



SPOTLIGHT

by penang
art district

TOP 20 Finalists

Group Exhibition

4 - 27 November 2022

Blank Canvas

2 Argus Lane, George Town, Penang

Artist Statements



Wong Joo Yee

The Charming Romantic Behaviour of Yesteryears

13.8" x 11.3" (Triptych)

2022

Oil and Acrylic on Canvas

Artist Statement

My triptych is about the roles of men and women of past decades in which romance had a social function for setting up what is the cell of society, a family. Poses and acceptable standards of gender appearance were followed by default. There was a more social-minded aim of being in a couple not based on selfish gender benefits which is the rule nowadays, it was not perfect and women were not allowed to cross some hard lines but it was charming.



Muhammad Aries Iskandar Bin Abdul Halim

Series 1: Protecting The Realities

20.8" x 10.5"

2022

Etching on Tin Cans

Artist Statement

"Series 1: Protecting The Realities" is a way for me to speak to the public about the incident and the future that we will face where we will lose various species of beautiful and unique marine life, if the dumping of the garbage in the sea is not curbed from the beginning, this will affect the ecosystem; even able to kill all marine life. In this work, I visualize numerous unique sea creatures that are chosen for their abandoned beauty not being appreciated by others as they considered them as partly "scary" and "dangerous".

By interacting with the outstanding sea creatures, this work is able to give awareness to all respective audiences to appreciate the marine life created by The Almighty by taking care of this nature, as best as possible.



Faez Aimanulhaqem Bin Aris Fadilah

Minima+ Series (Mountain Retreat)

24" x 42"

2022

Mixed Media On Cotton (Acrylic, Thread)

Artist Statement

The artwork is depicted scenery from the landscape that uses simple subject matter and minimal usage of colour such as black and white. The significance of the minimal object and colour is because of the simple appearance of the feelings. It all starts with the famous scenery painter, Bob Ross. Bob Ross had given a lot of inspiration in the aspect of tips and tricks about the procedure of his creation of the painting. My intention of choosing scenery as the subject matter is because of the beautiful panorama view and wide feelings for location. But what if the scene is simple?



Jason Teo Jia Hao

20022022

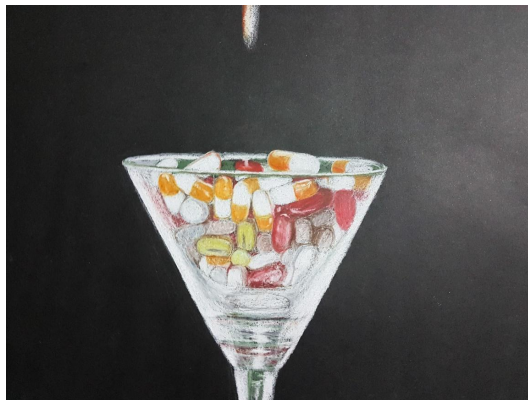
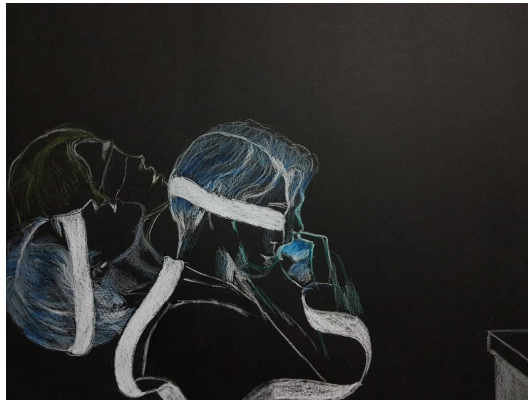
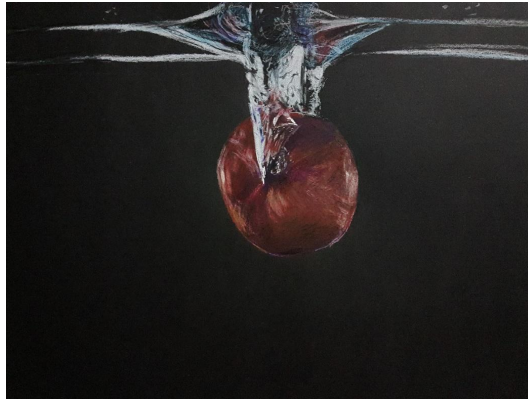
27.6" x 24"

2022

Photograph, Marker Pen on Paper, White T-shirt, Black Thread and Safety Pin

Artist Statement

Just happened this year, I knew my true origin from my now parent. I had complicated feelings that day. The main purpose of creating this work was to express my story and feelings. For this creation, I used childhood photos and cut out the face. The face in the photo symbolizes my soul. My soul was forcibly taken from a false body by a bird. The coconut is abandoned by coconut trees, and floats on the water, describing a child who was abandoned after birth. The clothes symbolize my body, and the black messy lines express complex moods. I fastened the picture to my body with a pin, as if I could never forget that I was an abandoned child for the rest of my life.



Norsairah Binti Hassan Masoud

Desire or Temptation

12" x 16.8" (Triptych)

2022

Coloured Pencils on Black Paper

Artist Statement

Some people always have anxious thinking that they are not living their life to the fullest. I was inspired by the struggles young adults go through in the immoral world and are caught between good and evil in order to define themselves and find a place and role in society. Their willing in sacrificing everything in order to achieve one's deepest desires or to pursue their dreams to the fullest extent. I wanted to express that everyone has confusion and anxieties due to the uncertainties future while growing up and passing from childhood to adulthood. It is a journey that we initially didn't even know we are on and often just see ourselves as an extension of our family and their values.



Ho Su San

Up And Down Currents After Those Golden Days

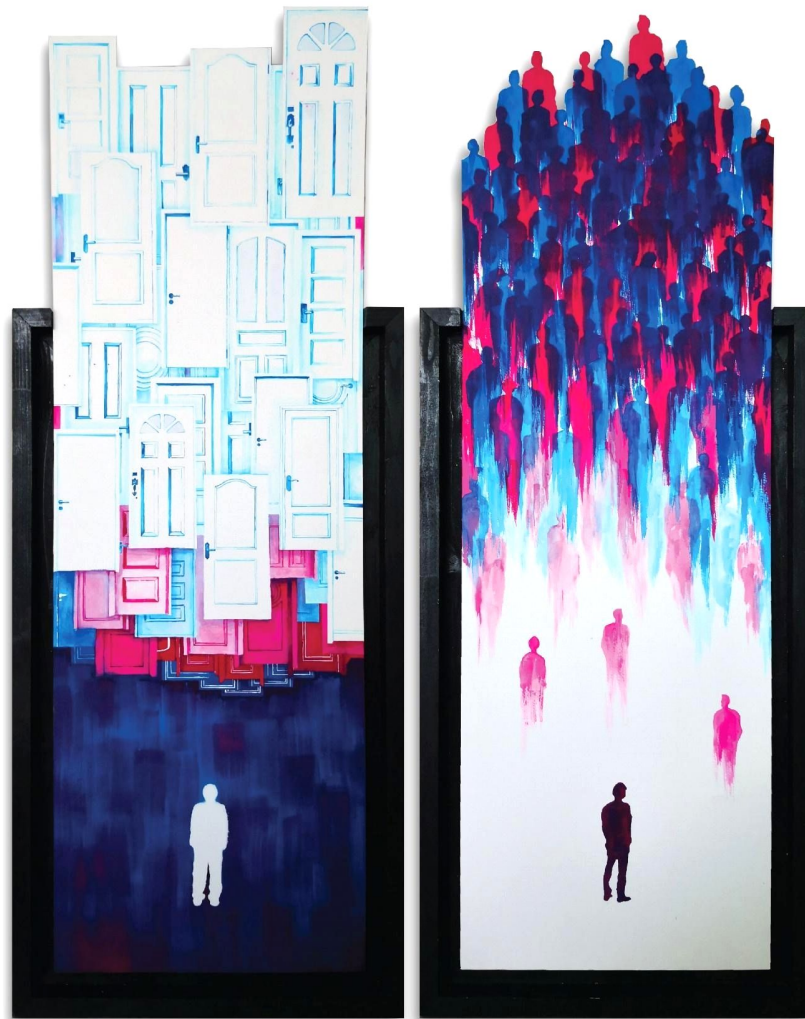
13.7" x 20.8"

2021

Oil Paint On Recycle Paper On Copper Foil

Artist Statement

My painting is about the perception of time, looking at family photos we can see the image of a simple life. during my forced isolation, I did see this mark of time in our life value. now we may have better commodities but the core family value remain the same. looking at yesteryear's images I can realize that life is more than the use and abuse of commodities and gadgets that alienate us from the real value of life.



Izhar Yusrin Bin Zainuddin

What If There's Nowhere Left And They're Right All Along

15" x 38"

2022

Dye Ink on Paper

Artist Statement

On the theme of life, Izhar has produced a series of drawing using cyan and magenta ink in which he visualized himself as a traveler in a foreign space of surreal-fantasy dimension. Believing the world is controlled by a higher power that controls everything, the traveler walks through everything in his path wondering what awaits at the end of his journey. In this drawing titled What If There's Nowhere Left And They're Right All Along, he forecast the time when his journey comes to a dreadful resolution. Guilt and regret are all that he has, reminding him of his powerlessness as a human being searching for things he cannot obtain while losing all he had along the way. The artist is battling his doubt, questioning whether is it still worth every step he walked, every decision he made, and every sacrifice he did if he knew this is how it will end.



Dhakshini Jeganathan

The Wandering Storytellers - On A Wheel To Express And Heal

48" x 48"

2022

Acrylic On Wood

Artist Statement

I believe art is a communication tool and works effortlessly to interact with the audience, allowing them to participate in my work. I feel that everything in our surroundings inspires us. Especially during the period of lockdown when we were stuck at home and the current recovery period, everything we use – our tools, and equipment – can inspire us, heal us and provide us with what we think we lack.

I am working towards finding new meanings in art through my new art style - "Moving paintings" which interact with the audience and enable them to express themselves, share their stories, and heal.

My motto "Art is for everyone" is a continuous journey.



Nelson Hor Ee Herng

Laments of the Oppressed

36" x 36"

2021

Mineral Pigments, Sulfurized Silver Leaves on Japanese Washi Paper

Artist Statement

Since I was young, the self-inflicted shame and stigma from the realisation I was gay made me want to strive to be a respectable individual in society. Of course, my idea and definition of what it meant to be "respectable" were much narrower as an adolescent. But the more I grew up, the more I realised, living in this society as a minority is like growing as the roots of a tree.

You can try to climb up or strive against the bias, but the hard truth is no matter how much you fight and sacrifice, you still end up struggling at the bottom of the forest. However, we cannot deny the fact that even for the majority, they are like trees that need roots to feed on the soil, and perhaps need minorities to maintain the balance of society. Even so, I believe that there is love between people and I hope that in a future that is no longer from now, we could create a peaceful society where everyone is equal.



Muhamad Zaim Bin Kamaruzaman

Manifestation Of God (Blueprint 01)

30" x 30"

2022

Mixed Media on Canvas

Artist Statement

The forest is a metaphor for the center of natural knowledge that is gifted to us for us to study care for and preserve. It is a source of inspiration for artists in producing works of art. The artist tries to explore various media by experimenting on a canvas outside of the artist's routine and presents his artwork in a new concept, which is in the format of a music album cover. The art concept brought by the artist highlights issues about the environment that are affected as a result of the country's development and progress. The artist's soul-searching works are infused with sarcastic elements that trigger a sense of love for nature. As an obedient servant, we should 'tadabbur alam' because the forest is a manifestation of God for us to know Him better.



Jonathan Jayasuria

I AM VANITY

24" x 36"

2022

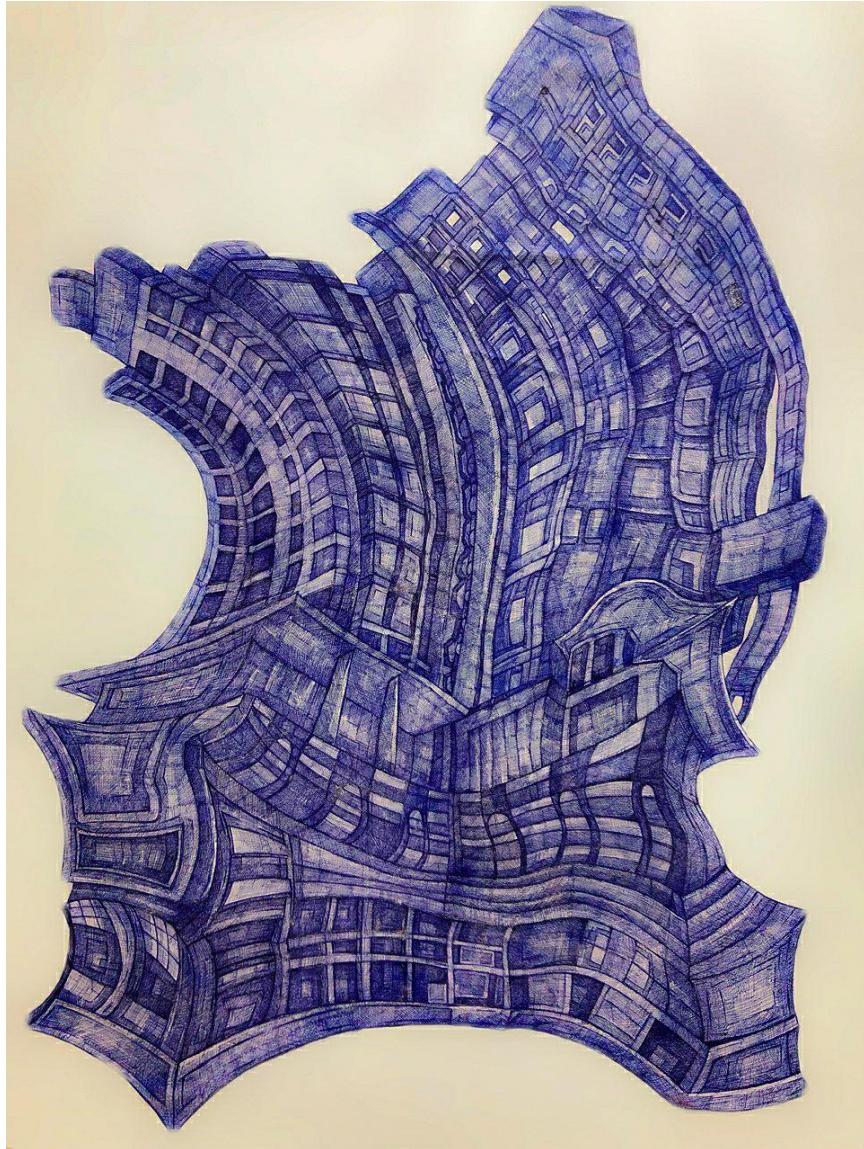
Mixed Media on Canvas

Artist Statement

"I am the most beautiful person in the entire world. This, this is my world now. My kingdom. My throne. My crown. I bow to no one. I will change for no one. I am on top of it all. I am for me and me alone. I AM vanity."

Throughout many years, centuries & decades, we've all have said something like that before in one way or another. Vanity & pride is embedded into our DNA.

How we use it, is not...



Wan Ahmad Idham Zulfi Bin Wan Mohd Zailani

Unforgettable Shelter

36" x 48"

2022

Ballpoint Pen on Canvas

Artist Statement

This work is a tribute work that depicts a drawing of a building subject that highlights my interpretation of gratitude towards my late father who traded 'Bundle' goods during his lifetime. Generally, the building subject is a symbol of shelter that provides safety, protection from the weather, disease prevention, and possibly financial provision. I use the building as a financial shelter, referring to my late father's role in selling 'Bundle' goods to support our family. His loss was huge, affecting the family's source of income and vitality. I used the distortion element on the building to express a situation that depicts a shaky and seemingly lost source of shelter. This work serves as a symbol of gratitude that is difficult to describe and build in reality, perhaps only existing in my Utopian world.



Roshini Preyaa a/p Paramasivam

“Anything new on?”

36" x 48"

2022

Oil Paint and Charcoal On Canvas

Artist Statement

I wanted to achieve the state of dissociation through mundane activities we carry on with our lives to the point we are doing it unconsciously. There is a melancholic aspect to this painting because rinsing and repeating a routine at one point will become exhausting and we start to lose meaning. What is after we realize nothing holds meaning? What then?



Yong Hong Wooi

RETURN

49.2" x 19.3"

2022

Acrylic on wood

Artist Statement

Return was inspired by the corner of the kitchen. Nowadays, the youngest generation rarely cooks for themselves and they tend to have an easy lifestyle through delivery services. This artwork incorporates elements of stone lions, insects, clogs, sunflowers, and kitchen utensils to reflect the current state of the kitchen.



Muhammad Arash Bin Ab Jabbar

Georgian II

36" x 48"

2021

Watercolor and Pencil Color on Canvas

Artist Statement

Everything was so close to me, the smell, the value, and the aesthetic value were all so important to me. Everything I see makes me want to hold it and observe it before drawing or painting it. Something meaningful inspires me to create and do more.

The oil paint Georgian tube focuses on form and texture, which is reflected in the beauty of the oil paint tubes itself in different compositions to emphasize the characteristic and aesthetic form of tubes named Georgian.



Thong Yong Onn

Construction in Progress

47" x 27.5"

2022

Wire Net, Fishing Line, Gesso, Sand, Industry Glue, Acrylic on Canvas.

Artist Statement

In this sprawling industrial city, I was inspired by the under-construction building where I saw. To destroy or disassemble the existing picture or thing, reassemble or organize it. It's like destroying an old building and rebuilding it. From the beginning to the end of the process, slowly form a unique vision. The fishing line symbolizes invisible protection, and the iron net symbolizes support in the building, supporting the existence of the whole building, firmly surrounded and protected by a warm and comfortable utopia. Different materials reflect the meaning of abundance and existence, redefine and think about the value of the original object.



Leong Miao Sheng

You made Us

43" x 30"

2021

Mixed Medium

Artist Statement

The construction behind represented our dreams of a bright and good future, students in front represented the younger generation who will play their role in society. But there is a fence between them, making the dream remain as a dream, and who is the originator of this evil practice? Please take a look in the mirror.



Lee Yaw Chu

Dollala Box

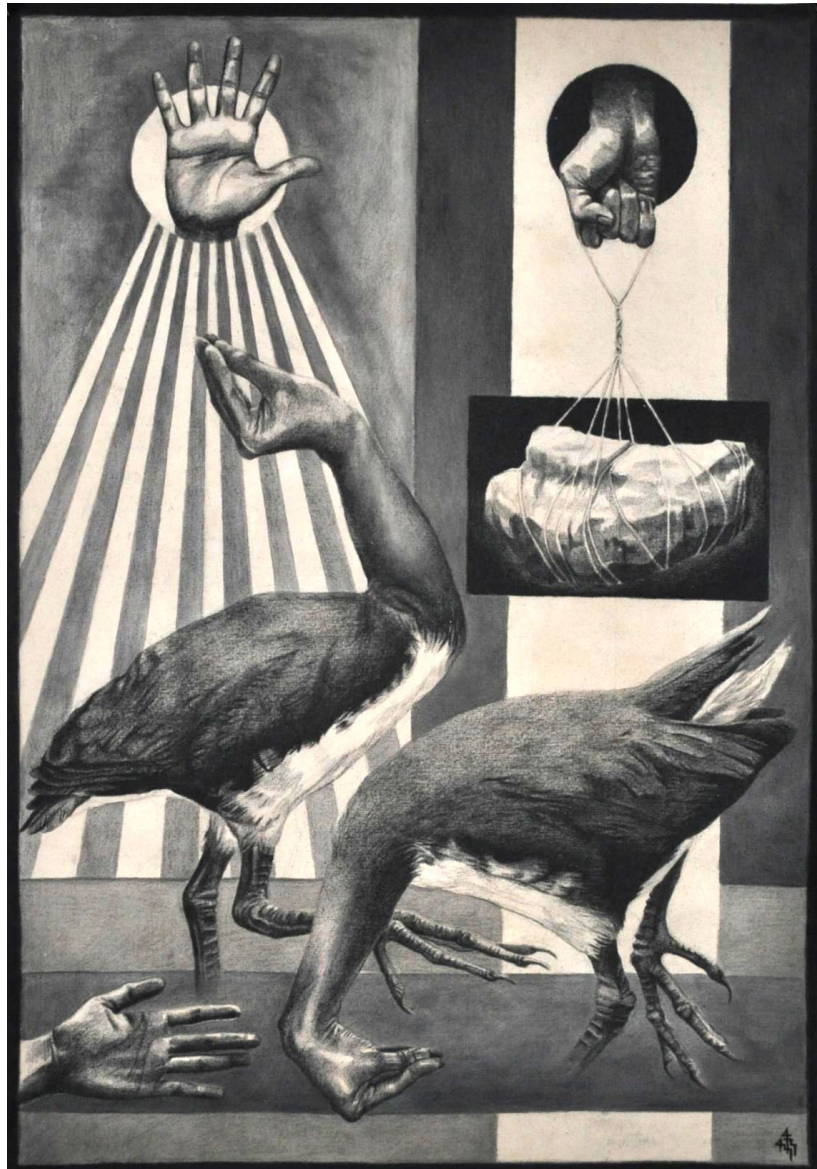
16" x 16" x 16"

2022

Wood, Acrylic, Fabric and Other Media

Artist Statement

Dollala Box was taken inspiration by the story--Pandora's Box and my childhood. I grew up in a poor family. Since my birth, I have been surrounded by disease, poor, quarrel, and domestic violence as the Pandora's Box was opened. With the growth of age, the red cushion in my work symbolizes hope. The people, the help, and the scenery I met after secondary school, make me devoted to my next life. Dollala Box will be my childhood, the end and starting point of my next life.



Mohd Aqim Bin Mohd Adil

OSOM

43.5" x 29.9"

2021

Charcoal on Raw Canvas

Artist Statement

OSOM is another version of the 'rock, paper, scissors' hand game that I used to play when I was young to determine our luck or vote for something among friends. In this version, there's Burung(bird), Batu(rock), and Air(water). And sometimes there's Matahari (the sun), usually used among the cheaters. Matahari can beat all of the elements. And as a kid, I was never aware of being cheated and used to lose in this hand game.

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