



**Khalil Ibrahim** B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018  
Nude Movement, Circa 1980s  
Acrylic on canvas 38 x 21 cm



**Rafiee Ghani** B. Kedah, 1962  
Still Life, 1994  
Acrylic on canvas 154 x 96 cm



**Abdul Latiff Mohidin** B. N. Sembilan, 1941  
Pago Pago Series – Rumbia (Singapore), 1968 Edition 1/3  
Linocut on paper 45.5 x 30 cm

# PERFECT 10

## CELEBRATING 10 THRIVING YEARS @ KLAS

BY HIRANMAYII AWLI MOHANAN

Since its inception in February 2011, KL Lifestyle Art Space (KLAS) has carved a distinctive name for itself as a leading auction house and gallery in the vibrant Malaysian art scene, having promoted and sold over several thousand artworks by established local, regional and international artists including several renowned masters. In celebration of KL Lifestyle Art Space's (KLAS) 10 thriving years of being in the industry, we look back at the major artworks sold and exhibited by KLAS since its establishment in 2011 in a forthcoming coffee table book to be published.

### ART JOURNEY MILESTONES

KL Lifestyle Art Space first opened its doors at Tropicana City Mall in 2011, with the main objective of giving due recognition to Malaysian artists, primarily senior and established artists who have been under the radar for quite some time – especially those who have not been recognised as much as their contemporary counterparts. True to its promise, after merely one and a half years and relocating into its gallery in Jalan Maarof, Bangsar, KLAS hosted its first art auction in the third quarter of 2012 – the Inaugural Indonesian and Malaysian Modern & Contemporary Art Auction at Nusantara Ballroom, Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur.

KLAS's introductory auction in 2012 saw the featuring of Malaysian and Indonesian artworks, with venerable names such as Jeihon Sukmantoro and Srihadi Soedarsono leading the pack. With KLAS art auctions and the Malaysian visual arts scene growing in tandem, more and more works of senior artists from neighbouring countries were secured.

The second KLAS auction dubbed "The Malaysian Modern & Contemporary Art Auction 2012" sold over RM2.4 million worth of artworks, achieving over 90% in sales from 108 artworks. It was evident during this auction that Malaysian art aficionados started to take a keen interest in the auctions hosted by KLAS. The interest surged steadily during the third auction,

during which sales catapulted and surpassed the RM3 million mark, with over 92% in sales garnered.

In 2013, Filipino artists began to pervade KLAS, led by Ang Kiukok, Malang Santos, Benedicto Cabrera and much recently, Jose Joya. In 2014, when Singaporean artworks and buyers started making their way into KLAS art auctions, Malaysian artworks were exposed to our neighbours, and they have been fascinated with them since. On an international scale, KLAS has successfully hosted two major shows to date. Our Being, a solo exhibition in 2011 by the seasoned Indonesian artist Jeihon Sukmantoro, marked KLAS' foray into promoting artworks by renowned Southeast Asian artists. KLAS' second international exhibition took place in 2017 with a major Australian artist, David Bromley, for his inaugural exhibition in Kuala Lumpur

Eager to satisfy aficionados' hunger for beautiful and brilliant works, soon, an extensive variety of works from maestros such as Chen Wen Hsi, Cheong Soo Pieng, Tay Bak Koi collected by Singaporeans, Laxman Pai and B Vithal from India, John Coburn and David Bromley of Australia, Sujarit Hirankul of Thailand, Min Wae Aung of Myanmar, sought after prints by Zao Wou Ki and Damien Hirst and many more descended upon KL Lifestyle Art Space.

In 2015, KLAS moved into a beaming industrial-looking gallery in Jalan Utara which birthed more auctions and became home to many more artworks and sculptures since. At present, the gallery is under renovation and looking at doubling the space in 2021. Visitors can expect a new shop unit to open in March, the same year, in Jalan Bukit to cater for affordable masterpieces by renowned Malaysian and international artists.



**Damien Hirst** B. England, 1965  
The Souls III (Leaf, Green, Rustic Copper), 2010  
Foil - Block print in colours, 73 x 52 cm



**Abdul Latiff Mohidin** B. N. Sembilan, 1941  
Mindscape Series "Mindscape - 27", 1983  
Oil on canvas 89.5 x 90 cm



**Chuang Che** B. China, 1934  
Landscape #1, 1970  
Acrylic and collage on canvas 129.5 x 167.5 cm



**Khalil Ibrahim** B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018  
Nude, 2006  
Acrylic on canvas 90 x 105 cm



**Abdul Latiff Mohidin** B. Negeri Sembilan, 1941  
Gelombang, 1993  
Mixed media on paper 18 x 27 cm



**Hoessein Enas, Dato'**  
B. Indonesia, 1924 – 1995  
Portrait of Zuebaidah, 1958  
Oil on canvas 82 x 66.5 cm



**Hoessein Enas, Dato'**  
B. Indonesia, 1924 – 1995  
East Coast Girl, 1985  
Oil On Canvas 40.5 x 30.5 cm



**Chuah Thean Teng, Dato B.**  
China, 1914 - 2008  
Mother and Children, 1990's  
Batik 92 x 61 cm



**Chen Wen Hsi**  
B. China, 1906 – 1991  
Herons  
Ink on paper 65 x 68 cm



**Awang Damit Ahmad** B. Sabah, 1956  
EOC Series "Sinumandak", 1988  
Acrylic on canvas 89 x 79 cm

## SCULPTURES

Over the years, since 2011, KLAS has seen many sculptures grace its halls, crafted by venerable artists such as Abdul Latiff Mohidin, Abdul Multhalib Musa, Ng Eng Teng, Jim Dine and B. Vithal to name a few.

**Abdul Multhalib Musa** is considered the chief sculptor in the contemporary Malaysian art movement. His clean, kinetically influenced sculptures have earned him several awards, residencies and commissions, notable among them the Rimbun Dahan Residency in 2001 and the Australian High Commission Residency in 2004. In 2002, Multhalib won the Award of Excellence at the 6th Oita Asian Sculpture Open Competition in Japan, the Juror's Choice Award at the National Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur in 2002 before going on to be selected for the Ordos 11th Asia Arts Festival, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China, as well as the Urumqi International Urban Sculpture Symposium in Xinjiang, China in 2009. He won a competition to design a major outdoor sculpture for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in China. Multhalib has created major commissioned works for Petronas, The Hilton, The Grand Hyatt, The Westin, Aliya and Farouk Khan, and UMW Toyota.

**Abdul Latiff Mohidin** or affectionally known to serious art collectors as Pak Latiff was born in Seremban. He was a child prodigy and has become an artist virtuoso of epic reputation. A constantly evolving artist, Latiff's many series, include Pago-Pago, Mindscape, Langkawi and Gelombang and his foray into sculpting has established his status as one of the most versatile artists in the Malaysian art scene.

**Jim Dine** is an American artist often associated with both Pop Art and Abstract Expressionism. However, he did not identify with a specific movement, instead, produced a vast oeuvre of paintings, drawings, works on paper, sculptures, poetry and performances. Emerging as a pioneer of New York's Happenings of the 1960's, Dine would carry the spontaneous energy of this movement throughout his style, which emphasised the exploration of everyday life. Personally significant objects were Dine's primary motifs, as in his iconic series of hearts and robes.

**Ng Eng Teng** crowned as 'The Grandfather of Singapore Sculpture', was born on July 12, 1934 and studied painting under first-generation masters such as Georgette Chen and Liu Kang. He then moved to England to further his studies in ceramics. Since returning to Singapore in 1966, Eng Teng produced prolific works throughout his career until his death in November 2001. He was a celebrated artist in Singapore, remembered for his large-scale sculptures gracing many public spaces. Among Eng Teng's slew of sculptures, one stands out; it is an homage to a great art legend, Frank Sullivan. Sullivan's influential foothold in the art movement in Malaysia and Singapore inspired Eng Teng to create



**NG ENG TENG**  
Conical Form, 1985s  
Clay sculpture 56.5cm

the 'Bust of Frank Sullivan' in the 1970's. The sculpture, 'Bust of Frank Sullivan' which was previously in the private collection of an English estate in London, shows his meticulous brilliance, capturing the essence and minutiae of Sullivan's features perfectly, from his smile to the waves in his hair. It could also be assumed that both Sullivan and Eng Teng had crossed paths during Sullivan's active advocacy of the local art scene in Malaysia and Singapore that led him to pay a tribute to this great man.

**B. Vithal** was born in Maharashtra, India in 1935. He was a master sculptor and painter who studied at the Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai. With his learnings, his sculptural works became known for their monumentality, with the innate understanding of the human form being evident. At the early age of five, he started sketching Lord Ganesh and other deities in chalk on his slate. Coming from this inspiration, his works were inspired by Hindu mythology, philosophy and ancient Indian art. In the mature phase of his career, Vithal focused on sculptures because the process was a more tangible experience than painting. The bronze sculpture that was featured in KLAS Art Auction is one of Ganesh, the Hindu god of beginnings who is highly recognisable with his elephant head and human body, representing the soul and the physical respectively. Ganesh's big belly is thought to represent generosity and total acceptance, and he is known as the patron of writers, travellers, students and entrepreneurs, for whom he removes obstacles.

**Lye Yau Fatt** was heavily influenced by the Nanyang style, especially under the mentorship of the legendary artist and Nanyang art style pioneer Cheong Soo Pieng. Lye Yau Fatt's cement and granite sculpture entitled 'Malay Girl/Gadis Melayu' (Illustrated on page 7 of the Exhibition Winner Announcement Catalogue) won the 2nd Prize for the Sculpture Competition And Exhibition in 1983 hosted and exhibited by the Penang State Art Museum in collaboration with Sin Pin Jih Pao Malaysia and Super Departmental Store Sdn. Bhd. This particular sculpture retains some link to figuration, especially the appearance of the woman which resemble most of his famous elongated ladies in his canvas works, the subject is positioned in a way that would require a lot of deliberation from the viewers' part. She is seated, curled with her knees up to her chest as the material of her clothing is stretched. It is a quiet, serene moment – contemplative and solemn. It is the encapsulation of tranquility. However, this sculpture has the potential to be something very subjective, especially to the most fertile of imaginations.

**Datuk Ibrahim Hussein**, affectionately known as Ib, was born in Sungai Limau, Kedah, in 1936. He was a Malaysian artist best known for combining printmaking and collage in his colourful and layered paintings. Besides paintings, Datuk Ibrahim Hussein had also dabbled in sculptures, evident of his fervour for art. He studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore in 1956 and then moved to London, where he continued his studies at the Byam Shaw School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. He travelled to France and Italy after being presented with an Award of Merit scholarship. He also founded the Ibrahim Hussein Museum and Cultural Foundation in Langkawi in 2000 and celebrated it with the Langkawi International Festival of Arts. He also organised the Club Mediterranean Asian Arts Festival in Cherating (Pahang) and Bali.



**ABDUL MULTHALIB MUSA**  
Perching, 2003  
Lasercut mild steel 60 x 10 x 10cm



**ABDUL MULTHALIB MUSA**  
Reconstructing Beauty, 2004  
Lasercut mild steel 120cm x 120cm x 3cm



**ABDUL MULTHALIB MUSA**  
S-Curve, 2003  
Stainless steel 11 x 7 x 36 cm

**ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN**  
Pago Pago Sculpture, 1969  
Copper sculpture 99 x 89 x 35.5 cm



**NG ENG TENG**  
Pottery Head, Undated  
Stoneware 22 x 9 x 9 cm



**ABDUL MULTHALIB MUSA**  
Forgiven 2, 2002  
Stainless steel 52 x 31 x 38 cm



**B. VITHAL**  
Ganesha  
Bronze sculpture 10 x 7 cm



**PABLO PICASSO**  
Yan visage (1963 A.R. 512)  
Red earthenware 10.75 x 5 x 6.5cm

INTERNATIONAL ARTWORKS

Successfully growing in tandem with the Malaysian visual art scene, KLAS not only features modern and contemporary art by local artists, but regional and international artworks too. Such is evident with 'Prelude to Violence' by famed Filipino artist, José Joya which soared past expectations and set a new Malaysian record for KLAS. This abstract beauty that transcends foreign influences and borders, garnered the interest of many even before the auction, resulting in a riveting phone bid battle that ended with a thundering applause.

Always aiming to please art enthusiasts and presenting interesting artworks by maestros, it's noteworthy that this gallery and auction house has also featured 20th Century's most influential artist, Pablo Picasso's Red Earthenware with Black Painted numbering on Bottom Edition Picasso/ Madoura Edition 31/300; famed Australian artist David Bromley, Sri Lanka's most distinguished modern painter George Keyt; Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur — a Belgian painter from Brussels who lived the last part of his life in Bali, Indonesia; Charles Blackman, who was a celebrated Australian figurative artist of the 20th century; Damien Steven Hirst — an English artist, entrepreneur and art collector who dominated the art scene in the UK during the 1990s; Yoshitomo Nara, a Japanese artist best known for his paintings of children and animals that appear simultaneously sweet and sinister, and the list goes on.



**Yang Keshan** B. China, 1944  
Girl with Sheep, 1987  
Tempera on board 67.5 x 65 cm



**Ong Kim Seng** B. Singapore, 1945  
Himalayan Panorama, 1982  
Watercolour on paper 77.5 x 113 cm



**Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur** B. Belgium, 1880 – 1958  
Ni Pollock Weaving  
Pastel crayon and watercolour on paper 46 x 62 cm



**Paritosh Sen** B. India, 1918 - 2008  
Ragini Asavari, 1961  
Oil on panel 90 x 60 cm



**Putu Sutawijaya** B. Bali 1971  
Himalayan Beda Dalam Damai, 2003  
Acrylic on canvas 140 x 145 cm



**Srihadi Soedarsono** B. Indonesia, 1931  
Bedaya Ketawang-Beauty of Soul, 2015  
Oil on canvas 150 x 150 cm



**Chuah Thean Teng, Dato'** B. China, 1914 - 2008  
Village Scene  
Batik 46 x 120cm

LOCAL ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

Fast-forward 43 auctions later, KLAS has become a major mover in the Malaysian art landscape, spurring it towards its promising prime. A multitude of indisputable Malaysian heavyweights that frequent the auction house and art collectors look forward to include the late Khalil Ibrahim, Datuk Ibrahim Hussein, Abdul Latiff Mohidin, Awang Damit Ahmad, Yusof Ghani, Datuk Chuah Thean Teng, Datuk Sharifah Fatimah, Jolly Koh, Ong Kim Seng and Rafiee Ghani, among the mix.



**Abdullah Ariff**  
B. Penang, 1904-1962  
Tree by a River, 1955  
Watercolour on paper 33 x 56 cm



**Haji Widayat** B. Kelantan, 1934 - 2018  
Burung Phoenix  
Oil on board 50 x 59.5 cm



**Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato** B. Kedah, 1958  
Greenscape, 1987  
Acrylic on canvas 102 x 106 cm



**Ali Nurazmal Yusoff** B. Penang, 1978  
Whos Next, 2008  
Oil on canvas 61 x 61 cm



**Awang Damit Ahmad** B. Sabah, 1956  
EOC (Intipati Budaya) E.O.C Doa dan Syair Sang Pelaut, 1989  
Mixed Media 178 x 181 cm



**Ahmad Khalid** B. Kuala Lumpur, 1934 – 1997  
Untitled, 1978  
Acrylic on canvas 89 x 89 cm



**Yusof Ghani** B. Johor, 1950  
Siri Tari III, 1984  
Oil on canvas 163 x 219 cm

OPENING OF 'KLAS CORNER' IN 2021

The dawn of a new years calls for fresh beginnings and in the spirit of newness, KLAS expands its wings to a derivative of its main gallery dubbed 'KLAS Corner' at 9, Jalan Bukit, Petaling Jaya which is scheduled to open its doors in March 2021. Located within the same locale and merely 100 meters away from the flagship KL Lifestyle Art Space, this gallery would serve a medley of artworks by contemporary artists and masters as well as affordable artworks by established artists within Malaysia and internationally. This comes seeing the steady growth market of Malaysian art over the years, as well as keeping to KLAS' goal of exposing more Malaysians to the country's vibrant art scene.



**Syed Ahmad Jamal** B. Johor, 1929 -2011  
Picnic at Sonning, 2006  
Acrylic on canvas 76 x 183 cm