

Petals of Nationalism



30th Aug -
12th Sept

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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 been 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 represent 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 representing 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”.



Toleransi

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



Never Wake a Sleeping One

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



Lima Kelopak

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



The Red Bloom

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



National Flower Pattern

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



Hibiscuses After Sunflowers

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



National Pride

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



The Only One

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



Hibiscus and Pigeon

Acrylic on jute | 100 x 50 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,400



65 Mekar Merdeka

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



What We Do on Merdeka

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



Hibiscus in Memory

Ink on canvas | 61 x 91cm | 2022 | MYR 1,200



Romantic Tiger

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



New Energy

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



Jejak Kelopak

Acrylic 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



Entangled Flawless

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



Portrait of Lady Hibiscus

Oil on canvas | 91 x 91 cm | 2022 | MYR 3,200



The Hidden Raya

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



Color Blind

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



Aku, Kau dan Bunga Raya

Acrylic on canvas | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,000



Aku, Kau dan Bunga Raya II

Acrylic on canvas | 90 x 90 cm | 2022 | MYR 2,000



The Future

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



The Precious

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



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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