



YAU BEE LING (B. 1972)

Throughout her 35 year career, Yau Bee Ling has spent three decades building a body of work that is deeply personal yet unmistakably of its time. Born in 1972 in Port Klang, she graduated from the Malaysian Institute of Art on a full scholarship in fine art painting, and has since carved out a distinctive voice in the Malaysian art scene. Her work has consistently echoed her observations on the world and reflects autobiographical themes, as she struggles to reconcile the broad gambit of human experiences and the complex roles of contemporary women in present-day society.

What sets her apart is the honesty of her subject matter. At a time when female artists in Malaysia faced pressure to sidestep questions of gender, Yau leaned into them by painting femininity, motherhood, domestic life and female identity with candour. Her layered, colour-saturated canvases draw from her own experiences as a woman from a traditional Chinese family navigating the roles of wife, mother and artist, giving her work an emotional weight that resonates far beyond the personal. Highly regarded as one of the country's foremost painters, her work pays homage to a life-lived.

Yau Bee Ling has moved from one identity to another: from single woman to wife to mother. Each move, each curve in the winding road leading to where she is today is a journey of searching and looking for answers. Answers to the conflicts brought on by the transition from one phase of life to another: of being a woman, a wife and a mother. Answers to the conflicts brought on by the multiple responsibilities she carries. Despite the façade presented she struggles to understand who she is: a mother, a wife, an independent woman. Despite the serenity of motherhood and the meaningful ties within the family and the community her inner self lives a complicated tangles of ties and responsibilities within the family and the larger communities. It is a responsibility laden with hopes and fears: hopes for successes and later being able to celebrate those successes; and fears of the traps and failures that may lead to a meaningless existence.

For Yau Bee Ling, it is the moment that defines the person she is and will be. Introverted and thoughtful, her onwards journey takes her to her inner self. It leads her to ask the all important question: "What is my inner self?" "Who am I?" "What am I here for?" "What purpose am I serving?" "What will I leave behind?"

Through her works, she challenges and ponders the questions that inhabit her mind and soul. Each series of paintings are charged with their own distinctive energy, reflective of her state of mind, her emotional well-being and the way she perceives her place in the world at the time. Her works are therefore a cathartic process for her, as she struggles to reconcile the meaning of life, through the layering of and scraping back of paint, and colour, navigating her way through the twisting terrains of her paintings in the search for truth.

Bee Ling has exhibited extensively in exhibitions across China, Pakistan, Singapore, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia and Malaysia and represented Malaysia at the Asian Art Biennial in Dhaka, Bangladesh and at the Fukuoka Triennale. Her works are in the permanent collections of numerous private and public collections including Mulpha, Maxis Berhad and the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum.





YAU BEE LING (B. 1972)

EDUCATION

1995 Diploma in Fine Art (Major in Painting), School of Art & Design, Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Structural Voids, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2023 Redefining Resilience: Embracing the Battleground Within and Beyond, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2022 Light Bearer, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2021 A relentless whirlwind- from inside, looking out, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2019 Interwoven Terrains, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2016 By Hands, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2013 The Women, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2008 Portraits of Paradox, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 18@8 pLAy, 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 Art Jakarta 2022, JCC Senayan, Indonesia
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 The Field Beyond, Lim Hak Tai Gallery @ NAFA Campus 1, Singapore
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
2018 Teh Tarik with The Flag, curated by Wei-Ling Gallery, The National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art Jakarta, The Ritz-Carlton Jakarta, Pacific Place, Indonesia
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 Stage Singapore 2016, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
2015 18@8 Heirlooms, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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
- 2010 Absolut 18@8, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 18@8 - 1 Malaysia : Beyond The Canvas, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 18@8: Vice & Virtue, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tukar Ganti: New Malaysian Paintings, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore, HT Contemporary Space, Singapore
Semesta, La Galleria Pall Mall Art Gallery, London, UK
Shifting Boundaries: WWF Art For Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE), China World Trade Centre, Beijing, China
- 2007 Out Of The Mould: The Age Of Reason, Malmö Art Museum, Malmö, Sweden
00:15 Superstar: WWF Art For Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
Out Of The Mould: The Age Of Reason, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18@8, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2006 Rimbun Dahan Artist In Residence Show, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
Signed and Dated: 10th Anniversary Show, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18@8: Kuala Lumpur – Karachi, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan in collaboration with Wei-Ling Gallery
Feed Me! An Exploration of Appetites: WWF Art For Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
- 2005 Rooster Mania, Townhouse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Taman Sari: The Power of Dreaming And Identity: WWF Art For Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
18@8: Contemporary Artists From Malaysia & Beyond, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art ± 1,000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Free Show, Reka Art Space, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- 2004 Soul of Asia: Fukuoka Asian Art Museum
Collection, Hokkaido Museum of Contemporary Art, Hokkaido, Japan
Fifteen, Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Semangat: Artists For Theatre, Fund Raising Exhibition for Five Arts Centre, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Home Improvement (A Two-Person Show), Reka Art Space, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia



- Art ± 1,000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Paradise Lost / Paradise Found: WWF Art For Nature, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
- 2003 Art ± 1,000, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Games We Play: WWF Invitational Group Exhibition, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
- 2002 Imagined Workshop, 2nd Fukuoka Triennale 2002, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
Touch: WWF Invitational Group Exhibition, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Selangor
- 2001 Voices from The Heart, World Woman's Day Invitational Show, East West Gallery of Fine, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Inhabitant (A Two-Person Show), Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2000 Seasons Greetings, Southeast Asia Collection: Group Exhibition, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Love On Paper: Invitational Group Exhibition, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Nur Cahaya Nurmu, World Women's Week: Malaysian Women Artists Group Show, Aseana KLCC & Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Transformation: 6 Artists From Malaysia: Invitational Group Exhibition, Gallery Wan and Balai Seni Lukis Negara, Malaysia, and Singapore Sculpture Square, Singapore.
- 1999 9th Asian Art Biennial, Bangladesh: 99th Invitational International Group Exhibition, Department of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shipakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Through Our Eyes: Malaysian Women Artist Invitational Exhibition, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1998 Around The Body: Invitational Group Exhibition, Sutra Dance Theatre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Alami Antara Langit Dan Bumi: Invitational Group Exhibition, Balai Seni Lukis Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Aku 99: Potret Diri: Invitational Group Exhibition, Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1997 Family, Home and Hope (A Two Person Show), Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
PNB Artist-Artist Muda 1997: Selected Group Exhibition Permodalan Nasional Berhad Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1996 Pelita Hati Gallery of Art Collection: Invitational Group Show, Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
New Voices: Diploma Group Exhibition, Malaysian Institute of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1995 Fresh Eyes: Selected Young Artists Group Exhibition, Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



AWARDS

- 1995 Malaysian Institute of Art Full Scholarship Award (Fine Art Course)
2004-5 Artist-in-Residence, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Malaysia
2016 Kuandu Artist in Residence, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Permanent Collection
Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei National University of The Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
National Visual Art Gallery, Malaysia
Galeri Petronas, Malaysia
Hijas Kasturi Association, Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia
The Aliya and Farouk Khan Collection
Dr Steve and Rosemary Wong
Mulpha International Bhd
Ng Sek San and Carolyn Lau
Architron Design Consultants Sdn Bhd
Wei-Ling Gallery, Malaysia
KIAN Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
Valentine Willie Fine Art, Malaysia
Veritas Design Group, Malaysia
Park Royal Hotel, Malaysia
Collection of Zain Azahari
Maxis Berhad
Bank of Singapore
KLK Berhad