

Petals of Nationalism



30th Aug -12th Sept

Afiq Sebari • Aimman Hafizal • Akif Azmi • Alisya Fahmi • Fadzril Fakaruddin • Fakhriq Zulkifli Fazrin Abd Rahman • Haziq Syawal • Fawwaz Shukri • Hidawati • Izwa Ahmad • Lim Soon Hock • Lim Tong Xin Liu Cheng Hua • Mark Lee • Najib Bamadhaj • Sanker Ganesh • Shahnaz Azlin • Stephen Menon • Syukur Rani Yuki Mun • Zulhilmi Fauzi • Zurin Shaari

On the evening of 31 August, a nation yet to be born held its breath. For centuries, the land of Malaya, blessed with abundant riches and resources, had be stripped of its freedom and dignity by foreign occupiers. However, a new age was on the horizon. It was to be an age where every Malayan would have the chance to decide their own fates, without a distant master to decide for them what their future was to be. As the Father of Independence himself, Tunku Abdul Rahman stepped up to the microphone, the words "Merdeka" were already resounding throughout the country.

Among the many symbols that represents the country today is the humble hibiscus, the national flower of Malaysia that is omnipresent in several other representations of the country. Its journey to becoming a national symbol was not an easy one, given that it had to compete with six other flowers, namely the ylang ylang, the jasmine, the magnolia, the lotus, the rose and the medlar. On the East Coast, the rose was favoured while those on the West Coast preferred the jasmine. Despite these opinions, an unlikely contender was the one to emerge victorious.

On 28 July, 1960, a final decision was made after careful deliberation. Tunku Abdul Rahman once more took to the stage to declare that the Hibiscus rosa-sinesis was to be the country's national flower. The decision was made based on the flower's symbolism. Its five prominent petals represented the five principles of the Rukun Negara. The vibrant scarlet colours made the flower stand out from afar, with its hues represented the courage and energy of the Malayan people. The hibiscus' crowning as the national flower of Malaya also meant that it would be endowed with a new name: Bunga Raya, with Raya meaning "grand" or "celebratory".

65 years have since passed that eventful day and now, Malaysia is a very different place from what the Malaya of 1957 used to be. It may be the same country, but it certainly faces different challenges. However, the hopes that this country is destined for greatness are ones that will never die as long as there are Malaysians left breathing. To remember where our journey started, 31 August is always celebrated as a day to give thanks for this beloved country of ours. For all its faults, it is still very much our home and it is always worth cherishing.

To mark this momentous occasion, Artas Galeri is proud to host an exhibition that features works celebrating this country's years of independence. Called "Petals of Nationalism".

Afiq Sebari



Toleransi

Paper collage and acrylic on canvas | 61 x 61cm | 2022 | MYR 760

Aimman Hafizal



Never Wake a Sleeping One

Acrylic on canvas | 61 x 61 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,300

Akif Azmi



Lima Kelopak

Fabric, polyester thread, acrylic and fabric dye on canvas | 61 x 61 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,000

Alisya Fahmi



The Red BloomOil on canvas | 60 x 60 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,200

Fadzril Fakaruddin



National Flower Pattern

charcoal, oil on canvas | 75 x 91cm | 2022 | MYR 2,160

Fakhriq Zulkifli



Hibiscuses After Sunflowers

Acrylic and Dermatograph Pencil on Canvas | 76 x 76cm | 2022 | MYR 1,800

Fawwaz Sukri



National Pride

Acrylic on canvas | 70 x 70 cm | 2022 | MYR 3,500

Fazrin Abd Rahman



The Only One

Spray paint, Collage on Aluminium strips | 61 x 61cm | 2022 | MYR 2,000

Haziq Syawal



Hibiscus and PigeonAcrylic on jute | 100 x 50 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,400

Hidawati Amin



65 Mekar Merdeka

Mix Media Discarded Textile collage | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 3,800

Izwa Ahmad



What We Do on Merdeka

Acrylic on canvas | 60 x 60 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,200

Lim Soon Hock



Hibiscus in MemoryInk on canvas | 61 x 91cm | 2022 | MYR 1,200

Lim Tong Xin



Romantic Tiger

Acrylic on canvas | 76.5 x 76.5cm | 2022 | MYR 1,800

Liu Cheng Hua



New EnergyAcrylic on aluminum | 90 x 60 cm | 2022 | MYR 4,200

Mark Lee



Jejak KelopakAcrylic on Canvas | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 5,000

Najib Ahmad Bamadhaj



Realign Nation

Acrylic on Jute | 92 x 92 cm | 2022 | MYR 9,000

Sanker Ganesh



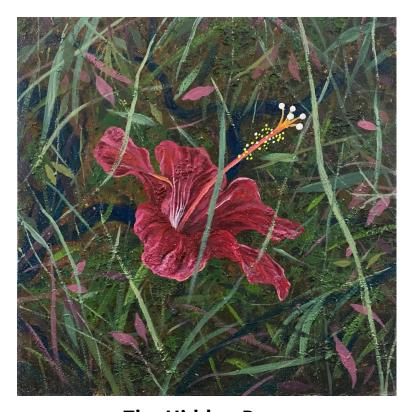
Entangled Flawless
Mixed media | 106 x 106 cm | 2019 | MYR 4,200

Sanker Ganesh



Portrait of Lady HibiscusOil on canvas | 91 x 91 cm | 2022 | MYR 3,200

Shahnaz Azlin



The Hidden Raya

Mixed media on canvas | 60 x 60 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,400

Stephen Menon



Color Blind

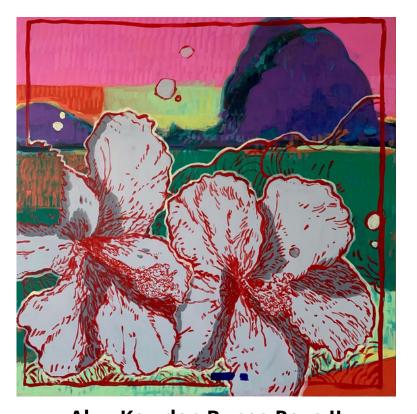
Collage & screenprint, oil on paper | 55 x 68 cm | 2022 | MYR 4,800

Syukur Rani



Aku, Kau dan Bunga Raya Acrylic on canvas | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,000

Syukur Rani



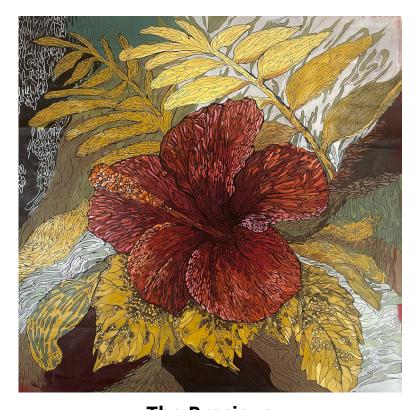
Aku, Kau dan Bunga Raya II Acrylic on canvas | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,000

Yuki Mun



The FutureAcrylic on canvas | 91.44 x 60.96 cm | 2022 | MYR 1,500

Zulhilmi Fauzi



The Precious

Acrylic on canvas | 91 x 91cm | 2022 | MYR 1,530

Zurin Shaari



Selamat Pagi Malaysia

Mixed on canvas | 71 x 71 cm | 2022 | MYR 3,600

Thank you Terima Kasih 谢谢 Nandri

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