



TRILOGY: THE LIGHTSEEKER *IWADH MAHADI*

WLG INCUBATOR
YOUNG ARTISTS SHOW 2025



Trilogy: The Lightseeker

Iwadh Mahadi

WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2025

7 October – 1 November 2025

Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Wei-Ling Gallery is proud to present '*Trilogy: The Lightseeker*', an exhibition featuring works by Iwadh Mahadi. This exhibition traces a pilgrimage through faith, memory, and renewal, reflecting the human struggle toward light as both direction and devotion.

Trilogy: The Lightseeker unfolds as a journey across three bodies of work, bound by a single pursuit: the search for righteousness. Rooted in faith, vulnerability, and resilience, the trilogy draws from everyday materials and the symbolic weight of ritual to create spaces for reflection. Rather than a collection of separate works, it is a pilgrimage through questions, scars, and prayers that map the human struggle toward light.

Each chapter speaks to the others. The first turns to wounds and prostration, where the body bends in prayer while carrying the weight of imperfection. The second gathers collective memory, with *sejadahs*¹ and flags echoing rituals of worship as well as the need for guidance and belonging. The third moves toward renewal, where fragments of pattern and prayer form rhythms of affirmation – open-ended, never final.

Light, in this context, is both personal and universal. It is not a destination but a direction: a *qibla*² that calls the heart back to its path. The Lightseeker rests in this ongoing condition of seeking, trusting that each act of sincerity brings us closer, even if righteousness can never be claimed fully. It is a witness to struggle, and an invitation to hope, remember, and rise again toward light.

Note:

¹ A *sejadah* is a prayer mat used by Muslims during their daily prayers, often decorated with geometric patterns or motifs that indicate the direction of Mecca.

² The *qibla* is the direction Muslims face during prayer, oriented toward the Kaaba in Mecca.

Whispers of the Unsaid

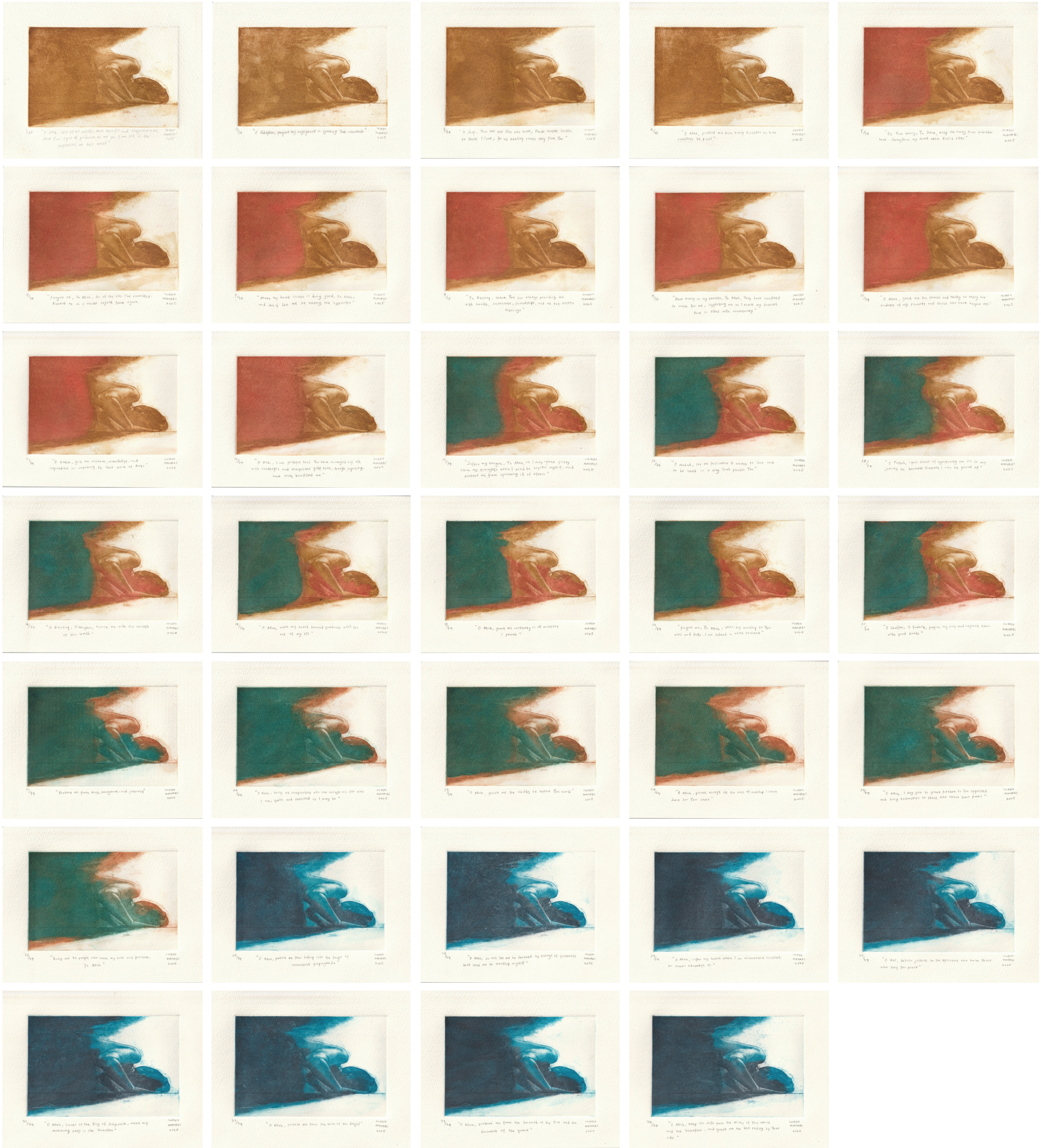
This series consists of thirty-four aquatint etchings, each depicting the figure in *sujud*. No two prints are identical: some carry smudged impressions, while others vary in color. These differences introduce the concept of time, alluding to the rhythm of the five obligatory prayers. On the bottom of the printed etchings, fragmented *du'a* are inscribed. These prayers are not serene; they wrestle between earthly desires and divine submission.

The instability of surface and text mirrors the instability of sincerity itself. Each etching becomes a reflection of how worship can be fractured by doubt, longing and ego. By dispersing the prints in nonlinear installation, the viewer is invited to move close, bend, or bow, echoing the very posture of prayer. What is encountered are not holy certainties, but human tremors in supplication.



Whispers of the Unsaid
Mixed media aquatint on hot pressed
watercolour paper
15.6cm x 19.9 cm
Edition 18/34
2025

Whispers of the Unsaid: Editions 1-34



Whispers of the Unsaid
Mixed media aquatint on hot pressed watercolour paper
15.6cm x 19.9 cm
2025



Installation view of *Whispers of the Unsaid* at Wei-Ling Contemporary

Anchors of the Lingerin

This installation consists of five hanging prayer mats made of raw canvas. Each mat carries bamboo frottage on the front and ground frottage on the back, pairing the imagery of upright growth with that of final return to soil. On the reverse sides, nautical signal flags spell out the word A.K.H.I.R. (end).

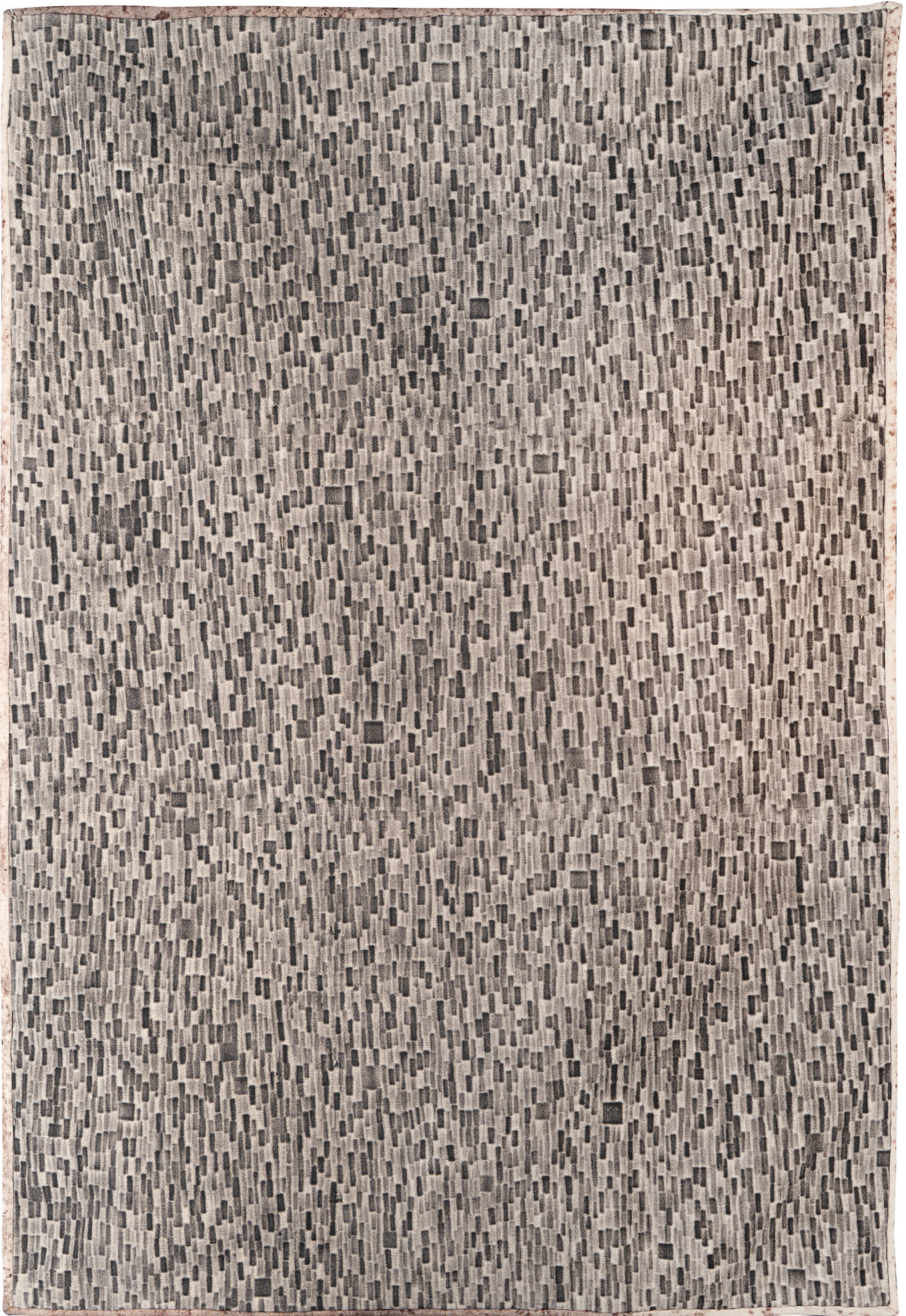
Suspended in air, the sejadahs are caught between heaven and earth, like rituals performed within the tension of gravity. The nautical signals reference systems of navigation and emergency calls, suggesting the qibla as a compass for the soul. Here, the mats become both markers of devotion and signals for spiritual direction. The viewer walks among them as if moving through an imperfect, suspended terrain of faith.

Front of (A) *Fajr*



(A) *Fajr*
Frottage on canvas
110cm x 76 cm
2025

Back of (A) *Fajr*



(A) *Fajr*
Frottage on canvas
110cm x 76 cm
2025

Front of (K) Zuhr



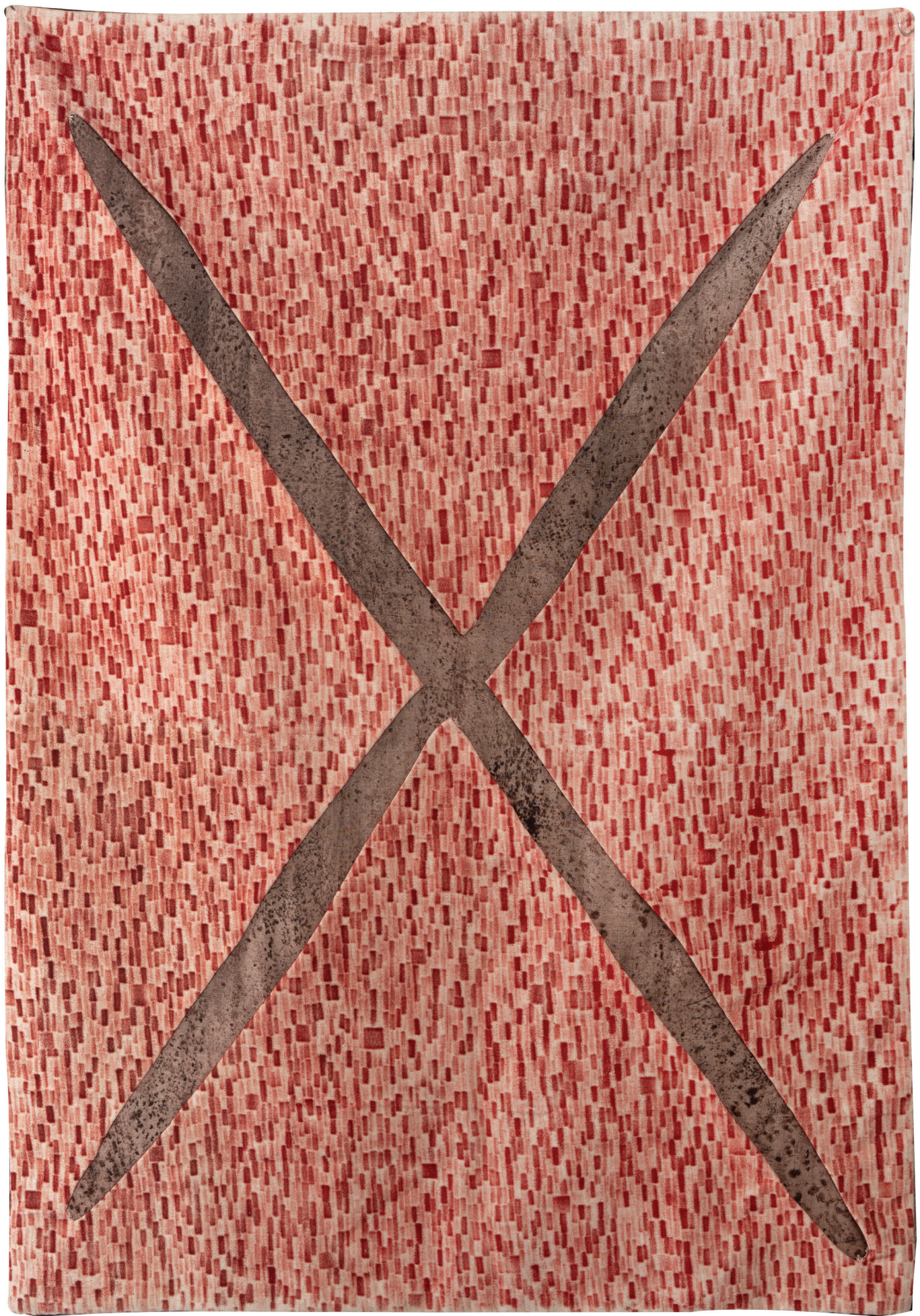
(K) Zuhr

Frottage on canvas

112cm x 77.5 cm

2025

Back of (K) Zuhr



(K) Zuhr
Frottage on canvas
112cm x 77.5 cm
2025

Front of (H) Asr



(H) Asr
Frottage on canvas
109.5cm x 75.5 cm
2025

Back of (H) Asr



(H) Asr
Frottage on canvas
109.5cm x 75.5 cm
2025

Front of (I) Maghrib



(I) Maghrib
Frottage on canvas
112cm x 77 cm
2025

Back of (I) Maghrib



(I) Maghrib
Frottage on canvas
112cm x 77 cm
2025

Front of (R) Isya'



(R) Isya'

Frottage on canvas

106.5cm x 75cm

2025

Back of (R) Isya'



(R) Isya'

Frottage on canvas

106.5cm x 75cm

2025

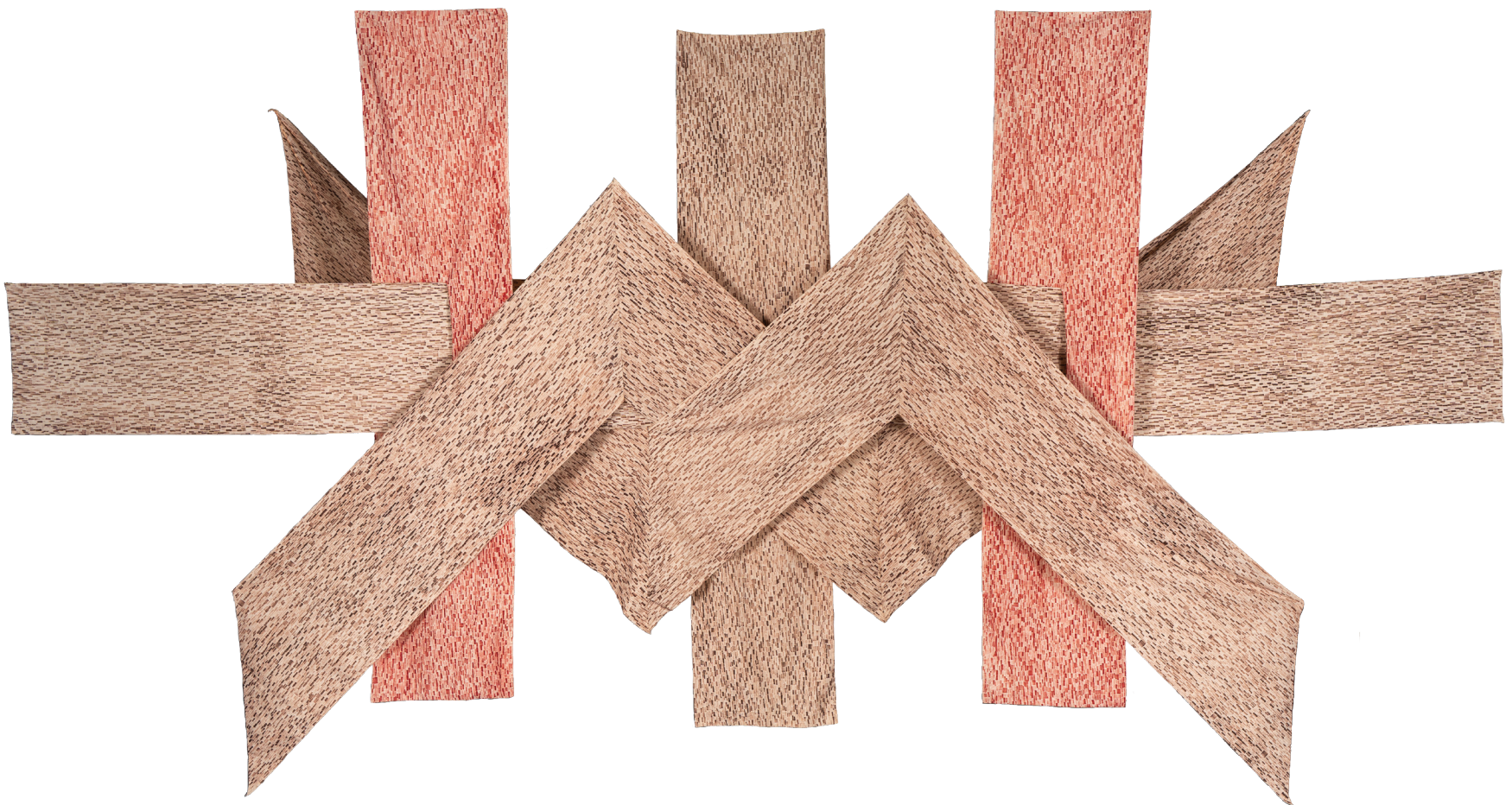


Installation view of *Anchors of Linging* at Wei-Ling Contemporary

Unseen Assembly

The final installation is a monumental tapestry composed in the shape of three interlocked asterisks. Its surface is covered with chaotic yet directional bamboo frottage, radiating like countless souls in movement. The asterisk, often used as a mark of omission or censorship, points to what cannot be depicted: the Day of Assembly and Judgment.

This work is both cosmic and withholding. It gestures to an event described in sacred texts but unimaginable in human terms. The tapestry dominates the space as a horizon of mystery. Where the etchings revealed inner conflict, and the sejadahs charted daily devotion, this piece confronts the incomprehensible. It is the conclusion of the trilogy, where all seeking meets the limit of human sight.





Installation view of *Unseen Assembly* at Wei-Ling Contemporary

Unseen Assembly
Frottage on canvas
Variable dimensions
2025



Close-up of
Unseen Assembly at
Wei-Ling Contemporary

ABOUT THE ARTIST



IWADH MAHADI

B.1999

Iwadh Syafiq Ikhwan bin Mahadi (b. 1999, Sabah) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work reflects on the relationship between humanity, nature, and the fragile balance between chaos and order. His rural upbringing in Sabah, surrounded by bamboo groves and cultural traditions, grounds his explorations of heritage, identity, and belonging.

Bamboo remains central to his practice, symbolising resilience, adaptability, and interconnectedness across familial, societal, and ecological systems. Through this motif, Iwadh bridges existential thought and Islamic principles, creating works that speak to both personal and universal experience. Evolving from realism and surrealism into conceptual naturalism, he works across bamboo mosaics, frottage, printmaking, and experimental processes with found textures, maintaining a tactile engagement with material and process.

Since 2020, Iwadh has consistently participated in group exhibitions each year and was also part of the ILTIZAM Seni Art Residency Program by Ekuinas.

EDUCATION

- 2024 Master's Degree in Fine Arts and Technology, UiTM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2022 Bachelor of Art and Design (Fine Art), UiTM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2020 Diploma of Art and Design (Fine Art), UiTM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 ELEVATE:ILTIZAM SENI ART RESIDENCY PROGRAM CYCLE 2, Galeri Puteh, Kuala Lumpur
RAMADAN BUFFET, Group Exhibition, Galeri Puteh, Kuala Lumpur
WHATEVER!, Group Exhibition, Galeri Puteh, Kuala Lumpur
2024 BALTER: A Symphony of Artistic Movement, Master Student Group Show, UiTM Jalan Othman, Petaling Jaya
Young, Wild and Free #2, Group Exhibition, Galeri Puteh, Kuala Lumpur
International Blue Print Show, Group Exhibition, Port Cetak, Shah Alam
IT'S OPEN by ARTO MOVEMENT, Group Exhibition, NafaSyahdu ArtSpace @ Kopi Urung Taka, Klang, Selangor
2023 NEW EDITION, Printmaking Group Show, Chetak 17 Studio, Kuala Lumpur
2022 RE:Genesis Exhibition, UiTM Shah Alam
INKING PRINTSHOW, Printmaking Group Show, Chetak 17 Studio, Kuala Lumpur
2021 InSight Exhibition Reqaseni Vol.1, UiTM Samarahan, Sarawak
2020 Collaboration with Sarawak Children Cancer Society (Golden Ribbon Sculpture)
Catshow Exhibition, Cat Museum, Kuching, Sarawak

RESIDENCIES AND MENTORSHIP

- 2024 - 2025 ILTIZAM Seni Art Residency Program, Ekuinas, Malaysia
2025 WLG Incubator Young Artists Show (5th edition), Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

To accompany *Trilogy: The Lightseeker* by Iwadh Mahadi as part of the **WLG Incubator Young Artists Show 2025** from 7 October – 1 November 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, Iwadh Mahadi

Wei-Ling Gallery

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Follow updates on the exhibition via our website, Facebook and Instagram

Use #weilinggallery and @weilinggallery

Project Director : Lim Wei-Ling

Designed by : Prissie Ong

Artwork photos photography : Kamarudin Diran

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