



ESSENCE, ELEMENT & NEW DRAWINGS

1ST DECEMBER › 28TH DECEMBER 2012

TJFINEART

CHOR SHYMIIN ◦ WONG SIEW LEE ◦ WANG CHENG YONG



MESSAGE FROM TJ FINE ART

Professor Tajuddin Ismail

Aside from transferring skill and knowledge - the joy and pride of any teacher, is to see the fruition of their teachings through their students works. I have the wonderful privilege and joy of sharing my experiences for more than 30 years of involvement in teaching art and design.

Wang Cheng Yong, Wong Siew Lee and Chor ShyMiin, are amongst those hundreds of students whom I have taught over the years. I have always believed, that teaching art or design should not be about cloning aspiring young artist into your alter image - though that seems to be the 'trend' or phenomena in Malaysian art education.




A teacher's role in teaching art and design is merely to guide, inspire, nurture and harness the latent talent of their students. The students should be allowed to develop their own unique personality and intellectual growth as creative individuals. I am indeed proud that Yong, Siew Lee and ShyMiin are able to benefit from the three months of Drawing and Painting workshop with me. Their works in this exhibition, "Essence, Element and New Drawings" is a testimony of these three artists, who have discovered a personal 'voice' in expressing their thoughts and personality through their individual works.

As artist, they not only command good visual and technical skills, but more importantly they have the ability to articulate meanings or content into their works.

As their teacher, I can sit back and feel a sense of accomplishment and pride to have played a small part in their success. To Yong, Siew Lee and ShyMiin - you can now look up with a sense of pride and confidence to show your talents as creative artist. I wish you every success in this exhibition.

Thank you.

Your teacher



The way in which we present ourselves and communicate with our surroundings allow us a wonderful opportunity to express our individuality, differentiating and mirroring to the outside what is important to all of us on the inside, from personal opinions to what we wear, from the very artistic career we choose to the communities we choose to reside in.

The artistic works of Wang Cheng Yong, Wong Siew Lee and Chor ShyMiin on display at TJ Fine Art allow for an interesting dialogue, united visually by the process of learning that began nearly a decade ago and continues today, and across international lines.

Delve deeply in to the works and the differences actually share a similar thinking process, learned techniques but with unlimited and unbridled creativity as individual as the artists whom have created these works.

The learning process through participation in a number of workshops, via some of the country's top artists, in and of itself was and continues to be simply a means to a beginning of self discovery, an understanding allowing each of these talented individuals to develop their differences conceptually and visually.

For these three artists, expressing their differences and in approaching their personal creative comes after varied careers spent doing other things in equal measure, however, in pursuing their individual artistic interest has allowed each of them the opportunity to express from within. They are good at what they do, what they did and where they are today. Where they will be tomorrow in their artistic lives is a most exciting and intriguing prospect.

We build relationships through our differences, we spend entire lives challenging our learned education and at some point, as in the case of these artists, we act upon and set ourselves apart from others through our art, our creative talents and the art we care to share with the world.

APPLIED CREATIVE WANG CHENG YONG, WONG SIEW LEE AND CHOR SHYMIIN

Drew Harris



Exhibiting our art, we face ourselves and our environments alone, we stand somewhat vulnerable to criticism, yet we share a confidence that comes only after believing in who we are and what we do. This confidence comes in the form of our chosen artistic mediums, our mark making and our choice of colour. It is a personal journey in which we share our most intimate thinking through various mediums.

Our education, as much or as little we have acquired is quite simply, a step towards drawing out personal expression. We educate in order to examine technique, or to understand the process of creative thinking, but education itself cannot teach one to manage a beautifully rendered gestural line or the handling of an unexpected accident in a work of art, it's intuitive, an action, a faith in understanding our inherent capabilities as artists.

As artists, we can be taught to look in all the recesses of our past and present, but in order to extricate from within, what it is we apply to a surface of a canvas, or render on a layer of fabric is unexplainable, unrehearsed, it is what we believe, what we stand for, what we experience in dreams, in actions and in the fabric of our lives that make us who we are today.

The art these three women artists have created and now exhibiting are fine examples of individuality, though created via a shared process of continuing education. They recently have been blessed by the teachings of master artists and Professor Tajuddin Ismail and this alone is as important as the art itself. Having had the opportunity to experience first hand from a modern master will forever remain in everything artistic these artists will create in the future. They share a common understanding of process, of creation and of materials, this alone tethers them together in a manner that will be with them for life, most especially in their respective art careers.

Examine these three artists' works and you'll find an abundance of talent, technique and exceptional creative thinking etched in to each work they create. Take a moment to reflect, to allow the works to resonate, and if you remain one with the work, you'll hear what you feel.

Congratulations Ladies.



WANG CHENG YONG was born in Sungei Petani, Kedah in 1955. She pursued formal artistic training at the Faculty of Art and Design in Sunway University immediately after she retired as Company Secretary of Telekom Malaysia Berhad in 2009. Her penchant for art led to her participation in art related workshops, whenever the opportunity arises throughout her career in the corporate sector. She is now painting full time having completed the Diploma in Fine Art Programme at Sunway University.

AWARDS

- 2001 First Prize, Star Learning Skills 2001 Beginners Workshop on Interior Design and Decoration. (Accredited by the City of Westminster Adult Education Service, Britain).
- 2012 Sunway University Chancellor Scholastic Award for outstanding academic achievement in Diploma in Fine Art.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2002 The Teaching of Drawing by Jolly Koh. National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.
- 2004 Five New Artists. Townhouse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.
- 2008 Local Artists Group Exhibition. Kuala Lumpur Library, Kuala Lumpur.
- 2012 Anonymous. Bank Negara Malaysia Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.



Natural beauty inspires me and has always been my favourite subject of contemplation and extreme fascination. Certain combination of colours, intricate lines, textures and translucency especially found in flowers are naturally beautiful but which are often overlooked. These qualities draw me in to determine and investigate what exactly makes the beauty in flowers so attractive.

I use large canvases to expand the beautiful qualities of flowers and to create impact, such as exaggerating a small delphinium flower which is about the size of a 50 sen coin onto a 4ft x 4ft canvas. I try to capture the essence of fresh blooms on canvas whilst the real ones wither and fade away in the gardens. Small flowers are made big and conspicuous to enable busy people to stop and appreciate their simplicity and beauty.

My current body of works is a continuation of my process of investigation and acknowledgement of beauty found in simple things in life.



AMBER ROSE
Mixed Media on Canvas / 122 x 122 cm / 2012



SHY
Oil on Canvas / 122 x 193 cm / 2012



PURPLE DELPH
Oil on Canvas / 122 x 122 cm / 2012

WHITE DELPHINIUM
Oil on Canvas / 122 x 122 cm / 2012



WONG SIEW LEE was born in Bukit Mertajam, Penang in 1959. She started her career as a Quantity Surveyor. 2002 she obtained her Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts majoring in Printmaking from Central Academy of Arts, Kuala Lumpur. Constantly honing her skills, she participated in many art related workshops. She has fervent interest in modern art painting and printmaking.

www.siewlee.net

AWARDS

- 2003 Jury Award. SAKSI (Suatu Apresiasi Kisah Sejarah melalui Seni) National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.
- 2009 2009 Asia-Pacific Art Honourable Award. Awarded by the Committee of the Achievement of Asia Pacific Cultural Industry Exhibition & Awards.
- 2002 Third Prize. Tanjung Heritage Art Competition.
- 2001, 2004 Consolation Prize. Pertandingan Seni Lukis Terbuka Negeri Johor.
- 2012 Finalist Penang Art Open "Business as Un-Usual".

SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2011 A Matter of Mind, Balai Berita, The New Straits Times Press, Kuala Lumpur.

INTERNATIONAL GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

- 2005 In Print, Contemporary Print in Malaysia & British, National Art Gallery, K.L.
- 2008 The 13th international Triennial of Small Graphic Forms, Lodz, Poland.
- 2009 The 7th FOOT BRIDGE Asia & Africa Modern Art Exhibition, Hangzhou, China.
- 2009 Asia Invitation Art Exhibition in Seoul 2009, Seoul, Korea.
- 2012 Taiwan International Invitation Mini-Prints Exhibition and Symposium, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2012 1st Macau Printmaking Triennial, Macau.

LOCAL GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

- 2003 SAKSI. Balai Seni Visual Negara, K.L.
- 2007 Made In Local, ARTalk Gallery, K.L.
- 2010 Ketumbukan-Seni Cetak Alternatif, Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, USM. Penang.
- 2012 Tanpa Nama/Anonymous Exhibition, Galeri Seni Bank Negara Malaysia. K. L.
- 2012 Fusion in Unity, PPM 3rd Annual Exhibition, Universiti Malaya Art Gallery, K. L.
- 2012 Members Only, Balai Seni Visual Negara. Kuala Lumpur.



My artistic life has been impelled by the expressional abstraction processes. I take cues from my familiar surroundings. These cues are merely seeds of inspiration which incite me to express my emotions visually.

One day, I went home from my studio before it rained. Caressed by the cool wind, I just freed myself and was totally immersed, enjoying the gift of nature. I suddenly realized that the rhythm of life is so fast that we have no time to pause and listen to the whisper in the wind. A lot of times, we just take things for granted.

Earth, water, fire and wind are the basic elements of physical world. Wind comes and goes, nobody knows where it comes from and where it is heading to.

But, as the wind blows, I slow down my pace, I feel it with colors, with temperament warm and cool, with gestural windy marks over the horizon and during sunset.



THE WIND CONCERTO
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas / 80 x 60 cm / 2012



DANCING IN THE WIND
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas / 90 x 150 cm / 2012



WHISPER IN THE WIND
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas / 80 x 60 cm / 2012



WIND OVER THE HORIZON
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas / 61 x 51 cm / 2012



CHOR SHYMIIN was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1975. ShyMiin works predominantly in the medium of drawing and painting but includes embroideries and mechanical reproduction in her oeuvre. She is a qualified lawyer but left the profession to dedicate her time to art, meditation and welfare work. She was previously trained in traditional western painting and later received a Certificate in Fine Art with Outstanding Graduate Award from Sessions College for Professional Design, USA. Currently she is pursuing a MA in Painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design, USA and has participated in group shows.

www.shymiin.net



I work with, and examine chances and memory. My most vivid memories appear faint, fragile and distant, and I am most interested in this fuzziness, elusiveness and fragility. The reductive colour scheme and delicate materials are meant to represent this nature. In all my works, I consciously and intentionally choose cloth as my substrate using ink and thread as the dominant media in an attempt to break my own stereotyped notion of what art is. I assert my female sensibilities with the use of embroidery, often seen as a traditional craft, which I have been doing since I was six. For me, what had previously been considered worthy as fine art has largely been conditioned and influenced by the male and Eurocentric biases. All my choices in my works are aimed to reclaim my individuality, my personal history that makes me a Malaysian, and that which asserts my existence as a female being.



MIRROR ME (IV)
Mixed Media / 8.5 x 6 cm / 2012



RECURRING DREAM (I)
Mixed Media / 69 x 79 cm / 2012



ARTIST'S MOTHER (FRONT)
Thread on Cloth / 17.5 x 13 cm / 2012



ARTIST'S MOTHER (BACK)
Thread on Cloth / 17.5 x 13 cm / 2012