

The background is a rich, textured illustration of a fantastical landscape. A winding river flows through the center, surrounded by lush, stylized vegetation in shades of purple, blue, and green. Small, colorful creatures are scattered throughout the scene, some appearing to be in the water. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional folk art or children's book illustrations.

WHAT IF?

A JOURNEY THROUGH FOLKTALES

AIMMAN HAFIZAL

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19 APRIL - 3 MAY 2025



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Folktales**
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What If?
**A Journey Through
Folktales**
by Aimman Hafizal

What if fate was not fixed but fluid? What if the boundaries of folklore could dissolve, revealing unexpected possibilities?

In latest body of work, Aimman Hafizal reimagines traditional Malay proverbs and narratives, challenging the destinies of their characters. Rather than simply illustrating age-old wisdom, he deconstructs it by turning cautionary tales into blueprints for reinvention where perceived weaknesses transform into strengths.

There is a quiet rebellion in Aimman's approach. His protagonists, whether drawn from fable or metaphor, subvert their predetermined roles. The underdog emerges as the pioneer, while those who seemingly triumph are met with unforeseen consequences. Through dreamlike compositions of floating islands, cosmic landscapes, and enchanted terrains, his works blur the lines between success and failure, agency and inevitability.

Beneath these vivid painterly forms lies an inquiry into perception itself. What is deemed weakness in one light may, when reconsidered, reveal itself as resilience. What appears to be loss may, in retrospect, mark the threshold of renewal. Humor and melancholy, wisdom and folly, coexist within each piece, mirroring the contradictions inherent in human experience.

This exhibition is less an act of storytelling than an unraveling. It is a peeling away of conventional wisdom to reveal deeper and more ambiguous truths. In Aimman's hands, nostalgia is not a static longing for the past but a means of reimagining the present. It becomes a lens through which the familiar becomes unfamiliar and the impossible becomes just within reach.



ARTWORK

In *Fast & Fearless*, the artist reimagines the legendary race between the rabbit and the tortoise as a fierce competition on a high-tech track. No longer about patience, success now depends on ambition, adaptation and innovation—proving that in this race, the finish line is anyone's game.

Fast & Fearless
121 x 152cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



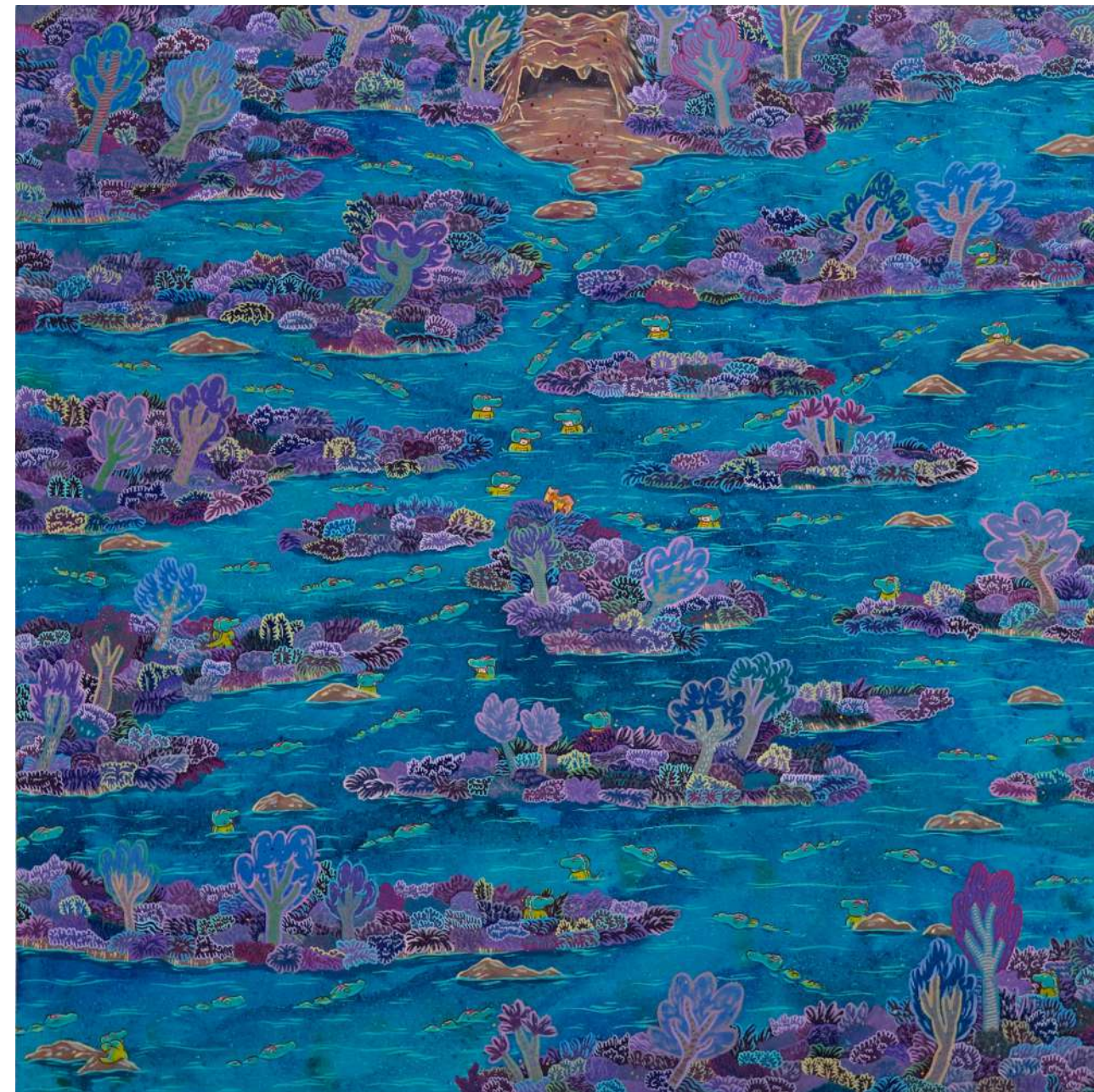
The artist reimagines the Malay proverb “Malang Pak Kaduk, ayamnya menang kampung tergadai,” which means a fleeting victory can bring great loss. Through the tale of a carefree Komodo lizard who takes one innocent bite of a magical fruit and transforms into the colossal Komodozilla, he illustrates how joy can turn to devastation. Hero or Villain? This work reflects how small actions can lead to irreversible consequences.

Komodozilla: Hero or Villain?
121 x 152cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



In a world shaped by fate's unpredictable path, Sang Kancil outsmarts Sang Buaya to cross the river, but his victory is short-lived—an ominous tiger's cave awaits. Inspired by the Malay proverb "Terlepas dari mulut buaya, masuk ke mulut harimau," this painting reimagines the tale, exploring the fragile line between survival and inevitable danger, showing fate as an unstoppable force.

From Jaws to Claws
121 x 121cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



In The Fungiverse, the artist envisions a towering mushroom forest, home to a vibrant community of beings inspired by the animals that shape his world. Reflecting the Malay proverb “Cendawan tumbuh selepas hujan,” the piece mirrors his journey where stepping into the art scene brought friendships and belonging, flourishing like mushrooms after rain. Through this painting, he celebrates connection, growth and finding a home in the thriving creative community.

The Fungiverse

121 x 121cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



In *The Fleece & The Fangs*, the artist reimagines an old cautionary tale, turning rivalry into friendship. In a peaceful sheep farm, wolves roam freely, not as threats but as companions. Challenging the idea of endless rivalry, this painting celebrates unlikely bonds, showing that understanding can overcome divides—sometimes, those we once feared become our greatest allies.

The Fleece & The Fangs
91 x 121cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



In *Rewriting The Stars*, the artist reimagines timeless proverbs through a cosmic adventure. A civilization of intelligent frog aliens shatters the “katak di bawah tempurung” stereotype, while a brilliant mouse engineer redefines “bagai tikus memperbaiki labu” by turning a pumpkin into an interstellar spaceship. This painting celebrates curiosity, innovation and the idea that even the humblest creatures can transcend limitations and reach for the stars.



Rewriting the Stars
91 x 121cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025

Inspired by the Malay proverb “bagai pungguk rindukan bulan”, which speaks of yearning for the unattainable, *The Moonlit Dreams* reimagines this longing. Under a glowing moon, owls no longer yearn hopelessly—they soar toward it, embracing their connection. This painting challenges fate, proving that with courage, the unattainable is merely a flight away. Dreams await those bold enough to pursue them.

The Moonlit Dreams
91 x 91cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025



In Golden Hour Journey, the artist redefines “bagai itik pulang petang”, which describes slow and sluggish movement. Here, the ducks are not lagging behind but walking with purpose, savouring the journey. Each hill symbolizes patience and resilience, reminding us that moving at our own pace can lead to the most meaningful experiences.

Golden Hour Journey
91 x 91cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2025





AIMMAN HAFIZAL

B.1995 in Johor, Malaysia

EDUCATION

- 2019 MA of Fine Art & Technology, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor
- 2018 BA (Hons) Fine Art, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam, Selangor
- 2015 Diploma in Fine Art, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Seri Iskandar, Perak

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 What If? A Journey Through Folktales, G13 Gallery, Malaysia
- 2021 Imaginarium Show, Cafe Studio Damansara, Malaysia

INTERNATIONAL SHOW/ART FAIRS

- 2024 ASYAAF (Asian Student and Young Artist Festival) 2024, National Theatre Company Baek Sung-hee Jang Min-Ho, Seoul, South Korea
Hotel Art Fair Bangkok with G13 Gallery, Thailand
Imprint-The Art Journey II, Tung Hai University, Taiwan
- 2023 ASYAAF (Asian Student and Young Artist Festival) 2023, Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea
- 2022 SPICE, Muzi Art Gallery Taipei, Taiwan
The November Show, Pinto Art Museum, Antipolo, Philippines
- 2017 Sanggar Bambu dan Lingkaran Persahabatan Exhibition, Galeri SMSR, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Exploration Recidency 3 Exhibition, Saung Banon Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 The Palette Project, GMBB Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Urban Narratives @ Yap Ah Shak House, G13 Gallery, Malaysia
- 2024 First Chapter, Iltizam Seni by Ekuinas, Galeri Puteh, Malaysia
Sesat di Kuala Lumpur, Galeri Puteh, Malaysia
Masih Ada Waktu, Bank Negara Malaysia, Malaysia
EUPHORIA by Zhan Art Space, CIMB Hotel Art Fair, Four Point by Sheraton, Malaysia
Bon Art-Petit, TOKO Art, Pavilion Damansara Height, Malaysia
RHB Art with Heart, Concourse BSC Bangsar, Malaysia
- 2023 HOM ART OPEN 2023, HOM Art Trans, Malaysia
Hallyu Korean Wave Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Malaysia

- Lembaran, Artas 3rd Anniversary Group Exhibition, Artas Galeri, Malaysia
Flowers in Art, Nadine Fine Art, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Colours of Freedom, Artas Galeri, Malaysia
RHB Art with Heart 2023, Concourse BSC Bangsar, Malaysia
ADA Kawan-kawan, Galeri Puteh, KL ECO City, Malaysia
CIMB Art & Soul, MITEC, Malaysia
TELUR PECAH 3.0, GMBB Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
KECIK, Core Design Gallery, Malaysia
Light & Dark Exhibition, Balai Seni Maybank, Malaysia
CARCA MARBA, Core Design Gallery, Malaysia
Metier, Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
VIRTUE(AL) 3.0, Arto Movement, Malaysia
BEBAS, Artas 2nd Anniversary Group Exhibition, Artas Galeri, Malaysia
WWF Malaysia GLOBAL Tiger Day 2022, Pavillion Bukit Jalil, Malaysia
Synthesis: Love, Dreams, Hope. Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
Inspiring Malaysia: Merdeka Live Painting, Publika, Malaysia
Petals of Nationalism, Artas Galeri, Malaysia
RHB Art with Heart, Concourse BSC Bangsar, Malaysia
KAWAN: U12 Art Community group Exhibition, Segaris Art Centre, Malaysia
Flo~Rest, Duo Exhibition, Artas Galeri, CIMB Art Hotel, Malaysia
ScreamDudukRumah Exhibition, Selangor Youth, Malaysia
VirtuaeI VIRTUE(AL) 2.0, Arto Movement, Malaysia
Tribute to Malaysians, Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
I Am An Artist 1.0, Core Design Gallery, Subang, Malaysia
Ameliorate, Sustainable & Environmental Art Assemble, Galeri Prima, Malaysia
The SELF in Art, GMBB Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
ARTAIDSARTIST Phase III, HOM Art Trans, Malaysia
PORTALS: New Horizon, Rumah Tangsi KL, Malaysia
Possibilia, Rumah Seni Selangor, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
HOM Art Open 2020, HOM Art Trans Ampang, Malaysia
Oeuvre, Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
Traversing 175, Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
VirtuaeI, Virtual Art Exhibition Arto Movement, Malaysia

- 2019 MA Show, UiTM Jalan Othman, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
RAW, LIGHTCRAFT Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
RAW Curatorial Talk, LIGHTCRAFT Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Design Social Innovation & Sustainable Community, Galeri Shah Alam, Malaysia
- 2018 Morphosis, Galeri Prima, Bangsar, Malaysia
Anugerah Seni MIDF 2018, Menara MIDF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
U12 Art Exhibition, Galeri Prima Bangsar, Malaysia
Art For All, Live Painting Performance, Galeri Petronas, Malaysia
BOFA @ TAPAK 2018, TAPAK Gallery, Shah Alam, Malaysia
BOFA 17/18 Degree Show, UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia
- 2017 Mindscape, Malaysia-India Interculture Exhibition, Hulo KL, Malaysia
Anugerah Seni MIDF, Menara MIDF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Rantai Art, Klebang, Melaka, Malaysia
Art Bazaar Bank Negara Malaysia, One World Hotel, Damansara, Malaysia
Vision Petron 2017 Art Installation Workshop, One Utama, Damansara, Malaysia
- 2016 Nando's Art Initiative, Publika, Malaysia
Imaginarium Show, Cafe Studio Damansara, Malaysia
ECO Art, Installation and Exhibition, ANDES Project, Alam Impian, Shah Alam, Malaysia
Young And New VI 2016, Hom Art Trans, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1x1 Exhibition, Gallery Titik Merah, Publika, Malaysia
- 2015 Energy - Present & Future (Petronas Art Competition), Petronas Gallery Identiti Show, Al-Biruni Gallery, UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia
Nando's Art Initiative 2015, Publika, Malaysia
- 2014 Watercolor Art Exhibition, Ekspresi Selangor, Galeri Shah Alam, Malaysia
Painting Exhibition, Faculty of Art and Design UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia
- AWARDS**
- 2018 Vice Chancellor Award (ANC), UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia
- 2017 Major Award
Anugerah Seni MIDF, Menara MIDF Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016 Vice Chancellor Award (ANC), UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia
- 2010 Best Technical Art
Energy - Present & Future (Petronas Art Competition) Galeri Petronas, Malaysia



ABOUT G13 GALLERY:

Established in 2010, G13 Gallery is a leading contemporary art gallery based in Malaysia, dedicated to showcasing innovative and thought-provoking works by artists from Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

Through curated exhibitions, artist residencies and international collaborations, G13 Gallery actively shapes contemporary art discourse while fostering cross-border partnerships. As a hub for artistic dialogue, the gallery strengthens the visibility of regional art by participating in international and regional art fairs, providing artists with opportunities to expand their reach and engage with diverse audiences.

Beyond exhibitions, G13 Gallery supports scholarly research and publications that contribute to the evolving discourse of contemporary art in Asia. With a commitment to artistic excellence and meaningful engagement, the gallery continues to play a vital role in shaping and advancing the contemporary art scene in Malaysia and the region.

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