MERAH PUTIH BIRU KUNING

25 AUGUST - 8 SEPTEMBER 2018

MERAH PUTIH BIRU KUNING

AIMAN ZAMRI

AL- KHUZAIRIE ALI

AMIRUL ROSLAN

ANASUHA SUHAIRI

AZIZI LATIF

CHONG SOON LEONG

FAIZ ZA

HAZIQ SYAWAL

HIDAYAT ARSHAD

HO MEI KEI

NIK MOHD SHAHFIZ

NIK MOHD HAZRI

SABIHIS PANDI

SAFAR ZIN

SIUND TAN

SYAHBANDI SAMAT

SYUKUR RANI

SYED FAKARUDDIN

TOMI HERI

Merah Putih Biru Kuning

Have you ever wondered why during any flag-raising ceremony, you are taught to stand still until the national anthem ends?

Merahmu bara semangat waja
Putihmu bersih budi pekerti
Kuning berdaulat payung negara
Biru perpaduan kami semua

Puncak dunia telah kau tawan
Lautan luas telah kau redah
Membawa semangat jiwa merdeka
Semarak jaya kami warganya

Empat belas melintang jalurnya
Semua negeri dalam Malaysia
Satu suara satu semangat
Itu sumpah warga berdaulat

Jalur gemilang... di bawah naunganmu
Jalur gemilang... kami semua bersatu
Perpaduan ketaatan
Amalan murni rakyat Malaysia
Jalur gemilang... megah kami terasa
Jalur gemilang... kibarkanlah wawasan
Merah putih biru kuning
Jalur semangat kami semua

Berkibarlah
Berkibarlah
Berkibarlah

Jalur gemilang!

*'Jalur Gemilang' lyrics by Pak Ngah and Siso Kopratasa

That said, the lyrics depicted above are not of the national anthem.

The exhibition draws an inspiration from a patriotic Malay-language song entitled 'Jalur Gemilang'. An excerpt from the song, *'Merah Putih Biru Kuning'* literally translates to 'Red White Blue Yellow' – the colours of the Malaysian flag, *Jalur Gemilang*. Red, a warm colour, signifies the brawn and bravery of every Malaysian in facing any hardships or obstacles. Blue, just like the sky, preaches harmony and togetherness of the *rakyat*. The colour Yellow refers to the constitutional monarchs that helm the beloved nation even before her conception. Being the purest colour on the spectrum, the colour White represents possessing strong moral ethics and the aspiring quality of being righteous.

Although bearing close likeness to the flag of the United States of America, the Malaysian flag is not one without its own flair and authenticity particularly when it comes to the meaning behind the symbols on flag. The red and white stripes represent all fourteen states in the nation. The same number is repeated on the points of the star thus symbolizing unity amongst the fourteen states. Meanwhile, the crescent accompanying the fourteen-pointed star is the homage to Islam as the official religion of the nation.

Despite having a short history of visual arts, Malaysia as a country has fared exceptionally well. It is undeniable that the Malaysia's visual ebbs and flows are akin to a goldmine to those who practice art so as to record, react and respond to the same in the form of visual reports, criticisms or projections of anticipations or excerpts of the future.

Quite recently, as a result of its 14th General Election, Malaysia went through a change of its government, which was nothing short of historic. Interestingly it took Malaysia fourteen tries to finally be able to fully and unwaveringly exercise and express its democratic rights many had thought were long gone from the realms of the country. This of course cuts the long story short. Nevertheless, Malaysians are now basking in the new experiences in a new Malaysia, aptly called *Malaysia Baharu*. Save for the change of the ruling party helming the majority of the government, it does beg the question what is so new about this *Malaysia Baharu*? I guess only time will tell.

The (previous) government did a great job when it came up with the slogan 'Malaysia Truly Asia' in its effort to boost Malaysia's tourism considering the country's social make up that is undeniably multi-faceted. Being the majority race in the country, the Malays are spread across the archipelagos and all throughout Malaysia where the Chinese and Indians were historically brought in to (then) Tanah Malaya by the British colonisers. Meanwhile, the east side is richer with numerous type ethnicities such as Kadazan, Iban, Melanau to name the least. This migration and amalgamation have resulted in Malaysia having the colourful variety of ethnicities, faiths, religions and personal beliefs.

Merah Putih Biru Kuning Group Exhibition

In conjunction with Malaysia's Independence Day celebrated on the 31st of August every year, and Malaysia Day i.e. the day Malaysia the nation that she is today (celebrated on 16th of September every year), G13 Gallery presents *Merah Putih Biru Kuning*, a group exhibition which is on display from 25th September until 8th September 2018. The exhibition varies in styles and approaches, from two-dimensional to three-dimensional. The theme and direction of the exhibition would generally revolve around socio-political issues, the nation's history, national identities and the cultures permeating throughout the country. Moreover, some artworks were driven and inspired by the artist's personal self-reflections.

Here are the names of the participating artists: *Aiman Zamri, Al-Khuzairie Ali, Amirul Roslan, Anasuha Suhairi, Azizi Latif, Chong Soon Leong, Haziq Syawal, Hidayat Arshad, Ho Mei Kei, Hug Yin Wan, Khairul Izham, Nik Mohd Hazri, Nik Mohd Shahfiz, Sabihis Pandi, Safar Zin, Siund Tan, Syahbandi Samat, Syed Fakaruddin* and *Tomi Heri*.

These twenty individuals are amongst the emerging and established artists who had actively participated in art exhibitions all across Malaysia for the past ten years. A decade of art practice may seem shorter in comparison to senior artists who have had the benefit of a longer career but individually, the younger artists are not to be beaten in letting their maturity shine through their thought process and art making.

The significance and importance of a flag cannot be denied; what it means, what is represents and what it stands for. There is something about the feeling of pride and being patriotic in witnessing the national flag being raised up the pole, fluttering against the blow of the wind. It is amazing how people are able to relate to their national flag rather closely in that it somehow represents them. Perhaps the same can be said with regards to the relationship between an artist and his or her art. It is best to say that art mirrors the artist the same way the flag represents the nation.

Merah Putih Biru Kuning emphasizes on the new spirit of Malaysia which aims at the rebirth of a nation through art. In the spirit of Malaysia Baharu, nothing should segregate or divide the nation – not the wealth gap, not education background, not race, not physical attributes, not gender identities, not political views and not even the everyday generational differences. The (former and) current Prime Minister once shared his vision on seeing Malaysia achieving *Wawasan 2020*; a vision marked by a year that is imminent upon us in less than two years. Will we, as a nation, become as what was envisioned? Will we stray away and plummet to the ground? Or will we opt for other ways where the path is wanted wear? In any of these, it is with certainty that as Malaysians we will do it filled with passion and pride for our beloved country.

ARTWORKS

Kindred
120 x 180 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

Colours We Sought
122 x 91 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

AL-KHUZAIRIE ALI

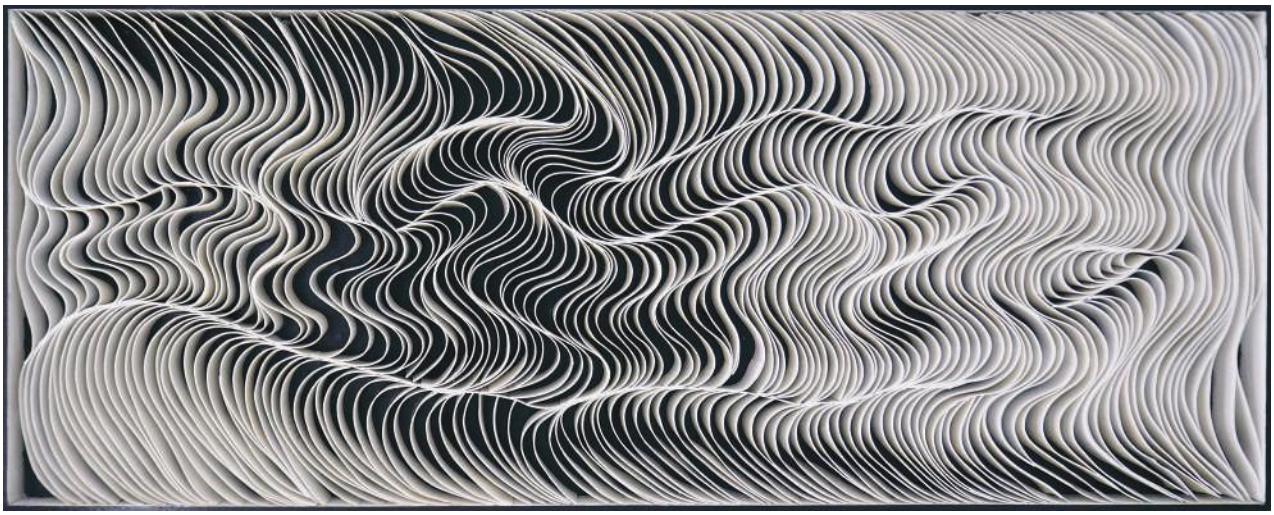
Hot Seat
86 x 16 x 11 cm (each) Ceramic and mixed media | 2018

'New Parade'
98.5 x 98.5 cm | Acrylic on jute | 2018

'Hidangan Angan-angan'
130 x 130 cm | Acrylic on jute | 2018

ANASUHA SUHAIRI

'Tok'
138 x 107 cm | Acrylic on canvas | 2018



'Imuniti'
61 x 153 cm | Scuplted canvas and acrylic | 2018

CHONG SOON LEONG

Fairy Tale
155 x 122 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

Space Kid
155 x 122 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

Cerita Rakyat
92 x 153 cm | Oil on Canvas | 2018

Keringat Yang Rapuk
92 x 153 cm | Oil on Canvas | 2018

HAZIQ SYAWAL

'Adjustment'
162 x 135 cm | Collage, acrylic and oil on canvas | 2018

'Adjustment II'
162 x 135 cm | Collage, acrylic and oil on canvas | 2018

'Love'
152.5 x 152.5 cm | Acrylic on canvas | 2018

'Hope'
152.5 x 152.5 cm | Acrylic on canvas | 2018

HO MEI KEI

Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Malaysia) I
122 x 152 cm | Oil, acrylic and color pencil on canvas | 2018

Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Malaysia) II
122 x 152 cm | Oil, acrylic and color pencil on canvas | 2018

The Identity
122 x 122 cm | Collage, oil and acrylic on canvas | 2018

The Power Glitch of Identity
183 x 153 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

NIK MOHD HAZRI

Study of Standing Girl - Beige Wall
66 x 97 cm | Acrylic on canvas | 2018

Study of Seated Girl - Seen from The Back
66 x 97 cm | Acrylic on canvas | 2018

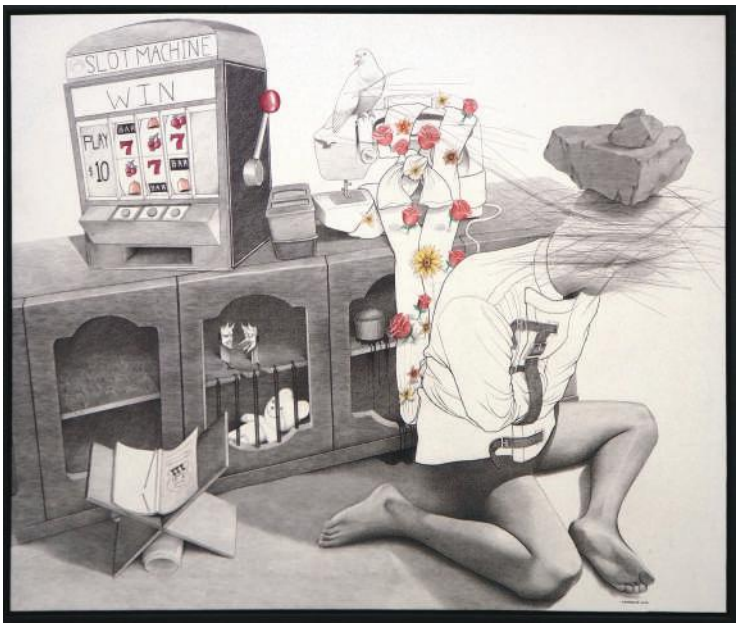
'Birth'
122 x 122 cm | Charcoal and acrylic on canvas | 2018

'Rebirth'
122 x 122 cm | Charcoal and acrylic on canvas | 2018

SABIHIS PANDI

Dalam Dewan
92 x 92 cm | Woodprint on canvas & wood cut | 2018

Dalam Laman Sesawang
92 x 92 cm | Woodprint on canvas & wood cut | 2018



Ibu
128 x 152 cm | Ballpoint pen on canvas | 2016

Dragging Past
118 x 147 cm | Ballpoint pen on canvas | 2016

SIUND TAN

Annual Sales Meeting
91.5 x 61.5 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

Miles Ahead
76 x 61 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

'Penjuru Bumi I'
152.5 x 152.5 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

'Penjuru Bumi II'
152.5 x 152.5 cm | Oil on canvas | 2018

SYUKUR RANI

'Kami Dua Beradik'
146 x 122 cm | Oil and acrylic on canvas | 2018

'Big Mouth'
153 x 122 cm | Oil and acrylic on canvas | 2018

Lawan Arus
Variable Dimensions | Spray paint and acrylic on wooden cut-out | 2018

ABOUT G13 GALLERY:

G13 Gallery identifies and collaborates with the artists that show potential, relevance, and depth in their works. The gallery aspires to develop synergy between artists domestically and internationally, and it achieves this through cross-border collaborations, residences, and exhibitions.

G13 Gallery aims to realize a greater appreciation for Asian art, has been actively participating in multiple regional art fairs over the past few years.

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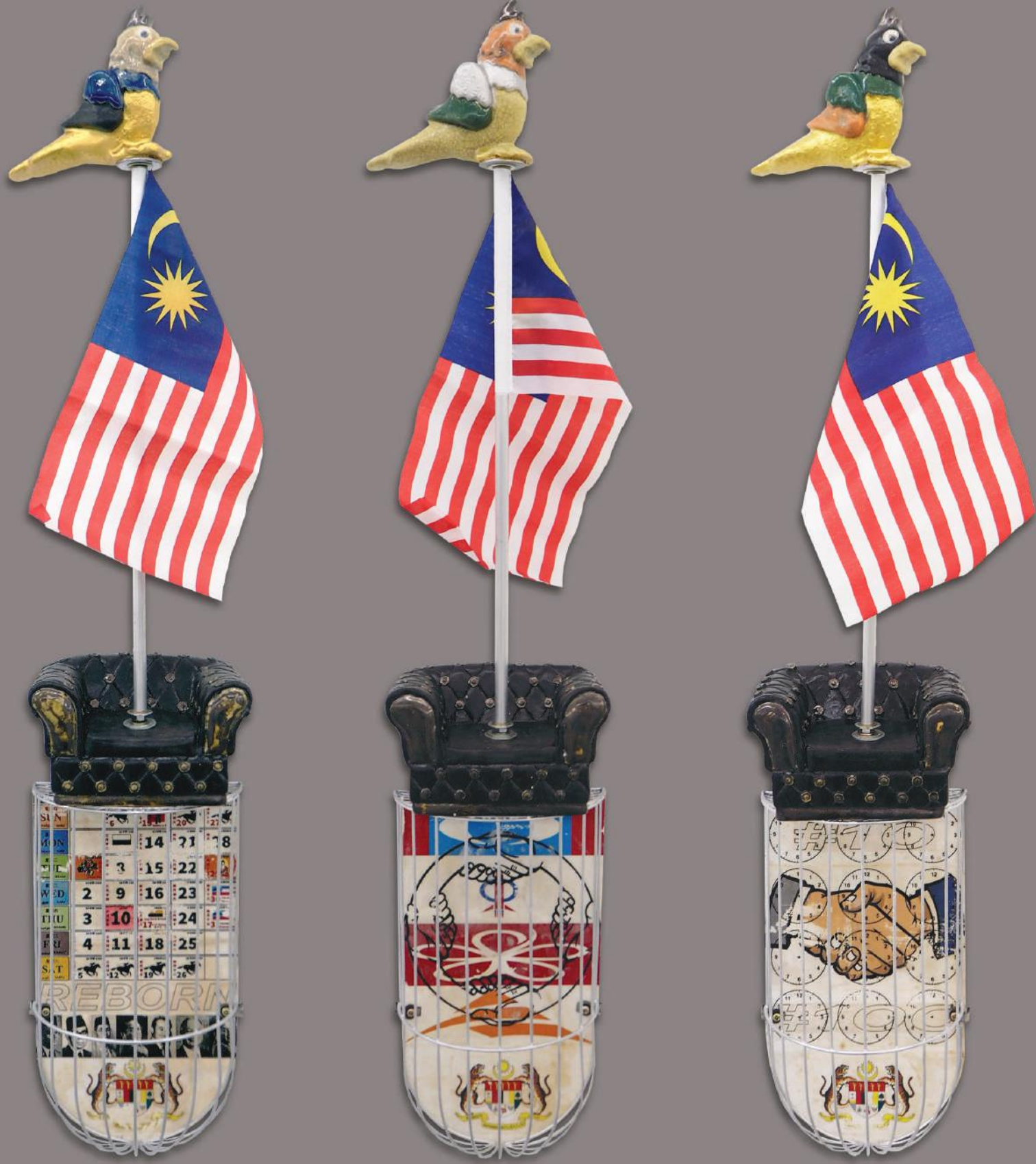
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