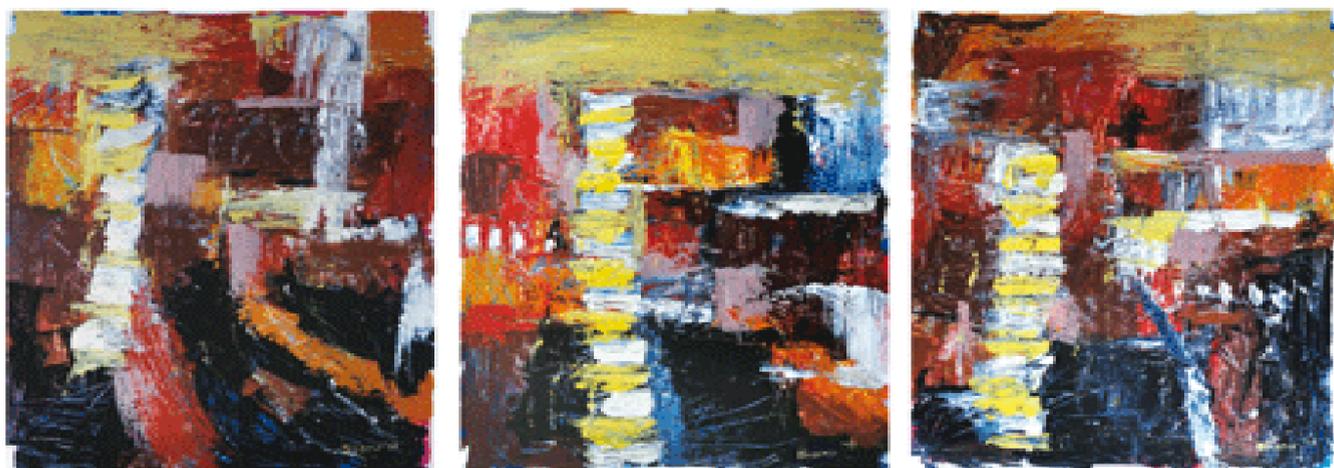


# BHANU ACHAN

## THE TRANSLATOR OF NATURE

BY HIRANMAYIL AWLI MOHANAN



Abstract Landscape V, 2011  
Oil on paper 54.5 x 67 cm x 3 pieces  
**SOLD RM 7,150.00**  
KLAS Art Auction 12 March, 2017

Kuala Lumpur born artist, Bhanu Achan is quietly content with life. He was meant to be an artist. His love for art has guided him through the twist and turns of his life to be where he is today. Leaving high school with an impeccable academic record and with a brilliant future ahead, Achan enrolled in medical school in India. Experiences in that deeply spiritual land introduced to him the divine and mystical side of reality that he eventually manifested in art. His growing ardour for his paint and brushes gave him no choice but to forsake medicine. Achan returned to Malaysia, an artist and has never looked back since. Over the course of his 40-year career of creating art, Achan has produced spectacular masterpieces with consistent frequency. His gift for artistry is derived from his love for nature. They are laden with underlying metaphors of Achan's struggle to find meaning beyond form and content.

"Although I have endured hardships in life as an artist, including financially, I would never choose anything else," Achan stated.

Achan sees the toil he goes through as a labour of love, painting imbues in him a profound sense of satisfaction. His struggle is glimpsed in his compelling creations of art that are thought-provoking, bewitching and sometimes even controversial.

### ARTWORKS

Achan's artworks strive to escape the boundaries of form. Constantly inspired by nature, there is a raw and rustic mood to many of his paintings which are evident in works like the 'Journey to Mount Kinabalu' and 'Forest Impression'.

Achan's favourite piece though, is 'Lost in the Midst'. The ease and effortlessness of how it came together in his hands was

amazing even to him. "I was just pouring paint and it came out as an interesting composition of greenery, mountains and morning mist," Achan said. Breathing life to his preferred media, canvas and paper, Achan's orchestra of paint and colour never fails to harmonise fluidly, seeking to evoke an emotional response in all who lay eyes on it.

His work speaks for itself. "My messages are obvious. It is what it is," Achan said. He added that his paintings always came as a surprise to him. Achan is one of the few that creates subconsciously and moves as the art tells him to. A genius, ahead of his time, Achan has beautifully combined his love for nature and his deep spirituality to produce pieces that invoke a sense of calm, wonder and deep appreciation and insight into the complex and obscure world we live in.

### EXHIBITIONS

Achan's works have been exhibited extensively across the country, and this national treasure has three of his pieces included as part of the National Art Gallery's permanent collection. Besides that honorary achievement, Achan has had a long and illustrious career in the art industry. With more than 50 exhibitions over the past 40 years under his belt, he has earned his place and position as one of Malaysia's most preeminent artists. In 1972, Achan exhibited and sold his works at Samat Gallery, at the National Art Gallery in 1980 and at Le Beaux Art Gallery in 1982. When the country launched its Visit Malaysia campaign in 1990, Achan was there to champion the art movement alongside the booming tourism industry through the Pemandangan Malaysia Travelling Art Exhibition organised by the National Art Gallery. In conjunction with the 1998's Commonwealth Games, Achan showcased his art at Armada Hotel. In 1996, he was part of the 'Up In The Clouds' Exhibition organised by DNA Studios at the National Planetarium, as well as the Star Hill Art Exhibition organised by Galeri Anugerah in 2000. In 2004, Achan's art graced the walls of Galeri Seni Maya and again in 2008 at "Interlude" Art Exhibition at RA Fine Arts. In 2011, his paintings stole the show at the art exhibition, 'Suara dan Rupa' at Yayasan Seni Berdaftar as well as in KLPAC during his solo exhibition there.

To add to the already extensive list, Achan has also exhibited 30 of his paintings during the art exhibition at MAA@KL Sentral Artspace in 2013, one of which was his vibrant Vincent van Gogh-inspired art piece, 'Himalaya 11'. The Empire Art Space was another home to his paintings as well as Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur at their festive art exhibition during Ramadan in 2015. Achan's paintings, 'Forest Impression' and 'Teluk Cempedak II' were sold in KL Lifestyle Art Space. His invaluable works, appreciated by many, have also found their way into countless private collections. The quiet beauty his art expresses has stolen many hearts and



Abstract Landscape, 2011 Abstract Landscape 2, 2009  
Oil on paper 55 x 60.5 cm  
**SOLD RM 4,400.00**  
KLAS Art Auction 19 January, 2014



Rhapsody in Blue Series, 2016  
Mixed media on canvas 121.5 x 91 cm  
**SOLD RM 3,719.76**  
KLAS Art Auction 23 October 2016



Forest Impression, 2016  
Oil on canvas 152.5 x 88 cm  
**SOLD RM 5,072.40**  
KLAS Art Auction 12 March, 2017

will continue to do so for as long as Bhanu Achan can continue to use his paint brushes to translate his vision onto canvas.