



SAVE THE DATE

AUCTION DAY, SUNDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 2022 AT 1PM AUCTION VENUE@JALAN MAAROF, BANGSAR

BY HIRANMAYIL AWLI MOHANAN

Ever the purveyor of modern and contemporary, KL Lifestyle Art Space (KLAS) remains steadfast in feeding the hunger of connoisseurs for beautiful and thought-provoking artworks by local artists. With that in mind, KLAS PLUS, under the umbrella of KL Lifestyle Art Space will be hosting its first art auction back in its newly renovated gallery in Jalan Maarof on Nov 27, 2022. The modern and contemporary art auction features an array of Malaysian and regional artworks by masters of the craft.

Boasting a total of 83 lots, art enthusiasts and collectors alike can look forward to works by big guns such as Khalil Ibrahim, Rafiee Ghani, Awang Damit Ahmad, Kwan Chin, Seah Kim Joo, Chen Wen Hsi and many more. The line up would also see an array of new artists from the region, showcased during the auction. Feast your senses to these beautiful works and if you are lucky, it could be yours.

RAFIEE GHANI

PAINTING THE COLOURS OF EMOTION

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. When Rafiee was in secondary school, his most prominent influence came from Dewan Budaya which featured periodical articles on local artists and their work. At the age of 15, names like Latiff Mohidin and Sharifah Fatimah Zubir were firmly etched in his mind, bearing a source of inspiration. 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.



Rafiee Ghani
Fushia, 2010
Watercolour on paper, 91 x 56 cm
RM 2,500 - 7,000



Rafiee Ghani
Fushia, 2010
Watercolour on paper, 91 x 53 cm
RM 2,500 - 7,000



Rafiee Ghani
Red Clouds, 2007
Mixed media on paper, 88 x 118 cm
RM 2,500 - 5,000



Rafiee Ghani
Red Chairs, 2007
Mixed media on paper, 91 x 61.5 cm
RM 1,500 - 3,500



Rafiee Ghani
Lotus, 2007
Mixed media on paper, 91 x 61.5 cm
RM 1,500 - 3,500



Rafiee Ghani
Plane View, 2010
Watercolour on paper, 66 x 47 cm
RM 800 - 2,200

Artistic Prowess

Rafiee Ghani's artworks are just as colourful as he is and he is well known in the local fine arts sphere for his lyrical abstract and contemporary paintings. The artist's style can be associated with French paintings of the 19th and early 20th centuries, especially those of Post-Impressionists, the Nabis and the Fauves. This kinship reveals a continuous juxtaposition of Western and contemporary Malaysian paintings since the 1930's. His artworks aren't easy to miss for their loud, dynamic use of colours and strokes that make his style particularly distinctive and emotive. There are several important factors that have contributed to the formation of Rafiee's style, among which include his formal education in art and design and his various trips to other countries. A formal training in art provided him with practical and theoretical foundations, whereas his journeys to various parts of the world enabled him to experience nature as well as global cultures and climates. More importantly, these trips have given him the invaluable opportunity to be in direct contact with the original works of great painters such as Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, the Nabis and the Fauves, which seem to be the dominant influences on his style.

For Rafiee, aesthetics is an important part of his paintings — this is where balance and compositions are utilised to their fullest potential, often producing artworks that are artistic and pleasing for the eyes. The artist was formally trained in the arts and techniques of print-making, but it is his mastery in oil painting which sets him apart from other artists. He is known to fully utilise the limited use of colours known in printmaking techniques. The artist also creates an imaginary illusion of objects and images by overlaying them with colours which are vibrantly mixed and integrated. Rafiee's Garden series is brilliant and every artwork from the series is a bold and vivid spectacle of colours. The inspiration for this series is derived from the artist's hometown in Kelantan — his favourite place to be in as a child. This included swimming in the river with other children after school. Intimism remains prominent throughout his pieces. The bold strokes of colour were his way of conveying the brilliance of the local forest filled with natural colours to delight and excite. Rafiee's works evoke nostalgia, longing, tranquillity and optimism.

Artworks on paper

Rafiee Ghani's works on paper are as brilliant as his oil painting, if not better. He still employs his signature loud and dynamic colours, complemented by brushstrokes where his style of Intimism is well established. Rafiee's artworks in the medium of paper produce an imaginary illusion of images and objects which are submerged below his mastery in playing with colours which are vibrantly mixed and integrated. This is where one would be able to clearly see the objects or scenes which are portrayed amidst the sea of a strong tone of the colour scheme which epitomises Rafiee's body of work. His paintings are also known to portray the interior domestic scenes of still-life objects, plants and flowers in vibrant colours. The artist once mentioned that to him, these are mere symbols of everyday objects that surround us, bringing with them a deep sense of comfort that are frequently forgotten or taken for granted in our everyday life.

In a recent interview with the artist himself on the subject of his works on paper, he disclosed that people tend to underestimate paper. Any major project starts from paper but it tends to be dismissed. "To me, paper is where my first dialogue with creativity starts. I capture spontaneity on paper because it's where one doesn't mind making mistakes and there's no pressure to be perfect. It's where you explore your thought process and it's not pretentious," said Rafiee. The artist is one who's always with his sketchbook, especially during his travels, capturing his personal interpretations of locations, people and even architecture in situ. It is where his masterpieces first take shape and form. He sketches whatever scenes that arrest his eyes which then serve as a guide for him when transferring the images onto canvas. He would also draft his musings or sometimes poems and stories to go with the colourful sketches in his sketchbook.



Tong Chin Sye
Thian Hock Keng (Temple of Heavenly Happiness) in Teluk Ayer Street, Singapore
Watercolour on paper, 53.3 x 73.66 cm
RM 10,000 - 18,000



Thomas Yeo
Landscape
Mixed media on paper laid on board, 52 x 59 cm
RM 2,000 - 6,000



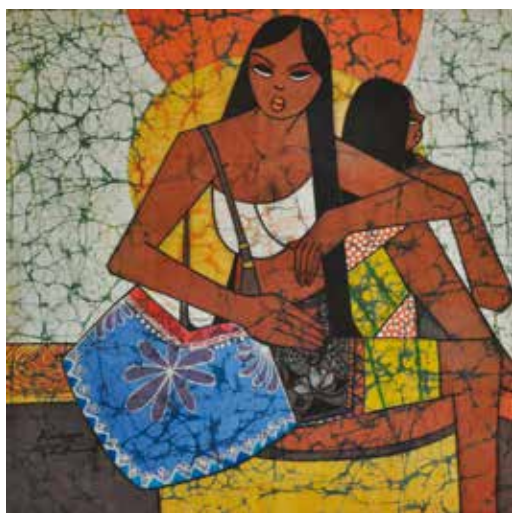
Tong Chin Sye
Market in Boat Quay, Singapore
Watercolour on paper, 37 x 51 cm
RM 10,000 - 18,000



Ong Kim Seng
Terengganu Street on Rest Day, 1980
Watercolour on paper, 50 x 71 cm
RM 15,000 - 30,000



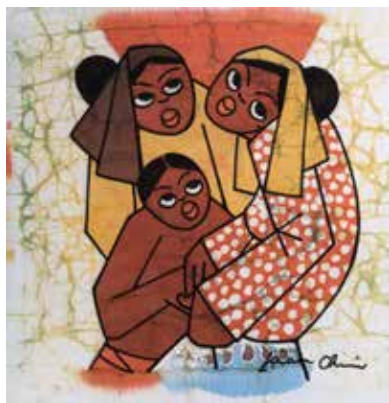
Ng Eng Teng
The Old and New Dress of the Malaysian Lady, 1960
Oil on canvas, 87 x 50.5 cm
RM 25,000 - 45,000



Kwan Chin
Sunshine Girl, 1998
Batik, 74 x 74 cm
RM 5,000 - 9,000



Cheong Soo Pieng
Fishing Village, 1960's
Oil on mesonite board, 50 x 70 cm
RM 150,000 - 300,000



Kwan Chin
Mother & Children / Three Siblings
Batik, 29 x 28 cm / 30 x 29 cm
RM 2,000 - 5,000



Ismail Mat Hussin
Mandi petang bersama ibu, 2004
Batik, 90 x 76 cm
RM 16,000 - 25,000



Kwan Chin
Fruit Sellers, 2003
Batik, 84 x 145 cm
RM 10,000 - 22,000



Chen Wen Hsi
Sparrows and Cherry Blossom
Ink on paper, 68 x 68 cm
RM 25,000 - 45,000

ART FEATURES



David Cox
 Worker with scythe in a Landscape
 Watercolour on paper, 28.8 x 22.5 cm
RM 2,400 - 5,500



Mohd Khairul Izham
 Golden Rose, 2020
 Acrylic on canvas, 152 x 152 cm
RM 1,000 - 3,000



Mohd Khairul Izham
 Terbang, 2019
 Acrylic on canvas, 135 x 152 cm
RM 1,500 - 3,500



Yusof Majid
 Abstract, 2002
 Oil on canvas, 43.5 x 43.5 cm
RM 3,500 - 5,000



Yusof Majid
 Storm, 2002
 Oil on paper, 24 x 29 cm
RM 1,000 - 2,500



Ismail Mat Hussin
 Weaving Silk, 2004
 Watercolour on paper, 56 x 76 cm
RM 3,500 - 5,000



Jailani Abu Hassan
 Kebun Getah Series, 2018
 Oil on canvas, 92 x 152 cm
RM 12,000 - 22,000



Khalil Ibrahim
 Boat Builder, 1985
 Watercolour on paper, 38 x 50 cm
RM 6,000 - 12,000



Dullah
 Dayu Wazsiki (Tambulilingan Dancer), 1975
 Oil on canvas, 59 x 49 cm
RM 15,000 - 30,000



Jeihan Sukmantoro
 Mariam, 2011
 Oil on canvas, 70 x 70 cm
RM 6,000 - 12,000



Jeihan Sukmantoro
 Dewina, 2010
 Oil on canvas, 45 x 45 cm
RM 3,500 - 7,000



Raphael Scott Ahbeng
 Windy Day, 2010
 Oil on canvas, 38 x 121 cm
RM 6,500 - 12,000



Raphael Scott Ahbeng
 Forest Colours, 2010
 Oil on board, 30 x 45 cm
RM 1,000 - 2,500



Raphael Scott Ahbeng
 Lake Joot, Sarawak, 2005
 Oil on board, 30 x 45 cm
RM 1,000 - 2,500



Soon Lai Wai
 Purple Earth, 2021
 Oil on canvas, 165 x 165 cm
RM 14,000 - 25,000



Haji Widayat
 Burung Phoenix
 Oil on board, 50 x 59.5 cm
RM 15,000 - 30,000



Sheng Qi
 Mao - Red and Black, 2007
 Acrylic on canvas, 99 x 80 cm
RM 7,000 - 15,000



Truong Van Thanh
 Chùa Một Cột - The One Pillar Pagoda in Hanoi
 Lacquer on board, 41 x 61 cm
RM 4,000 - 9,000