

## TAJUDDIN ISMAIL

### Inspired by nature

By Siti Wajihah Kholil



Innerspace-Mindscape No 8, 1990  
Acrylic on board 122 x 122cm

Tajuddin Ismail is a reputable artist worthy of respect and recognition for his amazing abstract art that draws inspiration from natural forms and landscapes. His distinctive style has lured many art enthusiasts into his realm of innovative, complex artistry. To Tajuddin, just as how music is able to make a connection with the listener, art is the same. It is all about making a visual connection with what one is seeing.

#### Education and occupation

Born in 1949 in Negeri Sembilan, Tajuddin had a deep-rooted passion for art at an early age. He not only possesses great talent, but he also has a solid educational foundation in art as well. He studied Fine Art at the MARA University Institute of Technology (UiTM) in Malaysia and then pursued Graphic Design at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, USA. Then he did his post-graduate studies in Interior Architecture at Pratt Institute in New York, USA. In 1987, he was granted the Fulbright Research Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies of New York.

In 1975, Tajuddin became a senior lecturer and an associate professor of design at UiTM's Faculty of Architecture. In 2004, he resigned from UiTM and established an art gallery, TJ Fine Art, with

his wife, Khaliah Ismail. Both now are the managing directors of the gallery. It was set up for the purpose of exclusively featuring Tajuddin's works along with those of other chosen contemporary artists from Asia, the USA, South America and Europe.

#### Awards and achievements

The renowned artist has participated in more than 150 solo and group exhibitions in Malaysia and throughout countries in Asia, South America, Europe, and USA since the late 1960's. Active for almost five decades, Tajuddin has won numerous Art and Design awards nationally and his artworks can be found in private art collections, museums, exhibitions and corporations in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and America. He is also a well-respected graphic and interior design consultant to many government agencies and private organisations.

Some of his solo exhibitions held locally included Recent Paintings & Drawings at Dewan Tunku Chancellor (1977), Innerspace at Australian High Commission KL (1978), Recent Works (1979) and Unfold (1994) at Art Salon KL, and Mind Matter & Metaphor at Segaris Art Centre KL (2012). His works were also featured at the KL Auction in April 2013. He was conferred with various honours



Innerspace-Ochefield, 1990  
Acrylic on board 122 x 122 cm



Imago, 1994  
Acrylic on board 60 x 60 cm



Untitled, 1977  
Mixed Media on paper 22 x 16 cm

and awards from Salon Malaysia of the National Art Gallery KL (Minor Award) in 1979, Malaysia Design Council (Minor Award) and Phillip Morris at the Malaysian Art Awards (Honourable Mention) in 1994.

### His art style

Subjectivity in paintings is what makes abstracts so unique and beautiful. Tajuddin's abstract artworks are never straightforward and underlie a metaphoric or symbolic meaning. The interpretation of his paintings is never meant to be one way in particular, as he creates his art pieces in a way that can mean different things to different people as perception is based on life experiences. With art, it is not

a matter of understanding what an artist simply paints, it is more about how the art makes you feel. This principle has always been the sole purpose for the artist.

Nature is his prime inspiration due to his appreciation of God's creations as sustenance of life on earth, which he truly appreciates. The greatness of nature's wonder can make one ponder on its beauty and tranquill. Hence, Tajuddin's art uses a mixture of lines, colours and geometric shapes to portray the time and space of nature in a serene poetic visual language that is very well structured, yet lyrical. His complex sense of illustration with simplified oeuvre mirrors his artistic talent, knowledge, skills and spiritual development as an artist.



**Lot 1** Horizon, 2002  
Acrylic on canvas 30.5 x 30 cm  
RM 3,000 - RM 4,500



**Lot 107** Sinaran, 1989  
Acrylic on canvas 90 x 90 cm  
RM 14,000 - RM 18,000

**KLAS Auction Edition VIII**  
April 6, 2014  
Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur

Born in 1949 in Negeri Sembilan, Tajuddin Ismail studied Fine Art at ITM School of Art & Design before he furthered his studies in Graphic Design at the Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles. He continued to pursue his post-graduate studies in Interior Architecture at Pratt Institute New York. In 1987, he became a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Research Fellowship by The American Council of Learned Societies of New York.

Tajuddin has been actively involved as a painter since the late 1960s and has participated in more than 150 solo and group exhibitions in Malaysia, Asia, Europe, USA and Latin America. Besides being a professional painter, he is also a graphic and interior design consultant to numerous government agencies and corporations in Malaysia.