

An abstract painting by Yau Bee Ling titled 'Structural'. The artwork is a dense, multi-layered composition of vibrant colors including red, blue, green, yellow, and white, set against a dark brown background. The style is highly expressive, with visible brushstrokes and a complex, chaotic arrangement of shapes and lines. In the lower right, there are white, rectangular, grid-like structures that resemble a window frame or a railing, partially obscuring the underlying colorful layers. The overall effect is one of intense energy and visual complexity.

YAU BEE LING
STRUCTURAL

V O I D S

Structural Voids

Yau Bee Ling

9 May — 6 June 2026

Wei-Ling Gallery

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The void is not outside the noise, it lives within it.

~Yau Bee Ling

Wei-Ling Gallery presents '*Structural Voids*', new paintings by Yau Bee Ling and her eighth solo presentation with the gallery. The exhibition opens alongside '*The Weaving of Life: Art through Trials and Triumphs*', the first monograph dedicated to the artist's work. Together they represent more than thirty years of a practice that has sought, with persistence and great feeling, to articulate what ordinary life leaves unspoken.

Bee Ling has spent her entire career observing the textures of her closest relationships, as well as how they hold and fray. In '*Structural Voids*', her focus is drawn to something she can't get away from: people losing their grip on one another. The six large-scale oil paintings express that feeling in the most honest way possible, with a focus on the young, her own children and students, a generation she has watched with tenderness as they struggle to find their place in a world that continues to fragment them.

Each canvas is built up in layers, with pigment applied and sanded back, and earlier decisions integrated into later ones until the surface contains all that went into it. The method is as geological as it is painterly, with the visual composition following a determined formal ordering and colours chosen for psychological weight rather than harmony. Thin white gaps and cuttings punctuate each heavily wrought surface at the points where structure strains and individuals begin to wander, yet still held together.

Whereas her previous solo '*Redefining Resilience*' (2023) saw the self as a vessel moving across open water with emotion as its cargo, this body of work explores what remains after that journey requires you to peel back the layers of who you have been. The human presence emerges tentatively from within these structures, with bodies and forms that are half-formed but not yet declared. Bee Ling refers to each painting as having its own psychological traffic, which includes doubt and suppression, as well as the slow work of rediscovering herself within the marks. For her, a void is a new creation, the space cleared for something truer to emerge.

These paintings work on two registers at once. The surface builds a physical record through pigment, texture and accumulation while beneath it suppression, memory and unspoken feeling are made visible, the material and emotion held in the same form. Here, self-doubt finds its footing and a life learns to turn away from what it cannot, while confronting the voids we created in the silences we chose not to break. She refers to them as both a blessing and a paradox, and she means both because they are also where the true self awaits— a state that the soul acknowledges as its own inadequacy and continues to strive to fill.

This reaching extends beyond the individual and into the outside world. Political life, the natural world, and a social world that has learned to mimic intimacy without creating it are all affected by the disconnect Bee Ling traces. She implies that we are dealing with an emotional issue that we haven't yet been able to honestly identify: the difference between connection as performance and connection as understanding. All of this is contained in her canvases without being forced to be resolved; they have the feel of rooms that remember the people who passed through them, cozy with the remnants of past lives.

Seen together, the exhibition and monograph confirm a practice that has earned, over thirty years, the courage to meet herself again inside of them.

Note: 'The Weaving of Life: Art through Trials and Triumphs', produced by Wei-Ling Gallery and supported by Balai Seni Visual Negara, surveys Yau Bee Ling's practice from 1990 to 2025 across 250 full-colour pages. Featuring key essays by curators Louis Ho and Gowri Balasegaram among others, large-scale reproductions, and extensive fold-out documentation, it offers a sustained account of three and a half decades tracing a painter who has held her commitments firmly while continuing to find new ground within them.

Where expansion begins
Oil on jute canvas
150.5cm x 213.5cm
2026





In situ for scale



Close-up of Where expansion begins

Emerging intervals
Oil on jute canvas
150.5cm x 213.5cm
2026





In situ for scale



Close-up of Emerging intervals

Constructing Presence - memory room
Oil on jute canvas
89cm x 150cm
2026



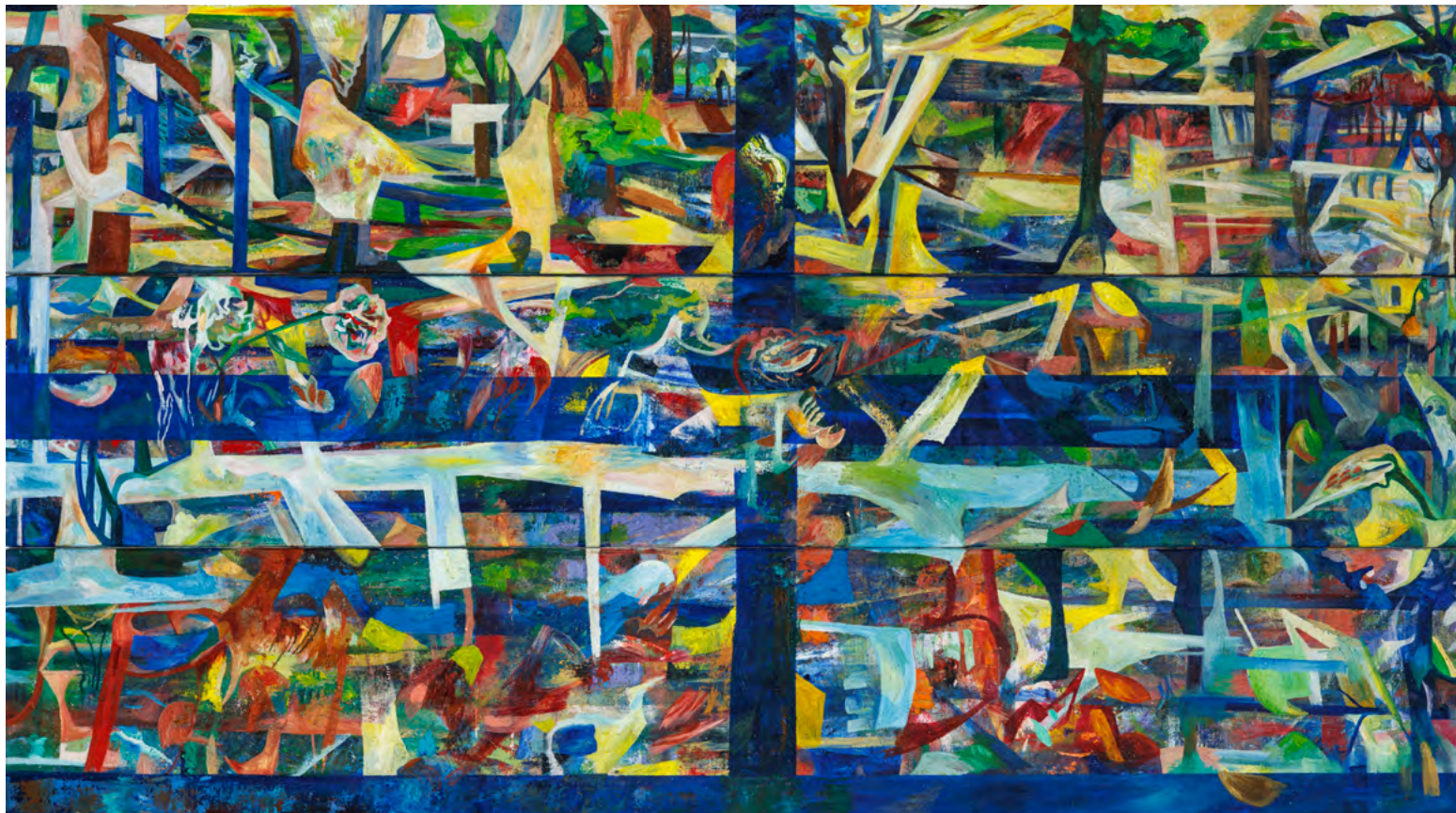


In situ for scale



Close-up of Constructing Presence - memory room

Held Window
Oil on jute canvas
30.8cm x 167.5cm (Each)
92.5cm x 167.5cm (Triptych)
2026





In situ for scale



Close-up of Held Window

Held in Absence
Oil on jute canvas
89cm x 150cm
2026





In situ for scale



Close-up of Held in Absence

Where We Reach Beyond
Oil on jute canvas
89cm x 150cm
2026





In situ for scale



Close-up of Where We Reach Beyond



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.

EDUCATION

1995

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

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** CIMB ARTOBER - ART & SOUL, MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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, WeiLing 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
 Out Of The Mould: The Age Of Reason, Malmö Art Museum, Malmö, Sweden
- 2007** 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

To accompany *Structural Voids* by Yau Bee Ling from 09 May — 06 June 2026.

Gallery Information

Free Admission for visitors.

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, Yau Bee Ling

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Front cover image: *Constructing Presence - memory room, 2026*

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