

THE CONTRIBUTOR'S PROFILE

contributor: claudia cannizzaro
 occupation: visual artist
 base: new york city
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Living with Works of Art

Visual artist Claudia Cannizzaro shares with us her works of art and her first experience living in Kuala Lumpur. Hailing from New York City, she is based in Petaling Jaya over the course of 2 months under the Vision Culture Residency programme, organized by Shalini Ganendra Fine Arts (SGFA).

Some of the interesting experiences I've had in Malaysia so far was a 2-hour long screening of all of Yasmin Ahmad's commercials, which provided me with a great inside view on Malaysian's national sentiment. One stunning artwork of Chinese Islamic calligraphy at the Museum of Islamic Art. I have never seen something like that; I was mesmerized at how harmoniously the two styles were combined, like they were always meant for each other. Ah, the food. Strictly street food. Forget about fancy restaurants in refrigerated shopping malls. All I want is to eat on wobbly tables under a tent on KL's sidewalks. You can learn a lot about a country from its food.

I am working on a site specific installation involving flower patterns based on the political map of Malaysia, which also incorporates words, a collection of adjectives and attributes Malaysians use to describe their country to me. This is week 3, of an 8 week residency: I can't explain too much about my current project yet, as the work is at its initial stage.

A typical day at the residency; I like to get up early, before the sun is up, have a long and quiet breakfast, and attend to some necessary business to keep my life back in NYC running (read: replying to emails, make phone calls.). Some days I only go out to nearby food stalls for teh tarik, lunch or dinner, mostly spending the day in the studio working, with the nice chance that someone may come by for a quick visit and a chat. Other days I brace up, take my guide, my sunglasses, a bottle of water, and always some paper to write down (no, I don't draw from life) and off I go to KL and see a museum, meet with new friends for a coffee, get lost trying to understand how to commute from one train line to another. Days are simple, and that is the way I like it. *L.M.*

