



Peristiwa Di Awangan

A solo exhibition by
Fadhli Ariffin

11 January 2021

RISSIM
CONTEMPORARY

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No 30-2 (2nd Floor) Jalan Telawi 2,
59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur



Floating in the Waves of Uncertainty

The past two years or so have been challenging for Taiping-born artist Fadhli Ariffin, 32, as the world around him struggled and crumbled in an unprecedented manner.

The change of government in the 14th General Election was hoped to bring about a new hope for young people like him, but instead it triggered socio-political and economic uncertainties, all of which are still lingering over our lives today.

Our artist, who considers himself among the “waves” of young people raising their voices in the realms of politics, economics, arts and culture, felt utterly frustrated and to some extent, cheated.

The global pandemic of Covid-19 which reached our shores in late 2019 has turned our whole 2020 into a different and anxious world for each and every one of us. The ensuing lockdowns and restrictions have threatened our freedom, security and for some, sanity.

Fadhli, or better known as Pali, spent the better part of these times in restless isolation. He kept his guard and hopes up, despite the alarming waves of infections and growing anxiety, not to mention confusion over the excessive pouring of information and half-truths on the disease and its impact.

He sat and watched as all the things that make us human began to be taken away from us. The air was filled with uncertainty, industries suffer shocks and losses, friends, families and strangers lost their jobs, as thousands upon thousands around the world succumbed to the virus.

The inertia, anxiety and frustration of it all are now felt by not only the young, but by everybody. “We’re all in this together” is no longer a cliché, but a reality.

The art world was not spared. Galleries closed their doors and artists like Pali found it difficult to work and know what to work for. Opportunities had been scarce and limited. He knew that he must endure and push on to overcome the malaise.

It has never been easy for him. Born and raised in a small town setting with a working-class background, Pali sought his education and future in the big cities of Shah Alam dan Kuala Lumpur. He looked up at the sky and saw an exciting future.

But then everything changed.

It is said that artists are witnesses of their time, and Pali relied on the wind of change that affects every aspect of his life to drive his energies towards his works. Our artist now looks up at the sky and sees waves of clouds that both torment and enchant him.

“Peristiwa Di Awangan” captures those waves in a series of 11 monochromatic paintings that Pali completed throughout that time of strange isolation and longing. The beauty, energy and mystery of oceanic waves are rendered onto Pali’s canvasses to capture the motions and disruptions in his, and our lives today.

It has, and will be a journey fraught with perils. Pali knew this, and he transferred his thoughts on his canvasses as if to say that we are all in the same boat and that we all can overcome these challenges by raising above the waves – and by choosing to be our own captain.

Text by
Ahmad Kamal Abu Bakar



Floating Thoughts

Propelled by floating thoughts, Fadhli Ariffin – also known as Pali – produces a series of dynamic abstract paintings titled “Peristiwa Di Awangan” (Occurrences in Space) for his second solo show.

Held at Rissim Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur from January 11, 2021 until January 25, 2021, the exhibition features 11 large scale oil on canvas paintings measuring between 4 ft by 4 ft and 4 ft by 8 ft.

“This body of work draws inspiration from the movement of the clouds. But contextually, it is an attempt to capture the waves of change in life,” says Pali.

While 2020 has been a year of introspection for many including Pali, his thoughts linger on the idea of ambiguity surrounding the patterns of life. “Am I afraid of change or will I be shaped to change like the wind moulds the waves?”, questions Pali.

As a consequent, Pali responds to his innermost thoughts through instinctive expressions that allow him to be in the moment. Stylistically, his paintings resemble the printmaking technique – a medium Pali is too familiar with – majoring in that subject during his fine art degree course at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Shah Alam, Selangor and graduating in 2013.

Pali aims to illustrate the equanimity and forcefulness of oceanic waves by rendering “Peristiwa Di Awangan” in varying lines and brushstrokes, and in monochromatic palette to capture the motion of life in a painterly manner.

Life's Philosophy

In his statement, Pali writes: "Ombak satu bentuk gelombang. Adamasanya pertukaran bentuk atau corak yang berubah tetapi ianya tetap ombak, iaitu air laut yang masin. Diilhamkan oleh seniman sebagai satu pengalaman seperti contohnya 'makan garam'. Gelombang atau ombak besar dilihatkan sebagai satu bentuk pergerakan anak muda pada masa kini yang tumbuh seperti cendawan dan yang bergerak seperti ombak atau gelombang besar untuk satu perkara dalam konteks masyarakat pada masa kini. Ianya termasuk lah dalam bentuk budaya mahupun dalam pelbagai aspek bidang seperti bidang kerja seni, filem, ekonomi dan sebagainya. Jika dilihat dari konteks umum, gelombang-gelombang ini (pergerakan anak muda) berkembang dari masa lima tahun sebelumnya sehingga sekarang. Boleh dikatakan gelombang-gelombang ini pada masa sekarang secara tidak langsung telah memonopoli satu bentuk sosiologi yang baru terutamanya dapat dilihat dari perkembangan negara-negara Asia. Adakah ianya kebangkitan Asia yang telah berlaku pada masa sekarang?"

("Tides are waveform. Oftentimes the variation of current shape or pattern may change but it is still a wave composing of salty sea water. Inspired by one's experiences such as 'makan garam' (a Malay idiom that means having a lot of experience in life), large waves are seen as a form of movement in today's youth culture rapidly growing like mushrooms and moves like waves in the current society. It includes cultural and various aspects such as in the field of art, film, economics and so on. Judging from the general context, these waves (the movement of young people) developed from the previous five years until now. It can be said that these waves nowadays have indirectly monopolised a new form of sociology especially seen from the development of Asian countries. Is it the rise of Asia that has taken place in the present?")





Pali, who is turning 32, believes that he belongs to the current generation that has blossomed from its seed. A moment of retrospection to where Pali was five years ago - when he inaugurated his first solo show titled "(P)residen" - a culmination of a six-month residency programme called Adopted Residency (A-RES) at HOM Art Trans that offered mixed media work such as paintings and installation pregnant with meanings and symbolisms.

Today, Pali's proclivity towards expressing his innermost instincts through mark-making speak volumes of his place as an artist. He manifests himself in a gestural language that conveys rhythmic energy.

Through non-representational paintings such as "Jeladeri"; "Badai"; "Selat I"; "Selat II"; "Gejolak"; "Gelombang Samudera"; "Pusaran Jerlus"; "Gelora"; "Wajah", "Kaspia"; and "Segara", Pali captures the spirit of uncertainty in a self-assured manner.

Winds of Change

“Peristiwa di Awangan” is a prequel to an earlier series titled “Perkara di Awangan”, which has not yet been released. The series comprises over twenty multichromatic abstract paintings using tree branch and bamboo stick as a device to transmit oil paint onto the canvas surface.

When asked why did he decide to showcase the sequel to the public first? Pali answers: “I feel that it is appropriate to display ‘Peristiwa di Awangan’ first before ‘Perkara di Awangan’ as the timing is right.”

As an artist, Pali’s working momentum relies on the wind of change in every aspect of his life. “The mood takes me here to paint this large theme of work and I pursued it,” says Pali.

The theme has been tackled by several senior and established artists before that one cannot disregard the fact when observing Pali’s work.

National treasure, Latiff Mohidin, has produced a significant number of works surrounding the theme of waves such as “Gelombang” that was exhibited in his solo show titled “Gelombang: Latiff Mohidin in Penang 1990” at the Penang State Museum and Art Gallery in 1990 and “Seascape” from his solo show titled “Latiff Mohidin, Seascape, Recent Paintings” at The Opera Gallery in Singapore and The Edge Galerie in Kuala Lumpur in 2014.

Abstract artist Yusof Ghani has also produced a series titled “Ombak” that was showcased in a solo exhibition called “Ombak: Breath of Life” at Bank Negara Malaysia Museum and Art Gallery Sasana Kijang, Kuala Lumpur in 2014.



“From a historical perspective, the Japanese 17th century ukiyo-e woodblock print artist Hokusai created ‘The Great Wave off Kanagawa’ circa 1829–1833. Old Masters from Renaissance to Romanticism have also depicted waves. Contextually, my work represents the current generation of the 21st century that conveys a different narrative from the past,” explains Pali.

Indeed, guided by the Malay proverb “tak lapuk dek hujan, tak lekang dek panas”, which means ‘unchanging customs, something that remains intact’, Pali is determined to make artworks despite the wind of change. Circumstances may alter plans but his robust willpower to produce remains undiminished.

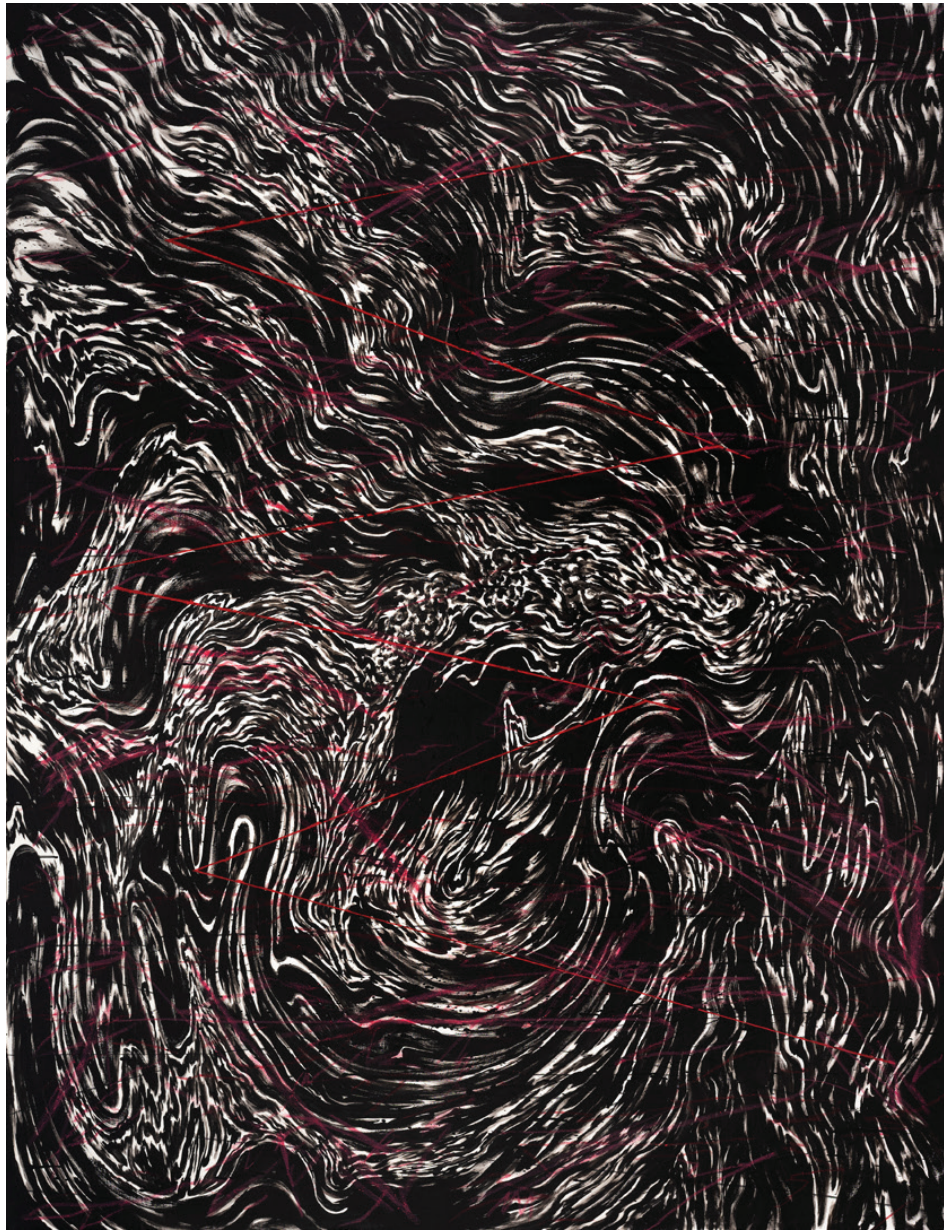
Text by
Sarah Abu Bakar





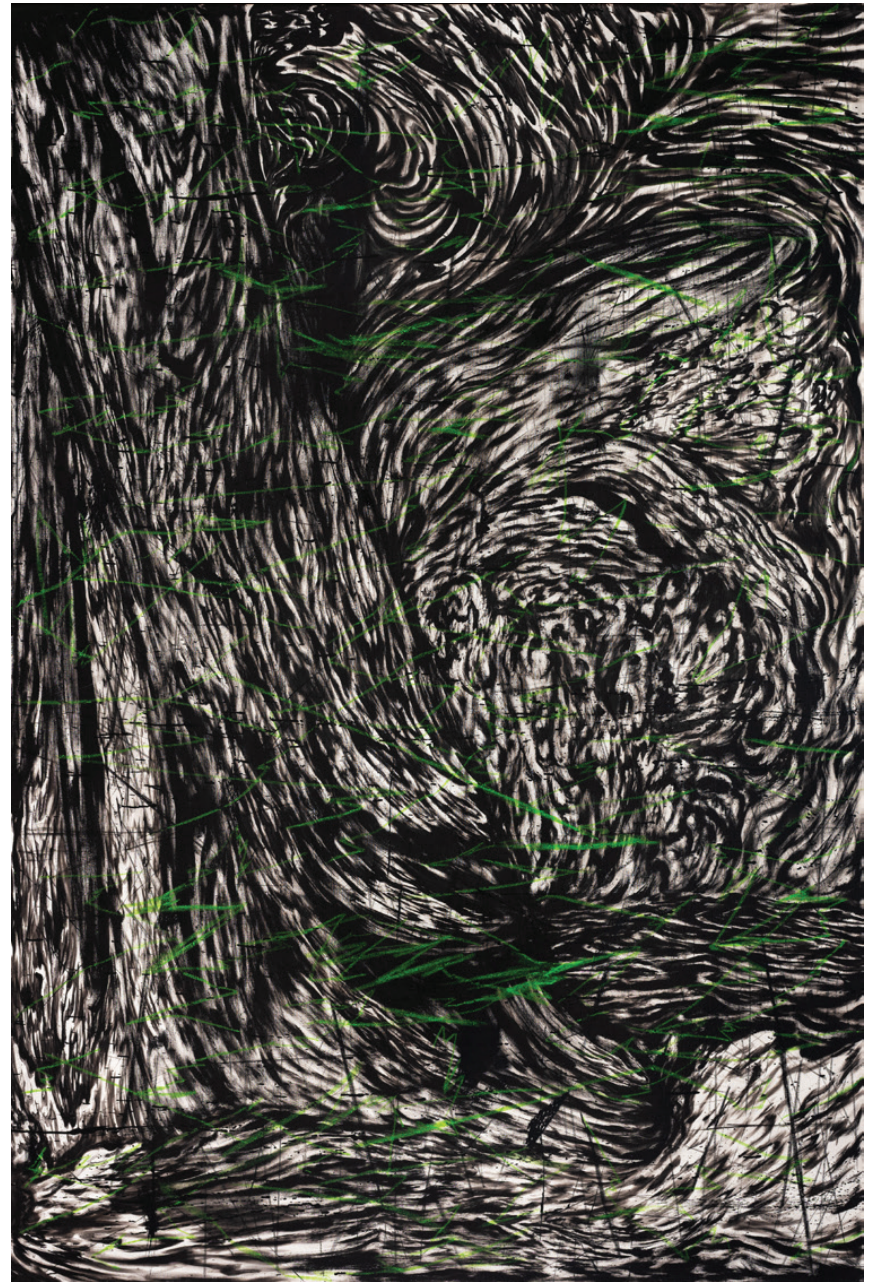
Gelombang Samudera

Oil on Canvas
240cm x 360cm
(triptych)
2020



Wajah

Oil on Canvas
130cm x 171cm
2020



Gejolak

Oil on Canvas
122cm x 182cm
2020



Badai

Oil on Canvas
140cm x 240cm
(diptych)
2020



Jeladeri

Oil on Canvas
122cm x 180cm
2020



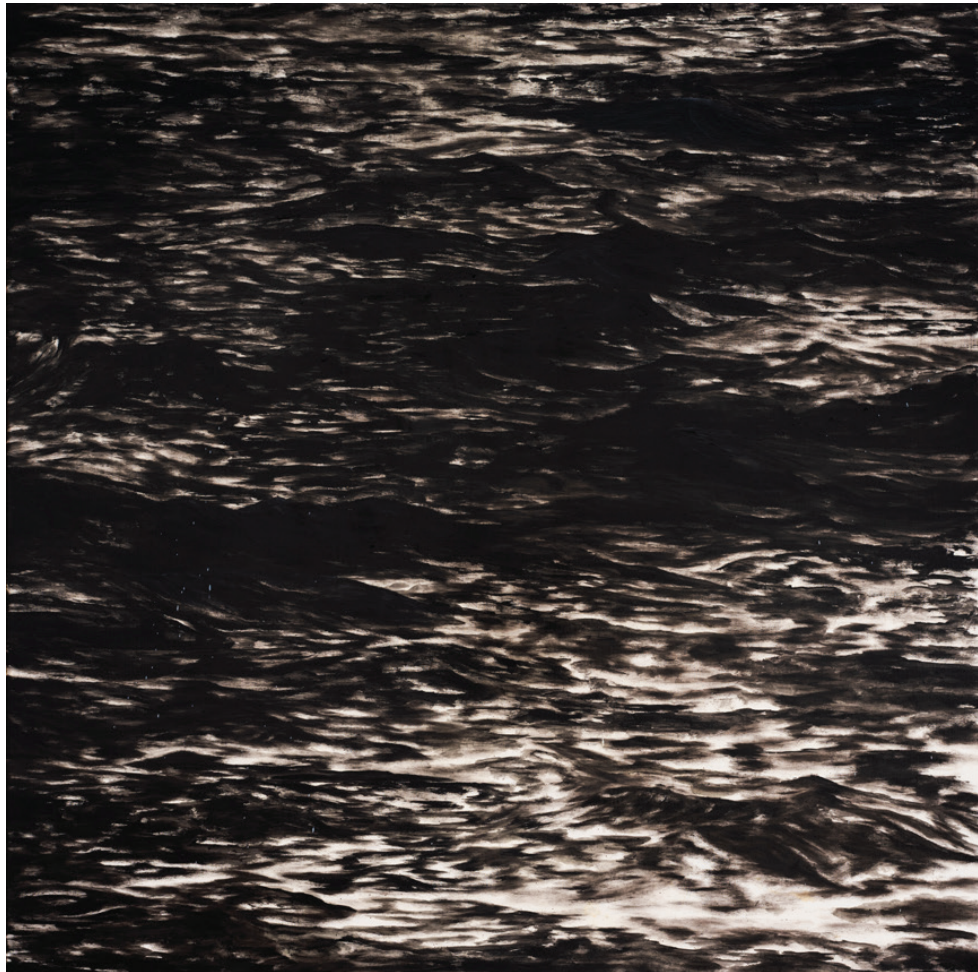
Gelombang Badai

Oil on Canvas
80cm x 60cm
2020



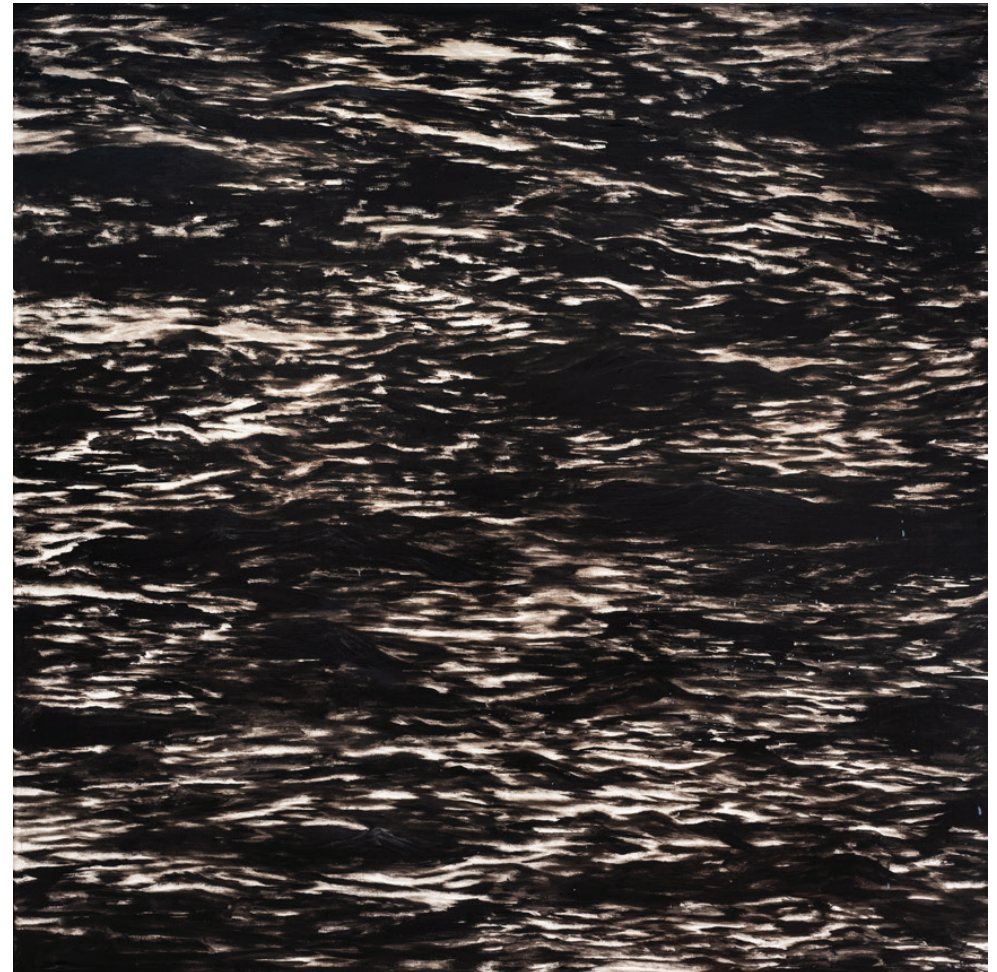
Segara

Oil on Canvas
140cm x 240cm (diptych)
2020



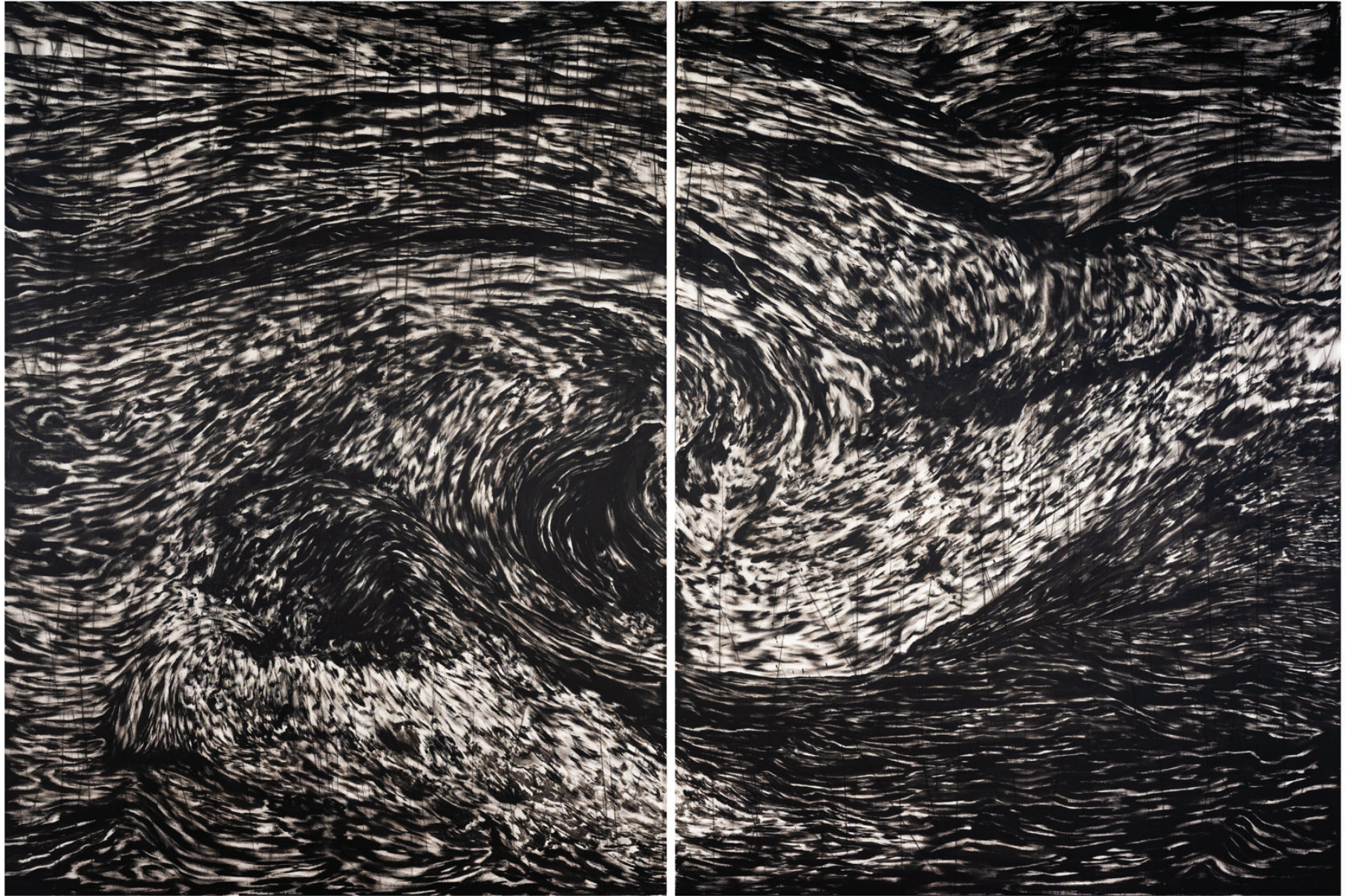
Selat i

Oil on Canvas
122cm x 182cm
2020



Selat ii

Oil on Canvas
122cm x 182cm
2020



Pusaran Jerlus

Oil on Canvas
140cm x 260cm (diptych)
2020



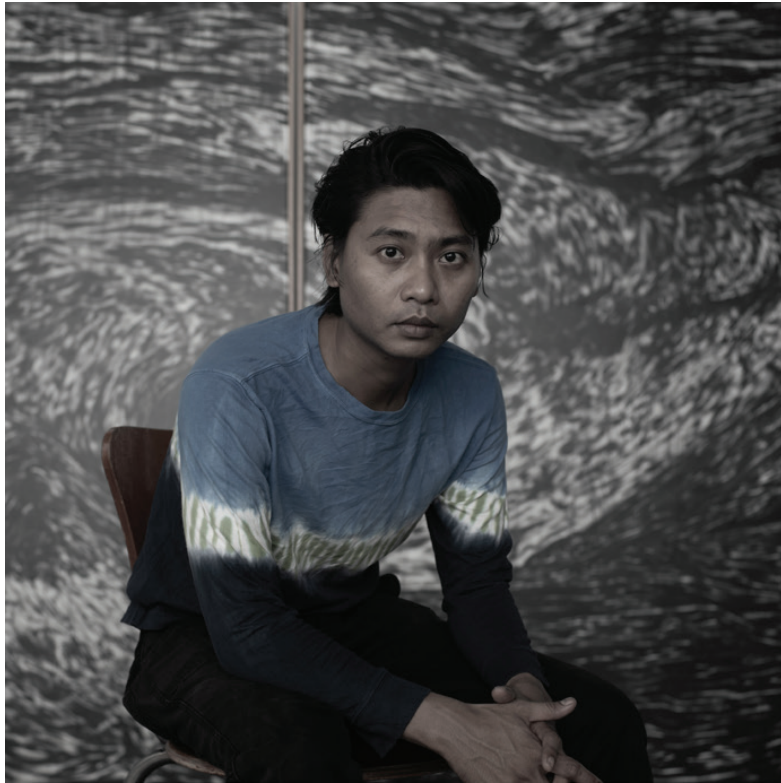
Kaspia

Oil on Canvas
153cm x 153cm
2020



Gelora

Oil on Canvas
152cm x 245cm
2020



Biography

Fadhli Ariffin a.k.a Pali
b.1989
Taiping, Perak , Malaysia

Fadhli Ariffin, multidisciplinary artist born in Taiping, Perak, Malaysia (b.1989), Study Fine art in University Technology MARA 2007-2010 after finishing secondary school in SMK King Edward VII 2006. Begin to take part in numerous group exhibitions since 2010 while still a student, in 2014 take part in the Artist Residency at HOM Art Trans, which led to his 2015 solo show titled (P)residen and participated in numerous group exhibitions. Fadhli Ariffin is a Neo-Expressionist Malaysian artist and the artwork feels about the surroundings and his personal feelings & thinking towards life as an artist.

Education

- 2013** Degree of Fine Arts (Hons), University Technology Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
- 2010** Diploma of Fine Arts, University Technology Mara, Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia
- 2007** Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM), S.M.K King Edward VII, Taiping, Perak, Malaysia

Solo Exhibition

- 2015**
(P)residen, HOM Art Trans, Malaysia.

Selected Exhibition

- 2020**
Sebeginisebeginitu, Fergana, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Covart19, Russel, petaling jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Omnificence, Galeri Prima, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Traversing 175, Galeri Prima, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019**
SiSa Rasa, Russel, petaling Jaya, Selangor.
KLIMEX'19, Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
KOAPSALWEI, HOMARTTRANS, Selangor, Malaysia
MEA Award 2019, White box, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2018**
Still Life, Still Alive, Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
Publikaartshow, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
Transit 3x3, HOMARTTRANS, Selangor, Malaysia
Bintang 5 - finale, Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Visakhapatnam Art Fair, Museum of Rajiv Smruthi Bhavan, Visakhapatnam, India.
Klimex18, National art gallery, Malaysia.
From the studio II, tran 56, art row, Malaysia.
- 2017**
Matter of [F]act, China House, Penang, Malaysia.
Boundaries of [dis] beliefs, White Box, Malaysia.
1000 faces, China House, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Selected Exhibition**2016**

Takde Sape Suruh, Port Commune, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
Versus Animal, China House, Penang, Malaysia.
Transit A2, HOMARTTRANS, Selangor, Malaysia.
See you later Mimi, Art Row, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Visakhapatnam Art Fair, Museum of Rajiv Smruthi Bhavan, Visakhapatnam, India.
Young and blooming II, Chinahouse gallery, Penang, Malaysia.

2015

tpII, HOMARTTRANS, Selangor, Malaysia.
IdeaRaya, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Melukis Puisi, White Box@MAP Solaris Dutamas art gallery, Malaysia.

2014

Visakhapatnam Art Fair, Museum of Rajiv Smruthi Bhavan, Visakhapatnam, India.
MEA Award 2013, White box, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2013

Penang Open Show, Muzium Negeri Pulau Pinang, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
Piknik "Ais Kirim" & "Bunga Teloa", Padang Polo Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia
Piece Of Me, White Box@MAP Solaris Dutamas art gallery, Malaysia.
Pameran Amal Sejuta Nurqilan, Kompleks Perbadanan Putrajaya, Malaysia.
Young & New part V, China House, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
Young & New part V, HOM Art Trans, Malaysia.
Urban Art 2, Pelita Hati Gallery, Malaysia

2012

Urban Art, Pelita Hati Gallery, Malaysia.
Water give Water takes, German-Malaysian Institute, Malaysia.
Penang Open Show, Muzium Negeri Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.

2011

Open Show, Galeri Shah Alam, Malaysia.
4th annual Peri-fy Your Art Competition, 1Utama Shopping centre, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
Cool Art, White Box, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2010

Expressions of the Malayan Tiger, Balai Seni Maybank, Menara Maybank, Malaysia.
Himpun, Peti Seni, Balai Seni Visual Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Show-It-Don't-hide-it, exhibition @ KLDW 2010, CapSquare, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Oil Pastel, Foyer FSSR UiTM Perak, Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia

Awards and Achievements**2020**

Cendana Create Now, Cendana, Malaysia

2019

Residency artist, RUSSEL, Petaling Jaya, Selangor

2015

Consolation prize, graffiti competition, silver youth, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia

2013

Residency artist, HOM Art Trans, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Consolation prize, Open Show Pulau Pinang, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
 Anugerah Arkib, Degree Showcase Sept-Jan 2013, University Technology Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

2012

Consolation prize, Open Show Pulau Pinang, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
 Consolation prize, competition 'water give water take' under Goethe Institut, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

2011

3rd Prize, Pertandingan Psikologi & Seni, Uitm Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
 2nd runner up, Nando's art competition 2011, 1Utama Shopping centre, Petaling Jaya, organized by Nando's and NN Gallery, Malaysia



RISSIM CONTEMPORARY

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday
11am - 5pm

Rissim Contemporary

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