



## **SEAN LEAN (B. 1981)**

Sean Lean (b. 1981, Kuala Lumpur) is an artist whose practice spans painting, industrial materials, and automotive finishes. His work develops from Malaysian-Chinese histories, personal memory, and the cultural tensions shaped by tradition, aspiration, and the shifting values of a multicultural society. He often begins with fragments from his own life and moves toward broader questions of identity, belonging, and the narratives that shape the region.

He has exhibited in Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, and China. In 2024 he took part in *And the invader's fear of memories*, curated by Line Dalile, which placed his work alongside Lawrence Abu Hamdan, FX Harsono, and other artists engaged with memory, testimony, and the pressures of historical silence. Major bodies of work such as *Flesh: Blacks and Whites* (2013), *Motherland* (2015), *3* (2018), *M2* (2020), *china* (2022), and *COLORED* trace his ongoing engagement with introspection and cultural inheritance. These exhibitions investigate the changing meanings of Chineseness and the negotiations within diasporic identity, while his material language has expanded into aluminium, mild steel, and automotive paints to consider industry, modernity, and the uncertain stability of cultural symbols.

Lean has also taken part in international collaborations, including a commission for KENZO with Tiger Beer and WWF inspired by conservation stories of wild tigers, and a special cover for Bazaar Art magazine. Across his projects he considers how personal history intersects with collective memory, revisiting traditions, belief systems, and inherited expectations through a contemporary lens that combines research, humour, and attentive craft.



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### EDUCATION

- 2000 Diploma in Visual & Digital Arts, Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Family Portrait, ART SG 2026, Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore
- 2024 COLORED, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2022 china, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2020 M2, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 3, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2015 Motherland, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2013 Flesh: Blacks & Whites, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Crossing the Third Bridge, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2024 18@8 pLAY, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
And the invader's fear of memories, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2023 A Tapestry of Us, Henderson Industrial Park, 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 S.E.A. Focus 2022, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore
- 2018 Patriots: By Malaysians for Malaysians, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Teh Tarik with The Flag, curated by Wei-Ling Gallery, in association with The National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2017 Through Rose-Tinted Glasses, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
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 The Space Between, curated by Anurendra Jegadeva & Rahel Joseph, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 Bologna Fiere SH Contemporary 2014, Shanghai Exhibition Centre, China
- 2013 18@8 Mirror, Mirror on the wall, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Measuring Love, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2012 Bright Young Things, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 Urbanscapes, organized by Klue Magazine, Grappa, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2001 VDA Graduation Show, Loke Mansion ADKL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Manusia, NN Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
Doors, Loke Mansion ADKL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



2000 Eyes Wide Open, LUCT, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### **AWARDS**

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| 2002 | Presidential Scholar Award, Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology          |
|      | Young Achievers Award, Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology               |
| 2001 | Best Student Award in Visual & Digital Arts, Limkokwing University of Creative Technology |
| 1999 | NST Scholarship Award, Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology               |