



## KLAS ART AUCTION 2021

### MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

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## NOVICE – THE PATH FOR NEW COLLECTORS (ARTWORKS BELOW RM 10,000)

BY HIRANMAYI AWLI MOHANAN

### STARTING AN ART COLLECTION WITH THE RIGHT NAMES

To the uninitiated, the world of art can feel daunting and intimidating, however, it's anything but. It's a beautiful realm filled with magnificent artworks and prolific artists who bring viewers on their journey of observations, inspirations, perspective and feelings. Unlike designer clothing or a luxury car, art is aesthetically-pleasing and doesn't depreciate in value, which translates to a worthy investment. Artworks are probably one of the most rewarding forms of investment and it's not as difficult to get into it as you think. If you're a new collector looking to buy your first artwork and start a collection, it can be stressful, especially if you don't know heads or tails on where to start, which artists to look out for, where to buy and how to buy within your budget. In the July issue, we give you privy to the fundamentals and essential tips on starting an art collection with the right names such as Rafiee Ghani, Jailani Abu Hassan, Khalil Ibrahim, Yusof Majid, Mohd Khairul Izham, Mohd Raduan Man through an exhibition entitled "Novice – The Path For New Collectors".

### DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Before you start, it's advised to first educate yourself on local artists, their oeuvre and the various mediums that are employed in crafting a painting or artwork. Then, once you have done your homework, you can start looking for styles, mediums and subjects you're drawn to. A good idea would be visiting reputable local galleries such as KL Lifestyle Art Space which carries modern and contemporary art, as well as museums and exhibitions to get an idea of the paintings you like and learn about them before bringing

them home. Alternatively, galleries who are online allow you to easily compare artists, styles and prices. It's often less daunting than asking for more information at a gallery or during an exhibition. The internet has made buying art more transparent and accessible, especially for new collectors. Look online, follow artists and galleries on Instagram. You'll learn what you like and to trust your tastes.

### TRUST YOUR TASTE

Starting an art collection is about using your eye and not listening to everyone else. While you may think it's best to target artwork that is expected to appreciate in value, you can also buy pieces solely according to your own taste. To build a really personal collection, allow your heart to choose the art, not always your head. The best art collections are ones that marry a passion with a knowledge of art. While art can be a lucrative investment, it's important that you genuinely appreciate and admire the pieces in your collection. Do your research, identify what you like and get collecting.

### BUY ETCHINGS, LIMITED-EDITION PRINTS AND WORKS ON PAPER

While an oil on canvas or acrylic on canvas painting is something you strive for, never underestimate a drawing. Etchings or drawings on paper works are typically the genesis of a larger work. In addition, it acts as an artist's raw ideations and they tend to be more unrestrictive and less 'perfect'. As the traditional hierarchy of masterpieces goes, paper is considered a lesser form than canvas, so they tend to cost significantly less. An example of beautiful works on paper to seek out are by the late renowned

artist Khalil Ibrahim.

### DON'T LEAVE OUT SCULPTURES AND OBJET TROUVÉ

It's quite natural for budding buyers to favour framed canvases as their first objet d'art when building their art collection. Unfortunately, distinct sculptures and objet trouvé are overlooked and neglected. These three-dimensional works of art serve as fantastic additions to a collection and make wonderful display pieces within the home. Consider small-scaled sculptures and design objects, as they are usually priced to sell. Well-made objects by artists such as Abdul Multhalib Musa's nonlinear and nature-inspired works can be a valuable addition and add variety as well as an eclectic feel to your collection.

### MALAYSIAN ARTISTS FOR BUDDING ART COLLECTORS

Malaysia has one of the most developed and active art scenes in the region. It is home to some of the most exciting and interesting artists who have developed their body of work within the country, the region as well as to other continents. Today, artists like Khalil Ibrahim, Datuk Ibrahim Hussein and Dr Jolly Koh, are considered masters in the art scene where their works have travelled across the world and garnered a lot of interest and following among collectors. KL Lifestyle Art Space, a reputable gallery and auction house's exhibition entitled "Novice – The Path For New Collectors" serves as a platform for new art enthusiasts to navigate the art world with a guided hand, introducing the right local artists to follow and artworks that don't go beyond RM10,000.

# KHALIL IBRAHIM



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East Coast Ladies, 1986  
Ink On Paper  
33.5 x 43 cm

# KELVIN CHAP

Kelvin Chap Kok Leong grew up in Sabah, despite having been born in Padang, Indonesia, in 1974. There, he developed an intense fascination for the Borneo tribal culture and symbolisms, which are always present in all his artworks. The masks, totem poles and everything iconic from Borneo is present in this artwork, clashing with fluorescent colours to represent modernity. The artist explained that the idea behind this piece is simply a social commentary; the overlapping of tradition and culture with modernisation, of how they clash, and the portrayal of a society that is too eager to accept urbanisation, so much so that the lines are blurred and almost obscure the original culture identity. Kelvin graduated from the Malaysian Institute of Fine Art in 1994, after majoring in print-making. The artists won the first prize in the Swatch Street Painting Competition based on the theme, Spirit of Our Times (1994). He was

honoured the Juror's Choice at the Philip Morris Malaysian Art Awards (2001).

His solo exhibitions include Belawing and the Great Mamat (Totem and the Great Hunter), Pelita Hati (1996), Idea 9, Pelita Hati (2000), and Old Masks, Modern Man, Maison of Malaysian Art (MoMA) (2011). Kelvin's group exhibitions include Innenseite, Kassel, Germany (1997), Gema: Resonance, A Malaysian Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Prague, Czech Republic (1998), and RUPA Malaysia: A Decade of Art at the Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London (1998). He has also exhibited at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 in the Malaysian Pavilion in China. His work can be found in public collections such as the National Art Gallery Malaysia, Galeri Petronas, Sabah Art Gallery, Chamalires, France as well as private collections in Malaysia, Singapore, Chile, Japan, USA,



Putaran Kehidupan Alam, 2017  
Mixed media on canvas  
131 x 131 cm

France, Germany and China. His works have been published in Masterpieces From The National Art Gallery by Redza Piyadasa (2002), Arts Of Southeast Asia by Fiona Kerlogue (2004), and Atlas Of World Art by John Onians (2004).

# RAFIEE GHANI

Rafiee Ghani is one of the most prominent and important contemporary artists who probably leads his generation of artists in Malaysia. Born in Kulim, Kedah in 1962, the artist comes from a mixed parentage family, his father an Englishman who worked as a travelling geologist while his mother is a mix of Thai and Malay. The verdant landscape of padi fields in his hometown served as his early inspirations in moulding his artistic prowess and colour vocabulary. He began his education in art at the prestigious De Virgen Academie Voor Beeldende Kunst at the Hague in the Netherlands before continuing his studies at Institut Teknologi MARA in Dungun. Much of his muse and exposure to art began in Europe, where he visited all the great art spaces and museums.

Consequently, Rafiee drew his inspirations through old masters like Vincent Van Gogh and Henri Matisse and their works. Rafiee has been actively involved in shows in both private and public galleries and art spaces around the world. His works have been collected by major corporations both within and outside of Malaysia that include Bank Negara Malaysia, Petronas Gallery, Dynasty Hotel, Bank Utama, Malaysian Tobacco Company as well as Oriental Bank. His works are also in the collection of Albert Rene, president of the Seychelles, and several private collections in the United States, Europe and Asia. Rafiee Ghani is one of the few hugely successful Malaysian artists today whose works have been sold in notable auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's in Hong Kong.



Kabuk Algeria, 2016  
Watercolour on Paper  
57.5cm x 76 cm



Butterfly Park, 2010  
Mixed media on paper  
90 x 61.5 cm

# YUSOF MAJID



Abstract, 2002  
Oil on canvas  
43.5 x 43.5 cm



Fixtures - Football Series, 1990's  
Mixed media on paper  
76 x 55 cm



Untitled, 1993  
Mixed media on paper  
42 x 28.5 cm

Yusof Majid is a product of a Malay-British parentage and hails from a well-to-do family, complete with a comprehensive art education from the illustrious Chelsea School of Art in London with a mantle of an abstract painter to his name. He had defined his style in paintings with geometric and block-like forms that erred to the side of minimalism. Colours were laid on flat, narrative discarded, and Clement Greenberg's assertion of the "ineluctable flatness" of Modern Painting was an apt description. Recognizing the difficulty of connecting with audiences on abstract grounds, Yusof Majid made the turnaround towards figurative works. For Yusof Majid, the transition began with *The Young Steam Train* (2004), a work that utilised the enduring theme of childhood and borrowed memories from his own (a childhood fondness for trains).

From an early age, art has been a part of Yusof Majid's life. He grew up in England, and had an appreciation for art at a young age. Born in 1970, Yusof Majid's creative work was predominantly inspired by the 1980's, from artists such as the Spanish painter Francisco Goya (1746-1828), nudging him in an evolution towards more realistic and three-dimensional qualities. The artist attended the Chelsea School of Art, England from 1988 to 1993. Yusof sees his paintings as a naive surrealist extension of his inner self, emptiness and euphoria in landscapes of memory and dreamscapes. Yusof's figurative paintings project innocence and quite simply, joy — indeed, a volte-face the apparent complexity of his earlier compositions and the weighty academics required to interpret them. Instead, there's a fairytale-like quality and doses of humour, too.

# MOHD KHAIRUL IZHAM



"Singgah Sana Emas" Paper Series, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
86 x 62 cm



"Singgah Sana Emas" Paper Series, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
86 x 62 cm

The gifted and young contemporary artist, Mohd Khairul Izham was born in 1985 in Maran, Pahang. With a clear direction of his life path, he pursued a B.A. in Fine Arts (Painting) at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in Shah Alam, Selangor and graduated not long after. He has participated in a number of exhibitions including – Malaysian Emerging Artist Award (2011), Deceitful Truths (2011) and Dischromatic (2010). Khairul Izham lives and works in Kuala Lumpur. He approaches the broad subject of past and memories with complex layering and conscious masking, leaving the audience with residue from

the process of recollection. Khairul Izham is known to produce a dark, mysterious and elusive mood in his subjects. His brushes of colour create rough silhouettes in an expressionistic manner with details, contours and crevices accurately captured.

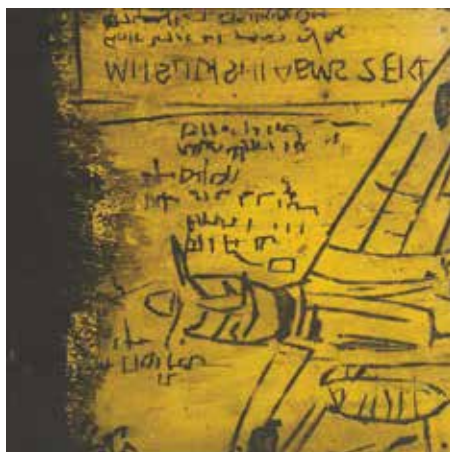
It is the artist's hallmark that his works boast outlining objects in light grey or vivid colours against a dark background. Khairul Izham presents what is almost a literal visual board filled with sketches and drawings. As the artist puts it, "It is the primary visual language and essential to our existence as intelligent beings." It

is a common notion that many artists are influenced by other legendary artists. In Khairul's case, he turns to the late Datuk Ibrahim Hussein and his works. For the artist, his artistic style involves a process in which the starting point begins with a line. This then connects to another line that subsequently creates shapes and forms. An artist seeks inspiration through many forms and many aspects, and for Khairul Izham, his inspiration is derived from everything and anything – from nature, people or the experiences in his daily life.

# MOHD RADUAN MAN

Descending from a line of master woodcarvers, Mohd Raduan Man has spent his life exploring the medium of print-making and attempting to push the medium beyond its limits. What sets his works apart from most print-making techniques is his use of canvas or jute as a surface which, as opposed to paper, allows for increased experimentation with scale. Mohd Raduan is a visual artist who was born in 1978 in Pahang, Malaysia. This young artist's production of artworks include dynamic movements that possess strong statements that must be conveyed to his audience. He hopes that his artworks are substantiated enough to be included in future dialogues on visual art. The Blue Army takes a stance against the ravages of war. The artist's identifiable style of murky and shadowy shades – set the stage for the purposeful bright colours and silhouettes of war planes to propagate his thoughts on modern urban society and war itself.

In 2006, Mohd Raduan received the Pahang State Foundation Scholarship to study at the Camberwell School of Art in London, graduating with an MA in print-making that same year. The Malaysian-born artist also holds an MA in painting from the University of Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom. He has had several solo exhibitions in his home country of Malaysia, including one in 2009 at Galeri Chandan entitled 'Beyond Print'. Additionally, his work is featured in private collections throughout Malaysia, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia and the United Kingdom, as well as public collections owned by Bank Negara Malaysia and HSBC Malaysia.



Untitled, 2012  
Mixed media on woodcut  
32 x 32 cm



Untitled, 2012  
Mixed media on woodcut  
32 x 32 cm



Before the War, 2010  
Oil on linen  
74 x 74 cm