

KLAS Art Auction

23RD MARCH 2025 | 150, JALAN MAAROF

Kuala Lumpur's art scene is poised for a momentous event on March 23, 2025, as the KLAS Art Auction brings together an exquisite collection of masterpieces from some of Malaysia's most esteemed artists. This auction not only offers collectors and enthusiasts the opportunity to acquire significant works but also celebrates the rich tapestry of Malaysian art. Among the highlights are seminal pieces by Abdul Latif Mohidin, Yusof Ghani, Khalil Ibrahim, Chuah Thean Teng, and Syed Ahmad Jamal.



ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN

Blue Pago Pago - New York, 1969
Mixed media on paper 16 x 16 cm
RM 22,000 - 40,000

Yusof Ghani's artistic journey is marked by a series of thematic explorations, each delving deep into facets of human experience and cultural identity. His 'Siri Tari' (Dance Series) is particularly renowned, capturing the fluidity and passion of traditional dance forms through abstract expressionism. 'Siri Tari III' exemplifies this approach, where vigorous brushstrokes and layered textures convey movement and rhythm, immersing viewers in the dance's ephemeral beauty.

In contrast, 'Antu Rangka' offers a more introspective narrative. Drawing from indigenous folklore and spiritual themes, this work reflects Ghani's fascination with masks and the duality they represent. The piece challenges viewers to confront the seen and unseen, the tangible and the ethereal. Ghani's works have consistently performed well in auctions, with pieces from the 'Siri Tari' series achieving notable prices. For instance, in a previous Malaysian art auction, his 'Siri Tari' mixed media on paper fetched RM9,350, surpassing its estimated value. Given this track record, both 'Siri Tari III' and 'Antu Rangka' are expected to be among the sought-after lots in the upcoming auction.

Abdul Latif Mohidin, often hailed as a pioneer of modern art in Southeast Asia, introduced the art world to his 'Pago Pago' series in the 1960s. This series, characterized by its abstract forms and organic structures, was inspired by his travels across Southeast Asia, reflecting the region's landscapes, cultures, and spiritual essence.

The term 'Pago Pago' itself evokes a sense of place and rhythm, encapsulating the artist's deep connection to his surroundings.

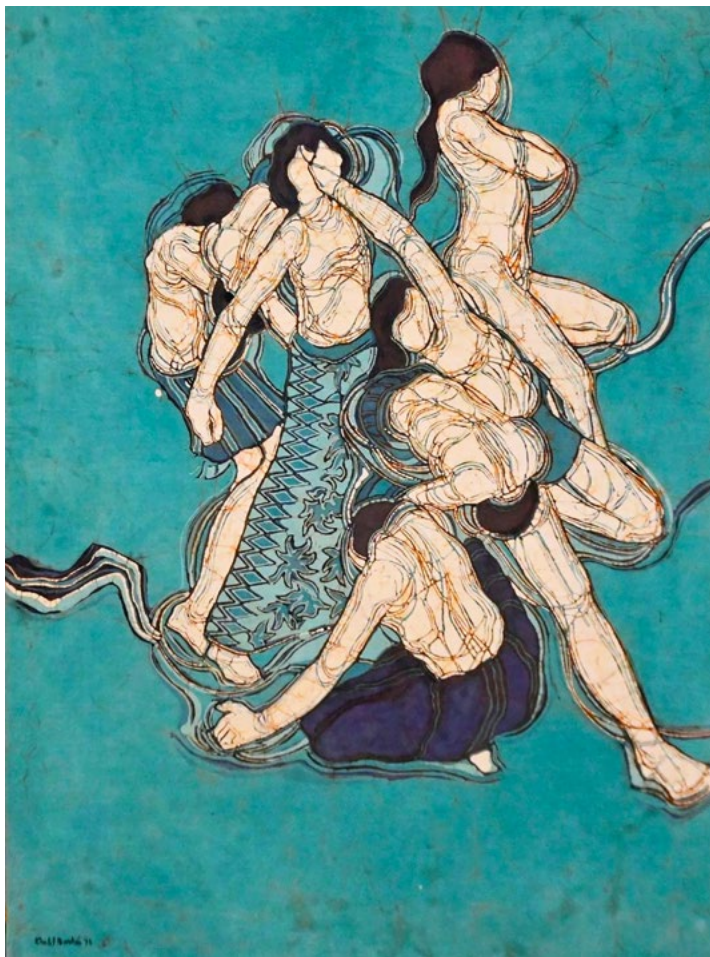
The 'Blue Pago Pago' stands as a testament to Latif's innovative vision. Dominated by shades of blue, the piece exudes a serene yet dynamic energy, drawing viewers into a contemplative space.

The interplay of geometric shapes and fluid lines showcases Latif's mastery in blending form and emotion. In previous auctions, works from the 'Pago Pago' series have garnered significant attention. Notably, in 2011, 'Pago-Pago Forms' fetched RM520,000, setting a record for the artist at that time. The upcoming auction of 'Blue Pago Pago' is anticipated to attract fervent bidding, given its historical importance and the artist's esteemed reputation.



YUSOF GHANI

Siri Topeng - Antu Rangka, 1995
Oil on canvas 122 x 122 cm
RM 35,000 - 55,000



KHALIL IBRAHIM
Festival III (East Coast Series), 1973
Batik 90 x 70 cm
RM 70,000 - 150,000



CHUAH THEAN TENG, DATO
Mother and Children, 1970's
Batik 83 x 85.5 cm
RM 40,000 - 75,000

Khalil Ibrahim's contributions to Malaysian art are profound, with a career spanning over six decades. His works often depict the rural life of Malaysia, focusing on the East Coast's fishing communities. 'Festival 3' is a vibrant celebration of communal life, capturing the essence of traditional festivities with a modernist touch. The composition's bold colors and dynamic figures reflect Ibrahim's keen observation of social interactions and cultural rituals.

Ibrahim's artworks have been well-received in the art market, with previous pieces achieving commendable prices. His batiks works have fetched between RM100,000 to RM150,000 in past auctions. 'Festival 3', with its rich narrative and artistic significance, is poised to attract considerable interest from collectors and institutions alike.



East Coast Ladies, 1973

Batik 84 x 71 cm
SOLD RM 145,600

KLAS Art Auction 13 December 2020



From The Well, 1976

Batik 88 x 95 cm
SOLD RM 112,000

KLAS Art Auction 19 January 2025

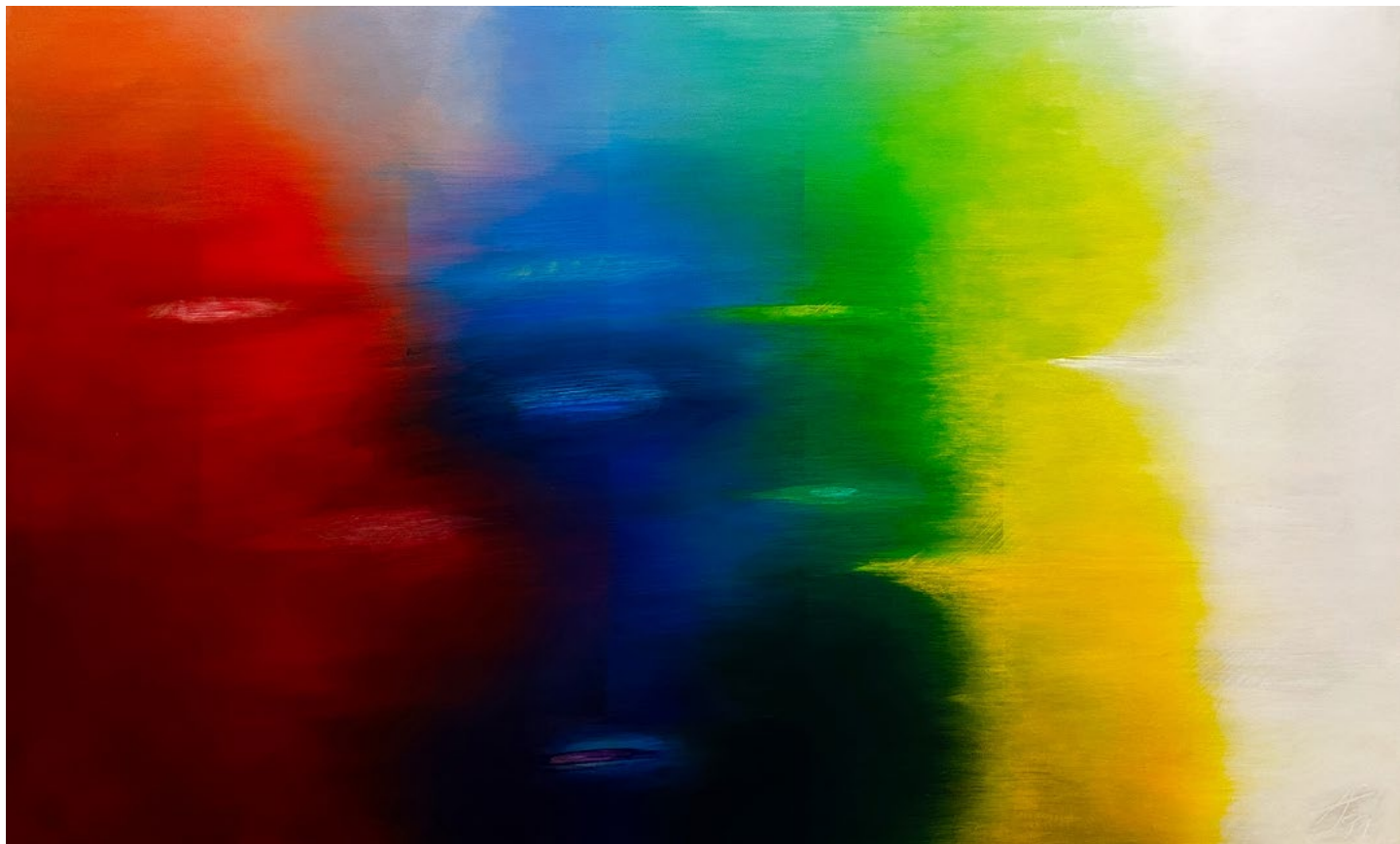
Teng came from an artistic family (his mother designed shoes) and studied art at the Amoy Art Institute in Fukien Province, China. At the age of 18, he emigrated to Malaysia with his tradesman father and settled in the Pearl of the Orient. From helping his mother design dainty shoes for Chinese women with bound feet to becoming a pioneer of Malaysian batik painting, Teng has left quite the legacy in batik painting.

His interest in art and craft was certainly owed to his mother. Teng became interested in batik while teaching art in the 1930's. While he had established himself as a painter, his enduring spirit propelled him to develop an artistic discipline that was distinctively Malaysian.

Though trained in Chinese art, brush painting was too oriental, while the watercolour and oils were too Western for the artist. Therefore, with the large and unused stock of pigments, Teng started to experiment with this material and adapted this age-old craft as a medium for fine art.

A pioneer in this medium, he had to literally work from scratch — the process was long and tedious. According to Frank Sullivan, "His productivity in batik painting is enormous... never satisfied, he is always experimenting, seeking to give new depth and range to his batik art."

Teng received international fame in 1968 when his painting entitled 'Two of a kind' was selected by UNICEF for its greeting cards selections. Twenty years later, his painting 'Tell you a secret' was again selected by UNICEF. Teng's various batik portrayal of Mother and Children are always heartwarming and tugs at one's heartstrings.



SYED AHMAD JAMAL, DATUK

Hijrah/Hegira, 1999
 Acrylic on canvas 122 x 213 cm
RM 350,000 - 650,000

Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal stands as a luminary in Malaysian art, known for his abstract interpretations of cultural and spiritual themes. 'Hijrah' delves into the concept of migration and transformation, both physically and spiritually. Through abstract forms and a harmonious color palette, the piece invites contemplation on journeys, change, and growth.

Jamal's artworks have consistently garnered attention in the art market. His 'Gunung Ledang Series (Cherryvale)' from 1985 achieved RM170,000 in a previous auction, reflecting his esteemed position in the art community. 'Hijrah', with its profound narrative and artistic depth, is expected to be a focal point in the upcoming auction, appealing to both seasoned collectors and institutions.

Highlights of Works

Here are the highlights of the 63rd Auction by KLAS Art Auction, showcasing an exceptional collection of masterpieces from renowned Malaysian and Southeast Asian artists. This auction features highly sought-after works from celebrated names such as Yusof Ghani, Syed Ahmad Jamal, and Lye Yau Fatt, alongside outstanding pieces from emerging contemporary talents. With a diverse range of styles, from abstract expressionism to figurative and landscape art, this event offers collectors a unique opportunity to acquire significant works that hold both artistic and investment value. As anticipation builds, the 63rd auction promises to be a remarkable celebration of artistic excellence, drawing the attention of collectors and art enthusiasts alike.



ENG TAY
 Couple in Love, 1982
 Acrylic on paper 84 x 102 cm
RM 18,000 - 30,000



TAJUDDIN ISMAIL, DATO
Balinese Garden, 2003
Acrylic on canvas 188 x 182 cm
RM 60,000 - 90,000



YUSOF GHANI
Siri Tari III, 1984/85
Oil on canvas 163 x 219 cm
RM 500,000 - 750,000



KHOO SUI HOE
Bridge, 1973
Oil on canvas 95.5 x 79 cm
RM 38,000 - 70,000



CHUAH THEAN TENG, DATO
The Durian Seller, 1980's
Batik 90 x 56 cm
RM 30,000 - 55,000