

# A Journey Of Art

## INAUGURAL SINGAPORE EXHIBITION



KL Lifestyle Art Space (KLAS), an art gallery renowned for its unwavering commitment to fine art and its creativity and cultural enrichment embark on its inaugural travelling show to Singapore. The show, aptly entitled A Journey of Art, starts from the 5th to the 15th of October 2023, during which art enthusiasts will be captivated by the allure of this groundbreaking endeavour.

A Journey of Art will comprise an exceptional collection of masterpieces from Malaysia and the region, and will be available for sale throughout the exhibition, which will culminate at the Merlin Gallery, situated at 261 Waterloo Street in vibrant Singapore. This collaboration between two prominent art establishments is poised to redefine the boundaries of artistic expression and transcend geographical limits with an astounding collection of masterpieces primarily from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.



Mr. Siew Hock Meng Visited Our Exhibition at Merlin Gallery

KL Lifestyle Art Space's inaugural travelling show is not just an exhibition; it is a celebration of creativity, a testament to the power of art, and an invitation to embark on a transcendent voyage through the world of visual splendour. Mark your calendars, as the countdown to October 5th, 2023, begins—an artistic rendezvous not to be missed.



Mr. Ong Kim Seng looking at one of the most famous painting by Lee Man Fong



# MOST POPULAR WORKS EXHIBITED AT A JOURNEY OF ART SINGAPORE EXHIBITION



## Yong Mun Sen "Boats, 1944" Oil on Canvas 47 x 52 cm

Dubbed as the Father of Malaysian painting, the late Yong Mun Sen, born on Jan 10, 1896 was one of Malaysia's pioneer artists. The country's art scene is as vibrant and diverse as it is today due to his pertinent contributions. As one of the innovating self-taught artist, Yong left a strong legacy of watercolour and oils. Born in Kuching, Sarawak where his father ran a coconut estate, in 1901 Sen went to Dabu County in Meizhou City, Kwangtung (now Guangdong) Province in China for schooling in brush use and calligraphy and returned to Kuching in 1910. Sen always spoke of how seeing a Japanese artist painting with watercolors had made an indelible impression on him. He is widely known as the Father of Malaysian Painting. Although trained in formal Chinese brush painting and calligraphy in China, as an artist he was drawn to watercolours and later oils. Sen returned to China in 1914. His paintings during this visit were marked by a grandiose theme.

He painted lions and tigers, images that were hugely popular with the warlords of the time. He married Lam Sek Foong in 1916, and returned to Sarawak in 1917. He settled in Penang in 1922, where he had his own art studios on Penang Road and later Northam Road. Mun Sen is noted for his watercolour landscape paintings, which incorporate influences from Chinese art resulting in more airy and generalised compositions rather than in more detailed or factual depictions. Since his death in 1962, his works have retained an important and honoured place in Malaysian art.

## Lee Man Fong "Long Journey - Agra India, 1977" Oil on Canvas 62 x 82cm

Lee Man Fong, born in 1913 in Guangzhou, China, is one of the most important pioneer artists of Southeast Asia and his importance is growing as more of his paintings are being exhibited and published. Fong moved to Singapore in 1917 and studied at the Anglo-Chinese School until 1929. In 1932 he migrated to Java and worked for Kolff, a Dutch printing and publishing company. In 1936 the head of the Dutch East Indies Association in Batavia invited Fong to participate in an exhibition, a great honor since he was the first non-Dutch artist to be given this invitation.







He was married to Lie Muk Lan, a pianist, and their son Lee Rem, born in 1938, also became a painter who would later exhibit jointly with his father. After 1940 Fong devoted himself full-time to painting. He visited Bali, working briefly there, and held solo shows in Jakarta and Bandung. Artist quickly gained recognition for his paintings of Balinese subjects, many influenced by the work of Willem Hofker. He did a series of large paintings depicting various activities in Bali's daily life which are remarkable. Fong held a solo show in Jakarta in 1941, after which he was interned by the Japanese. In 1949 he was awarded a Malino scholarship to study art in the Netherlands. He was there for three years, and then returned to Indonesia where his talent was acknowledged by President Soekarno, to whom Fong became an art advisor. Lee Man Fong had his training in China and Western Europe, and lived most of his life in Indonesia, developing a particular style that amalgamated his teachings with a quiet yet passionate vision. His works are highly coveted by many for the fusion of Chinese brushwork and Western techniques which resulted in richly sentimental yet elegant paintings. A leading painter and curator of his time, the artist pioneered the Nanyang style in the 20th century in Indonesia.



**Cheong Soo Pieng**  
**"Fishing Village, 1960"**  
**Oil on board 50 x 70 cm**

Cheong Soo Pieng had a dominant influence on the development of modern art in Singapore and is regarded as one of Singapore's pioneer artists. His innovative experimentations towards developing his stylistic oeuvre had a great influence on his students, many of whom later became established artists in the region. Cheong was a multi-faceted artist, he experimented with Western art styles and was known to have progressed through several phases in a short span of time: from Post-Impressionism to Cubism to abstraction and semi-abstraction. 'Fishing Village' may have been completed during the 1950s when Cheong was experimenting with oil in impasto effects and Cubism. The painting depicts a cluster of huts.



Inside the main hall Merlin Gallery

**The Merlin Gallery**

Merlin Gallery was officially opened in September 2014 with two dedicated arts spaces in Singapore's bustling city area that act as platforms for young, up-and-coming, and distinguished artists to exhibit their works and engage in creative discourse with the public.

Since then, it has endeavoured to nurture and raise awareness for deserving artists and instil and develop a sense of appreciation for art, particularly amongst the younger generation, through art exhibitions and art education programmes such as artist workshops and talks. Merlin Gallery functions as a platform for bridging the gap between the public and the existing arts community, comprising art practitioners such as artists, curators, and historians.

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# KLAS ART AUCTION

MALAYSIAN & SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART  
KUALA LUMPUR, SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023



Art auctions are exciting events that showcase some of the world's most unique and valuable works of art. These auctions provide a platform for collectors and art enthusiasts to bid on rare and iconic pieces, often fetching record-breaking prices. With each auction, there is an air of anticipation and excitement as the bids escalate, and the final result often captures headlines around the world. Whether it's a modern masterpiece or a timeless classic, the outcome of an art auction can be a fascinating reflection of our society's evolving tastes and values.

Step into the world of KLAS — where captivating artistic masterpieces by local, regional and international pieces await discovery on November 26, 2023. From renowned classics to groundbreaking contemporary works, this auction promises to be a feast for art enthusiasts and collectors alike. So, take note of paintings you love and get ready to immerse yourself in a dazzling showcase of artistic brilliance, where each stroke of the brush holds the power to ignite emotions and redefine the boundaries of artistic expression.

**Yusof Ghani**

**Siri Segerak - Fugitive II, 2004**

Oil on canvas

138 x 122 cm

**RM 70,000 - 110,000**

**Yusof Ghani**  
**Topeng Series, 1996**  
Mixed media on canvas  
75 x 60 cm

**RM 16,000 - 32,000**

Yusof Ghani's paintings, according to many, have shifted from something dark and mysterious to take the air of something cheery and elegant. However, the artist himself said that his social commentaries did not change despite the change of atmosphere. It still had social remarks. He also said life is a bit like the lives of humans. Purposeless and unorchestrated at times, but it brings a lot of pleasure. This social commentary was brought to canvas, based on his studies on human behaviour teamed with lines, colours and motion. The end-result of a seamless flow of lovely colours amalgamating with one another was not intentionally meant to look aesthetic and flowing. The initial lines and sketches were rough, chaotic and arbitrary, to portray the human behaviour of being wild and free.





## ART FEATURES

Tajuddin Ismail is a reputable artist worthy of respect and recognition for his amazing abstract art that draws inspiration from natural forms and landscapes. His distinctive style has lured many art enthusiasts into his realm of innovative, complex artistry. To Tajuddin, just as how music is able to make a connection with the listener, art is the same. It is all about making a visual connection with what one is seeing.

Born in 1949 in Negeri Sembilan, Tajuddin had a deep-rooted passion for art at an early age. He not only possesses great talent, but he also has a solid educational foundation in art as well. He studied Fine Art at the MARA University Institute of Technology (UiTM) in Malaysia and then pursued Graphic Design at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, USA. In 1987, he was granted the Fulbright Research Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies of New York. In 1975, Tajuddin became a senior lecturer and an associate professor of design at UiTM's Faculty of Architecture.

The renowned artist has participated in more than 150 solo and group exhibitions in Malaysia and throughout countries in Asia, South America, Europe, and USA since the late 1960's. Active for almost five decades, Tajuddin has won numerous Art and Design awards nationally and his artworks can be found in private art collections, museums, exhibitions and corporations in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and America.



**Tajuddin Ismail, Dato**  
**Ravine**

**Acrylic on canvas**

**61 x 61 cm**

**RM 3,000 - 7,000**



**Abdullah Ariff**

**Hilly Road, 1956**

**Watercolour on paper**

**35 x 50 cm**

**RM 28,000 - 55,000**

Abdullah Ariff was born on June 15, 1904 in Georgetown, Penang. He was a self-taught artist and an instructor of the Penang Impressionist in 1898 — an exclusive group of expatriate artists. The members of this group were the wives of Europeans and a few local members such as Mrs. Lim Cheng Kung, who was accepted due to her patronage. The artist was a pioneer of watercolour art in Malaysia together with Yong Mun Sen. Renowned for his meticulous and masterful handling of the watercolour medium, Abdullah employed a European technique and approach to his work compared to his contemporary, Yong Mun Sen.

Despite his young age, Abdullah was accepted in the Anglo-Chinese School (ACS), Penang at a mere nine years old and managed to pass his Senior Cambridge in 1925. Due to his educational background and enthusiasm in art, he was accepted by Rev. G. F. Pykett and later on hired as an art teacher at the ACS. This was no easy feat as Western education was not easily available to non-aristocratic Malays and art education was not encouraged by the British in Malaya. He was later promoted to Supervisor of Art until the Japanese Occupation in 1941.



**Khalil Ibrahim**  
**Vivacity - Series, 2006**  
**Acrylic on canvas**  
**90 x 121 cm**  
**RM 80,000 - 100,000**

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. 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 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.



## Auction Day

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

Auction starts at 1.00 pm

**KL Lifestyle Art Space(KLAS)**

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