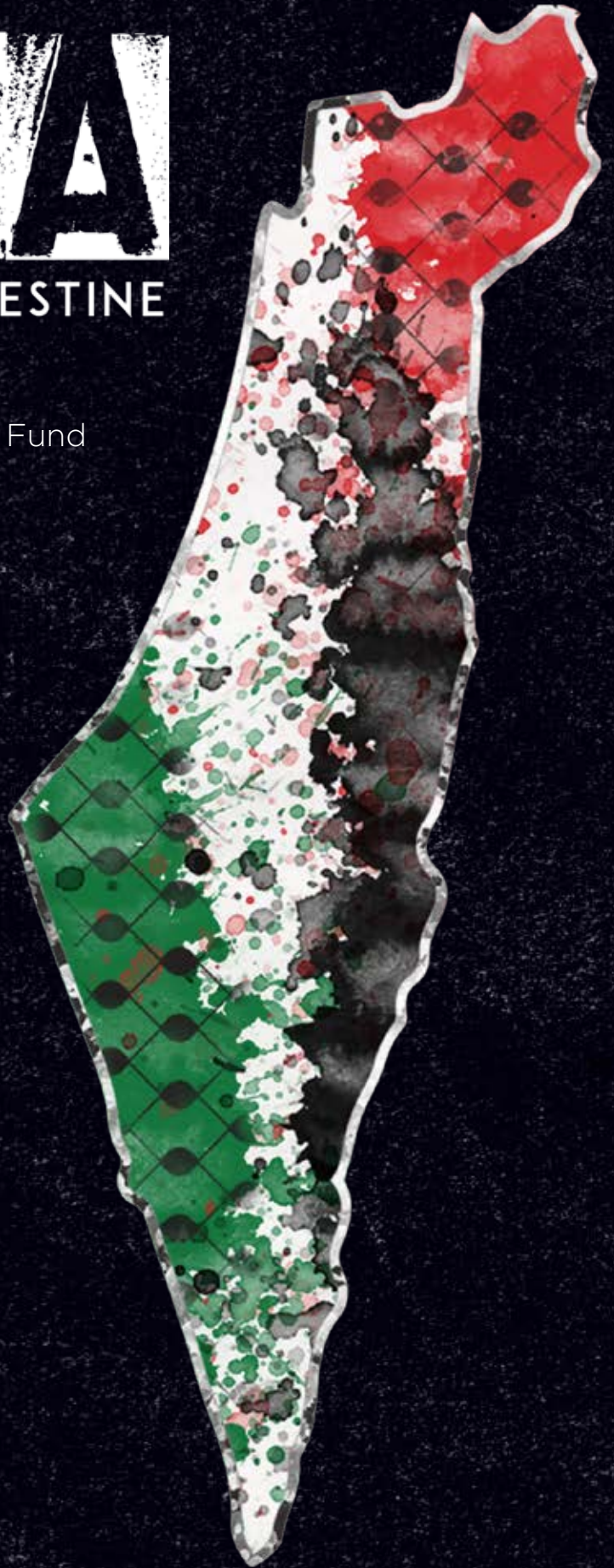


SUARA

SPEAKING UP FOR PALESTINE

An art exhibition in support of the
Media Prima Palestine Humanitarian Fund





SPEAKING UP FOR PALESTINE

An art exhibition in support of the
Media Prima Palestine Humanitarian Fund

08 - 26 Nov 2023



Published in conjunction with the exhibition SUARA: Speaking Up for Palestine at Galeri Prima, Balai Berita Bangsar (Nov 08 – 26, 2023).

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Our voices are just as important as our words. They have the power to awaken senses and move others to action. Through our voices, we can create nuances of meaning, conveying emotions, and communicating our presence.

Thus, we chose Suara as the title of this charity art exhibition for Palestine.

Yes, we have been speaking up for Palestine through rallies, speaking engagements at the United Nations and other international forums. There are one-on-one engagements between the leaders.

Atrocities against the people of Palestine, including the land grabbing and the killing of women and children, had gone on for far too long. We continue to read the articles in our newspapers and watch the news reports on our television channels.

It is not a matter of ethnicity, religion or the Arab world. The Palestine issue is one of humanity.

And Galeri Prima, together with Art Case Galleries, are speaking up on Palestine the way we know best, through Art.

Suara reflects the local art fraternity's voice on the Palestine issue.

Some 90 artworks donated by art collectors and artists are for sale, where a portion of the proceeds will be channeled to the Media Prima Palestine Humanitarian Fund.

The Media Prima Palestine Humanitarian Fund was established in 2012 aimed at funding humanitarian aid in Palestine through reputable non-governmental organisations.

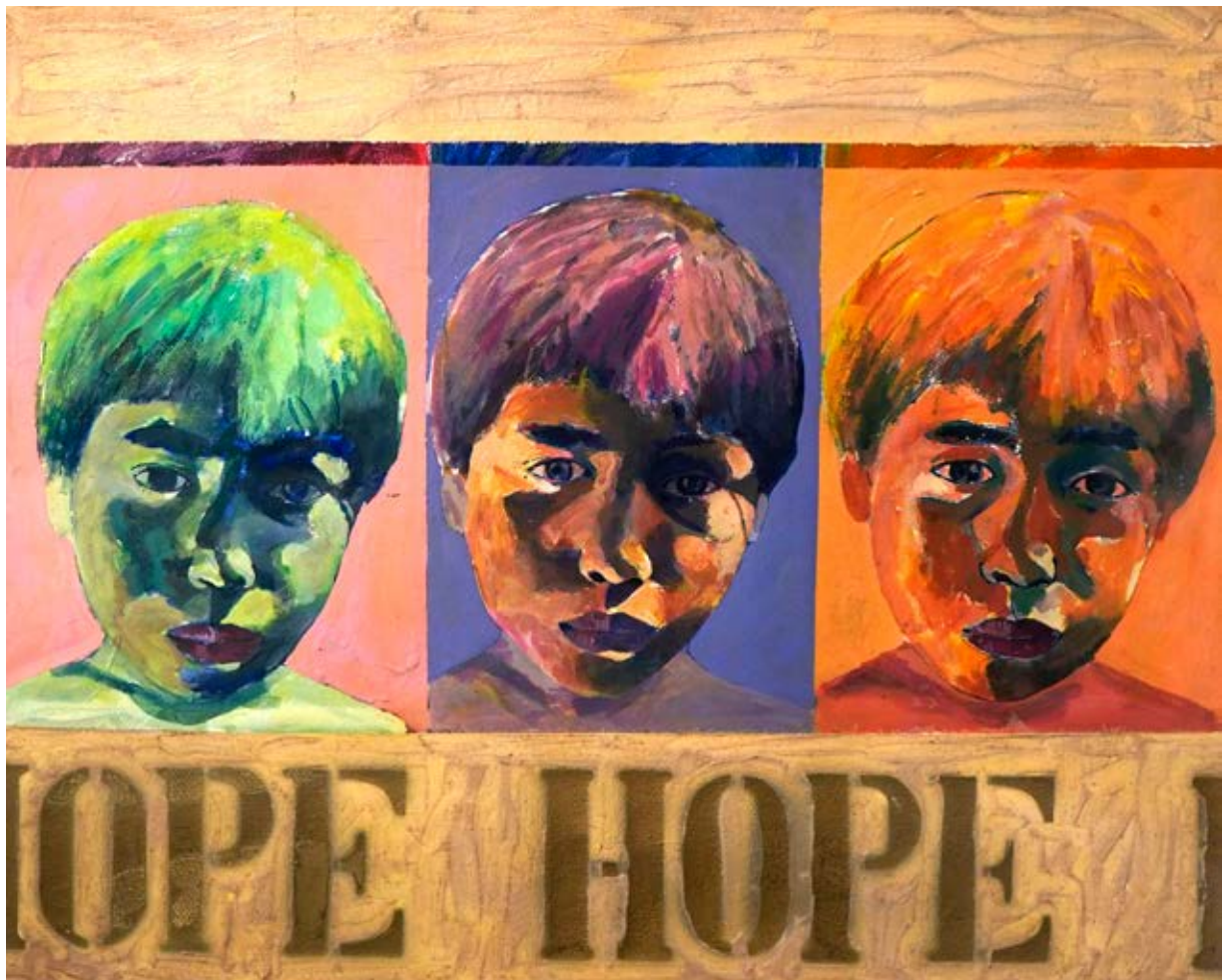
Among the art luminaries participating in Suara are:

- award-winning modern and contemporary artist **Raja Azhar Idris**, who is known for his acrylic and watercolour painting, batik and glass sculpture;
- accomplished abstract artist and painter **Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir**, who is well-known for her experimental use of unconventional materials and techniques;
- leading abstract artist, writer, academic and curator **Yusof Ghani** whose works on “cultural dance” had raised the interesting debate about figuration and Islam that influenced the themes and aesthetics of Malaysian art in the 80s;
- one of Malaysia’s foremost contemporary colourists, **Rafiee Ghani**, who continues to push the boundaries of colour theory, contemporary abstraction and stylised realism;
- award winning postwar and contemporary painter **Haslin Ismail** whose works mix sci-fi with surrealism; and
- **Johan Marjonid**, who is regarded as being one of the few realist painters in Malaysia who focuses on subject matters involving forests, trees, and vegetation.

On the walls of Galeri Prima are also works by Allahyarham **Khalil Ibrahim**, a prominent artist known for his batik paintings, landscapes, portraits, and abstracts that explored a deeply authentic Malaysian identity and vision; **Zaim Durulaman, Jamil Mat Isa, Ismail Latiff, Ahmad Shukri Mohamed, Raja Intan Azalea, Bayu Utomo Radjikin, Fujiaanggara, Husin Othman, Husin Hourmain, Raden Hisbullah, Aminah Abd Rahman and Rosli Zakaria.**

Galeri Prima, Artcase Galleries and these participating artists believe that Palestine cannot be left alone anymore.

We stand with Palestine ... from the (Jordan) river to the (coast of the Mediterranean) sea.



Ahmad Shukri Mohamed
Hope Series I
Mixed media on paper
46cm x 56cm
1990
RM6,000



Aminah Abd Rahman
Yellow Rose
Watercolour on paper
56xm x 75cm
2017
RM5,500



Aminah Abd Rahman
At My Garden
Watercolour on paper
60cm x 85cm
2017
RM7,000



Raja Intan Azalea Raja Azhar
Waterfall I
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 30cm
2023
RM500



Raja Intan Azalea Raja Azhar
Mindscape II
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 30cm
2023
RM500



Raja Intan Azalea Raja Azhar
Waterfall II
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 30cm
2023
RM500



Raja Intan Azalea Raja Azhar
Mindscape I
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 30cm
2023
RM500



Raja Intan Azalea Raja Azhar
Gaza on fire
Acrylic on canvas
30cm x 46cm
2023
RM500



Bayu Utomo Radjikin
Berkocak-Melibas
Acrylic on canvas
44cm x 288cm
2016
RM52,000



Bayu Utomo Radjikin
The Trust II
Acrylic on canvas
123cm x 104cm (Quadriptych)
2020
RM25,000



Fujianggara
Muafakat
Acrylic on canvas
65cm x 120cm
2023
RM3,300



Haslin Ismail
Vomit
Acrylic & oil paste on canvas
160cm x 400cm
2014
RM38,000

Artwork contributed by Sim Polenn



Husin Hourmain
786: Experience, Exploration
and Experiment 3
Acrylic & charcoal on canvas
46cm x 244cm
2023
RM30,000



Husin Hourmain
786: Experience, Exploration
and Experiment 1
Acrylic & charcoal on canvas
46cm x 244cm
2023
RM30,000



Husin Othman
Home I
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 46cm
2023
RM1,000



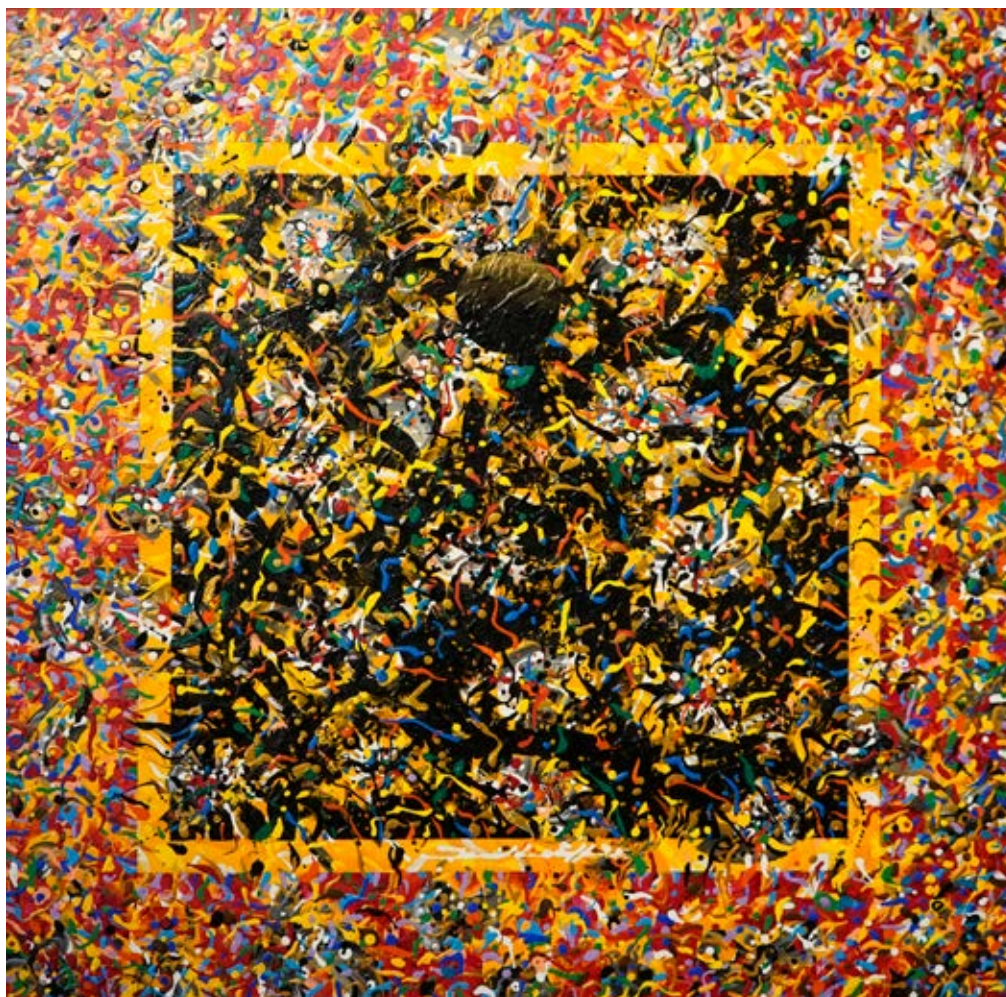
Husin Othman
Home II
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 46cm
2023
RM1,000



Husin Othman
Home IV
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 46cm
2023
RM1,000



Husin Othman
Home II
Acrylic on canvas
46cm x 46cm
2023
RM1,000



Ismail Latiff
Riang Riang Rimba...Sranbasari
Acrylic on canvas
75cm x 75cm
2010
RM4,000



Ismail Latiff
Tempua Sakti Bersarang Malam
Acrylic & mixed media on canvas
41cm x 41cm
2010
RM2,500



Jamil Mat Isa
Pencipta 3
Acrylic on canvas
90cm x 90cm
2012
RM8,000



Johan Marjonid
Morning Mist @ Royal Belum I
Acrylic on canvas
76cm x 188cm
2012
RM18,800



Johan Marjonid
Berinchang II
Acrylic on canvas
114cm x 228cm
2012
RM28,800



Johan Marjonid
The Lost World of Brinchang I
Acrylic on canvas
76cm x 188cm
2010
RM18,800



Khalil Ibrahim
East Coast series
Watercolour
20cm x 25cm
2002
RM8,500

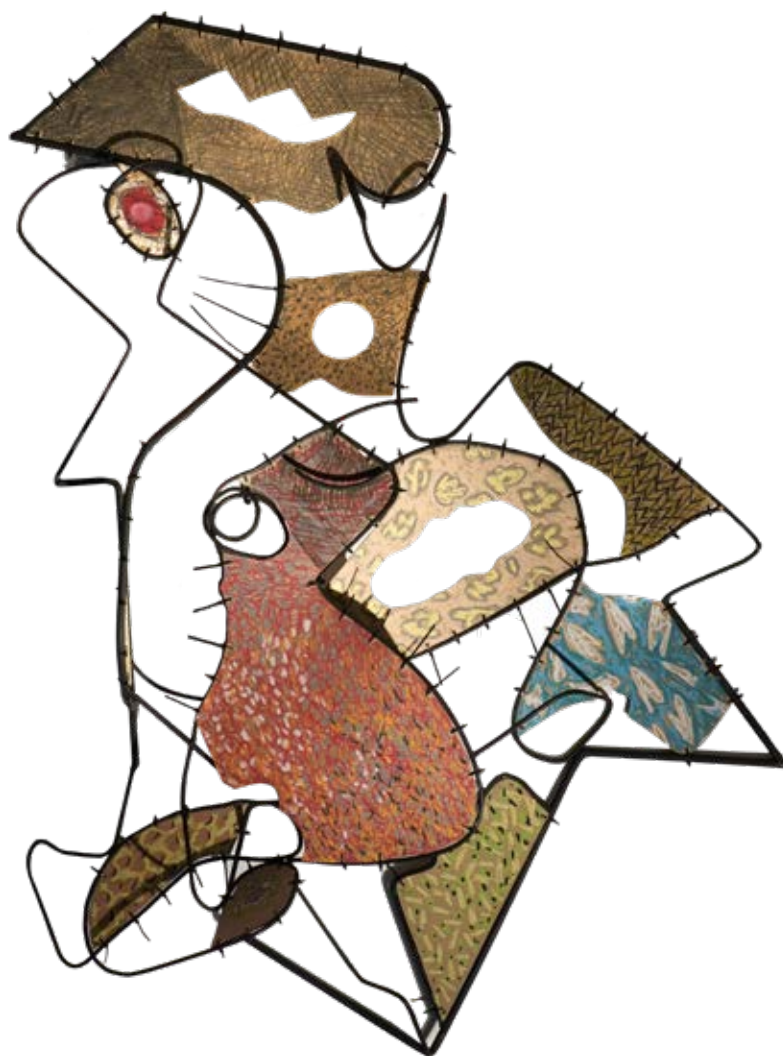
Artwork contributed by Raja Azhar Idris



Raden Hisbullah
Bara Senandika
Acrylic & chinese ink on canvas
137cm x 107cm
2023
RM4,000



Rafiee Ghani
Earth Song
Acrylic on canvas
122cm x 122cm
2022
RM42,000



Rosli Zakaria
Sculpdraw Series No.9
Metal rod, MDF rod & cable tie
107cm x 86cm x 13cm
2022
RM6,500



Rosli Zakaria
Sculpdraw Series No. 10
Metal rod, MDF rod & cable tie
115cm x 53cm x 22cm
2023
RM6,800



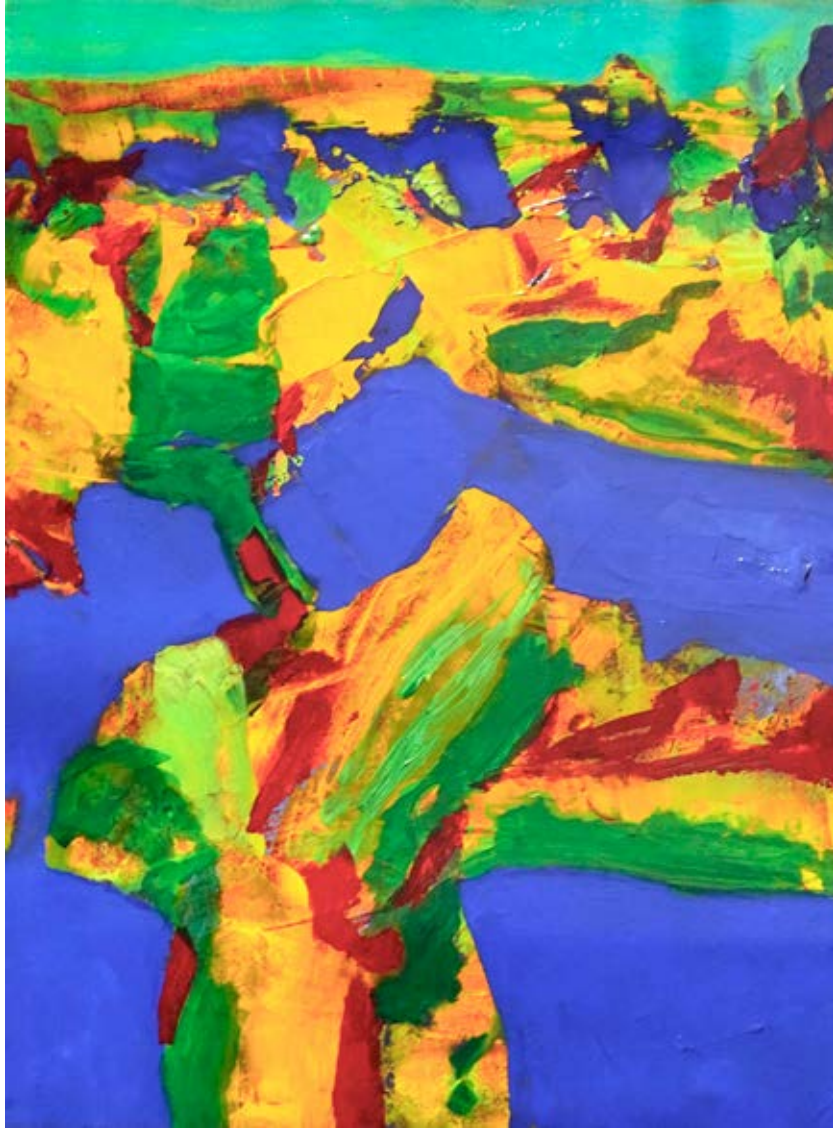
Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato'
Bukit Beruntung Series #16
Acrylic on canvas
81cm x 81cm
2023
RM20,000



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato'
Greenscape
Acrylic on canvas
81cm x 8cm
2023
RM20,000



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato'
Bukit Berungung Series No 3
Acrylic on canvas
38cm x 29cm
2023
RM6,000



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato'
Bukit Beruntung Series #4
Acrylic on canvas
38cm x 28cm
2023
RM6,000



Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Dato'
Bukit Beruntung Series #17
Acrylic on canvas
90cm x 80cm
2023
RM40,000



Yusof Ghani
Tari Series
Watercolour on paper
25cm x 30cm
1989
RM10,800

Artwork contributed by Raja Azhar Idris



Yusof Ghani
Topeng Series
Acrylic on canvas
20cm x 16cm
1997
RM4,000

Artwork contributed by Raja Azhar Idris



Zaim Durulaman
Branches #01
Acrylic on canvas
51cm x 51cm
2022
RM3,200



Zaim Durulaman
Trunk #02
Acrylic on canvas
51cm x 51cm
2022
RM3,200



Zaim Durulaman
Scream
Acrylic on canvas
51cm x 51cm
2022
RM3,200



Zaim Durulaman
Mindscape Marvelous #12
Acrylic on canvas
51cm x 51cm
2022
RM3,200



Raja Azhar Idris
Air Mata Berdarah Palestine
Oil on canvas
102cm x 102cm
2023
RM32,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Doa untuk Palestine - Kedatangan Burung Ababil
Oil on canvas
140cm x 140cm
2023
RM48,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Please Save Us
Oil on canvas
61cm x 61cm
2023
RM20,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Victory Free Palestine
Chegal wood, painted metal & cloth
144cm x 50cm
RM15,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Untitled
White marble & spectrum glass
31cm x 25cm
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tawaf Haji
Oil on canvas
109cm x 208cm
2018
RM70,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tawaf
Charcoal & graphite drawing on linen
51cm x 122cm
2023
RM26,000



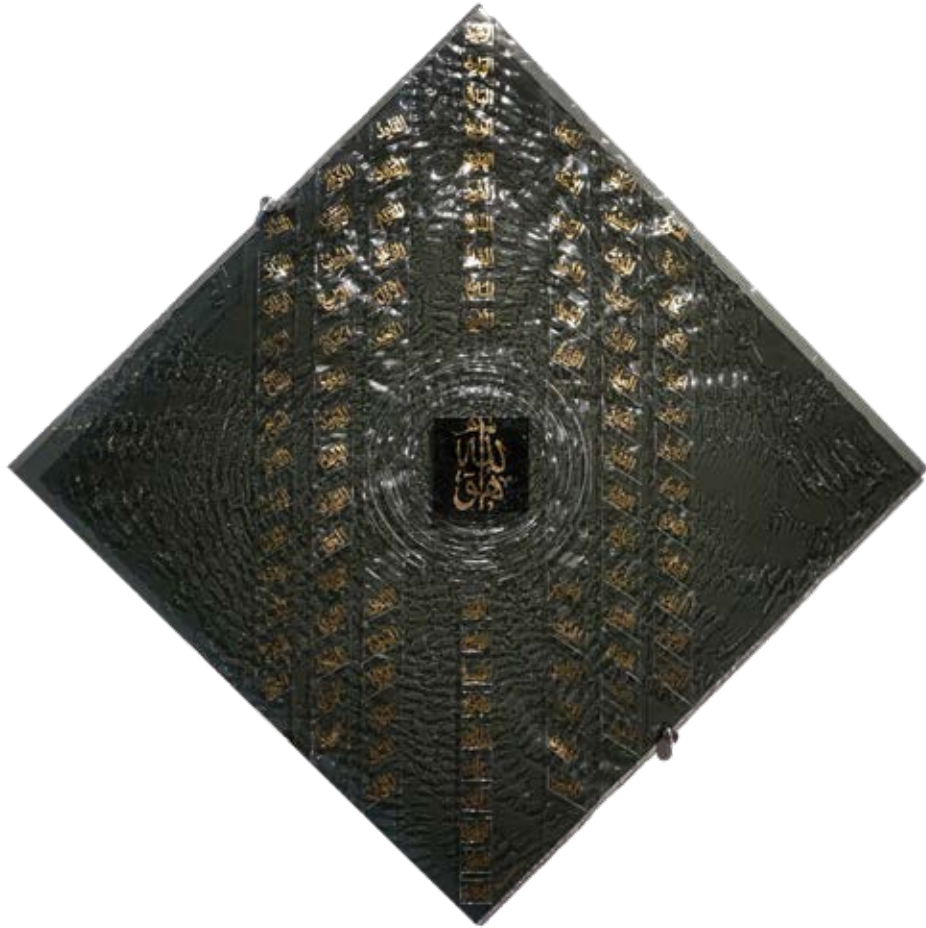
Raja Azhar Idris
Shahadah
Oil on canvas
104cm x 104cm
2018
RM28,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Makam Nabi Ibrahim
Oil on canvas
46cm x 117cm
2023
RM26,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Di Pintu Kaabah Ku Berdoa
Oil on canvas
101cm x 122cm
2018
RM35,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tawaf dan Sa'i. 99 Nama Allah
Fused & slumped black glass with 18 carat liquid gold
122cm x 122cm
2016
RM48,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tiga Qul
Solid cut metal
76cm x 66cm
2023
RM22,000



Raja Azhar Idris
ALLAH
Solid cut metal
76cm x 50cm
2023
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
HA!
Solid cut metal
30.5cm x 28cm
2023
RM4,800



Raja Azhar Idris
YA!
Solid cut metal
28cm x 30.5cm
2023
RM4,800



Ahmad Shukri Mohamed
Hope Series I
Mixed media on paper
56cm x 46cm
1990
RM6,000



Raja Azhar Idris
ROH
Solid cut metal
28cm x 30.5cm
2023
RM4,800



Raja Azhar Idris
Ta Ta
Solid Metal
60cm x 44cm
2023
RM6800



Raja Azhar Idris
TA Tabat yada
Metal & marble
70cm x 25.4cm
RM



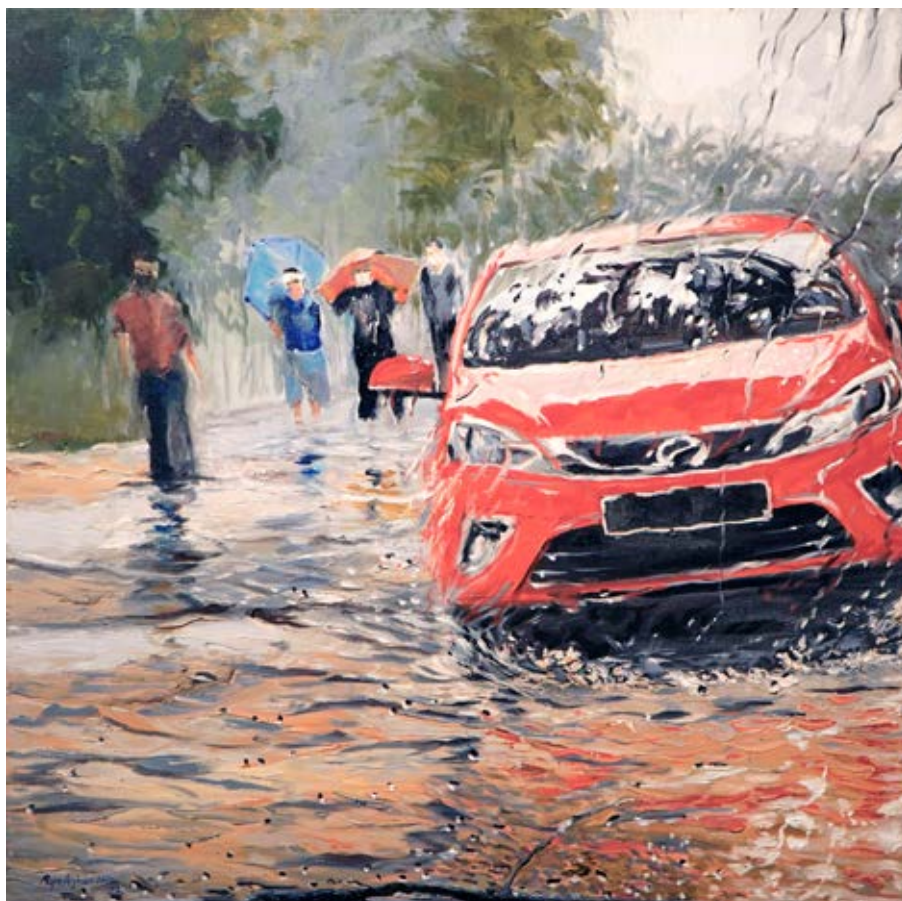
Raja Azhar Idris
Racing in the Rain
Oil on canvas
122cm x 137cm
2022
RM38,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Hujan di Bandar Jakarta
Oil on canvas
122cm x 100cm
2020
RM35,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Brake Light II
Oil on canvas
56cm x 50cm
2022
RM4,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Braving the Flood
Oil on canvas
66cm x 66cm
2022
RM8,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Di Jalan Sempit Kota Raya
Oil on canvas
50cm x 56cm
2022
RM6,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Heavy Rain at MAHA Tower Junction Langkawi
Oil on canvas
56cm x 117cm
2023
RM22,000



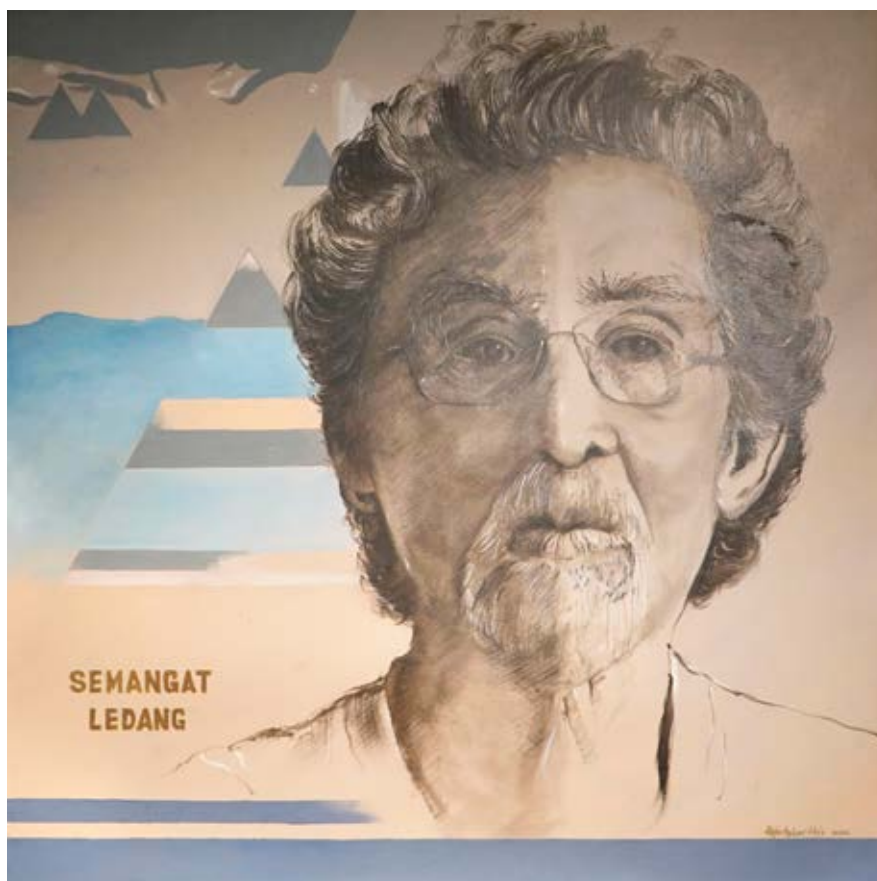
Raja Azhar Idris
STOP! Power of the Hand
Oil on canvas
56cm x 50cm
2022
RM4,000



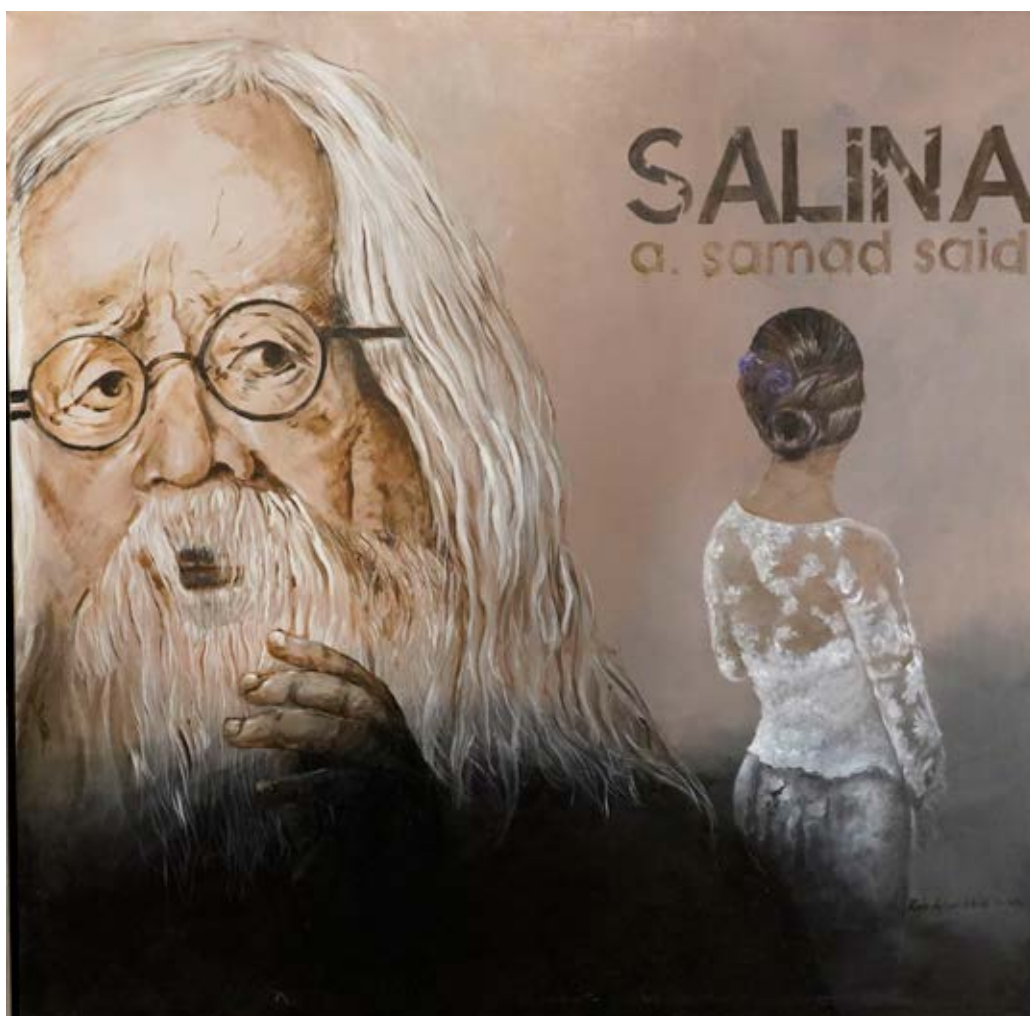
Raja Azhar Idris
Storm on the RORO Ferry to Langkawi
Oil on canvas
91.5cm x 122cm
2023
RM35,000



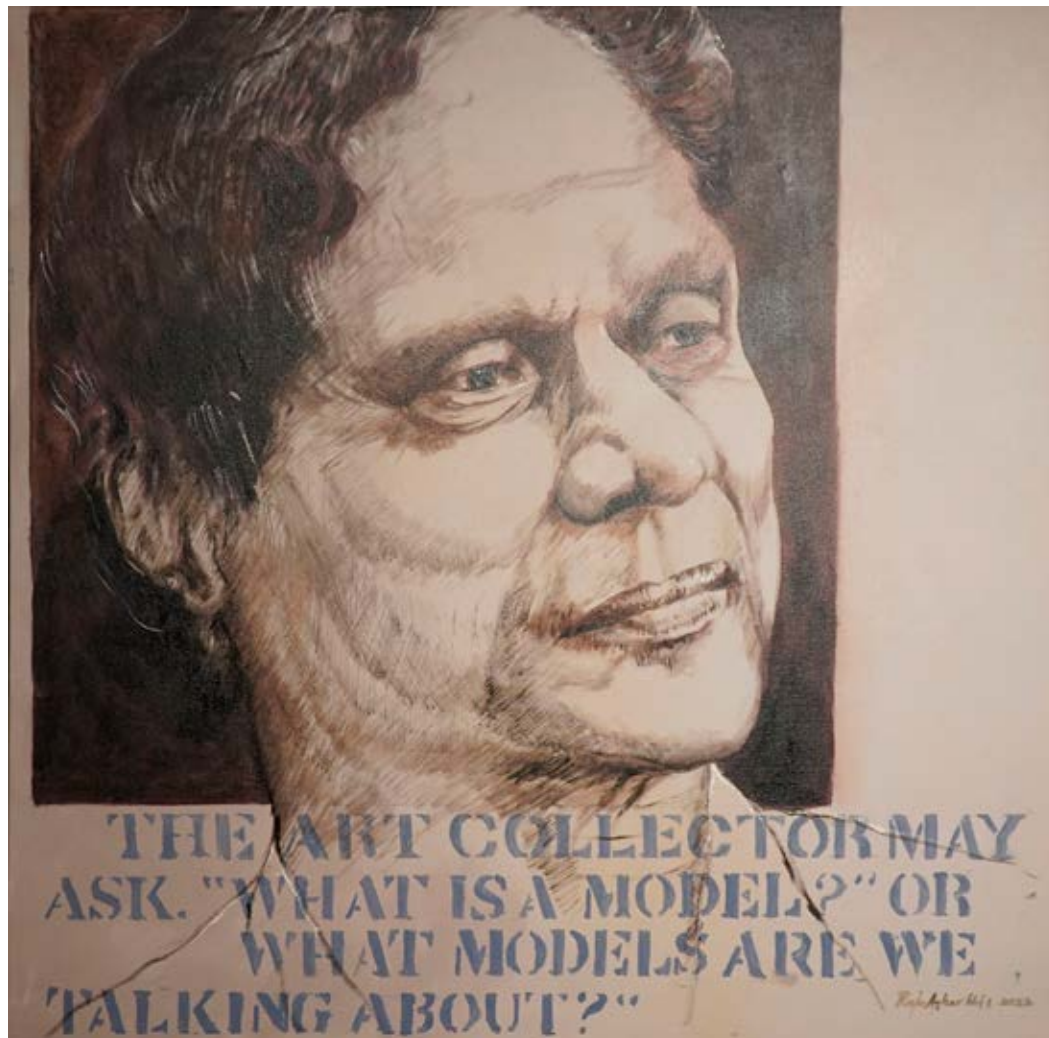
Raja Azhar Idris
Banjir di Langit
Oil on canvas
122cm x 218cm
2022
RM70,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal
Acrylic on canvas
104cm x104cm
2022
RM20,000



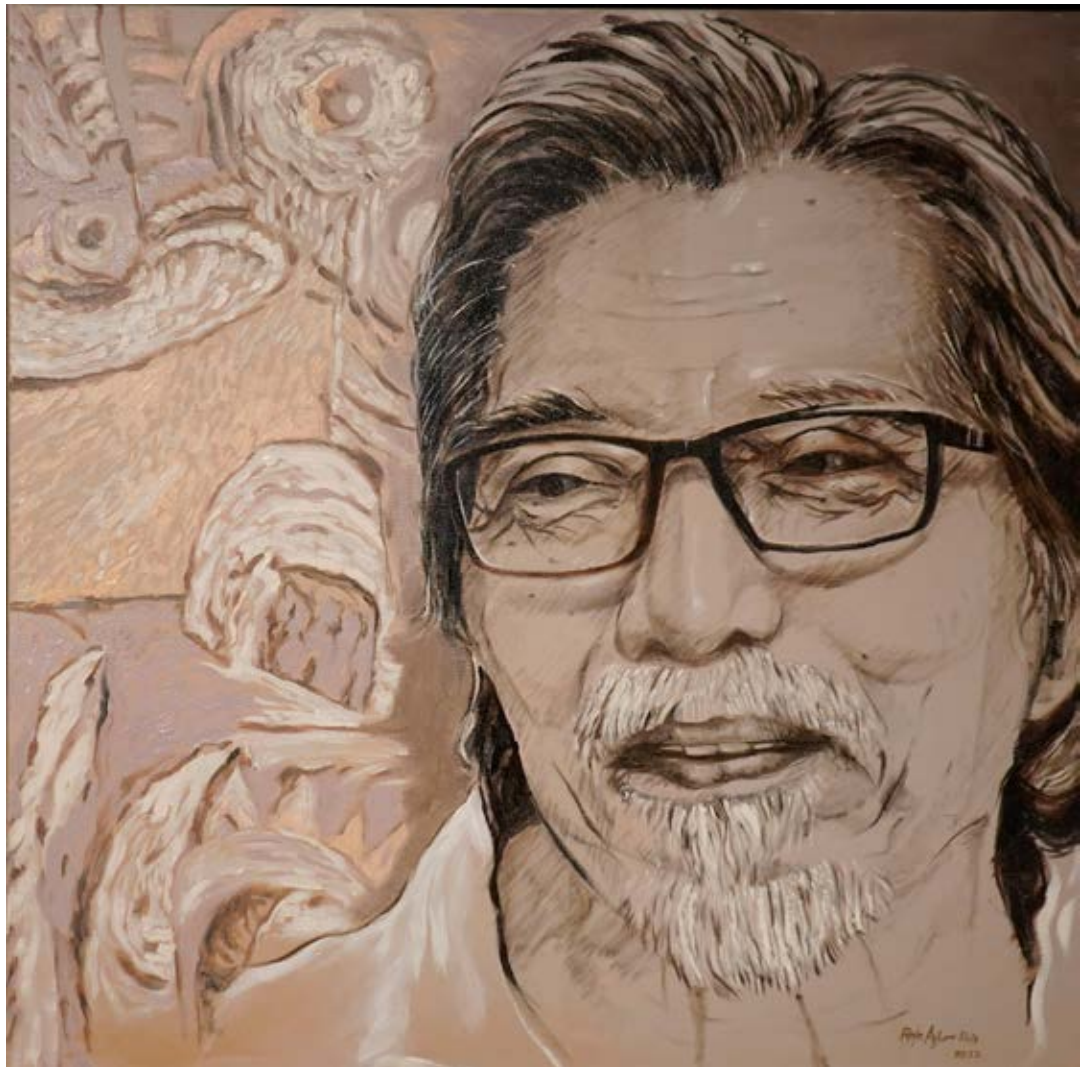
Raja Azhar Idris
Pak Samad
Acrylic on canvas
86cm x 86cm
2022
RM18,000



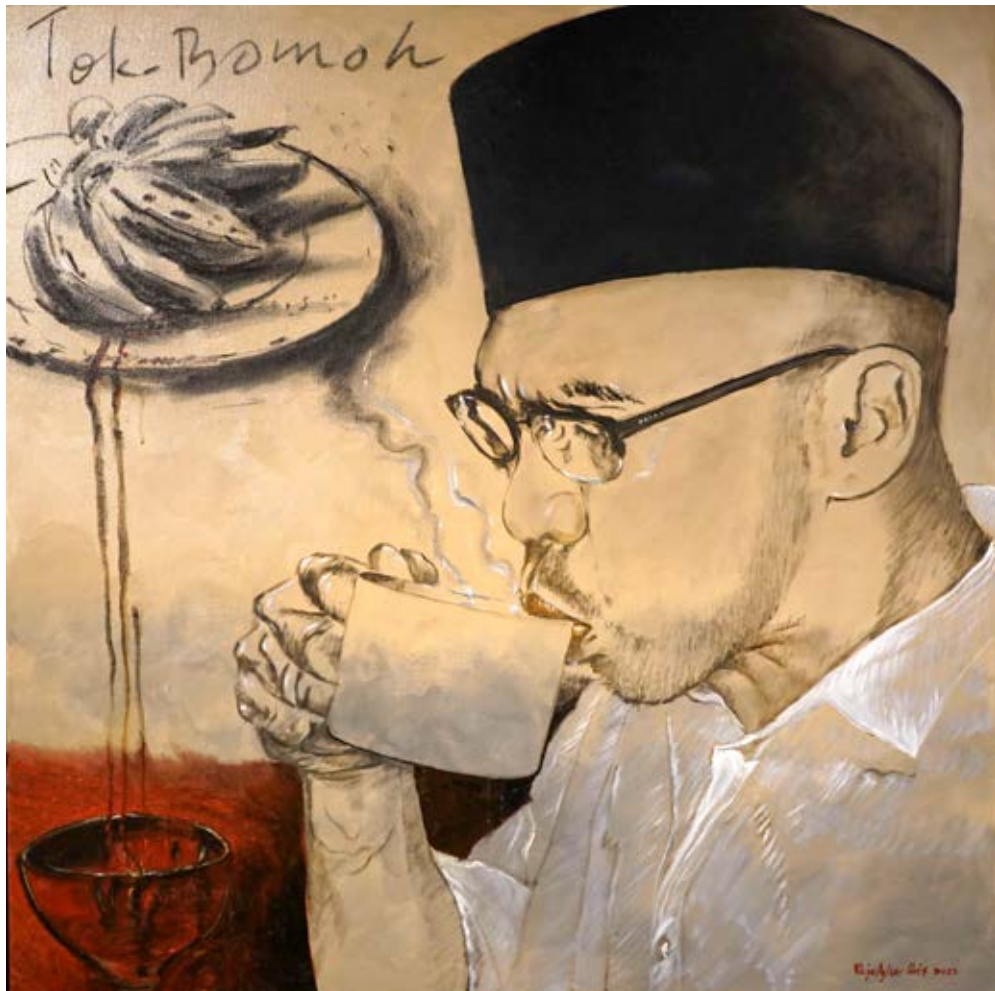
Raja Azhar Idris
Piyadasa
Acrylic on canvas
76cm x 76cm
2022
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Ibrahim Hussein
Acrylic on canvas
76cm x 76cm
2022
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Latiff Mohidin
Acrylic on canvas
76cm x 76cm
2022
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Jai
Acrylic on canvas
86cm x 83cm
2022
RM18,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Aksi Silat
Acrylic & graphite on canvas
122cm x 122cm
RM38,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Langkah Pertama
Oil on canvas
76cm x 76cm
2018
RM22,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Bayanganku
Oil on canvas
122cm x 101cm
2018
RM32,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Bermulanya Langkah
Oil on canvas
152.5cm x 175cm
2022
RM45,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Langkah Silat 3
Oil on canvas
89cm x 89cm
2018
RM25,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Pertarungan
Oil on canvas
112cm x 112cm
2018
RM35,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Pertarungan
Fused, slumped & textured hot coloured glass with 18 carat liquid gold
61cm x 30cm
RM6,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tengkolok Songkit Emas I
Glass with 18 carat gold
Variable dimension
2023
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Dendam Tak Sudah
Glass with 18 carat gold
Variable dimension
2023
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tengkolok Songket Emas III
Glass with 18 carat gold
Variable dimension
2023
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Tengkolok Songket Emas II
Glass with 18 carat gold
Variable dimension
2023
RM12,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Gaza on Fire
Fused, slumped & textured hot coloured glass with 18 carat liquid gold
28cm x 30cm
RM6,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Batik Basahan
Fused, textural hot coloured glass with 18 carat liquid gold
152cm x 90cm
RM38,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Batik Tower
Fused, slumped & textured hot coloured glass with 18 carat liquid gold
28cm x 30cm
RM6,000



Raja Azhar Idris
Selendang Pua
Fused, textural hot coloured glass with 18 carat liquid gold
76cm x 122cm
RM32,000



Raja Azhar Idris
F1
Fused, textured & hot coloured glass
50cm x 122cm (Triptych)
2023
RM45,000

THE ARTISTS

AHMAD SHUKRI MOHAMED is today one of the leaders in ground-breaking contemporary art in Malaysia, and has exhibited extensively world-wide. Not confined by style, material or subject matter, he revels in forming multi-layered collages with oil paint, canvas, paint and paper. Born in Kelantan in 1969. Ahmad Shukri obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from MARA (UiTM) in 1992.

AMINAH ABD RAHMAN is an accomplished artist with a strong presence in the local and international art scene. She holds a Certificate of Creative Art from the Universiti Sains Malaysia and has been actively participating in art exhibitions since 1986. Aminah's artistic journey has seen her explore various mediums and subjects, showcasing her talent and versatility. Aminah has held several solo exhibitions, including her notable showcase titled "Mawar Untuk Mu" at Gallery APS in Kuala Lumpur in 2015. Her artworks have been featured in numerous local and international art exhibitions including Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Sweden, Brazil. Aminah's art has received recognition, including the Grand Prize at the Asia Art Award in Seoul, Korea in 2016. Her works have been collected by prestigious institutions and corporations, including the Jordan National Art Museum, Bank Negara Malaysia, Maybank, Shell Malaysia, and Yayasan Seni Berdaftar, among others. She is a member of Angkatan Pelukis Semalaysia and as the vice-chairman of The Malaysian Watercolor Society, she continues to promote the art form and support fellow artists.

RAJA INTAN AZALEA may only be 12 years old but she is already a multi-faceted artist who specialises in abstract art. She started her artistic journey at the age of 3 under the guidance of her renowned Malaysian painter and glass artist father Raja Azhar Idris. Her exceptional eye and skillful combination of colours showcase a promising talent that transcends her young age. Raja Intan Azalea has also ventured into crafting glass jewellery.

BAYU UTOMO RADJIKIN is perhaps one of the most 'complete' Malaysian artists around. This is because he has become quite a master in the art scene being known as a fine artist, contemporary artist, pop artist, sculptor and many others. In fact, he has become quite an expert in the various fields he has ventured into. The Sabah-born artist holds a B.A (Hons) in Fine Art from the University Technology Mara, Shah Alam and has won various awards and accolades throughout his art career. His works are known to be highly abstract and cultural.

Artist Noorfuji Angarra or **FUJIANGGARA** catapulted into the local art industry after graduating with a Bachelor (Hons.) in Fine Art from UiTM Shah Alam in 2019. He juggles between multiple bodies of work almost simultaneously, exploring a variety of styles and forms that expresses his thoughts about all things nature through the means of pop figuration, semi abstract and semi expressionism. Of late, Fuji has found himself returning to one of his favourite themes, which explores semi expressionist paintings. The artist is also actively involved in painting art murals and participating in various mural art competitions. He has won multiple awards including first prize in Rediscovering Nature & Environment (Vision Petron Art Competition) in 2016, Bakat Muda Sezaman (2021) and CIMB Artober Emerging Artist Award (2022).

Award winning postwar and contemporary painter **HASLIN ISMAIL** mixes sci-fi with surrealism in his works. His sources are both multi-genre and eclectic. He is also part of a group of young artists, Sebiji Padi, whose common denominator is an interest in the Surrealist movement of the early 20th century. Haslin's drawings in this collection can be seen as individual artworks in their own right and serve as bridges towards his mixed media canvases. Apart from drawings and his three-dimensional works, Haslin also produces artist books. The format of these handmade books, such as Rubbish Book (2007) is closer to the comics and graphic novels Haslin holds dear and also offers a highly intimate glimpse into the artist's practice.

His desire to be an artist was so strong that after 18 years of working in advertising, **HUSIN HOURMAIN** quit his steady job in 2003 to become a full time painter. To date, he has done solo exhibitions and numerous groupshows. Today, Husin is well recognised as an abstract expressionist artist and is now focusing strongly on the development of calligraphy art. Husin's works are collected by the National Art Gallery as well as by major Malaysian corporates and private collectors. Husin is part of the "Insight" collective of artists whose members include Yusof Ghani, Suhaimi Fadzir and Shafiee Ramli. The quartet shares the common denominator of having worked in design- related fields before becoming full time artists.

Perak-born **HUSIN OTHMAN** is an emerging Malaysian artist who is slowly gaining recognition within the local arts scene. Husin graduated with a Bachelor (Hons) in Fine Art from UiTM in 2013 and his works are very much influenced by Lat's Kampung Boy which chronicles the life of a boy in the 1950s. Husin notably favoured painting figurative images that were ambiguous yet expressive with intense, gesticulative strokes, blending into a composition of disarray. His work is perceptively tuned towards the everyday lives of multifaceted Malaysians as subjects, visibly seen in their proverbial spheres. He is the winner of the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year Malaysia's Most Promising Artist of the Year in the Emerging Artists category. In 2018, he won the Highly Commended Award (Established Artists category).

Malacca-born artist, **ISMAIL LATIFF**, graduated with a Diploma in Art and Design from Malaysia Institute, MARA Institute of Technology, Selangor in 1979 and has exhibited internationally since 1977. He was awarded the Frank Sullivan Award, Salon Malaysia at National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur in 1979. In 1984, he held his first solo art exhibition in Kuala Lumpur followed by a few others; namely Nine Years with Art Salon, Kuala Lumpur (1993), Magic In The Sky, Kuala Lumpur (2005) and Come Fly With Me, Kuala Lumpur (2008). He participated in a group exhibition titled "The Prayer" organised by NN Gallery in 2012 and his work was featured at the Affordable Art Fair, Singapore in 2014.

JAMIL MAT ISA is an established mid-career contemporary artist. Mohd Jamil grew up during the 1980s and was influenced by the artistic culture of the time. The generation of artists that grew up in, and took inspiration from, the 1980s was influenced by a period of quickly growing global capitalism, political upheaval, significant wealth discrepancy, global mass media and distinctive music and fashion, including electronic pop music and hip hop.

JOHAN MARJONID is regarded as being one of the few realist painters in Malaysia whose works are rich with metaphors that consist of reflective contrast of typical landscapes of urban buildings substituted by natural fibers and cores of rainforests. Born in Kampung Jelutung, Ayer Baloi, Pontian in Johor in 1968, Johan Marjonid received his Degree in Fine Art from UiTM, Shah Alam in 1991. He has since taught fine art in several local public and private funded art institutions within Kuala Lumpur. He chose to become a full time artist from the year 2000 onwards. His works have been picked for display as part of major exhibitions at Balai Seni Lukis Negara such as Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection (Redza Piyadasa), 2001 and Warisan (Dr. Najib Dawa), 2003.

Allahyarham **KHALIL IBRAHIM** was a prominent artist known for his batik paintings, landscapes, portraits, and abstracts that explored a deeply authentic Malaysian identity and vision. Born in 1934 in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Khalil began as a self-taught artist who painted with his left hand. In the 1950s, he painted regularly while working as a teacher in Kelantan and Pahang, before he was awarded a Pahang state scholarship to study art in England. He enrolled at St Martin's School of Art in London, in 1960 where he received his formal art training and developed his artistic style. He returned to Malaysia in 1966 and taught art at a school in Temerloh, Pahang, before moving to Kuala Lumpur in 1968 and embarking on an illustrious career that spanned over 50 years. Khalil died of natural causes at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, on May 15, 2018.

RADEN HISBULLAH, who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in 2019, has participated in more than 20 exhibitions, both physical and virtual. He has won several art competitions, including 3rd place in the 2021 Art Against Aids competition, 2nd place in the Open Mural Category of the Wall Battle Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur competition, and 3rd place in the Emerging Artist Category of the 2021 UOB Painting of the Year competition.

As one of Malaysia's foremost contemporary colourists, **RAFIEE GHANI** continues to push the boundaries of colour theory, contemporary abstraction and stylised realism. He initially studied printmaking and painting in Holland in the early 1980s, completing his studies at UiTM and later the UK. A painter's painter, Rafiee's earlier work was influenced by the likes of European masters like Gauguin and Matisse, boasting an abstract expressionist play by dense organic forms within contained domestic spaces expressed in a particular moment. As both a practitioner and an educator, Rafiee has left his mark on the Malaysian art movement and continues to push the boundaries of colour theory, contemporary abstraction and stylised realism.

Award-winning modern and contemporary artist **RAJA AZHAR IDRIS** is known for his acrylic and watercolour painting, batik and glass sculpture. He graduated with a degree in Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia. In 1981, he won the Melbourne Lord Mayor's Prize, and was voted the Artist of the Year by the Victorian Artists Society. A year later, he won the Miniature Gippsland Prize, the Rotary Club of St Kilda Art Prize (1983) and the VCA's Elizabeth Murdoch travelling fellowship (1985) and the Greyhound Art Prize (1989). Apart from acrylic, oil and watercolours, Raja Azhar had also done batik, etchings and sculptures on metal and glass. His first batik solo was in Kuala Lumpur and Paris in 1976.

Johor-born sculptor **ROSLI ZAKARIA** is a Fine Art graduate from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Master Art & Design De Montfort University UK & PhD. Art Management (Public Sculpture), UKM. He lectures at Universiti Teknologi MARA Melaka. Among his selected exhibitions are Going Back Home (Balai Seni Visual Negara), Readrawing Exhibition (Galeri Petronas), Ambiguity & Morphosis (Galeri Prima) as well as participating in numerous group exhibitions locally and internationally such as China, Japan, Vietnam and London. His achievements include Grand Prize (Toward Development Nation – Vision 2020; Pertandingan Arca Yayasan Warisan Johor), Philip Morris Art Award 1995 as well as grants Rockefeller Foundation Asia – Third International Sculpture Symposium (Vietnam), The 8th Changchun China International Sculpture Symposium and Juror choice award Oita Asian Sculpture (Japan).

Accomplished abstract artist and painter **DATO' SHARIFAH FATIMAH SYED ZUBIR** is well-known for her experimental use of unconventional materials and techniques. She graduated from Mara Institute of Technology (ITM) with a Diploma in Fine Arts in 1971. She also received the best student award. Sharifah Fatimah continued her studies at Reading University, England in 1973 and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1976. In 1978, she obtained her Master's degree in the field of Fine Arts from Dratt Institute, New York. She is a prominent abstract artist in Malaysia and she belongs to the group of artists of the 70s era.

Leading abstract artist, writer, academic and curator **YUSOF GHANI** began working life as a graphic designer (1969-79) before furthering his education on a government grant to the US. The undergraduate's interest in the fine arts was awakened there, when he took painting as an elective subject. Coupled with strong encouragement from his professor in painting, Walter Kravitz, the artist made the pivotal decision to shift disciplines. His works on "cultural dance" had raised the interesting debate about figuration and Islam that influenced the themes and aesthetics of Malaysian art in the 80s. The choice of dance as his definitive subject matter entails a number of reasons: among them, dance can be a metaphor for the artist's identity as a Malaysian abroad, but it is also a denominator of universal culture.

ZAIM DURULAMAN started to sketch comics for personal collection during his secondary school years. With a passion for painting and becoming an illustrator, he enrolled at Institute Technology Mara (now UiTM) 1984-1988, majoring in Graphic Design. Upon graduation, he worked as a graphic designer for two years before becoming a full-time freelance illustrator. He became a full-time artist since 1990. It was not after 1996 that he began his illustrious career in fine arts, and won several painting competitions. In 2013, he pursued a Master Degree in Fine Arts Technology at UiTM. A talented artist in using various media, he has participated in local and international exhibitions in countries such as Brunei, Vietnam, China, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Tunisia and Dubai. His works are featured in museums, corporate companies, banks and private collections around the world.

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