

Reflection

Syukur Rani

Haslin Ismail

Samsudin Wahab

Paul Nickson

Engku Iman

April 29th 2022 – May 15th 2022

Rissim Contemporary is proud to present Reflection, a group exhibition featuring the works of 5 established and emerging Malaysian artists; Samsudin Wahab, Engku Iman, Paul Nickson, Haslin Ismail and Syukur Rani. Working predominantly with the mediums of drawing and painting a total of 36 works will be displayed.

Reflection brings together works of art that display seemingly different subject matters that are tethered by a common theme of contemplation. The works on show adequately reflect their respective creator's conscious effort to translate and reflect upon experienced observations and feelings – inviting the viewer to do the same not only within the space of the gallery but within the ever-growing space of their own world.

Contemplation is key in Haslin Ismail's *Black Series* (2020-2022). His large-scale drawings on canvas are visual exorcisms of the desolate isolation and boredom felt during the long periods of lockdown due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that "boredom inspired me for this new body of work. So, I went back to basics with a pencil and ink on paper and canvas". The choice of a simple medium outweighs the depth and layers of shared feelings present in his work.

Kebetulan Terancang (Organised Coincidence) (2018) by Samsudin Wahab is a series of drawings that are a visual manifestation inspired by a collection of poems written by Lutfi Ishak. Samsudin Wahab stated that "before he [Lutfi Ishak] published the book of poems we discussed the idea that I collaborate with them in order to give the poetry another dimension." Here the written word is interpreted and given new form within the world of the visual.

Complementary to the exhibition's predominantly monochromatic theme, Paul Nickson's studies from his *Perhimpunan Series* are ink drawings invite the viewer to take on new methods of looking and observing everyday objects. He describes this series as "visual play and in all of its seriousness, it is for fun and play where interpretations are malleable and transcendental across representations, speculations".

Repeat Sampai Kiamat (2022) by Engku Iman is a striking series of hyper realistic paintings in red. Depicting the repetitive symbolism of Kuala Lumpur, she employs the well-known red AWAS tape to illustrate her characters to "catch people's attention". When asked about her work she stated that she approached creating this series less critically, satisfying her desire to simply "cuci mata" a phrase that speaks directly to the theme and nature of her work.

Syukur Rani states that the idea behind his two large scale canvases is "celebrating the unperfected form". His works are constructed from an amalgamation of sketches and spontaneous drawings done by the artist. What occurs on the canvas is a refined but nevertheless raw perspective of the artist attempting to reflect the true nature of how we build our reality – with fragments of different moments.

What tethers these works, are not their observation of society from afar but their collective reflection of lived experiences, conversations, frustrations and engagements within each of their own versions of society and reality. The works on show encourage the viewer to pause, connect and reflect upon moments, feelings or simply objects of everyday life that we overlook and have become numb to due to the pace of the world we live.

Engku Iman

Engku Iman (b. 1990, lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) who finds inspiration in the rich heritage and culture of her Malay lineage, she challenges stereotypes through a mix of new and old media, producing pieces that serve as thought crushers and conversation starters. She is an architecture graduate that uses space to convey stories and emotions, and has exhibited in countries around Southeast Asia, East Asia and Europe. Wherever she goes, she works towards narrating not just her own story, but the stories of those that she encounters in her work - weaving the contemporary and culture into a web of stark beauty that is both raw and riveting to viewers. She has held a solo exhibition at the A2Z Gallery, Hong Kong (2018), Group exhibitions in Yokohama, Japan (2018), Espace Communes, Paris (2017), and the National Art Gallery, Malaysia (2016).

Samsudin Wahab

Samsudin Wahab (b. 1984, Perak; lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) obtained his Bachelor (Honours) degree in Fine Arts from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam, in 2007. He was the co-founder of Chetak 12 and Studio Tikus. His current practice includes the creation of sculpture, performance, video and installation in response to media coverage of global political events, often mixing reported reality with his vivid imagination. He has staged various solo exhibitions including Enough! (Galeri Taksu, Kuala Lumpur, 2008); Not Enough! (Galeri Chandan, Kuala Lumpur, 2008); Self-Parody (15th Rimbun Dahan Residency Exhibition, Rimbun Dahan, Kuang, Selangor, 2010); and Propositions for the Future (Fergana Art Gallery, Penang, 2015); Kadang-kadang, Dekat-dekat, Akan Datang no.4 (A+ Works of Art, 2018), Rindu Bayangan (Rissim Contemporary, 2020). His works have been exhibited at major international platforms such as Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia (2012); Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan (2013) and the Kuandu Biennale, Taipei (2016). In 2010, he was sent to Mumbai, India, through the Khazanah Nasional Art Residency programme. During his fellowship at the Fergana Art Fellowship programme in 2015, he was coached by renowned artist-curator Wong Hoy Cheong for six months.

Haslin Ismail

Haslin Ismail (b. 1984, Johor; lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in 2007. He has been creating and exhibiting his fantastical art pieces in various exhibitions since 2000. He was winner of the grand prize for In-Print: Contemporary British Art from the Paragon Press held at National Art Gallery in 2006. His first solo exhibition 'Exorcismus Persona: Windows Into Fantasy Worlds of Haslin Ismail' was at the RA Fine Arts Gallery in 2009. He was also the grand prize winner for the prestigious Young Contemporary Award (2010) at National Art Gallery with his entry of a complex and intricate paper/book art installation. He has also held residencies at Rimbun Dahan, Malaysia (2011) and for the S-AIR exchange program at Naebono Art Studio, Sapporo, Japan, in partnership with HOM Art Trans for two months, from October to late December 2019, before the pandemic era of Covid-19 has just begun.

Paul Nickson

Paul Nickson Atia (b. 1992, Sarawak; lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) is a young artist from Malaysia. His main interest lies at converging theories and conceptual framework of arts, architecture, history, anthropology, culture and most importantly, the geopolitics and identities in the contemporary art practice and narratives. His solo exhibition FORM(S) OF PRAYER(S) in 2019, explored the concept of prayers through the use of repetitive elements in his works. The series is manifested as questions and tribute over the act of paying respect towards concepts of prayers - the reaffirmation of faith or formation of new faith. Paul holds a degree in architecture - practicing and teaching locally for several years before turning his artistic pursuit towards drawings, paintings, and art installations. His most recent exhibition was with Gajah Gallery, Singapore (2021) and will be taking part in the Rimbun Dahan Residency (2022).

Syukur Rani

Abdul Syukur Bin Haji Abdul Rani (b. 1994, Perak; lives and works in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Syukur Rani obtained his first diploma in Fine Art in 2012 and later attained his Degree in Fine Art, majoring in Paintings from Universiti Teknologi MARA in 2015. He is currently working as a fulltime artist. Syukur Rani started joining the Malaysian art scene between 2014-2015 when he was still a student. His work has been shown locally in Kuala Lumpur with pieces becoming part of permanent corporate and private collections.

RISSIM CONTEMPORARY

Rissim Contemporary is located at:

30-2 Jalan Telawi 2,
Bangsar 59100
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

Gallery Hours: Friday to Sunday, 12pm – 7pm

Rissim Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery located in Kuala Lumpur, with a focus on exhibiting new and emerging Malaysian artists. Established in 2019, the gallery strives to not only introduce new names to the Malaysian art scene but nurture a new audience of young collectors.

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For more information, please call or email the gallery at +6019-353-6484 or info@rissimcontemporary.com