

## **Faizal Hamdan**

### **Artist Statement and Biography**

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#### **Artist Statement**

Gambus Player is an installation made of acrylic paint, cardboard boxes, hygiene paper roll and black light. It was exhibited at the 'Warisan Art Exhibition' (Heritage of Brunei) at the Waterfront Art Gallery in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in 2012.

'Gambus' is a Malay traditional musical instrument which has similar features to the Arabic guitar. The installation piece portrays a classical Malay traditional gambus player sitting by himself reminiscing about his future as a musician. My intention was to attract the audience not only to view the installation but also to give them the experience of being watched by the installation itself.

I can recall images from my childhood days when gambus bands and their music were still very popular. I remembered making batik painting of the similar subject when I was in my secondary school. I have watched many different gambus players perform at wedding ceremonies. Nowadays, there are only a few people who can play gambus and most of them are from the older generation.

The installation is also inspired by Pablo Picasso's painting from 1903 titled 'The Old Guitar Player'. The subject is from an old era, but I tried to fuse those traditional elements with contemporary ones by representing the subject using the chosen medium.

## Artist Biography

### Faizal Hamdan Brunei

Based in Brunei Darussalam. Attended Curtin University of Technology School of Art Perth Western Australia gaining a Bachelor of Arts (Art) in 2003. Currently working as an Art & Design tutor at a sixth form centre while at the same time painting, sculpting and experimenting installation. "I like to play and explore. An artwork can be very serious but playful at the same time".

### Profile

- 2013 'Radisson Art Showcase Radisson Hotel Brunei Darussalam  
'Spectrum Brunei Art Forum Waterfront Art Gallery, Brunei Darussalam
- 2012 Brunei Art Forum 'Warisan' (Heritage) Art exhibiton, Waterfront Art Gallery, Brunei Darussalam  
Francophonie Art Week, Empire Hotel, Jerudong Brunei Darussalam
- 2011 Nominated from the Signature Art Prize by Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation  
Organised by Singapore Art Museum  
Brunei Art Forum, Waterfront Art Gallery Brunei Darussalam  
Les Choses Dan Le Noir (The Things in the Dark), Alliance Francaise De Brunei  
His Majesty of Negara Brunei Darussalam 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Art Compettion Exhibition,  
Waterfront Art Gallery BSB, Brunei  
JBFA Art Exhibition, Tokyo Japan  
Art Week, STPRI, Brunei  
Francophonie Week Art Exhibition, Waterfront BSB, Brunei  
Dine with Art, Grazie Mauri Restaurant Gadong, Brunei
- 2010 Art is all about you, Jady Art Gallery Kuala Belait, Brunei  
Brunei Art Forum, Brunei Pavillion, Shanghai, China Expo 2010  
Brunei Art Forum, Yayasan, Brunei  
Brunei Art Forum, Indoor Stadium, Brunei  
Francophonie Week, Sheraton Hotel, Brunei  
Empat Art Exhibition, Jerudong Holiday Lodge, Brunei
- 2009 G5 Annual Exhibition, Sumbangsih Mulia, Beribi, Brunei  
Visual Art Exhibition, Waterfront Hotel, Labuan
- 2008 Brunei Art Forum, The mall gadong, Brunei  
Darussalam Spaces, Penang National Art Gallery, Malaysia  
Brunei Art Forum 'Art to heart', old custom Houses, Brunei  
G5 Annual Exhibition, Rimba gallery, Brunei

2003 Gomboc Sculpture Survey, Gomboc, Western Australia

1999 Art Camp, Waroona, Western Australia