

Art for Taste

SGFA & Mandarin Oriental

@ The Grill

The Art for Taste project, curated by Shalini Ganendra Fine Art, developed out of the appreciation for connoisseurship – for the palette, the visual and ofcourse, lifestyle. Reflecting the fluidity of sophistication, each work has been selected after detailed review or special commission.

All works are by Malaysian artists whose practices reflect technical expertise in various mediums with thoughtful narratives that speak to cultural identity and place. Most of the artists are award winners whose works are in institutional and individual collections, locally and internationally. All offer valuable placement in any collection.

We hope you enjoy the curated space providing art for your taste, as The Grill, Mandarin Oriental, provides gourmet for your palette.

Shalini Ganendra

ZAC LEE

Zac Lee's fluid strokes study sublime behaviors and relationships, presenting 'trace evidence' of cultural, societal and personal instincts and interactions. Objects and forms are metaphors for individual and community, often showing contemporary applications of traditional folklore and national iconography.

With a strong training in Chinese brush and traditional painting genres, Lee embraces experimentation in his growing contemporary practise, which includes painting, photography, silk screening and digital. He continues to engage with realism, abstraction, language and illustration to present psychological puzzles and make elegant social commentary.

Lee was awarded the Vermont Studio Fellowship in 1997, and the Three Shadows Residency , Beijing, in 2011. In 2014 he was a Finalist for the Sovereign Art Prize and again nominated in 2015.

With annual showings of work in Kuala Lumpur and New York, and inclusion in significant public and private collections, Lee is a valuable contemporary art participant.



Zac Lee, Reflections in Water, 2014, Oil on jute, 90 x 312 cm



Zac Lee, , Oil on jute, 183 x 183 cm

Zac Lee,

Oil on jute, 183 x 183 cm





Zac Lee, Under Dog, 2016 , Oil on jute, 60.96 cm x 243.84 cm



Zac Lee, Peace Maker, 2014, Oil on jute, 90 x 150 cm

ANNIKETYNI MADIAN

Anniketyni Madian has been practicing as a sculptor since 2008, working primarily with wood. She graduated from the University Teknologi Mara in 2009 with a B.A in Fine Art (Sculpture). Her works draw upon her Sarawakian heritage, embodying elements of Pua Kumbu textiles, traditionally woven by the Dayak women of Sarawak, used in rituals and ceremonies. Madian is also influenced by works of sculptors Reuben Margolin, Theo Jansen, Louise Nevelson, as well as engineers and architects.

The wooden sculptures are large but intimate; structured, yet organic; powerful, yet delicate. Her works, reference both ying and yang - to the tradition of women's weaving and presented in the wood carving medium that requires strength to master. Madian constructs all works herself.

She is a 2015 recipient of the prestigious Vermont Studio Fellowship and represents Malaysia in the Kohler International Bold Art Exhibition project 2016.

"My sculptures are the product of an intensely detailed process, representing an atmosphere of movement in static design."



Anniketyni Madian, Merawi, 2016 , Wood, 121.92 cm



Anniketyni Madian, Tali Keruing, 2016, Wood and black steel, 1.83 m x 25.4 cm x 25.4 cm



Anniketyni Madian, Kejawak V, 2016, Wood, 62 cm x 49 cm

ENRICO OYAMA (Japan, New York)

Enrico Oyama draws inspiration from the dynamic, flowing lines of graffiti culture to create abstract motifs which reference themes of spontaneity and expansion. Lines slash, spin and interlock, creating three dimension depth on the flat canvas. Oyama's works are entitled 'FFIGURATI'; a term which references graffiti as well as the Italian expression 'figurati', which literally translates to 'figure it out for yourself'.

Born in Tokyo to an Italian father and Japanese mother, Oyama grew up visiting North Italy every summer for more than two decades. The contrasting experiences of the metropolis and the quiet Italian countryside gave Oyama a unique perspective on the world, and it was whilst living in Italy from 2000-2001 that he developed an interest in graffiti culture. Upon his return to Japan, he established a style drawn from the visual language of graffiti culture which became established in the Tokyo underground art scene.

In 2015, Oyama was awarded the Prize for Excellence at the *Vision of Contemporary Art 2016* exhibition at the Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo. Oyama currently lives in New York, where he works actively as an artist, and as a critic of contemporary art and street culture.



*Enrico Oyama, FFIGURATI #128, 2016 , Acrylic-based aerosol and latex paint on canvas,
152.5 cm x 91.5 cm*



Enrico Oyama, FFIGURATI #130, 2016 , Acrylic-based aerosol and latex paint on canvas mounted on wood, 152.5 cm x 91.5 cm

LI SHUANG (China, France)

Li Shuang, the only woman to be an original member of the STAR Group of Chinese artists, (whose members included Ai Weiwei), paints a challenging personal and artistic journey. Raised in an educated family during the Cultural Revolution, Li began painting as a form of escapism whilst labouring in the countryside as a 'sent-down youth'. Her work has since fused Western aesthetic principles with Chinese artistic heritage.

In 1979, Li co-founded the STARS group, which consisted of a number of untrained, experimental artists who challenged the strictures of contemporary Chinese politics. The exhibitions they staged around Beijing were a precursor to the development of avant-garde art in China.

Li's personal journey took a dramatic turn in 1981, when she was imprisoned for her radical movement in art and politics, as well as her relationship with a French diplomat. This led to a political tension between China and France at the time. An agreement was later made between the two countries, and Li was released.

Li settled in Paris in 1984. She has taken part in numerous international exhibitions, including a tenth-year reunion of the STARS Group in Hong Kong in 1989, another STARS exhibition in Tokyo in 2000, and a retrospective exhibition in Beijing in 2007.

She has also exhibited worldwide and her works are regularly sold at auction by Sotheby's and Christie's.



Li Shuang, Quiet Afternoon, 2004 , Oil on linen, 89 cm x 116 cm

AGNES LAU

Agnes Lau is a mixed media artist and painter who draws material from the intersection of work and leisure. Like her artistic inspiration, David Hockney, Lau says she “tends to combine ‘play and serious in life,” experimenting with a variety of media including collage, print, and wire sculpture in addition to her preferred medium of paint.

The artist also recently began forays into experiments with text in art, and continues to challenge herself with new ideas. Working in ceramic, she has developed a technique of firing clay that references the traditional baking of ‘ikan bakar’ (burned fish), a local delicacy. The subtle grades of shading are due to controlled heat levels, and the structures, designs, shapes are developments of meditative processes.



Agnes Lau, Trace of Life IV, 2015 , Smoked firing ceramics on MDF board, 120 x 120 cm



Agnes Lau, Trace of Life VI, 2016, Smoked firing ceramics on MDF board, 91.4cm x 152.4cm



Agnes Lau, Trace of Life VII, 2016, Smoked firing ceramics on MDF board, 91.4cm x 152.4cm

FAUZUL YUSRI (Malaysia)

Fauzul Yusri graduated from UiTM with a Degree in Fine Art (Drawing) in 1999, and has since continued a promising career as an abstract artist.

He has shown both locally and internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include *Guris*, TAKSU Kuala Lumpur (2011) and *Play*, TAKSU Singapore (2009). His work has also appeared in group exhibitions such as *Imajan Malaysia*, Maybank Gallery, Kuala Lumpur (2002) and *Open Show*, Shah Alam Gallery (1999).



Fauzul Md Yusri, Cage Series, Mixed media on canvas, 123 cm x 188 cm

SHALINI GANENDRA FINE ART

Shalini Ganendra Fine Art's holistic approach to art representation and expertise in the contemporary art of Asian emerging regions has established the organisation's distinctive presence as a placemaker and advisor. Representing some of Malaysia's most promising talent, SGFA has developed exhibition and educational programming that promotes cultural encounter and engagement.

SGFA's award winning, purpose built Gallery Residence has been twice nominated for the Aga Khan Architecture Award, and was one of the first spaces to receive Malaysian Green Building Index (GBI) certification. The space plays host to the multi-disciplinary, presenting an eclectic range of art and design for contemporary collecting, including visual art, bespoke ceramic, jewelry and textile.

Advisory services include collection management, valuation, exhibition coordination and sourcing.

Educational and research programs led by SGFA are important facilitators of engagement and cross cultural development within and with South East Asia, and SGFA's VC Lecture Program contributions have just been published by UNESCO Observatory as its Arts in Asia issue.

SGFA is committed to Exhibition and Education, informing eye and collection – with **Quality Distinction**.

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