

2024
Community
Initiative

2024

art against AIDS

Grand winner of our art against AIDS 2023 - Muhammad Zaim Bin Kamaruzaman

karex

ONE®



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Special Thanks

World AIDS Day Theme 2024

"Take the Rights Path"

This year's World AIDS Day theme underscores that ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 is within reach—if we prioritize and protect everyone's human rights. Progress in the HIV response has been driven by upholding rights, empowering communities, and advancing gender equality. However, discrimination, stigma, and restrictive laws continue to obstruct access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care, particularly for marginalized communities.

"Take the Rights Path" calls for leaders and individuals alike to commit to an inclusive, rights-based approach, removing barriers and fostering a world of acceptance, respect, and support. Protecting everyone's rights is not just essential for ending AIDS but for ensuring sustainable health and security for all. This World AIDS Day, we reaffirm our collective responsibility to uphold human rights and forge a path to a future free of AIDS.



MK'S FOREWORD



Karex Berhad

Group Chief Executive Officer

Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and is an opportunity for people around the world to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have passed away from an AIDS-related illness. It is an important reminder to the public and governments that HIV has not gone away – there is still a critical need to raise money, improve awareness, fight prejudice and advance education.

Art Against AIDS (AAA) has served as our annual event in celebration of World AIDS Day which brings together talent from the local arts and design community to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS. We continue to work with university students and young artists to showcase their talent and in doing so, raise money for important causes. The increasing number and quality of the entries that we receive each year reflect the fact that the youth of today are willing to take up the challenge of bringing attention to the important issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS.

Since our first AAA event in 2016, we have raised over RM1 million from donations and auction proceeds. All of these funds have been channeled directly to HIV/AIDS related organisations that provide aid and support to those affected by HIV/AIDS. This includes the communities who have been infected as well as those facing discrimination from HIV/AIDS related stigma. We believe that AAA will continue to play a crucial role in bridging the divide between the youth and sexual health awareness. It is my pleasure to report that this year, we are partnering with two esteemed hospitality brands in Hard Rock and Hilton who share our vision to strive for a positive change.

As always, the beautiful artwork displayed will be sold for the purpose

of raising funds for the causes advocating for healthier changes in our local communities across the nation. We are fortunate to receive continued support from our partnering institutions which include the likes of the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and other universities, as well as emerging local artists. Promoting healthier conversations about sexual health encourages greater awareness and dissipates the prejudice that is most damaging for the communities at risk. Ultimately, it is not the disease that divides our communities – it is the stigma which tears us apart. We must continue to work together as a cohesive community if we expect to continue to take steps towards more positive change. Together we are ONE®.



AIDS Sustainable Development Goals

In fragile communities, people living with HIV (PLHIV) are often discriminated, marginalized and often ostracized due to their health status. Due to inequality and instability, this results in unique barriers in obtaining employment for an individual and wholly as a community. While there are traditional employment assistance programs that can provide some assistance, this may not be tailored for PLHIV who are often cast aside due to their medical and social needs. Concerns surrounding marginalized communities is directly correlated to ones mental health - raising a flag on long-term sustainability, family and social support.

A core principle towards the main sustainable development goals (SDG) HIV/AIDS response is that no one should be left behind. Ending the AIDS epidemic will require the determinants of health and vulnerability to be at the forefront of sustainable development efforts. The AIDS response has advanced the right to health, gender equality, human rights, employment and social protection. Together with the United Nations system, including UNAIDS – we strive towards SDG goals that are relevant to the AIDS response.



Global HIV/AIDS Data



New HIV infections
(all ages)

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
1M - 1.7M



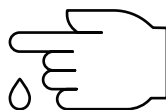
30.7M

People living with
HIV accessing antiretroviral
therapy (ART).

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
27M - 31.9M

People living with HIV
(all ages)

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
36.1M - 44.6M



88.4M

People have become
infected with HIV since
the start of the epidemic.

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
71.3M - 112.8M

AIDS-related deaths
(all ages)

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
500K - 820K



42.3M

People have died from AIDS-
related illnesses since the
start of the epidemic.

Lower Estimate - Upper Estimate:
35.7 M - 51.1M

Malaysia HIV/AIDS Data

34.7M Malaysia Population

69,589

People living with HIV (all ages)

5 Malaysians

are infected with HIV daily on average.

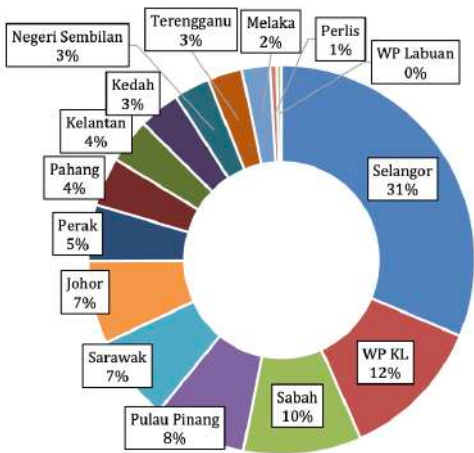
62,226

Malaysians have died due to HIV/AIDS – related diseases

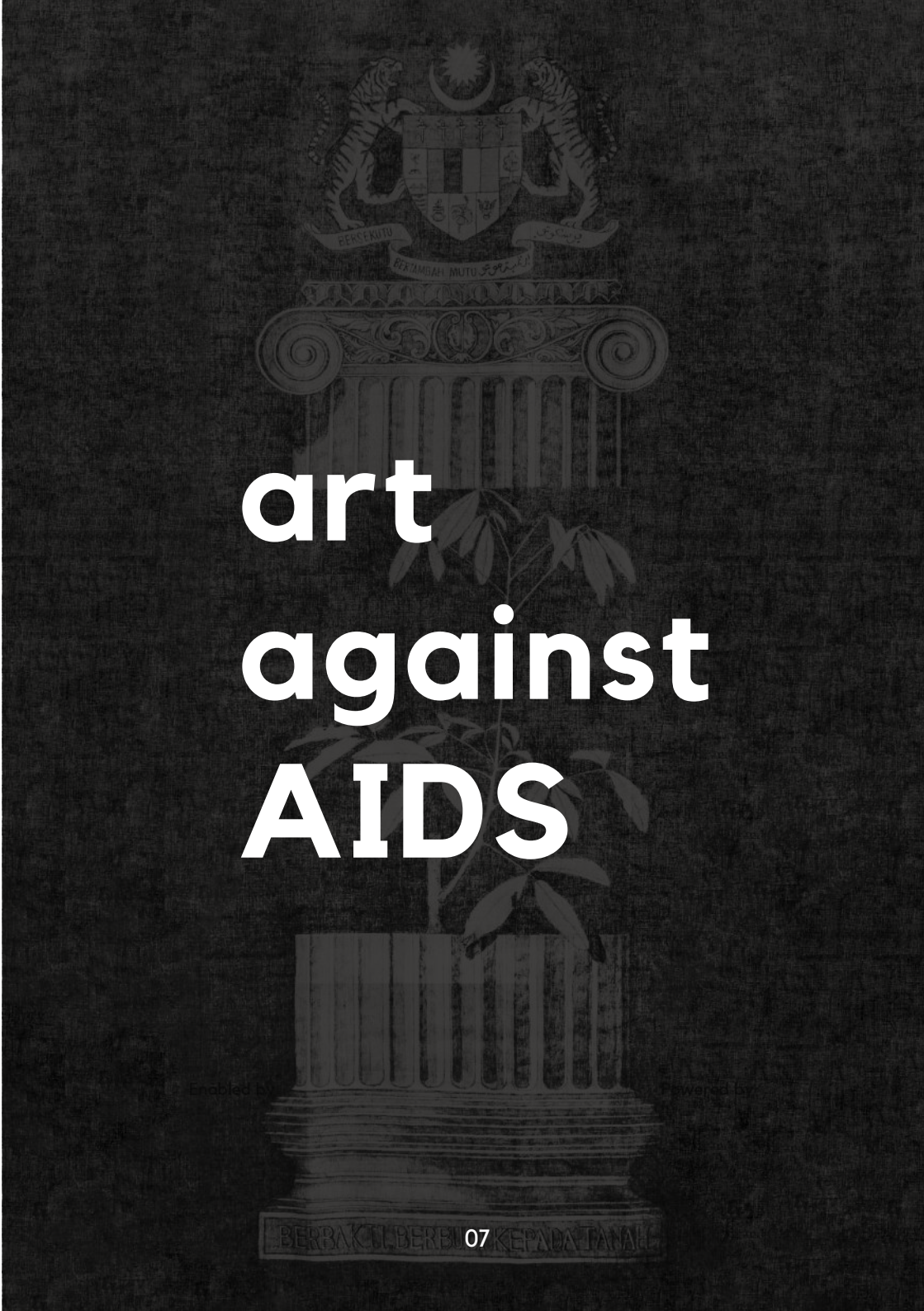
Every 4-5hrs

one new HIV infection takes place.

People living in HIV in Malaysia by state, 2022



Source: UNAIDS / The Global AIDS Monitoring Report 2023



art against AIDS

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Art Against AIDS Background and Mission



Karex takes great pride and delight in hosting another year of Art Against AIDS. As an annual fund raising charity event, as the worlds largest condom maker we strive in constantly finding innovative ways to combat the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS as well as other pertinent diseases surrounding taboo topics. As the leader is sexual wellness, we work hand-in-hand alongside NGO's, communities, youth groups, schools and corporations to bring highlight to ill-treated communities affected by not only HIV/AIDS but also homelessness, recovering patients, single parents' and medicinal schemes.

It has been almost 40-years since the HIV pandemic has raged Malaysia and we continue to have restrictions on essential health services due to disruptions on health workers distributions where they are needed most as well as other factors. As of 2022, 77% of new HIV cases have involved youths aged between 20 and 39 years old which have been apparent in almost 97% of new cases are contracted through unsafe sexual practices. With 3,177 new HIV cases in 2022, we are working collaboratively with the Ministry of Health Malaysia and the Malaysian AIDS Foundation to raise awareness and spearhead campaigns targeted at youth and the community.

We are committed to the innovation of condoms and sexual health; by doing so highlights the critical need for the education and prevention of new infections. As we have learned from both the HIV and COVID-19 pandemic is that health is our biggest asset, by having open conversations and discussions on sexual health issues enable partnerships which lead to fundraising being channeled to shelter homes, foundations and NGO's aiming at providing medicinal support scheme, drop-in centers providing better living conditions for those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS; together with our partners we ensure that proper medical care and treatments are provided.





Beneficiaries

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Malaysian AIDS Foundation & Malaysian AIDS Council

An umbrella organization who works closely with government and private sectors pertaining issues on HIV/AIDS to friends and family of PLHIV, general public and relevant authorities throughout the country. Malaysian AIDS Foundation is supported by the Malaysian AIDS Council - rendering support to protect the human rights of PLHIV in Malaysia who may suffer discrimination and provide financial assistance or such other form of support to bodies, organizations and institutions in carrying out activities and services of those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

Since 2021 Karex provides an annual aid of RM 200,000 every year in conjunction with the MAF fundraising gala.



SEED T-Home

SEED is the first transgender-led community-based organization. SEED provides a safe and nurturing space for transgender individuals to find support, resources, and a community that understands the complexities of legislation and policy as well as the public's perception on marginalized communities.

Officially registered in 2014, SEED was created to ensure the availability of support services, inclusivity and diversity. "Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives: Embracing Inclusion and Equity Together". Karex has provided support in order to enable a comfortable living condition including home appliances, furniture, standing fans, mattresses, bedding among others.

Rumah Solehah



Founded in 1998, Rumah Solehah with the support of the Ministry of Health has become a home for women and children seeking the protection and shelter to be given a second chance at life. Operating under the patronage of the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia, Rumah Solehah expanded into Rumah Solehah Kanak Kanak in 2002 to bring in children who are affected and infected by HIV.

Facilitated under the guidance and care of Matron Fadzilah, Rumah Solehah received a special mention and acknowledgement in the Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Special Mention Award in 2004 for its outstanding care and support in PLHIV at grass root level.

Community Healthcare Clinic

Community Health Care Clinic (CHCC) is a self-sustaining social enterprise from PT Foundation offering a variety of health screening and medical care. CHCC also offers counselling with therapists on a face-to-face appointment basis. All HIV and STI testing is done anonymously and open to all, regardless of nationality and resident status.

Medications may be obtained directly from doctors based at CHCC for various medical conditions where patients can get their tests done by using the state-of-the-art healthcare technology, providing same day results. To date Karex has supplied not only condoms but purchased 2 GeneXpert machines to enable same day test results at the cost of RM 260,000 and additional financial support.



MAF Sabah Health Access Programme, SHAPE

Run by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation under the partnership with Sunway Group and Yayasan PETRONAS, the Sabah Health Access Programme awards cash incentives to low-income patients diagnosed with HIV and other forms of chronic diseases to help cover the high cost of travelling and other logistic expenses related to their hospital appointment in town. The programme builds critical linkages between rural, low-income patients with the cutting-edge health services that are already available in major government healthcare facilities, but often out of reach due to structural issues such as poverty, challenging public infrastructure and even poor treatment literacy.

Since its launch in late 2018, SHAPE has evolved to not only support HIV patients, but also patients with other chronic illnesses such as paediatric illness, cancer, chronic diabetes, kidney failure, thalassemia and any other chronic illnesses recommended by the hospital. We have enabled medical assistance for low-income patients diagnosed with life threatening diseases. Low income patients often encounter challenges due to poverty, and other socio-infrastructural hurdles. We are proud to support the funds to ensure a fully operational center to provide aid to not only Sabahans but many marginalized communities in Borneo.



Klinik Kesihatan Malaysia



In efforts to combat infections of HIV and STI's, Karex has donated 700,000 condoms at the value of RM1.05 million to the Ministry of Health via Malaysian AIDS Foundation.

With the implementation of various preventative programs accompanied by distribution of condoms at clinics, the concept of "smart sharing" is adopted with a tripartite partnership. Our condoms will be distributed throughout 24 main clinics all over the country which will be allocated to high risk regions benefiting close to 40,000 clients.

SustainAIDS Programme

The primary focus is on People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the B40 category and homeless in order to help them cope with poverty and the pressures of discrimination, which often lead to a loss of hope.

10 shelter homes have been identified to be part of a Food and Essential Needs Assistance Programme aimed at supporting residents across Malaysia.



HIV Continuum Care (HCC) for People Living with HIV

Coordinated by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation - HIV Continuum Care (HCC) Centres for underprivileged and homeless PLHIV, particularly women and children, across Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak. These centres are operated by Partner Organisations who provide a safe and supportive environment where beneficiaries receive:

- Basic nursing and palliative care,
- Medical referrals,
- Psychosocial and spiritual support,
- Follow-up treatment to restore health to undetectable viral loads.

Maintaining these critical facilities, which require approximately RM1.3 million annually, is a significant challenge. The costs include maintenance, utility bills, caregiver and counsellor allowances, schooling, and food for residents.

Additionally, Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO) and various corporate agencies offer employment training and job placements, empowering residents to regain their economic independence. Our beneficiaries include the following:

- Pusat Jagaan Berkediaman Baitul Cakna
- Rumah Kasih Gayah Osman
- Rumah Kepatuhan Rawatan Karisma
- Casa Villa Komited Malaysia
- Casa Femina Komited Malaysia
- Casa Harapan Komited Malaysia
- Casa Vista Komited Malaysia
- Rumah Soleha – Women & Children
- Persatuan Kebajikan & Persekitaran Positif
- Pertubuhan Kebajikan HIV AIDS Katolik Pulau Pinang.





Initiatives & Outreach

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Art Against AIDS Background and Mission

A special pack with Hilton Hotels was curated to illustrate a strong stance to eradicate HIV and drive the awareness of the importance of health education. A total of over 12,000 packs were distributed to various locations across Malaysia for the benefit of Hilton employees and its guests.

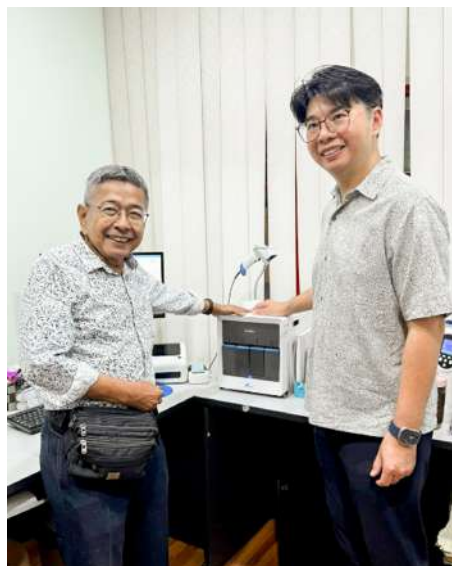
Locations:

Hilton Kuala Lumpur
Double Tree by Hilton Shah Alam
Double Tree by Hilton Putajaya
Double Tree by Hilton Penang
Double Tree by Hilton Kuala Lumpur
Hilton Kota Kinabalu
Hilton Kuching
Double Tree by Hilton Johor Bharu
Hilton Petaling Jaya
Double Tree by Hilton Melaka
Double Tree by Hilton Damai Laut

GeneXpert

Since 2019, the GeneXpert machine is a groundbreaking tool in molecular diagnostics, primarily used for rapid testing of infectious. Its key features include:

- **Rapid Detection:** Delivers results in about two hours, enabling prompt treatment and better patient outcomes.
- **Versatile Applications:** Initially designed for TB, it now tests for various pathogens, enhancing its utility across different conditions.
- **Point-of-Care Testing:** Compact and user-friendly, it allows for testing at the site of patient care, reducing the need for complex labs. By enhancing patient care and having a quick diagnosis will enable faster treatment ; crucial for contagious diseases which facilitates outbreak management and contact tracing.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Early diagnosis reduces long-term healthcare costs associated with untreated illnesses. To date over 10,000 clients have benefitted from this machine.



Department of Gynaecology, Hospital UPM

Hosted by the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of Hospital Pengajar UPM, our team participated in a sexual health engagement with samples being given out. Participants from this session included doctors and medical care personnel.



Basic contraception and gynecology update for primary care course with International Medical University, Universiti Putra Malaysia and KKM.



Asia Pacific University

In conjunction with Mental Health Month, we collaborated with PT Foundation to present the Art Against AIDS condom range, highlighting the connection between sexual health and mental health. This initiative opened up conversations aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination within the broader community.

A HIV talk took place while free screening was open to students. At our booth, students could participate in interactive games and spin a wheel to win small prizes, including sample condoms from the exclusive Art Against AIDS collection. This enabled a 'truth or myth' fact check for students to break the myth behind the stigma of HIV/AIDS.



Brickfields Asia College – Counselling for Change

Targeted primarily to BAC students and staff focusing on counselling and mental health awareness and therapy services, this campaign was aimed at empowering self awareness.

The event was held in conjunction with Mental Health Month to raise awareness surrounding mental health among students and the public.

The focal point of this revolved around sexual health and mental health. Together with PT Foundation participants were educated on the importance of these taboo topics. Information on sexual and mental health awareness were made accessible to participants.



HIV 101

Customised training on the management of HIV/AIDS at the workplace.



Hard Rock Hotel Penang - Jom Sorak!

The ultimate weekend celebrating Malaysian music! As an official partner of Art Against AIDS, Hard Rock Hotel Penang proudly hosted Jom Sorak! Music Festival in August to help raise funds for the Art Against AIDS initiative. Proceeds raised from the cover charges of the event will be channeled to the Art Against AIDS fund, providing aid and support with the Malaysian AIDS Foundation towards marginalized communities.

Funds raised throughout this partnership will be channeled wholly for the benefit or not only medical aid but also sustainable support. This event was supported by local artists including Zahid AF, Mimi Fly, Key Project, The Penneo, Sunset Boulevard and many more.





ONE[®] makes a DIFFArencence



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ONE® DESIGN CONTEST

For more than a decade, ONE® has held internal condom wrapper design contests for artists and advocates all over the world to spark condom conversations and express their views on sexual health. The public votes on the designs, and the winning designs appear on ONE®'s signature round wrappers.

Winners not only receive a cash prize and a year's supply of ONE® condoms personalised with their name and artwork, but they also have the option to donate up to 5,000 condoms to a charity or sponsor organisation of their choice.

Winners may also be featured on the ONE® website's Artist's page, where they can link to their portfolios and/or social media accounts.

The winner of the Community Pick is chosen by popular vote. After a public vote determines the top 100 designs, a panel of judges selects the Judges' Pick and eight Runners-Up, as well as additional favourites known as Staff Picks, chosen by ONE® staff members.

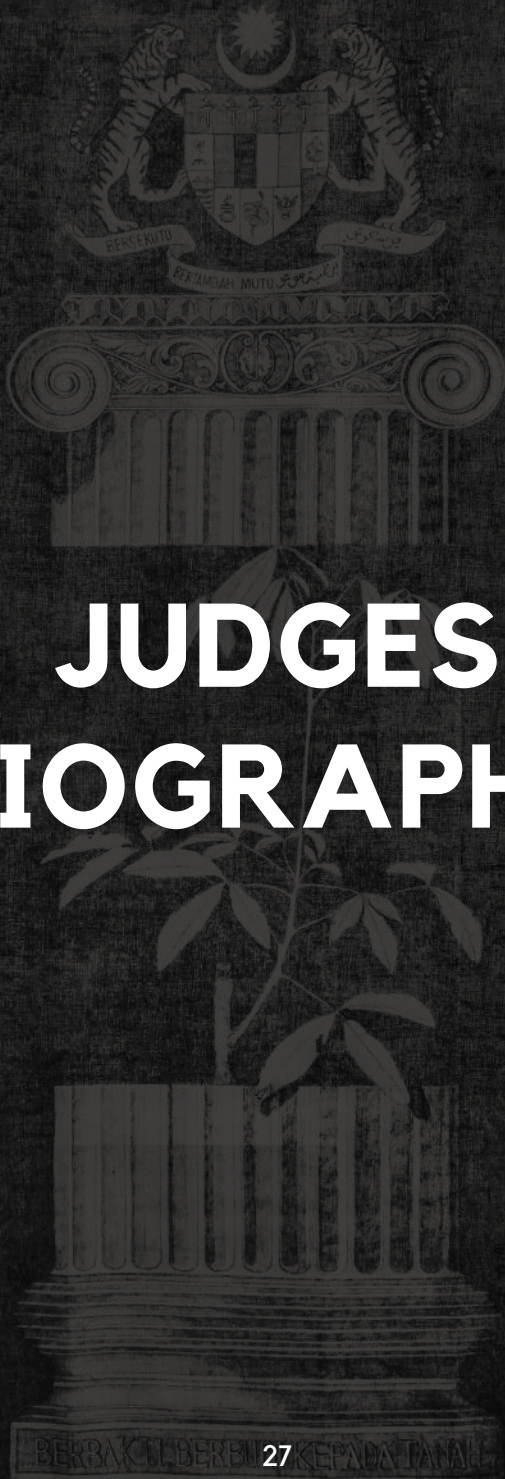


LUST FOR LIFE

ONE® collaborated with 22 well-known New York City street artists who wanted to use their talents to raise HIV awareness and promote safer sex.

The artists repurposed STOP signs into powerful works of art, the sale of which benefitted HIV education and outreach.





JUDGES BIOGRAPHY

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MK GOH

Karex Berhad

Group Chief Executive Officer

Goh Miah Kiat is the Chief Executive Officer of Karex Berhad, the World's Largest Condom Maker. He has been overseeing the expansion of Karex's manufacturing capacity and forays into the branded segment of the condom industry since the Group's listing on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad in 2013. Karex's expansion has been supplemented by an emphasis on innovation, which can be observed through its new product developments and unorthodox marketing strategies that have allowed it to venture into broader markets and undertake a series of bold brand acquisitions.

As a result, Karex presently exports to over 130 countries worldwide, and its rapidly growing own brand segment is enabling the group to move up the value chain and closer to its end users. MK was also named the winner of the prestigious EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 Malaysia award. Dubbed "Thee Condom King," MK and his wife, Jennifer, are avid art collectors.



MICHAEL SMEETON

Hard Rock Hotel Penang
General Manager

Michael Smeeton, the driving force behind the iconic Hard Rock Hotel Penang. Born and raised in Australia with an innate love for the industry, Michael's journey began "down under" where he honed his skills in hotel management and worked in a number of properties across the country.

In 2014, Michael left the hotel industry briefly to manage the Accommodation Division for the G20 on behalf of the Australian Government. Having completed this endeavour in 2015, Michael embarked on his most ambitious and fun project yet - teaming up with Hard Rock Hotel Penang, Malaysia where he continues to dedicate his knowledge and passion with his team.

Under Michael's leadership, the Hard Rock Hotel Penang aims to become synonymous with comfort & luxury, exceptional services, and unforgettable experiences. With his innovative vision and unwavering dedication, Michael continues to push the boundaries in hospitality, leaving an indelible mark on the industry for years to come.



BINGLEY SIM

**CIMB Investment
Bank Berhad**

Art Collector

Bingley Sim is an investment banker with CIMB Investment Bank Berhad and is currently heading the Private Client Solutions unit within the Private Banking Department. He is an independent director of a listed property developer and a member of the Listing Committee of Bursa Malaysia. In addition, he is a board member of the National Art Gallery, Malaysia.

Bingley started collecting art in 2004. His collection of Contemporary Malaysian Art focuses especially on emerging local painters and sculptors.

A well-known patron of the local art scene, Bingley is one of the founding members of the Malaysian Art Friends group (2009) and had been involved in many fundraising art activities. He is also one of the Patrons for Art Jakarta 2023, Bingley had curated in numerous art exhibitions on collecting Malaysian contemporary art. He has a passion for cooking and in 1994, co-wrote a book "How to Run Your Own Restaurant" (Kogan Page, UK). Bingley is also the founding President of One Piece Club, Malaysia.



DIANA KHOO

The Edge Malaysia
Executive Editor

Diana Khoo is an executive editor at The Edge Media Group and oversees Options, its luxury and lifestyle pullout, and its quarterly home and design magazine Haven. The Edge is one of Malaysia's leading newspapers and is widely acknowledged as its top financial and business weekly. The group also has a Singapore edition of the paper and recently celebrated 30 years in the industry, commemorating the occasion with the release of a new book titled Behind the Stories.

And while she and her husband Lyndon would not as date yet call themselves "collectors", they have begun acquiring a few pieces here and there, with a strong emphasis on buying Malaysian art, naturally.



ARTWORKS



MUHAMMAD SYAZWAN BIN ABD RAHIM

Pattern of Terrace II

Acrylic and Gel Ink Ballpoint Pen on Canvas
4 ft (w) x 5 ft (h)

Malaysia sememangnya terkenal dengan iklim khatulistiwa yang mempengaruhi keadaan bentuk muka bumi berbukit-bukau serta tanah yang subur. Ia amat sesuai untuk aktiviti pertanian seperti penanaman pokok getah. Sehingga kini, permintaan terhadap hasil getah semakin meningkat.

Antara cabang pengeluaran dari hasil getah adalah melalui penghasilan tikar getah. Dalam karya ini, saya menggabungkan elemen-elemen corak, bentuk, ruang, dan garisan melalui penghasilan struktur bentuk muka bumi di mana pokok getah itu ditanam. Gabungan elemen organik dan geometri ini secara tidak langsung menghasilkan sebuah motif yang menarik.



NOOR ATHIRAH BT MD GHAZALI @ MOHD AZLEE

Hold Me Tight

*Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
2 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)*

This painting, entitled "Hold Me Tight", depicts a strong emotional bond between a child and parent, symbolized by their hands tied together with a rubber band. The artist portrays her own daughter bound by rubber bands, reflecting the child's steadfast attachment despite separation, and illustrating their resilience and ability to rebound, much like the band.

The artist uses this as a metaphor for the strength and support required in parenting. Parenthood demands love, affection, and a secure environment, with equal responsibility from both parents. If these responsibilities cannot be met, contraception becomes crucial to prevent child neglect and protect innocent lives.



MOHAMAD HANIF HAFIZ BIN MD SHAMLAN

A Palette Full of You: Plastic

Acrylic on Paper
2.6 ft (w) x 2 ft (h)

Memories, an event of the past, is an intriguing subject for the artist, as memories, being parts of the artist's life experiences, often become blurry and distant. While living in the this sort of "plastic" superficial world, bit by bit, the artist realizes how much changes have occurred in regards to his interest and world view. Thus, the artist spends time painting color

upon color and line upon lines whilst reflecting and reminiscing memories of the past, trying to re-imagine the distant "you" which once was himself. And just like acrylic, a polymer which is vibrant and unfazed with time, the artist hopes that part of himself would stay the same.



MOHAMAD FIRDAUS BIN MD YUSOF

P Versus NP

Mix Media (Plywood Acrylic and Industrial Paint On)
4.5 ft (w) x 5.5 ft (h)

This work explores modern existence's fragmentation, where intersecting realities influence each other in unexpected ways. Using a puzzle-like structure, I represent the complexity of identity, memory, and societal narratives. Animals such as horses, falcons, and cats symbolize freedom, power, and domesticity, creating a contrast with industrial structures that evoke confinement.

Color variations emphasize the tension between natural and man-made environments. Inspired by the P vs NP question, my art reflects on problem-solving and creativity, celebrating the beauty and complexity found in unresolved spaces.



IZZUL NAIM BIN IRWAN SUHARDI

One on One

Acrylic, Bitumen and Charcoal on Canvas
4 ft (w) x 5 ft (h)

This artwork is titled "One on One". "One on One" is a traditional activity among basketball players, often played after training or at the end of a casual game on the court. In this game, one player challenges another to a one-on-one match to see who is stronger. The player who wins is called the 'king of the court' and continues to battle other challengers until they are defeated.

In this artwork, I aim to capture the intensity of the competition and the dynamic movement of the players using aggressive lines and brush strokes. I also use bright colors to convey the spirit and energy of the players. The piece depicts two figures engaged in a one-on-one battle on the court.



LEE WEI HENG

Their Story

Oil on Canvas
5.6 ft (w) x 5.6 ft (h)

This artwork adopts a diamond-shaped composition, a shape commonly used when writing blessings during Chinese New Year. The inspiration for this piece comes from the stories of my ancestors. In their time, the rooster played a significant role in their lives; it wasn't just an alarm clock, but also a source of food and an offering to the gods.

That's why I placed it at the center of the painting. Additionally, my great-grandfather, grandfather, and grandmother were all rubber tappers, but in the painting, they are depicted in the form of memorial portraits, signifying that they have passed away. However, their experience of tapping rubber has become a part of history.



KUGANESWARY RAMESH

Memories in Motion

Acrylic on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This painting reflects how my childhood memories may still hold a special place in my heart while they may blur over time. The grayscale child represents how parts of my past feel distant, much like the way memories fade, yet remain resilient like a stretched rubber band able to bend but not break. The vibrant toys symbolize the joy and excitement I remember so clearly, moments that remain vivid despite

the passage of time. Mickey Mouse, a character I cherished growing up, adds a personal touch, representing how some things from childhood like laughter, playfulness, and beloved icons stay with me, reminding me that the happiness I experienced back then never truly fades.



AHMAD AMIRUL BIN MUHAMMAD NOOR

Utopia

Charcoal, Acrylic on Raw Canvas
6 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

This artwork explores the character of rubber, representing both its natural origins and its transformation into an industrial material. Wavy, organic lines depict tree roots, symbolizing the beginnings of growth and vitality. These roots reflect life's dependence on the natural world, much like rubber plants draw strength from it.

The twisting and stretching forms convey rubber's flexibility, paralleling life's adaptability. Interlocking circles represent vulcanization, serving as a metaphor for how life's adversities shape and strengthen us. 'Utopia' envisions a perfect world where industry, life, and the natural environment coexist and thrive together.



AMIRUL AZANI BIN IBRAHIM

Colonial Rings: Scars of the Rubber Empire

Acrylic on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

This artwork symbolizes the deep rooted history of Malaysia's rubber plantations, reflecting the cyclical nature of exploitation, growth, and transformation. The concentric circles mimic the tapping scars on rubber trees, while the intricate patterns represent the bloodlines of laborers who shaped the industry.

The blend of vibrant greens signifies the promise of the land, while the muted grays and emerging colors portray the complex legacies of colonialism, industrialization, and local resilience. The layered textures evoke the passage of time, encapsulating both the exploitation and regeneration embedded in Malaysia's rubber trade history.



AIMAN ASYRAN BINTI AZIZUL RAHMAN

Healing in Bloom

Transfer Image, Bronze and Gold
4 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

This artwork reflects my personal journey of healing and protection as a woman. The botanical elements represent nature's power to guard and nurture, just as "getah" (rubber) offers safety. After facing the dark experience of black magic from a rejected suitor, I found strength and refuge in nature's embrace.

The flowers and leaves symbolize resilience, while the human face emerging from the flora expresses a woman's growth and empowerment. This piece captures the power of nature as both a healer and a protector in the face of adversity.



SYAFIQ HARIZ BIN MOHAMAD SAKOR

Whispers of the Wild

Medium-density Fiberboard, Aluminum Composite
3 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

This artwork explores the theme of "Rubber" through a vibrant and abstract visual language, utilizing medium-density fiberboard and aluminum composite. The layered composition and bold colors capture rubber's fluidity, adaptability, and significance in our lives.

The flowing shapes symbolize rubber's versatility, reflecting its ability to stretch, conform, and rebound. The piece highlights the transformation of rubber from a raw material to an essential product, celebrating its soft yet strong nature. It invites viewers to reconsider the materials that shape our everyday experiences and the world around us.



MUHAMAD SHAHRUL BIN NORMAN

Ring of Life

Acrylic on Canvas

2.5 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

The work I produce is based on my experience of living in an area that prioritizes agriculture as a source of life. In my art, I aim to capture the beauty of natural shapes and lines found in selected objects. My work draws from the concept of tree rings, or dendrochronology, as a living record produced by trees, symbolizing age and growth.

Tree rings remind me that everything in this world is mutually dependent. Growth, in turn, reminds me of maturity. It also brings awareness of both the good and the bad in life. As I grow older, this awareness encourages me to improve each day and give my best, especially when opportunities arise.



INEZ ATHIRA ZAINAL

What if Undergarments Look Like This?

Acrylic paint & Marker pen on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This piece of art blends imagery of ripped, holey, delicate, and shredded undergarments, emphasizing their elastic qualities and drawn from the artist's imagination. The resulting form is a product of the artist's process and exploration.

At times, we spend the year wearing the same items, which can become overstretched, oversized, and loose. The colors chosen stem from careful processing and observation, giving this abstract expressionist painting a strong, contrasting appearance.



MUHAMMAD HAFIDZ ZIN BIN JAIMIS

A Solemn Promise

Graphite on Paper
1.74 ft (w) x 2.13 ft (h)

This artwork depicts a series of hands reaching out in various directions, intricately intertwined and enveloping a small, solitary plant at the center. The hands seem to nurture and protect the plant, symbolizing themes of growth, unity, and the collective effort essential for nurturing one of Malaysia's primary economic resources, "Getah".

Through detailed shading and dynamic composition, the piece creates a sense of depth and movement, inviting viewers to thoughtfully explore the connection between human support and natural growth.



OW ZI HAN

Subtle Disquiet

Acrylic on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

The artwork reflects life's decisions as a balance between control and chance, much like Malaysia's rubber industry must balance growth with sustainability. The claw machine symbolizes the unpredictability of choices, mirroring the careful precision required in rubber tapping. Tangled yarns represent the complexity of life's various paths, where each decision impacts emotions and the environment.

This painting captures the intricacies of decision-making on our life journey, emphasizing the interplay between nature, choices, and their consequences. It highlights how our decisions shape our paths and define our experiences.



MEOR SAIFULAH LULAED BIN MEYOR SAMSUDIN

Great Landscape (Bagai Getah Dibawa Ke Semak)

Mixed Media: Print Digital on Tarpaulin, Acrylic
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

Great Landscape (Bagai Getah Dibawa Ke Semak) adalah sebuah karya yang diilhamkan daripada peribahasa Melayu yang bermaksud seseorang yang melakukan sesuatu dengan sia-sia atau tidak mencapai hasil yang diinginkan. Dalam konteks ini, saya cuba memvisualkan "getah" (lanskap pokok getah) sebagai bahan yang biasanya digunakan untuk membuat barangan bermanfaat,

tetapi apabila "dibawa ke semak," seperti lalang, ia tidak dapat dimanfaatkan dengan baik. Dalam karya ini, saya menceritakan tentang aspek kehidupan atau situasi di mana perkara yang bernilai disia-siakan walaupun mempunyai potensi untuk kebaikan.



CHUI CHAN XIN

The Hourglass

Acrylic on Canvas

3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This artwork features a melting face within an hourglass, symbolizing the erosion of life over time. The flowing paint captures time's dynamic nature, while the deformation of the face reflects the elasticity of rubber—showing that time not only impacts our existence but also compels us to adapt and transform continuously.

The stretchability of rubber symbolizes how time shapes and alters our state, illustrating the way time molds our lives.



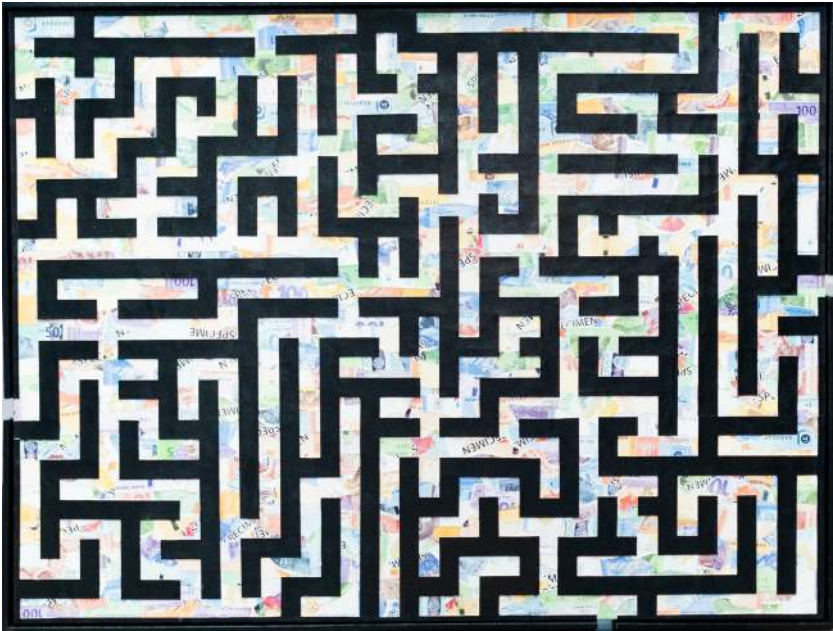
TAN YI XING

Heritage and Continuity

Oil on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This artwork showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Chinese community in Malaysia. Depicted are numerous storefronts in Malacca's Chinatown, each labeled with a "Clan Name (堂号)", symbolizing the diverse surnames and origins of Malaysian Chinese.

In some areas, the precious culture left by their ancestors has faded, and I wanted to document it. I also aimed to show how the community supports and protects this heritage like resilient rubber, enabling it to thrive in an ever-changing environment.



AHMAD AFIQ BIN MD SEBARI

Landasan Drama: Our Playground

Acrylic, Printed Paper and Cut Out Boxboard Collage
4 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

The work "Landasan Drama: Our Playground" is inspired by my nostalgic childhood memories of playing hide and seek with friends in a rubber plantation. I remember Pakcik Ji, the rubber tapper who felt like a second father to us. While we searched for "Rizqi" among the rubber trees, he sought his own "rezeki" in the form of rubber sap.

The plantation was our playground, a maze we explored under Pakcik Ji's watchful guidance. I capture the simplicity and bond between a boy and his mentor, while also highlighting the importance of the rubber industry. Through helping Pakcik Ji collect rubber cups, he not only paid us small wages but also taught us the value of hard work and determination.



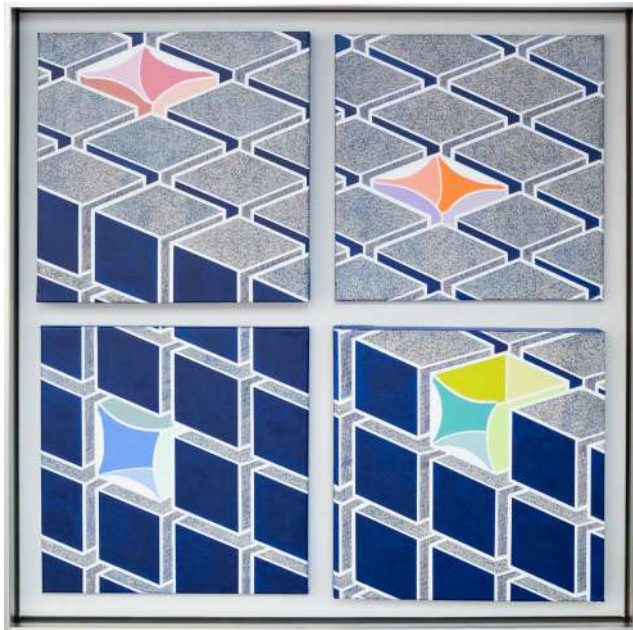
AIMAN ANAQI BIN ABU YAZID

Kau Ada dan Kau Tak Hilang

Acrylic and Oil Paint on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 6.5 ft (h)

In my artwork, I explore the complex dynamics of valuing a woman's presence in a man's life through the metaphor of a rose and a bull within a chaotic kitchen setting. The rose symbolizes femininity—delicate yet resilient—embodying beauty and grace amidst the disorder of the kitchen.

The rose represents a woman navigating life with both tenderness and strength, despite materialistic pressures within the home. The bull, conversely, symbolizes masculinity. In this context, rubber serves as a metaphor for flexibility and resilience in the relationship between a woman and a man, reflecting their mutual ability to adapt to challenges.



AININ SOFIYA BINTI FADLI

Alam Lentur

Acrylic on Canvas

3.1 ft (w) x 3.1 ft (h)

"Alam Lentur" highlights the balance between structure and fluidity, emphasizing stability, adaptability, and strength in mental well-being. It explores the theme of emotional resilience, using rubber as a metaphor for the ability to bend and bounce back. A grid of cubes symbolizes these emotions.

The cubes are distorted, showing how emotions adapt to external pressures while maintaining a core structure. As a contrast, I have incorporated scribbles that represent the unrefined, less structured side of emotions. These scribbles create a safe haven where adapting emotions harmonize with the environment's "climate".



ANUAR RIDZUAN BIN ARSHAD

Bend but Not Broken

Batik Collage
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

With a history spanning a millennium, batik has endured thanks to its resilience. Using molten wax to create intricate patterns, the batik-making process embodies flexibility and adaptability, allowing it to evolve with trends and time. In this artwork, batik is crafted using canting, brushes, and alternative methods to create modern patterns.

Aligned with the theme, batik and rubber share a long history in our country. Once highly valued for their unique qualities, their popularity declined with the introduction of new materials. Recently, however, there has been a resurgence of both rubber and batik in our culture due to their irreplaceable distinctiveness. We now bear the responsibility of preserving them as essential parts of our heritage.



AZAIKMAL BIN AHMAD RASHID

Cosmic Collision

Mix Media on Canvas

4 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This abstract painting offers a vivid exploration of color, shape, and movement, featuring a collection of swirling, organic forms in vibrant hues. These shapes, seemingly floating across the canvas, create a dynamic interplay of overlapping blobs, flowing lines, and layered textures.

The work stands as a strong visual statement on its own, yet the incorporation of rubber elements into this abstract composition adds an innovative tactile dimension. Rubber, with its unique physical properties, allows for added texture, depth, and contrast, transforming the piece into a multi-sensory experience.



JULIA BINTI AZHARIM

Hope in Bloom

Mix Media on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

My artwork takes inspiration from the theme of GETAH as a symbol of strength, flexibility, and resilience. Just as rubber stretches and adapts, life has the power to overcome challenges and grow. The intertwined plants and flowers in my piece represent this resilience, while the bright, colorful background reflects hope and renewal.

Through this artwork, I want to remind people of the beauty in staying strong and flexible, no matter what life brings. It's a celebration of endurance and a simple yet powerful message of never giving up.



LEONG SOK YENG

A Box of Childhood Memories

Acrylic on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 3.8 ft (h)

"A Box of Childhood Memories" captures how rubber products shaped childhood experiences. From pacifiers and rubber-soled shoes to balls, bicycle tires, erasers, and skipping ropes, each item symbolizes growth, play, and comfort. Rubber nurtured us from infancy, providing safety and support as we learned, explored, and played.

The artwork highlights rubber's quiet role in guiding us—through every step, every game, and every mistake erased. It's a tribute to the small, often-overlooked objects that shaped our early years, evoking nostalgia for the joy and freedom of childhood.



LEE REN XIN

Beaconed Bamboo

Oil and Bitumen on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 5 ft (h)

"Beaconed Bamboo" explores the intersection of city construction and the environment, focusing on bamboo scaffolding as a traditional yet essential element in urban building. Bamboo serves as a symbol of growth and adaptation within the city's constantly evolving landscape.

The piece also draws a connection to getah (rubber): just as rubber is essential across modern industries, bamboo scaffolding is fundamental to construction. This artwork highlights how both materials, though distinct, play vital roles in shaping our cities.



MUHAMMAD YASIR BIN ISMAIL

Origin of Delight

Woodcut and Oil on Canvas
4 ft (w) x 2.7 ft (h)

This artwork features two contrasting sides that complement each other, representing the journey from origin to final product. A fence divides these two scenes. In the foreground, a vibrant flower symbolizes the pleasure and happiness experienced by rubber consumers. This side depicts moments of satisfaction—from the comfort of walking in quality shoes to the smile on a child's face while playing with balloons.

In contrast, the monochrome background of the rubber plantation symbolizes the origin of these joyful experiences. Through this painting, I aim to honor the source of rubber and acknowledge its foundational role in these everyday pleasures.



HOH SENN YIE

Silent Strength

Acrylic on Canvas
2 ft (w) x 2.31 ft (h)

This artwork represents a fresh start—a moment of breaking free from limitations that once held me back. The central figure, a white tiger, symbolizes something rare and extraordinary. Its white fur lends an air of mystery, embodying inner strength paired with calm resilience. The tiger's presence is a blend of wildness and tranquility, strength and softness.

Despite its natural ferocity, the tiger coexists peacefully with the gentler aspects of nature, symbolizing a harmonious balance. The artwork serves as a meditation on balance, reflecting how rare beauty and everyday life can converge to create something truly powerful and serene.



MUHAMMAD HAKEEM HAZMAN BIN MAZRUL HAZMAN

A New Humanity

Acrylic and Ink on Canvas
2 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

"The New Humanity" is a commentary on human evolution in an era dominated by plastic. It features three human-like figures and a distorted flag to symbolize society's entanglement with plastic—not only as a material but as a defining aspect of modern life.

The piece reflects the environmental, societal, and personal implications of the plastic age while envisioning a future where humans and plastic are inseparable. Overall, this artwork serves as a powerful visual representation of the plastic era, where waste has become an inseparable part of modern life. It challenges viewers to consider the environmental and societal impacts of plastic in modernity.



MUHAMMAD NABIL BIN NAZRI

Secebis

Mixed media on Canvas

1 ft (w) x 1.37 ft (h)

This artwork captures the beauty and chaos of life, blending texture and line to convey deep meaning. Set against a colorful background, the piece reflects the diversity and dynamics of Malaysian society. Black rubber, used as the central element, creates a striking visual contrast, symbolizing certain social issues within society.

The rough texture of the black rubber adds depth and tension, while the spiral lines represent the cycle of life and individual choices. The contrast between the black rubber and the vibrant background symbolizes the tension between good and bad.



WAN IQMAHL HISHAM BIN WAN HAMZAH

Flies the Composer

Acrylic on Board
3.5 ft (w) x 3.5 ft (h)

This artwork illustrates the complementary relationship between creatures and nature. Nature continuously transforms and renews itself; from rotting carcasses to fecal matter, flies and their larvae break down decomposing organic material into fundamental elements. Through this process, the digestive excrement of flies is returned as nutrient-rich manure to the soil.

Metaphorically, the artwork highlights the overlooked beauty of creatures like flies. The contrasting use of vibrant and muted colors reflects the nature of flies—often viewed as dirty yet vital to the ecosystem.



SITI NUR ZULAIKHA BINTI MD GHAZALI

SIFAT I & II

Mixed Media on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

The "Bandingan" traits of humans, depicted through floating mouths in the sky, symbolize spiritual neglect arising from an obsession with worldly desires, resulting in a disconnection from the greatness of God. This neglect is likened to being "more despicable than animals," as referenced in Surah Al-Araf 7:179, underscoring a lack of mindfulness and awareness.

The concept of "carcass in a negligent world" serves as a metaphor for the deterioration of societal values, where significant principles are abandoned in favor of superficial pursuits. Embracing positive thinking, however, enriches individual lives and strengthens the community, aligning with a holistic vision of growth for this world and the hereafter.



CHUI CHAN XIN

Silent Contributions

Oil Painting on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This painting portrays a Malaysian female "penoreh" resting after a long day's work, symbolizing her vital yet often underappreciated contribution to the nation's economy. At the center, she sits massaging her tired feet, reflecting the hardships of manual labor. Her red scarf symbolizes strength and determination.

Beside her lies a pisau toreh getah, and in the corner, a bucket of freshly collected latex showcases the fruits of her labor. Together, these elements honor her work and its essential role in sustaining Malaysia's rubber industry and prosperity.



EUGENE NANDAKUMAR NADARAJAN

Resilience and Ruin

Mixed Media on Hemp Fabric (Hand Drawn, Resin, Bitum)
2 ft (w) x 5.5 ft (h)

In this piece, I explore rubber as a symbol of industrialization and its impact on the natural world. Once celebrated as a marker of progress, rubber now embodies the tension between human advancement and environmental harm. Created on sackcloth—a material symbolizing nature's rawness—it contrasts with synthetic rubber and resin.

Encasing hand-drawn endangered animals in resin, I emphasize their fragile state under human influence. The resin, like rubber, preserves yet entraps life, reflecting the delicate balance between preservation and destruction. This work invites reflection on our material choices and the urgency of ecological sustainability to protect vulnerable species.



GOH YEE ERN

Curiosity

Oil Pastel on Canvas
3 ft (w) x 4 ft (h)

This artwork features a melting face within an hourglass, symbolizing the erosion of life over time. The flowing paint captures time's dynamic nature, while the deformation of the face reflects the elasticity of rubber—showing that time not only impacts our existence but also compels us to adapt and transform.

The stretchability of rubber symbolizes how time shapes and alters our state, illustrating the ways in which time molds our lives.



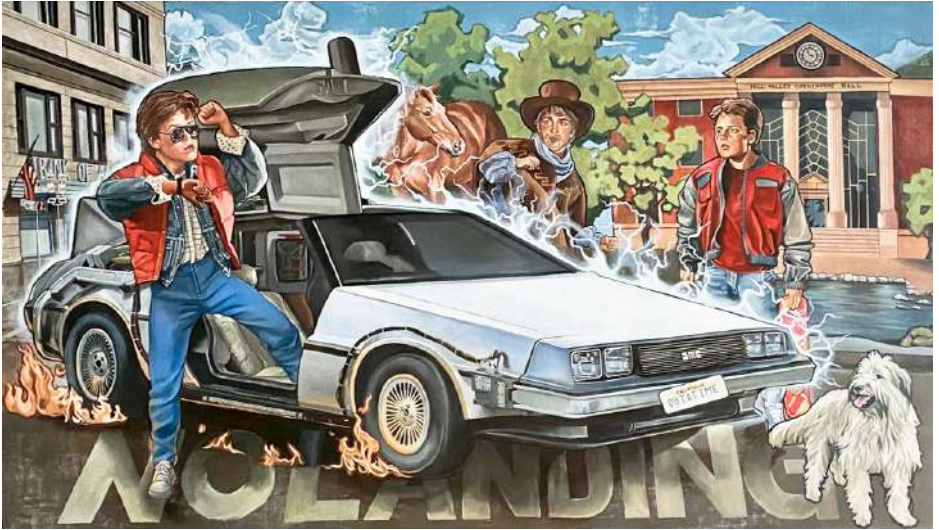
NOR SYAZWANI BINTI ABDUL RASHID

The Jungle Nursery II

Pencil on Paper
2 ft (w) x 2.6 ft (h)

Despite government promises to improve education and create opportunities, Malaysian graduates continue to struggle to secure well-paying jobs. Conflicting labor policies, which alternate between protecting local talent and promoting foreign worker influx, create confusion and instability.

While there are calls to prioritize local talent and ensure job placements for graduates, policies are frequently adjusted to admit more foreign labor, fostering a sense of inconsistency and economic uncertainty. These promises surpass public expectations, stretching belief like an overextended rubber band—eventually snapping back into public disillusionment and unrest.



SITI NORAZIZAH BINTI MOHD HASHIM

This is Heavy

Oil Painting
4 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

Inspired by *Back to the Future*, this painting delves into the surreal intersection of timelines. Marty McFly steps out of his DeLorean, startled as he encounters his great-grandfather from the past and his son from the future. The composition captures the emotional weight of being present with loved ones from different eras, evoking wonder and reflection.

Einstein the dog watches, confused yet content, symbolizing the mystery of time. This artwork contemplates the fluidity of time and the profound impact of connecting with those who have lived before us and those yet to come.



NOR SYAZWANI BINTI ABDUL RASHID

The Jungle Nursery

Mixed Media on Canvas

2.5 ft (w) x 3 ft (h)

Malaysian graduates face significant challenges in securing well-paying jobs despite government promises to improve education and expand opportunities. The government's inconsistent labor policies—alternating between protecting local talent and increasing foreign worker inflow—have created confusion and instability.

While there are calls to prioritize local talent and support graduate employment, policies are frequently adjusted to admit more foreign workers, fostering a sense of inconsistency and economic insecurity. These promises stretch public expectations, much like an overstretched rubber band that ultimately snaps back, leading to public disappointment and unrest.

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- Bingley Sim
- Diana Khoo
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