her to the thresholds between vulnerability and endurance. Together the paintings chart her journey back to herself, each one marking breakthroughs forged by years of treatment, daily meditation, and disciplined inner cultivation.

LARGE WORKS

Close-up of *Me and the Wolf* (2025)





Blue bird
Mixed media on canvas
166cm x 144cm
2025

Resilience and strength in life. Permission and perseverance to pursue happiness. In the face of the trials and tribulations of the years, there remains the right path and faith.

When the energy from karma and the source entered my head through my ears, I was already carrying the weight of twenty years of endless troubles and entanglements. I turned them into smoke, breathed them out, and they became spiritual deer drifting across the sky. Protecting the children well is what I must do.

青鸟

生命中的韧性与力量。追求幸福的允诺和毅力。历经岁月磨砺，唯正道与信仰不灭。当业力与本源的能量自耳际涌入脑海。自成长伊始，无尽的纷扰与纠葛折磨我二十载。我将它们化作青烟，从唇间倾吐，于天际幻化为灵鹿。守护好孩童，方为吾命所系。



Dream

Ink on canvas
120.8cm x 144.7cm
2025

This work was painted during a time when I felt lost and helpless. The woman in the painting has several heads but only one body. In confusion, we lose our way and create countless troubles. The head is, in truth, our enemy. Riding an old horse, an angel descended from the sky and offered me small flowers. Life is like a dream, and in the midst of it we should try to remain awake. I hope that one day I will awaken from this dream.

梦

这幅作品创作于我迷茫无助之时。画中女子多头一身，恰似困惑中的我们，彷徨无措，烦恼丛生。那不断思考的头脑，才是痛苦的根源。

一匹老马驮着天使自天而降，赠我细碎小花。人生如梦，但求在此途中，我们能保持几分清醒。愿终有一日，大梦得醒。



Me and the Wolf (2025)

Me and the Wolf

Watercolours and acrylic on canvas

109cm x 143cm

2025

The wolf represents the mind. Me and the wolf. The mind is an organ that stores information and thinks. When we overuse it, it keeps recalling the past and imagining the future. All the delusions, the past and the future are like waves, coming and going ceaselessly. When one day we are eaten by the wolf, it means we have lost ourselves. We should use some methods to live in the present. Only the present belongs to us.

我与狼

狼代表我们的心智。我与那匹狼对峙。

心智是一个负责储存信息与思考的器官。当我们过度使用它，它便不停地回忆过去、幻想未来。所有的妄念、所有关于过去与未来的念头，就像海浪一样，不停涌来，又不断退去。

如果有一天被狼吞噬，我们便迷失了本我。我们应当借由一些方法，让自己活在当下——唯有当下，才真正属于我们。



Kiet Cheng
2025

Take me to the moon (2025)

Take me to the moon

Ink on canvas
145cm x 175.4cm
2025

The moon symbolizes the mother, the feminine. The painted wolf pack represents the teacher of life, the force behind him, the guiding spirit, the god of fate, the hand of God. As time passes, everything that happens and comes to be must carry His purpose. The rabbit and the bear beside the female figure in the car represent my two daughters. Take me to the moon, from the birth of a child to her growth, and this journey becomes deeply meaningful.

伴我同赴月

月亮象征母亲，象征女性。画中的狼群代表生命的导师，代表它背后的力量——指导灵，命运之神，神之手。时光流逝，所发生的一切必定有祂的目的。车座旁的白兔与棕熊，正是我的两个女儿。带我去往月亮吧，从婴儿出生到茁壮成长，这段旅程必定蕴藏着神圣的意义。



You are me
Watercolour and ink on canvas
187.5cm x 126cm
2025

In the past, when I encountered difficulties, I would fight against them. Over time, I came to see that resisting was not the answer, and that going with the flow and adapting to circumstances was the only way forward. Gradually, as the clouds and mists cleared, I realized that what I had been letting go of and yielding to was myself. Everything is empty, and all causes and conditions carry their own meaning. God is me. I am you.

祢是我

曾经每遇困境，我必全力抗争。岁月教我懂得：顺流而行，随遇而安，才是唯一的答案。
当云雾散尽时，我才真正看清。那些我不断放手的、最终屈服的，不过是（另一个）自己。
万法皆空，一切因果自有深意。神即是我，我便是祢。



Elegant Afternoon

Oil on canvas
92.5cm x 72.3cm
2021

This work transforms the female figure into a graceful deer, roaming freely in the wilderness. It suggests the importance of cherishing ourselves, and that under the nourishment of freedom and light, we may live with joy and elegance.

优雅的午后

这幅作品将女性形象延展为优雅的鹿，在荒野中自由生长。寓意着珍爱自我，在自由与光的滋养下，我们终将活得喜悦而优雅。



SMALL WORKS

Close-up of
Me and the Big Bird
(2024)

These small paintings were created while I was taking care of my family and finding time to paint. When I say I was meditating on painting, it meant I was concentrating on the lines of my brush and then smoothly drawing many figures and animals.

《微光绘记》

这些小幅画作，诞生于照料家庭与抽空执笔的间隙。所谓“冥想绘画”——是凝神于每一道笔触的轨迹，而后自然流淌出诸多生灵的轮廓。



Me and the Big Bird
Ink on canvas
68.8cm x 80.2cm
2024



Celebration in the forest

Ink on canvas
38.2cm x 48.2cm
2024



Seeing light
Ink on canvas
44.8cm x 44.8cm
2021

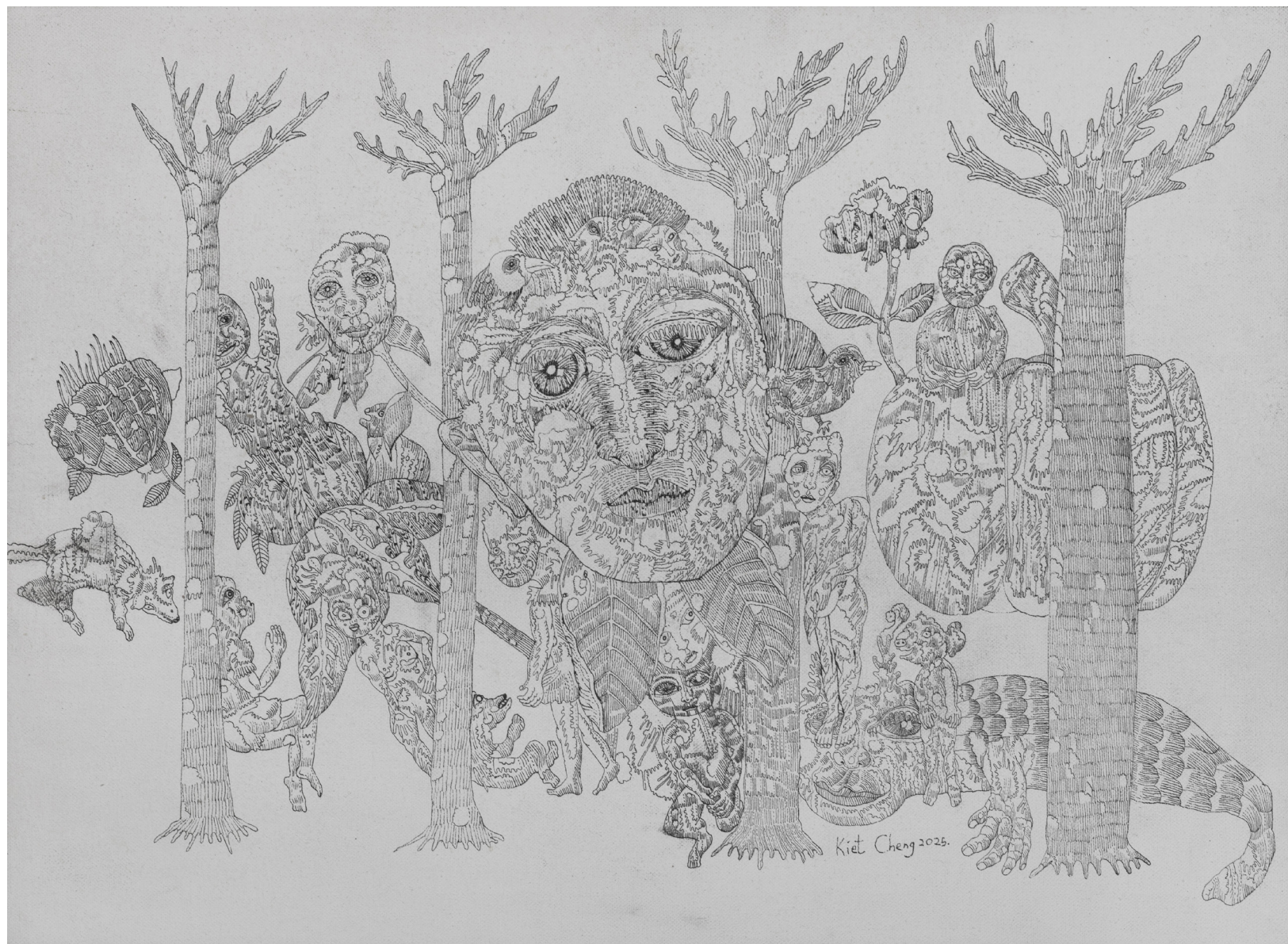


Walking fish
Ink on canvas
40.7cm x 53.5cm
2024



Hugging by a tree

Ink on canvas
39.2cm x 48.5cm
2024



In the wood
Ink on canvas
39.5cm x 54.9cm
2025



Dance with the waves

Ink on canvas
43.4cm x 53.5cm
2024



Mermaid in the waves
Watercolour on canvas
40.8cm x 56cm
2019



Daily—Light and Love

Ink on paper

21cm x 14.8cm (total 30 pieces)

Frame size: 112cm x 84cm

2020-2025

At night, a small yellow lamp lights my room. By its glow, I draw, meditate, and go about my daily activities. These thirty small paintings were created during moments of meditation and painting. They have been both a practice and a pleasure, daily creations sustained over the past few years.

日常 • 光与爱

每夜，那盏小黄灯在房间里亮着。我借着它的光作画、冥想，度过一个个日常。这三十幅小画，是冥想与绘画交织的痕迹——既是修行，也是爱好，更是这些年岁里，日复一日的光阴故事。

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 emphasise that imperfection is unavoidable. Yet, one is still likely to find a tranquillity 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 UOB-Fukuoka Asian Art Museum's Artists Residency Programme in 2018, where she spent two months expanding on her practice in Japan.

EDUCATION

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Blue Bird, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 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

- 2024 18@8 pLAY, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 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
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

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 *Blue Bird* by **Cheong Kiet Cheng** from **6 — 27 September 2025**

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 & the artist, Cheong Kiet Cheng

Wei-Ling Gallery

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Project Director : Lim Wei-Ling

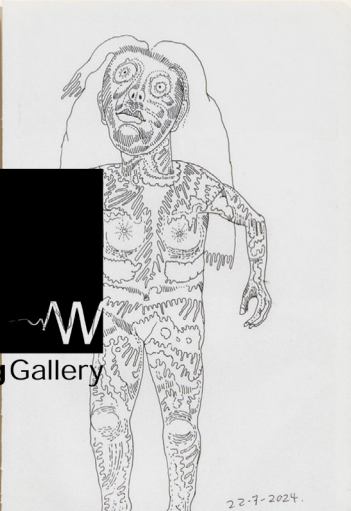
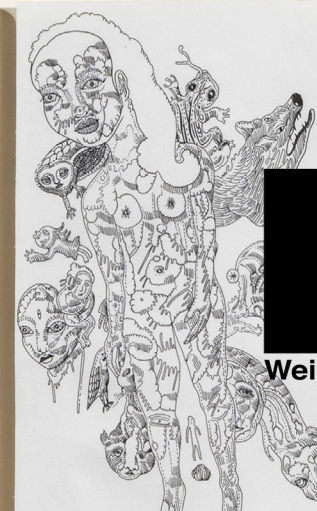
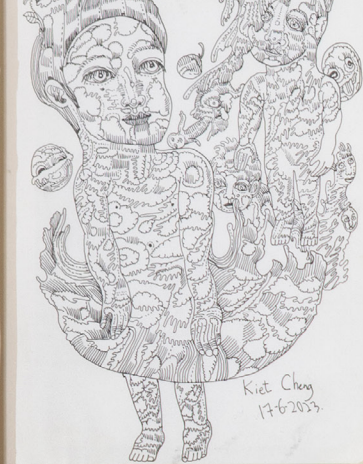
Designed by : Prissie Ong

Artwork photos photography : Kamarudin Diran

Front cover image: Close-up of *Take me to the moon* (2025)

Back cover image: Close-up of *Daily — Light and Love* (2020—2025)

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