



G13
gallery

raimi sani

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Demarcations of "White Knight"

'White knight', or the more commonly-used phrase 'knight in shining armour', is most often used in portrayals of protagonists in narrations of folklore and fairytales of the Middle Age. Often depicted as the epitome of hope and justice, a white knight is dubbed as society's one true saviour from cataclysmic events, wherein the person on the other end of the savior afforded is none other than the clichéd 'Damsel in Distress'. One cannot help but notice that more often than not, these fairytales and folklores that are deeply imbued within the fabric of society seem to fit rather perfectly within ye olde patriarchal system, but of course, that is another story for another time.

Essentially, White Knight is a play of words that serve as a challenge to the audience to rejoin the missing pieces of a much bigger puzzle. As fragile human emotions continue to coagulate memories of the past, White Knight acts as the defying force; subconsciously safeguarding one from succumbing to one's impure thoughts. White Knight is a shield made for one. White Knight is but a mere idea.

As proposed by The Artist Raimi Sani, White Knight is much more than merely "strapping a name on to a concept and calling it a day". The name White Knight itself acts to encapsulate the artist's previous works, research and countless studies, all of which are relative and correlate in forming her current body of work.

It goes without saying that to an artist, a solo exhibition denotes a monumental achievement; and a particularly momentous milestone if it is the artist's first. White Knight to Raimi Sani serves as an allegory of her inner strengths in dealing with her daily battles.

What I am about to tell you here is nothing short of a privileged invitation, whilst threading the delicate boundaries of strictly confidential information of the artist whose particular body of work I have been entrusted to for the past few months. My findings and/or

analysis are as follows:

Venturing into the mind of an 'Introvert'

The Artist (Raimi Sani) may be enduring a form social anxiety disorder, taking cues from several fascinating symptoms she has exhibited, ranging from anxiety, social displacement, self-loathing, inability to adapt to unfamiliar territories. However, The Artist finds solitude in projecting multiple personas which helps to combat her sorrowful, gloomy and unwarranted fear of abandoning her comfort zone. The Artist's recent developments are also promising as glimpses of progress as evident from her paintings serve as a self-defense mechanism.

Probable traumatic experience: growing tired of being on the outside looking in, decides to join in, and ended up mixing in with the wrong crowd

Read: Positive

A reading on her paintings and their respective meanings

The Artist has made White Knight as a portrayal of two female figures donning white night gowns in multiple stances and poses. These flailing figures are a manifestation of The Artist herself, an indication of her deep-rooted belief in self-critiquing as opposed to randomly pointing fingers at others.

The choice to use white fabric that is predominantly featured on most of her paintings intrinsically symbolizes purity and a level of naivety of the ordinary woman that The Artist sees herself projecting during majority of the time.

However the lace trimmings adhering to the night gowns might suggest otherwise. To some, the translucent effect of the laces or white cloths may come across as lustful material aiming at the arousal of the spirit within. The Artist believes that the colour white represents purity, gracefulness and transparency in submitting the truth. The strands that make up the construction of a lace albeit possessing flexibility and porousness, firmly holds the foundation of the inner strength that The Artist wishes to demonstrate. She sees the clarity of truth in the midst of vagueness, the beauty in fragility and the superior strength in something that most often comes in the softest form.

The motives

Every pose of the subject painted bears its own significance, evident

from the subjects' body languages; curled up side by side, lying down, squatting, sitting down and standing up. Collectively, the poses can be viewed in a sequential manner, inherently suggesting The Artist's transition from being cooped up in her struggles to embracing them with much-celebrated openness.

In this process of self-healing, it is apparent that The Artist has yet to fully overcome her problems; shown through the facial expressions of her subjects, namely by cowering down, eyes closed, shying away from any form of eye contact with anyone.

To The Artist, being an introvert is a haunting struggle wherein one is persistently facing the duality between unyielding devaluation of one's worth and getting carried away with the positive notions of oneself relayed by persons who had merely touched your surface. To each its own, these different poses signify the diverse ways to cope with each struggle.

Technical aspect of the artworks

The subjects are two average-sized females of Asian parentage with tanned skin. The complexity of the skin tone plays well with the outfit and draperies of a bed sheet. The standing up poses is contrasted with the lying down poses so as to create a balance between light and dark colours. The choice of colour palette moves towards the murkier side and monochromatic Earth-toned brown. The almost sepia tone of the paintings proposes a recollection of the past that The Artist is trying to conjure.

Amongst the visual influence and artist reference that sparked the inspiration to The Artist is Nick Alm, Johan Barrios, Hendrik Aa. Uldalen, Eric Bowman, Amron Omar and Fadilah Karim. The Artist added that 'Equilibrium', written by Kurt Wimmer draws a life-changing perspective on how people should tackle matters of the heart.

Relation to current issue

White Knight sheds some light upon mental health awareness. Apart from the recommended medicinal approach, one can never underestimate the therapeutic effects accorded by one's artistic expressions. In what seems like a routine battle with social anxiety, The Artist mediates her predicaments by choosing a more creative path; one that conforms to her true emotions and feelings at the moment. It goes without saying that The Artist has bared enough of herself through White Knight.

That being said, under no circumstances should White Knight be

viewed as neither a cry for attention nor does it serve as a precautionary tale of a "square peg in a round hole" to others, but as a way for The Artist to reclaim her "introvert" and defines it her own terms.

If anything, this exhibition simply seeks to claim that when it comes to the inner workings of oneself, no issue is too small or too big to be shed some light upon. After all, the art nourishes the mind, the body and the soul.

Analysis of the artist

Raimi Sani is a painter, just as much as she is an introvert. Having the opportunity to study her from the earlier beginnings of her creative process up to the completion of her artworks has led me to believe that her two personas co-exist seamlessly; they ebb and flow, reinforcing the notion that art serves as an essential medium of the human soul.

Diagnosis by: Heikal Taki

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ARTWORKS



Sonnet 95 (The Misuse)
214x122 cm Oil on canvas 2017



Sheer Sentiment

153 x 153 cm Oil on canvas 2017



A Tale To Tell

153 x 153 cm Oil on canvas 2017



Sonnet 143 (Poor Soul)
127 x 107 cm Oil on canvas 2017



In Clover

61 x 61 cm Oil on canvas 2017



Beguiled

61 x 61 cm Oil on canvas 2017



Entwine

70 x 186 cm Oil on canvas 2017



Evanescent

70 x 186 cm Oil on canvas 2017

Published in conjunction with the exhibition :

WHITE KNIGHT by Raimi Sani

7rd APR – 17th APR 2017

Publisher
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