



KLAS ART AUCTION 2020

MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

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TOP 30 MOST EXPENSIVE ARTWORKS SOLD BY KL LIFESTYLE ART SPACE IN 2020

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN

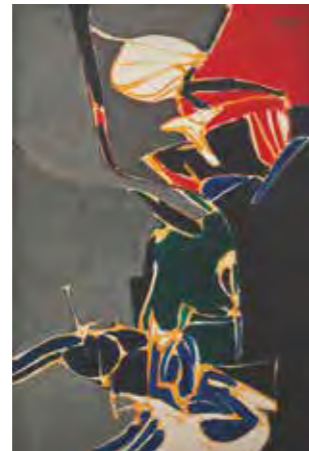
KL Lifestyle Art Space (KLAS) bids adieu to an unprecedented and astounding year of its modern and contemporary art auctions. The esteemed gallery's concluding art auction in Jalan Utara, Petaling Jaya on Nov 8 marked its final event for the 2020 calendar year. KLAS saw exceptional highs as it celebrated the brilliant and beautiful masterpieces of artists from Malaysia and

South-East Asia. As we dawn upon a new year and decade of important artworks, we look back at 2020's momentous art pieces and highlights sold by this reputable auction house. Names that indisputably made the list were hot shots such as the late Khalil Ibrahim, Datuk Chuah Thean Teng, Yusof Ghani, Choo Keng Kwang, Datuk Sharifah Fatimah – artists that frequented KLAS' auctions, and names expected

to fare very well. Besides the heavyweights, 2020 also saw a famed Indian artist, Suhas Roy with his 'Landscape with Flowers and Birds', Filipino artist Cesar Legaspi's 'Nude 1978' as well as Chinese artist, Chuang Che's 'Landscape No.1, 1970' soar past its expectations. Marvel at these visual beauties – the pieces that broke records and won hearts.



Abdul Latiff Mohidin Dark Bakau, 1999
Oil on canvas 122 x 122 cm
SOLD RM 240,800
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Cheong Lai Tong B. China, 1932
Abstract, 1969
Oil on board
119.5 x 81.5 cm
SOLD RM 173,600
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Chuang Che B. China, 1934
Landscape #1, 1970
Acrylic and collage on canvas 129.5 x 167.5 cm
SOLD RM 145,600
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Raden Baseki Abdullah Central Java, 1915
Nude
Oil on canvas 65 x 120 cm
SOLD RM 128,800
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Chuah Thean Teng, Dato B. China, 1914 - 2008
Mother and Children, 1990's
Batik 92 x 61 cm
SOLD RM 128,800
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Yusof Ghani B. Johor, 1950
Siri Tari 14/91, 1991
Oil on canvas 122 x 122 cm
SOLD RM 120,960
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Yusof Ghani B. Johor, 1950
Biring Series XIV, 2006
Oil on canvas 122 x 90 cm
SOLD RM 103,040
KLAS Art Auction 7 July 2020



Syed Thajudeen B. India, 1943
Lightness of Being, 1999
Oil on canvas 136.5 x 273 cm (Triptych)
SOLD RM 84,000
KLAS Art Auction 12 July 2020



Lee Man Fong B. China, 1913 - 1988
Still Life Flowers, 1940s
Oil on canvas 74 x 61 cm
SOLD RM 95,200
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Awang Damit Ahmad B. Sabah, 1956
EOC Series "Sinumandak", 1988
Acrylic on canvas 89 x 79 cm
SOLD RM 79,520
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Khalil Ibrahim B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018
East Coast Series, 1970s
Batik 87 x 70 cm
SOLD RM 84,000
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Cesar Legaspi B. Philippines, 1917 - 1994
Nude, 1978
Oil on wood 65 x 50 cm
SOLD RM 71,680
KLAS Art Auction 12 July 2020



Chuah Thean Teng, Dato B. China, 1914 - 2008
Village Scene
Batik 45 X 119 cm
SOLD RM 64,960
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Khalil Ibrahim B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018
Movement in Blue, 1973
Batik 55 x 45 cm
SOLD RM 64,400
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Awang Damit Ahmad B. Sabah, 1956
Iraga "Memori Kelabu" 2004
Mixed media on canvas 148 x 122 cm
SOLD RM 66,080
KLAS Art Auction 12 July 2020



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato B. Kedah, 1958
Song of Songs 2, 1998
Acrylic on canvas 136 x 120 cm
SOLD RM 64,960
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Chen Wen Hsi B. China, 1906 - 1991
Herons
Ink on paper 65 x 68 cm
SOLD RM 61,600
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Awang Damit Ahmad B. Sabah, 1956
Marista Sisa Semusim IV, 1996
Mixed media on canvas 135 x 120 cm
SOLD RM 57,120
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Abdullah Ariff B. Penang, 1904-1962
Tree by a River, 1955
Watercolour on paper 33 x 56 cm
SOLD RM 57,120
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Choo Keng Kwang B. Singapore, 1931
Pigeons, 1983
Oil on board 76 x 120 cm
SOLD RM 57,120
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Lee Man Fong B.
China, 1913 – 1988
"Goddess of Life & Death I"
(Amsterdam), 1952
Charcoal on paper
71 x 48 cm
SOLD RM 56,000
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Suhas Roy B. India, 1936 – 2016
Landscape with Flowers and Bird, 1971
Mixed media on canvas 99 x 99 cm
SOLD RM 52,640
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato B. Kedah, 1958
Nursiyah, 2015 - 17
Acrylic on canvas 120 x 100 cm
SOLD RM 50,400
KLAS Art Auction 12 July 2020



Khalil Ibrahim B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018
East Coast Series, 2005
Acrylic on canvas 58 x 76 cm
SOLD RM 48,160
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Ibrahim Hussein, Datuk B. Kedah, 1936-2009
Freeze, 1964
Gouache on printed magazine paper laid to card
21.5 x 21.5 cm
SOLD RM 47,040
KLAS Art Auction 1 March 2020



Awang Damit Ahmad B. Sabah, 1956
Payarama Baru "Ikon Semudra...Bangau", 2016
Mixed media on canvas 122 x 122 cm
SOLD RM 45,920
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Rafiee Ghani
B. Kedah, 1962
Still Life, 1994
Acrylic on canvas 154 x 96 cm
SOLD RM 44,800
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020



Khalil Ibrahim B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018
East Coast Series - Abstraction, 2005
Acrylic on canvas 58 x 67 cm
SOLD RM 44,800
KLAS Art Auction 8 November 2020



Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur B. Belgium, 1880 – 1958
Ni Pollock Weaving
Pastel crayon and watercolour on paper 46 x 62 cm
SOLD RM 44,800
KLAS Art Auction 12 July 2020



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato B. Kedah, 1958
Greenscape, 1987
Acrylic on canvas 102 x 106 cm
SOLD RM 44,800
KLAS Art Auction 6 September 2020

KHALIL IBRAHIM'S EARLY WORKS

THE INIMITABLE MAESTRO

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN



Sunrise (Pahang River Series), 1950's
Oil on board 34 x 46cm



Sunset (Pahang River Series), 1950's
Oil on board 35 x 45cm

Khalil Ibrahim was a multifaceted artist who forayed into many art mediums and excelled in each, proving his legendary status. Aptly named as a multifaceted maestro, Khalil was born in 1934 in Kubang Krian, Kelantan. He was one of the earliest Malaysians to receive a full scholarship to study art at the prestigious Central St Martins School of Art and Design in London. Throughout his long career, Khalil had held a number of solo and group exhibitions in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Switzerland.

His masterful skills in drawing, watercolour and acrylic, are styles that move from the almost real to the almost abstract. Owning a piece of his artwork is truly a gift of beauty through the artist's eyes. Khalil's preference for the human figure and his deep affection for the East Coast had led him to create iconic images of men and women in the East Coast Malay fishing villages against stark backgrounds of blues

and greens and watercolour landscape of villages.

PRIMORDIAL DAYS

Khalil's rich Malay cultural background in the East Coast and the discipline of Islamic values that he learnt at the Pondok school shaped his primordial artistic journey. These values stuck by him which then merged with the freedom of expression that he encountered later on through his formal education at St. Martins in London. Though he did not receive any formal education during the early years in Kelantan, Khalil's awareness of modern art was cultivated through a period of colonialism and the experiences of pioneering artists from the Nanyang Academy.

With an innate passion for making wayang kulit, his artistic talent flourished. He would make the wayang kulit by drawing on a big leaf with the addition of a cardboard,

which would then be used to play with his friends. Khalil took this newfound interest and competed in events and shows held almost every month. Unfortunately, his mother disapproved of his interest while his father urged him to become a teacher. Despite his parents' disapproval, Khalil remained steadfast to his passion.

LANDSCAPE WORKS

Khalil formal education in art began when he would attend art classes every Sunday in Kota Bharu under the tutelage of art inspector, Nik Mahmud Idris who had a formal art education in Singapore between 1945 and 1947. Together with artists Yusoff Sulaiman and the late Nik Zainal Abidin, Khalil learnt the fundamentals of painting — drawing and painting first in watercolours and later in oils. The revolving theme in this class was the pastoral setting of kampungs and it was through this experience that Khalil

enhanced his ability of capturing nature in all its glory. Now equipped with the techniques he learnt in art classes, the artist allowed his creativity to blossom, which resulted in scenic landscapes of the Malaysian East Coast in his works, such as the undulating hills and the padi fields. Evident in most of the artist's East Coast landscapes, he possessed the ability to transform a humble rural scene to a sweeping visions of beauty using a display of colours and showcased his established precision.

Khalil Ibrahim's landscapes and their meticulous detailing is a celebration of nature. Besides European masters, it could also be presumed that Khalil was influenced by English landscape painter, John Constable, known for revolutionising landscape painting and whose works are sold for millions of pounds. In the 1950s, the self-taught painter regularly while working as a primary school teacher in Kelantan and Pahang, before he was awarded a Pahang state scholarship to study art in England. Seeing this, army officers and civil servants became interested and went on to purchase many of Khalil's early works. The artist's early genre of paintings such as 'Sunrise, 1950's' and 'Sunset, 1950's' emphasised much of his Kelantanese heritage and depicted the influence of traditional mid twentieth style of realist painting at the time. These works also became a representation of Khalil's response to traditional art concepts while highlighting Kelantan's cultural environment.

EARLY STYLE

Khalil was sponsored by the Pahang state government to continue his studies at the prestigious Central St. Martin's School of Art and Design in London and in the same year, the infamous art critic Clement Greenberg visited London and Cornwall, to check out contemporary works of art. The next year, British pop artist Peter Blake joined St. Martin's and lectured in the school at the same time Khalil was studying there. David Hockney used to drop by to give the budding art students lectures, and Khalil attended some of those sessions. Students at St. Martin's were encouraged to visit museums and art galleries which were experiences that not only intrigued Khalil, but allowed him to study the works of great European masters.



Sawah Padi Series, 1956
Oil on Board 30cm x 45.5cm



Grand Palace of Kota Bharu (Kampung Home of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah) - Kota Bharu (5.12.1956)
Oil on canvas 34cm x 50cm



Pahang River Boathouses, 1957
Oil on canvas 35 x 61 cm



Kota Bharu Boathouses (Rumah Rakit Kota Bharu), 1960
Oil on canvas 40.5cm x 61cm

Khalil's 'English' or post St Martin artworks reveals a comparatively different style from his earlier landscapes and portraits. Influenced by his peers, lecturers, and his foreign surroundings, the early 1960's saw him experimenting with abstraction in works like Destruction and Destruction II and Abstract I. The artist would experiment with abstract forms drawn into his sketch book and demonstrating his attempt at bringing portraiture and concepts of abstraction together. Khalil's art works were still in flux as he sought styles and methods which spoke of his own unique journey. Like many aspiring artists, Khalil participated in numerous group exhibitions organised by St. Martin's as well with the Malayan Art Circle and at Malaysia Hall.

With Khalil Ibrahim's legendary status and sheer talent, his works across all mediums are highly valued till today. More importantly, his landscape works of the 1950's are beauty captured on canvas and a rarity. Only a limited number of artworks were produced by the artist and remains highly coveted by art collectors and institutions alike.



Bachok, 1957
Oil on canvas 32 cm X 52 cm