



Masters of Malaysian Modern Art

EXCEPTIONAL WORKS BY SIX CELEBRATED ARTISTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT THE KLAS ART AUCTION

The upcoming KLAS Art Auction on 16 August 2026 presents collectors with an outstanding opportunity to acquire works by some of Malaysia's most influential modern and contemporary artists. Carefully curated to reflect the richness of the nation's artistic legacy, this remarkable selection celebrates painters whose visions have transformed Malaysian art and earned international recognition. From lyrical landscapes and expressive figurative paintings to bold abstraction and conceptual innovation, each work represents a significant chapter in the evolution of Malaysian art.

Ibrahim Hussein

Few names command as much respect in Malaysian art as Datuk Ibrahim Hussein. Widely regarded as one of the country's greatest modern artists, Ibrahim achieved international acclaim through his pioneering approach to printmaking and painting. His career took him from Kedah to the Royal Academy of Arts in London before establishing himself as one of Southeast Asia's most recognised artistic figures. Throughout his career, he consistently challenged conventional artistic boundaries, creating a distinctive visual language that remains unmistakably his own.

His innovative technique, often referred to as printage, combined the qualities of painting and printmaking into richly layered compositions filled with movement, rhythm and energy. Geometric forms, fragmented imagery and expressive colour merge seamlessly to create works that invite viewers to explore multiple perspectives within a single composition.

Among the highlights presented at the KLAS Art Auction is a remarkable work from Ibrahim Hussein's celebrated Sports Series. This iconic body of work captures the intensity and dynamism of athletic movement while demonstrating the artist's extraordinary technical mastery.



IBRAHIM HUSSEIN, DATUK
Sports Series, 1986 (Edition 15 of 200)
Offset lithograph 60 x 46 cm
RM 10,000 - 20,000



IBRAHIM HUSSEIN, DATUK
Sports Series, 1986 (Edition 15 of 200)
Offset lithograph 60 x 46 cm
RM 10,000 - 20,000

Khalil Ibrahim

The paintings of Datuk Khalil Ibrahim possess a quiet elegance that has made him one of Malaysia's most beloved artists. Best known for his poetic interpretations of village life and the tranquil beauty of the East Coast, Khalil transformed ordinary moments into timeless visual narratives filled with warmth, grace and humanity. His mastery of watercolour became legendary, allowing him to create luminous compositions that balance delicate washes with confident brushwork. Whether portraying fishermen preparing for the day's journey, women gathered along the shoreline or peaceful rural landscapes, Khalil infused every painting with a profound sense of harmony and dignity.

The KLAS Art Auction presents several exceptional examples of the artist's celebrated themes, including works from the East Coast Ladies, East Coast Landscape, Ready To Go, and Fishermen Series. Each composition reflects Khalil's remarkable ability to capture atmosphere, light and emotion while preserving the authenticity of Malaysian coastal life. Beyond their aesthetic beauty, these works serve as important cultural documents that celebrate traditions and communities that have gradually evolved over time. Their universal appeal continues to attract seasoned collectors as well as younger audiences discovering the enduring charm of Khalil Ibrahim's artistic vision.



KHALIL IBRAHIM

East Coast Landscape, 1990
Watercolour on paper 34 x 30 cm
RM 3,000 - 5,000



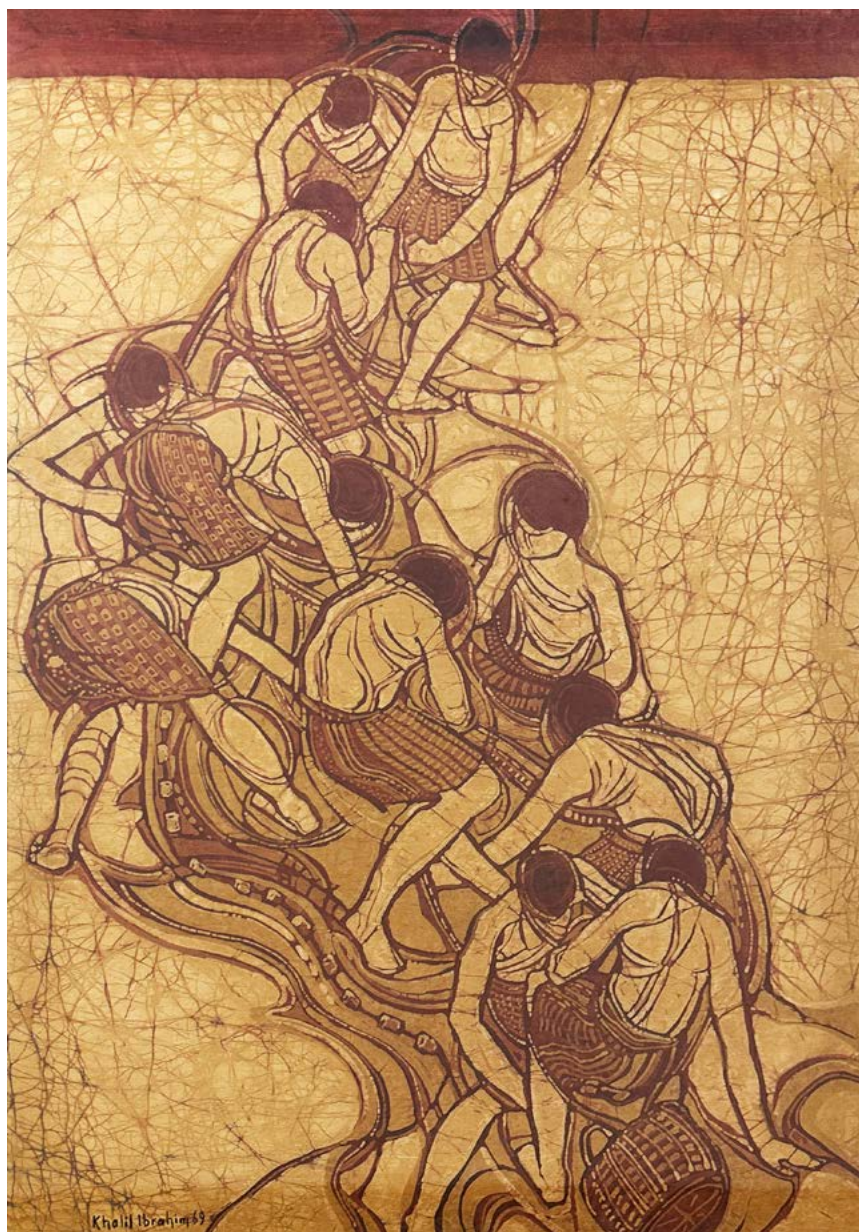
KHALIL IBRAHIM

East Coast Ladies, 2006
Watercolour on paper 22 x 30 cm
RM 5,500 - 9,000



KHALIL IBRAHIM

Ready To Go 1, 1996
Watercolour on paper 49 x 64 cm
RM 7,000 - 10,000



JIMMY ONG

3 Header, 1994
Charcoal on paper 116.5 x 116.5 cm
RM 16,000 - 35,000

KHALIL IBRAHIM

Fishermen Series, 1969
Batik 82.5 x 57 cm
RM 70,000 - 150,000



Awang Damit Ahmad

Recognised as one of Malaysia's foremost contemporary painters, Datuk Awang Damit Ahmad has built an extraordinary career through his emotionally charged abstract compositions. Drawing inspiration from the landscapes of Sabah, personal memories and the experiences of rural communities, he transforms lived experiences into richly textured works that communicate through colour, gesture and layered symbolism. His paintings reveal remarkable complexity, inviting viewers to interpret shifting forms and intricate surfaces that appear to evolve with every encounter. Thick layers of paint, expressive brushstrokes and sophisticated compositions create visual journeys that reward prolonged observation.

Featured at the KLAS Art Auction are significant works from the artist's acclaimed Garis Mega, Payarama Baru, Postcard To The World, and Marista series. Together, these paintings demonstrate the evolution of Awang Damit's artistic language while showcasing the confidence and maturity that have established him as one of Southeast Asia's leading contemporary artists. His works are widely represented in prestigious museums and major private collections, and demand for his paintings continues to grow both locally and internationally.

AWANG DAMIT AHMAD

Marista "Sketsa Series 9/97", 1997
Mixed media on canvas 46 x 51 cm

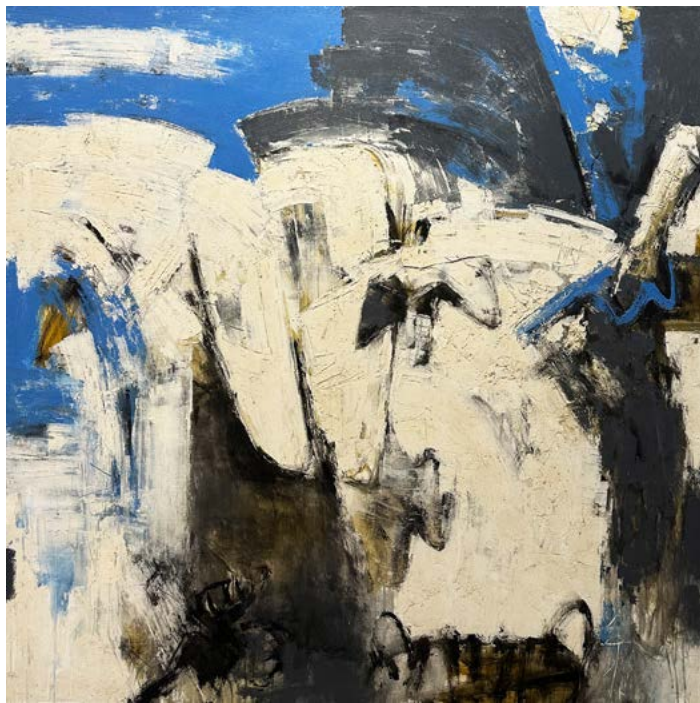
RM 6,000 - 10,000



AWANG DAMIT AHMAD

Garis Mega "Tribute...", 2016
Mixed media on canvas 183 x 183 cm

RM 95,000 - 180,000



AWANG DAMIT AHMAD

Payarama Baru "Ubi dan Raga...", 2015
Mixed media on canvas 183 x 183 cm

RM 95,000 - 160,000



YUSOF GHANI, DATUK

Segerak Series, 2012
Charcoal on paper 35 x 25 cm

RM 3,000 - 6,000

MAQBOOL FIDA HUSAIN

Mother Theresa, 1980 (Edition 96/300)
Serigraph on paper 38 x 56 cm

RM 5,000 - 12,000



Yusof Ghani

For more than four decades, Datuk Yusof Ghani has remained at the forefront of Malaysian contemporary art through his fearless exploration of abstraction. Known for his energetic compositions and expressive brushwork, Yusof approaches painting as an emotional and physical performance, allowing movement and spontaneity to shape each work.

Rather than depicting recognisable subjects, his paintings communicate through rhythm, gesture and dramatic contrasts, encouraging viewers to experience emotion rather than narrative. Each celebrated series marks a new chapter in his artistic journey while remaining connected by his distinctive visual energy.

The KLAS Art Auction showcases works from several of his most admired series, including Siri Tari IV, Biring Series, Segerak Series, and Hijau Rhythm of Nature. These paintings reveal the breadth of Yusof Ghani's creative evolution, from dynamic figurative inspirations to powerful abstract interpretations of movement and the natural environment.

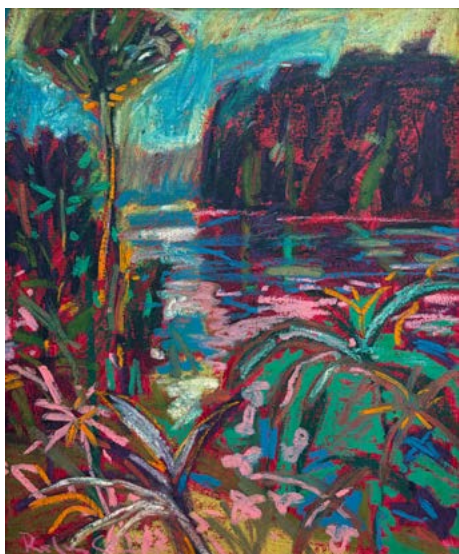
Collectors continue to admire his ability to balance expressive freedom with disciplined composition. His works consistently rank among the most sought after in the Malaysian art market, reflecting both their artistic excellence and lasting investment value. As demand for significant works by established Malaysian masters continues to grow, Yusof Ghani's paintings remain highly prized by both seasoned collectors and a new generation of art enthusiasts.

YUSOF GHANI, DATUK
Biring Series XXVIII, 2006
Oil on linen 122 x 91 cm
RM 95,000 - 160,000



YUSOF GHANI, DATUK
Siri Tari IV, 1988
Oil on canvas 104 x 140 cm
RM 180,000 - 250,000

Yusof Ghani's enduring influence extends beyond his individual body of work, having played a significant role in shaping the direction of Malaysian contemporary art through decades of artistic practice, education and mentorship. His willingness to experiment while remaining deeply committed to his creative philosophy has inspired generations of emerging artists to embrace personal expression and push the boundaries of visual language. This lasting legacy has firmly established him as one of the nation's most respected cultural figures. At auction, Yusof Ghani's paintings continue to attract strong interest for their rarity, provenance and enduring relevance within Southeast Asia's art landscape. Their consistent demand reflects the enduring appeal of his dynamic artistic vision and his lasting contribution to Malaysian contemporary art.



RAFIEE GHANI
Air Biru II, 1999
Oil on canvas 98 x 78 cm
RM 10,000 - 18,000

RAFIEE GHANI
Keladi, 1999
Oil on canvas 70 x 58 cm
RM 4,000 - 9,000



ART FEATURES

Syed Ahmad Jamal

As one of the pioneers of Malaysian modernism, Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal occupies a unique place in the nation's cultural history. More than an accomplished painter, he was also an influential educator, curator and cultural advocate whose contributions helped shape the direction of Malaysian art for generations. Throughout a career spanning more than five decades, he championed the development of a distinctly Malaysian artistic identity, encouraging creative expression that reflected the country's diverse cultural heritage while engaging with international modernist ideas.

His paintings are distinguished by their thoughtful integration of abstraction with references to the Malaysian landscape, Islamic philosophy and cultural heritage. Rather than presenting literal scenes, Syed Ahmad Jamal distilled the essence of nature, memory and spirituality into elegant compositions characterised by balanced forms, harmonious colours and profound symbolism. Rich in metaphor, his works invite viewers to look beyond the visible, offering a visual language that speaks of identity, faith and humanity through carefully orchestrated colour and form.

The KLAS Art Auction features notable works including *Terima Kasih* and *Balik Pulau*, each exemplifying the artist's refined approach to colour, structure and visual poetry. While differing in mood and composition, both paintings reflect his exceptional ability to transform familiar themes into sophisticated abstract expressions. Every carefully considered brushstroke and compositional element contributes to an atmosphere of quiet contemplation, revealing the intellectual depth and artistic maturity that define his remarkable body of work.



SYED AHMAD JAMAL

Terima Kasih, 2003

Watercolour on paper 29 x 41 cm

RM 7,000 - 12,000



SYED AHMAD JAMAL

Balik Pulau, 2004

Watercolour on paper 29 x 41 cm

RM 7,000 - 12,000



RAFIEE GHANI

Kampung Laut at Dusk, 1997

Oil on canvas 97 x 121 cm

RM 14,000 - 24,000



YEOH JIN LENG

Melawati Series, 1982

Acrylic on canvas 71 x 89 cm

RM 50,000 - 90,000



B. PRABHA

Untitled

Oil on canvas 51 x 51 cm

RM 15,000 - 35,000

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, Syed Ahmad Jamal's paintings stand as enduring reflections of Malaysia's evolving cultural identity and artistic ambition. His ability to fuse intellectual enquiry with emotional sensitivity created works that remain as relevant today as when they were first conceived. Celebrated for their timeless quality and enduring resonance, his paintings continue to inspire collectors and scholars alike, reinforcing his position as one of the most influential figures in the history of Malaysian modern art. His legacy continues to shape the evolution of Malaysian contemporary art.

Abdul Latiff Mohidin

Internationally celebrated as one of Southeast Asia's most important modern artists, Datuk Abdul Latiff Mohidin revolutionised Malaysian art through his visionary exploration of abstraction. His groundbreaking *Voyage* series emerged from years of travel and observation across Southeast Asia and Europe, where landscapes, architecture and vegetation became transformed into fluid organic forms that transcend conventional representation. His paintings blur the boundaries between reality and imagination, creating compositions that appear both ancient and futuristic. Rather than documenting the places he encountered, Latiff distilled their essence into poetic visual forms that evoke movement, memory and transformation. His distinctive artistic language reflects a profound understanding of nature, culture and human experience, allowing each work to communicate on both an intellectual and emotional level.

ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN

Green Voyage, 2009
Oil on canvas 167 x 132 cm
RM 380,000 - 800,000



ABDUL LATIFF MOHIDIN

Voyage 27, 2003
Mixed media on paper 26 x 37 cm
RM 45,000 - 70,000



B. PRABHA

Standing Female
Oil on canvas 50.5 x 41 cm
RM 20,000 - 35,000



KHOO SUI HOE

Celebration, 2011
Oil on canvas 175 x 244 cm
RM 200,000 - 400,000