

A man in a blue t-shirt and dark trousers is walking a brown and black tabby cat on a paved path. They are in front of a blue corrugated metal fence. In the background, there is a rocky hillside with some green trees under a clear blue sky.

TRACING STILLNESS (MENJEJAK HENING)

Hamidi Hadi

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Hamidi Hadi

4 February — 28 March 2026

Wei-Ling Gallery
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Tracing Stillness (Menjejak Hening), the tenth solo exhibition by Malaysian artist Hamidi Hadi. The exhibition brings together a recent body of work shaped through endurance, repetition, and sustained physical engagement with material. For more than two decades, Hamidi has developed a practice grounded in surface, density, and the weight of accumulated gestures. In this new series, the work turns toward rupture. Rather than building through addition, the surface is folded, torn, peeled, and split until it yields.

The process is uncompromising. Hamidi speaks of the physical strain demanded by each canvas, from the force required to separate layers to the moments when resistance overwhelms the body. Injuries sometimes occur as layers refuse to part. These actions leave visible records. Torn edges, exposed strata, and stressed surfaces hold the memory of effort, turning the canvas into a site where the body's exertion is registered.

No strict method governs the series. Hamidi describes each work as having its own temperament. Some surfaces resist for long periods, others open suddenly. Decisions are made in response to what the material allows. Authority remains unsettled, shifting as the negotiation unfolds. The painting is neither fully controlled nor fully surrendered. It lands somewhere in between.

Fracture occupies a central place within the exhibition. For Hamidi, tearing and breaking the surface does not signal destruction. He speaks of these moments as openings, places where light enters and attention slows. This shift relates to an interior journey, where physical rupture intersects with the fragility of the human body. The work carries both corporeal and spiritual weight. It gestures toward the finite condition of the body while creating space for what cannot be held in material form.

Various elements recur throughout the series. Industrial paint absorbs pressure unpredictably. Darkened layers collapse or part. Numerical markings linger like remnants of counting or measuring. These traces recall systems that structure modern life. They never fully settle into fixed meanings. Instead, they remain embedded, partially obscured beneath the surface.

In several works, small photographic figures appear along edges or between split canvases. Their scale is modest and vulnerable. Positioned between surfaces under tension, they suggest a human presence suspended between matter and light, strain and release. The figure does not claim authority. It waits.

Tracing Stillness (Menjejak Hening) moves toward quiet without arriving at resolution. Stillness develops gradually, shaped through force, hesitation, and moments of pause. The works invite viewers to slow down and stay with what unfolds through fracture rather than seek closure. What emerges is less a statement than an attentiveness to the conditions that make reflection possible.

Artist Statement

Hamidi Hadi, 2025

Tracing Stillness is a body of work developed through a process of destruction, resistance, and surrender. The paintings emerge from acts of folding, peeling, and forcefully separating the canvas, allowing the material to fracture and expose what lies beneath its surface.

The use of industrial paint, blackened layers, numerical markings, and torn, skin-like textures reflects systems of control, domination, and pressure exerted upon human life—economically, politically, and spiritually. Numbers appear not as symbols of order, but as traces of measurement, valuation, and abstraction imposed upon lived experience.

In this series, emerging from the struggle within distracting realms, the work begins to open toward a quieter space. Through fractures and ruptures, light is permitted to pass, transforming damage into a site of revelation. These openings are not signs of failure, but moments of pause—thresholds where reflection becomes possible.

At the core of this practice is the human presence: small, fragile, vulnerable, and often barely perceptible within vast, fractured spaces. The work does not seek to depict the human figure directly; instead, it positions humanity as an existential condition—situated between external force and inner stillness.

Tracing Stillness is not concerned with arriving at certainty, but with remaining attentive within uncertainty. It is an invitation to pause, to listen, and to dwell in the silence that exists between fracture and light.

Pernyataan Artis

Hamidi Hadi, 2025

Menjejak Hening ialah satu rangkaian karya yang dibangunkan melalui proses kemusnahan, penentangan, dan penyerahan. Lukisan-lukisan ini lahir daripada tindakan melipat, mengoyak, dan memisahkan kanvas secara paksa, membenarkan materialnya retak dan menyingkap apa yang tersembunyi di bawah permukaan.

Penggunaan cat industri, lapisan hitam yang pekat, tanda-tanda bernombor, serta tekstur yang menyerupai kulit yang terkoyak mencerminkan sistem kawalan, dominasi, dan tekanan yang dikenakan ke atas kehidupan manusia — secara ekonomi, politik, dan spiritual. Nombor-nombor tidak hadir sebagai simbol keteraturan, tetapi sebagai jejak pengukuran, penilaian, dan pengabstrakan yang dipaksakan ke atas pengalaman hidup.

Dalam siri ini, setelah bergelut dalam ruang yang mengganggu, karya-karya ini mula membuka diri ke arah satu ruang yang lebih senyap. Melalui rekahan dan pecahan, cahaya dibenarkan menembusi, menjadikan kerosakan sebagai tapak pendedahan. Buka-bukaan ini bukan tanda kegagalan, tetapi detik jeda — ambang di mana renungan menjadi mungkin.

Di teras amalan ini terletak kehadiran manusia: kecil, rapuh, rentan, dan sering kali hampir tidak kelihatan dalam ruang yang luas dan terbelah. Karya-karya ini tidak berusaha untuk menggambarkan figura manusia secara langsung; sebaliknya, ia meletakkan kemanusiaan sebagai satu keadaan eksistensial — terletak di antara daya luaran dan hening dalaman.

Menjejak Hening tidak berhasrat untuk tiba pada kepastian, tetapi untuk kekal peka dalam ketidaktentuan. Ia merupakan satu undangan untuk berhenti seketika, mendengar, dan berdiam dalam kesenyapan yang wujud di antara rekahan dan cahaya.



Menjejak Hening: Yang Menahan
Chinese Ink, enamel paint on canvas
210cm x 275cm (Triptych)
2025



Untitled (Fracture No: 1)
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
140cm x 136cm
2025



Untitled Fold No: 2
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
140cm x 137cm
2025



Untitled Skeleton 2
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
140cm x 137cm
2025



Untitled (Fracture No: 4)
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
173cm x 143cm
2025



What remains
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
144cm x 166cm
2025



Fracture as Rest
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
140cm x 166cm
2025



Skeleton of the Surface
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
145cm x 150cm
2025



After the Peel
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
144cm x 172cm
2025



Breathing I
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
115cm x 161cm (Diptych)
2025



Still Breathing
Oil paint on canvas
115cm x 200cm (Diptych)
2025-2026



Still
Oil Paint and Enamel paint on canvas
173cm x 143cm
2025



Held Together
Chinese Ink and Acrylic paint on canvas
114cm x 210cm
2025



Installation view at the 1st floor of Wei-Ling Gallery



Installation view at the 2nd floor of Wei-Ling Gallery



Close-up of Untitled (Fracture No: 4)

HAMIDI HADI (B. 1971)

Hamidi Hadi is regarded as one of the most prominent abstract artists of his generation, and is well-known for his experimental and explorative use of material. Over the years, his practice has formally migrated from pictorial representation of the objective world, into abstraction and the synthesis of complex materials and methods, to describe his emotional and spiritual responses to the world.



He investigates the natural phenomenon of the world and uses this in his imaginary landscapes, through the application of industrial paint, resin, wax, linseed oil and charcoal in layers, allowing gravity and movement, to create surface tension. As we contemplate his abstract works, we begin to connect the reference points that give us clues to the artist's inner landscape, and his contemplation of his place in the world.

Hamidi Hadi received the UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) - Bronze Award, Established Artist Category in 2018, the Bank Negara's Kijang Award in 2004 and the Philip Morris ASEAN Biennale Art Award in 2000. His works have also been collected by both public and private institutions and corporations. Amongst them are the Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, Setia Berhad, and the National Art Gallery of Malaysia. He has exhibited extensively both within Malaysia and on international platforms, with exhibitions in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and the United Kingdom.

HAMIDI HADI (B. 1971)

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD Art History, University of Malaya, Malaysia
2002 MA Art & Design Network (Painting), University of Wolverhampton, Midlands, UK
2001 Wolverhampton College, Northampton West, Wolverhampton, UK
2000 Bachelor of Arts, School of Art & Design, MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia
1995 Diploma in Art & Design (Fine Art), UiTM, Shah Alam, Malaysia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Tracing Stillness (Menjejak Hening), Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2024 Trembling in Silence, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2021 Saring II: Sublimity, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2019 Saring, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2016 Dari Langit dan Bumi, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2014 BALAM, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2012 Antara, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2009 Timang-Timbang, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2007 Alun, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2005 Indelible Markings, Townhouse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 18@8 pLAy, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2023 CIMB ARTOBER — ART & SOUL, MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2023 HansaeYes24 Foundation International Culture Exchange Exhibition “Embrace Malaysia, Insa Art Center, Seoul, Korea
2022 Art Jakarta 2022, JCC Senayan, Indonesia
A Paradigm Shift - Reflecting on Twenty Years of The Malaysian Art Scene, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Abstraction Now!, 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
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 Art Stage Jakarta 2017, Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia
Sotheby’s Auction (Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings), 3rd April 2017, Hong Kong Convention Centre, Hong Kong
2017 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
Art Expo Malaysia 2016, Matrade, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- 2015 18@8 Heirlooms, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 SUARA RASA, Segaris Art Center, Solaris, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Art Expo Malaysia 2015, Matrade, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 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
 Kembara Jiwa; The Travelling Soul, Galeri Chandan @ Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Kembara Jiwa; The Travelling Soul, Selasar Sunaryo, Bandung Indonesia
 Kembara Jiwa; The Travelling Soul, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta Indonesia
 Timeless, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Kami Respon, Galeri FSSR UiTM Perak, Perak, Malaysia
 Transit-A4, House of Matahati, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 THE 8th Asia Fiber Art (AFA 2011), Galeri UiTM Perak, Perak, Malaysia
 Malaysia Art Festival 2011, KL Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysian Rice Plates Project, Wei-Ling Gallery and Ministry of Tourism, KL Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2010 Absolut 18@8, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Matahati & Friends, House of Matahati, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Celebrate Malaysia, Petronas Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Malaysia Artists: NEW OBJECT(IONS), Petronas Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 The 24th Asian International Art Exhibition, Balai Seni Lukis, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 Mind, Body & Soul III, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Treasure Box, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Art Triangle Malaysia-Philippines-Indonesia, Soka Gakkai, Kuala Lumpur
 TENGGARA - Recent Paintings from Malaysia, Indonesia & Philippines, Novas Gallery, Liverpool, United Kingdom
 The 23rd Asian International Art Exhibition, University Art Museum Guangzhou, China
 Heart to Heart - Asian International Art Show, YUGE Gallery, Guangzhou, China
- 2007 The 9th International Seminar & Art Exhibition, Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand
 The Force of Nature, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Kami III, Museum Negeri Pulau Penang, Malaysia
- 2006 18@8: Kuala Lumpur - Karachi, The Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan, in collaboration with Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Malaysia - Poland Art Exchange Workshop, UiTM Shah Alam Gallery, Malaysia
- 2005 Malaysia - Japan Art Exchange Workshop, Gallery Seni, UiTM Perak, Malaysia
- 2004 Kami II, Shah Alam Gallery, Malaysia
 Imajan, Taman Warisan Gallery, Malaysia
- 2003 3 Men & A Woman, Shah Alam Gallery & Pelita Hati Gallery, Malaysia
- 2002 MA Show, University of Wolverhampton, Midlands, UK

- 2000 Philip Morris ASEAN Art Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Singapore
Philip Morris ASEAN Art Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
- 1999 Malam Puisi, KOSOVO, Dewan Bandaraya, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia
Pekan Seni Ipoh IV, Dewan Bandaran, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia
Shah Alam Open Art Exhibition, Shah Alam Gallery, Malaysia
- 1998 Pekan Seni Ipoh III, Dewan Bandaran, Ipoh, Malaysia
- 1997 Malaysian Drawing, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
Bakat Muda Sezaman, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
- 1996 Young Contemporaries, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
National Day Art Competition, National Art Gallery, Malaysia
Islamic Fibre Art, Pengucapan Islam Dalam Kesenian, Petronas Gallery, Malaysia
New Artist, Petronas Gallery, Malaysia
- 1995 Degree Show, KSSR Gallery, ITM Shah Alam, Malaysia
Alternative Print, Petronas Gallery, Malaysia
ILHAM Diploma Collection, Petronas Gallery, Malaysia
- 1994 Kenyir Ecofest, Kenyir, Terengganu, Malaysia
- 1993 Cactus Drawing Exhibition And Exhibition, Bukit Cahaya, Shah Alam, Malaysia

AWARDS

- 2018 UOB Painting of The Year (Malaysia) — Bronze Award, Established Artist Category, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2004 Bakat Muda Sezaman (Finalist), Balai Seni Lukis Negara
Seni Kijang Bank Negara Malaysia Award, (Consolation Prize), Balai Seni Bank Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2000 Top 5 Winners, Philip Morris
ASEAN Biennale Art Award, Malaysia
Consolation Prize, Prize Morris
ASEAN Art Award 2000, Singapore
Artist Interaction, Formula Malaysia
Art Competition, Malaysia
- 1996 Honorable Mention, Philip Morris
ASEAN Biennale Art Award, Malaysia
- 1995 Deans List, School of Art & Design, MARA (UiTM), Malaysia
- 1994 Consolation Prize, Kenyir Eco-Fest 94'
International Art Competition, Malaysia

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National Art Gallery, Malaysia
Galeri Petronas, Malaysia
Aliya & Farouk Khan Collection, Malaysia
Parkroyal Hotel, Malaysia
Wong & Partners, Malaysia
Grand Hyatt, Kuala Lumpur
Element Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
S P Setia

To accompany *Tracing Stillness (Menjejak Hening)* by Hamidi Hadi
from 4 February — 28 March 2026

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, Hamidi Hadi

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Artwork photos photography : Kamarudin Din

Back cover : Close-up of *Breathing I*

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