

Phuan Thai Meng

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

This piece of artwork is a continuation of my ongoing interests in the Malaysian social landscape. My artworks were an observation of the socio-political status of the nation. Malaysia is a developing country, with problems and challenges similar to other nations in Southeast Asia. By re-visiting the current social issues I aim to provoke various questionings of the social environment on both a local and regional level. In this painting, I try to investigate/revisit the current social landscape of my homeland.

Fact and Factor is a hyper realistic depiction of a wrapped water filter poster calling for clean water supplies. It subtly provokes the monopoly on infrastructure by specific companies who make such basic human needs more difficult. These social problems are compounded by the inability of my belief that no matter the race or political loyalties all politicians are the same, nameless and faceless tokens to a larger game that does not take into account the needs of community as its main priority.

Formally, I'm interested in pushing the visual language of painting to convey further ideological curiosities. In this painting, I made use of "REALISTIC PAINTING" a traditional painting form and the viewers' "reading" habit as my media and visual strategic to evoke the idea of "WHAT WE SEE/HEARD MAY NOT AS WHAT WE SEE/HEARD".

Artist Biography

Phuan Thai Meng Malaysia

I am a full time artist, arts educator and founding member of the artist collective Rumah Air Panas (RAP). I received my Diploma in Fine Art, major in painting, from the Malaysian Institute of Art in 1996.

My artworks mainly are in painting and installation, with various visual strategies and language responding to conceptual and contextual requirements. I see art making as a process of learning, thinking and communicating. It is not mysterious, but a state of living, a fun game, which is motivated by curiosity

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2014 Prudential Malaysian Eye: Malaysian Contemporary Art, at MAP, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Thinking Drawing, at Galeri Serdang, Faculty of Design and Architecture, UPM, Selangor, Malaysia.
- 2013 Kembara Jiwa Fukuoka - Expanded Passion, at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan.
Welcome to the Jungle: Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia from the Collection of Singapore Art Museum, at Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan.
- 2012 THE 7TH ASIA-PACIFIC TRIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART at Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) and Queensland Art Gallery (QAG), Brisbane, Australia.
CONCEPTION IN RECONCILIATION at Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung and Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- 2010 Contemporary Rhetoric, at Valentine Willie Fine Art Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2009 TENGGARA, Contemporary Art from Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines - at Novas Contemporary Urban Centre (CUC), Liverpool, UK.
- 2008 Tukar Ganti, at Valentine Willie Fine Art Singapore, Singapore.
The Painting Show, at Annex Gallery, Center Market, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2006 KATA DI KOTA- a Malaysian Exhibition of Contemporary Art in Cuba, in conjunction with the 9th Havana Biennale, Galeria de arte Boyeros, Cuba.
18@8 Kuala Lumpur- Karachi, at A min Gulgee Gallery, Pakistan.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 MAPPING HOMELAND: WE ARE PROUD OF YOU(?_?)- Solo exhibition at Valentine Willie Fine Art Singapore.
- 2010 THE WE PROJECT- solo show at Richard Koh Fine Art Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2009 MADE IN MALAYSIA- solo show at Valentine Willie Fine Art Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2004 PTM0001020304..., Phuan Thai Meng 1st Solo Art Exhibition, at Rumah Air Panas (RAP), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Awards

- 2014 Top 30 finalist in the 2013 – 2014 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Hong Kong
- 2006 Top 30 finalist in the 2006 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Hong Kong
- 2005 "CONVERSATION: MALAYSIA", an Artist-in-Residency programmed at Singapore, organize by P10 and funded by ANA.
- 2003 Honorable Mention - Philip Morris Malaysia - Asean Art Awards 2003, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2000 Won the Juror's Choice Award in 2000 from the Philip Morris Malaysia - ASEAN Art Awards.

Collection

- National visual Art Gallery at Malaysia.
- Singapore Art Museum.
- Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) and Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) at Brisbane, Australia.