



RIGHT BY YOU



2021  
**UOB**  
Painting  
of the Year

Of Imagination and Ingenuity



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## Of Imagination and Ingenuity

### Message from the CEO

Sometimes a little peace and quiet help us to rest and recharge, but that does not mean we should detach away from it all. This is the message from this year's winning Painting of the Year, Walk in Silence, Don't Walk Away in Silence, where the artist was inspired by the juxtaposition of the absence of sound while self-isolating during the pandemic.


We organise the UOB Painting of the Year as an annual competition to uncover homegrown talents and give them the opportunity to showcase their skills across the region. Despite the challenges we currently face, we saw many talented artists continue to persevere and rise to the occasion by taking the learnings from the pandemic as a source of inspiration for their works.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our winners and thank them for sharing their craft and talent with us through the UOB Painting of the Year competition. My special thanks also go to our distinguished panel of judges for making time despite their busy schedules to evaluate and select the winning art pieces.

I am certain that you will be as impressed as I am, at the quality and mastery of the winning artworks that tell a multitude of stories, including those of hope, strength, resilience and overcoming adversity.

**Mr Wong Kim Choong**  
Chief Executive Officer  
UOB Malaysia





2021 UOB Painting of the Year

**MALAYSIA**

Established Artist Category



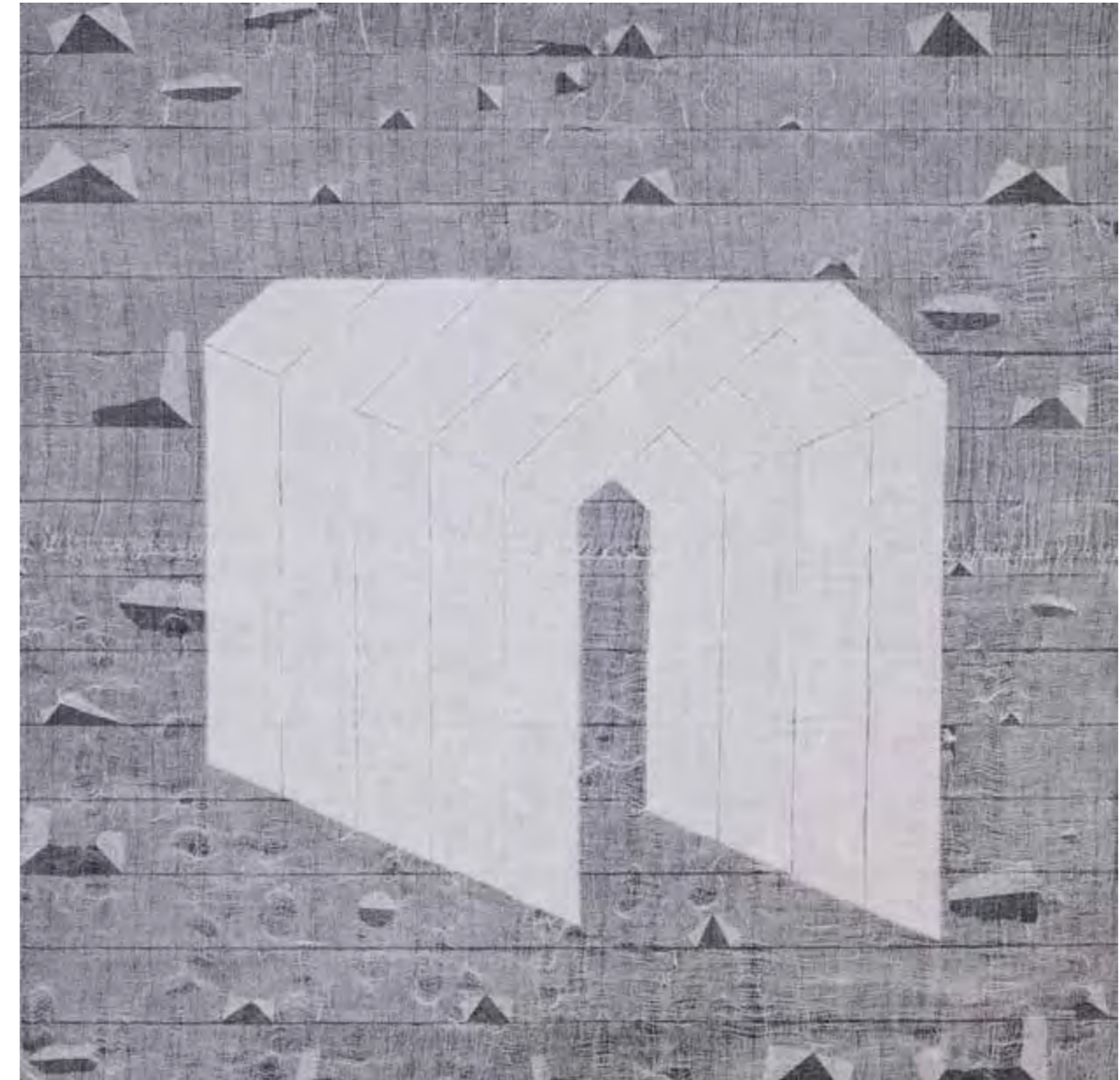
2021 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) Award Winner

Artist: Saiful Razman  
Title: *Walk in Silence, Don't Walk Away in Silence*  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
(Rolled tissue paper, medical gauze, polyvinyl adhesive, polycrylic medium and acrylic)  
Size (cm): 150 x 150

*Walk in Silence, Don't Walk Away in Silence* was created during the COVID-19 pandemic and inspired by the absence of sound, quietness and serenity of self-isolation. The artist experimented with thin rolled tissue paper and gauze that resulted in ethereal, opaque and tonal layers. This minimalistic and monochromatic artwork subtly captures attention and invokes equivocal narratives.

In the centre lays a haven that is pure and peaceful, designed with simplified shapes that illustrates a house or a tunnel. It is surrounded by a backdrop of dimensional landscape patterns that symbolises mountains. They are displayed in a high contrast environment that is depicted by the shades of colours.

Mr Saiful Razman graduated from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam with a bachelor's degree in Fine Art in 2003. He has exhibited widely in Malaysia, Lebanon, Australia and Singapore. He received his first major recognition as an artist in 2003, receiving an Honourable Mention at the Philip Morris Malaysia Art Awards. In 2017, he received a major award at The Young Contemporaries, a national level competition for contemporary artists in Malaysia. He also served as an artist-in-residence at Facebook Headquarters Singapore in 2020.





Gold

Artist: Lee Mok Yee  
Title: *Impermanence*  
Medium: Etching on zinc plate  
Size (cm): 180 x 120

Etching is a time-based process. The duration of metal touching the acid will decide the rusted effect on the metal. By applying the technique, the artist showed an uncontrolled art-making process to reflect his current situation in this pandemic era. The artist played between marking and deleting, rationalising and improvising.

Using the photographs that the artist took of passers-by in the bustling district of Pudu and Petaling Street, Kuala Lumpur in 2015, *Impermanence* is a reinterpretation of our daily life and a reflection of the unprecedented pandemic era. The artist attempted to understand the passers-by's identity by observing the details of their outfits, accessories and body shapes. The artist also created different spaces that are inspired by tiles and the shape changes based on the movement of the figures.

Mr Lee Mok Yee is a visual artist whose work is primarily concerned with the entanglement between the conceptual and the material. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Art from Middlesex University, London and a Diploma in Fine Art from Dasein Academy of Art, Malaysia. He has exhibited his work both locally as well as internationally in Germany, Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.





Silver

Artist: Mohd Azrul Azrai bin Mohamad Mohyi

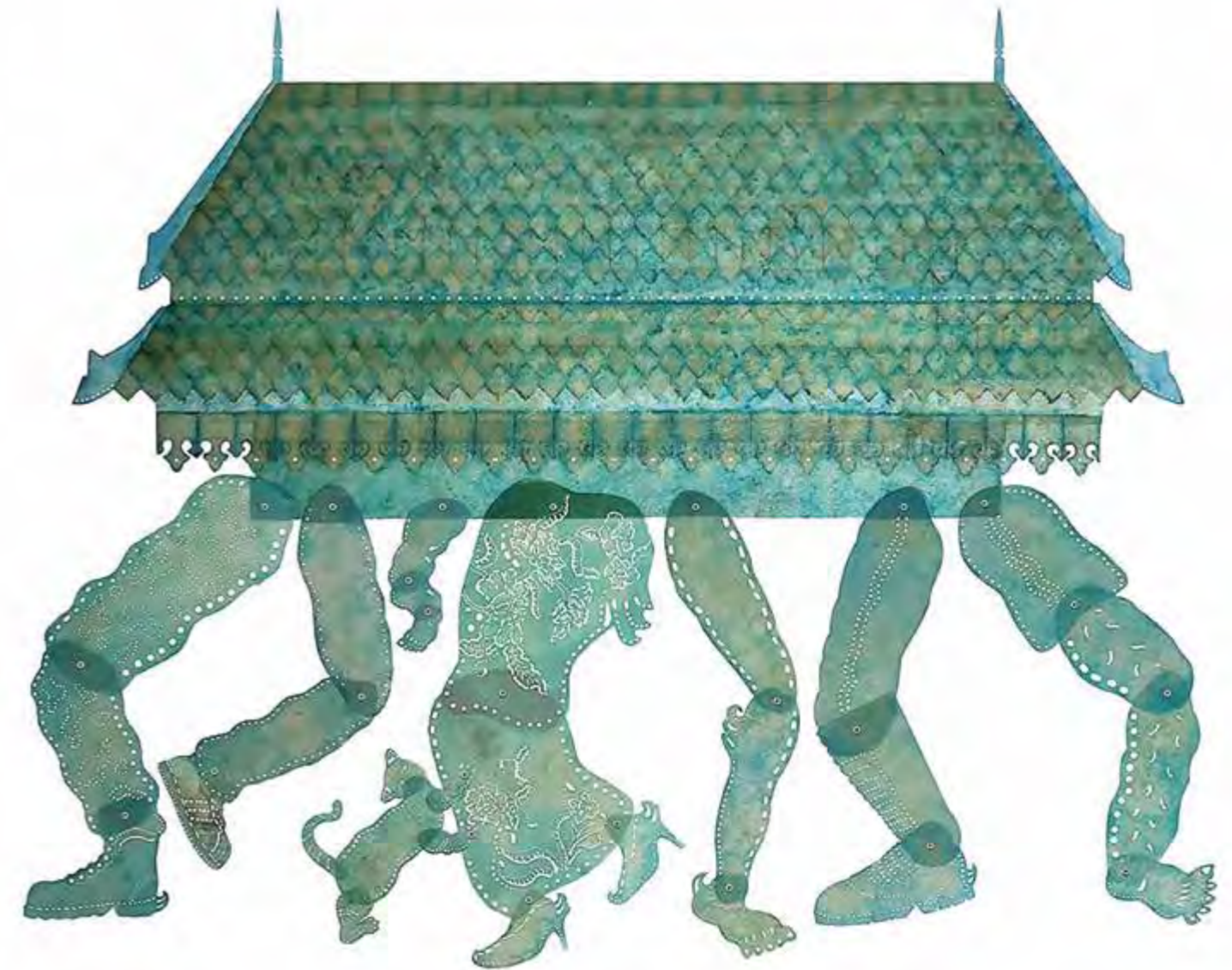
Title: *Ragaman (Various Behaviour)*

Medium: Acrylic on fiberglass and resin

Size (cm): 118 x 150

*Ragaman (Various Behaviour)* tells the story of the artist's life while staying with his family at his grandmother's house in a village in Terengganu, Malaysia. The artist observed the various behaviour (ragaman) of the people living under one roof, each with their own story and character. Using a cutout technique, *Ragaman (Various Behaviour)* is a figurative retelling of scenes that happened in that house through the use of puppet shadow (wayang kulit) characters.

Mr Azrul Azrai Mohyi graduated with a Degree in Fine Arts from Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2013. He has exhibited in art museums and galleries across the country. His work conveys contemporary issues through pop style, charcoal drawing and fibreglass works.





**Bronze**

Artist: **Fadilah Karim**  
Title: ***Blue Tape Tangle***  
Medium: **Oil on linen**  
Size (cm): **122 x 122**

***Blue Tape Tangle*** depicts the challenges faced by many during this pandemic, including the artist and her family members. The artist used blue painter's tape to symbolise the issues and needs that seem to be pulling us in different directions. At the same time, these issues are also connected, related and bound together. And if they are not addressed and untangled, they will continue to grow and we might get stuck.

Ms Fadilah Karim is regarded as one of the most prolific young artists in Malaysia, known for her body of large-scale figurative works which are autobiographical by narrative and muted realism in style. She graduated with a Masters in Fine Art & Technology from Universiti Institute Teknologi MARA, Malaysia in 2013. She is also a HOM Art Trans Young Guns 2013 award recipient and has exhibited in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea besides Malaysia.








Highly Commended

Artist: Lau Pik Yoke  
Title: *500 Days Looking Through the Window*  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
(Oil, ink and fishing line)  
Size (cm): 150 x 120

In *500 Days Looking Through the Window*, the artist documented the ever-changing view from the same window for 500 consecutive days that caught her eyes, from the start of Malaysia's Movement Control Order on 18 March 2020 till the completion of her artwork on 31 July 2021. Colours were extracted from the daily scenery that was viewed from the window and painted exactly as they were on canvas. Repetitive dots and lines were then drawn over, representing solitude in each 'window piece'. The pieces were then sewed together as symbolism to a strong defence against the misfortunes that occurred over these 500 days.

Ms Lau Pik Yoke is a multidisciplinary artist with a fascination of how the art-making process is able to help her silence the chaotic state of mind, leading her to create pieces with repetitive/meditative actions. She graduated with diplomas in Graphic Design (2011) and Fine Art (2015); both from Dasein Academy of Art, Malaysia. She has exhibited her work locally as well internationally in Turkey, Macau and Singapore.





2021 UOB Painting of the Year

**MALAYSIA**

Emerging Artist Category



Most Promising Artist of the Year Award Winner

Artist: Jaclyn Teh Ya Zi  
Title: *Hi*  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
(Stitching, thread, cotton and acrylic paint)  
Size (cm): 178 x 84

*Hi* is a visual representation of someone with social anxiety attempting to hide from everyday social interaction. What the artwork is truly conveying is in fact “Hi! Sorry! Bye Bye!”

The text that read “pull when panic” is inspired by the “break glass in case of emergency” box seen in buildings. The artist expressed her inner world of wanting to avoid social settings by pulling your socks all the way up to your head, in hopes that the awkwardness and embarrassment will pass you by.

Ms Jaclyn Teh Ya Zi is a mixed-media artist based in Malaysia. She graduated in 2019 with a diploma in Fine Art from the Malaysian Institute of Art. She takes inspiration from things happening in her daily life, be it a trivial situation or casual thoughts, and presents them with a pinch of humour.





Gold

Artist: Nik Ashri bin Nik Harun  
Title: *A Playlist for My Daughter*  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
(Charcoal, graphite, chalk and acrylic)  
Size (cm): 75 x 180

Playlist for My Daughter.  
Part 01: Comfortably Numb  
Part 02: As You Are  
Part 03: I'm Outta Time

Music has always been the artist's source of inspiration. ***A Playlist for My Daughter*** is a personal interpretation of the songs that echoes his life in the form of drawing. Each of the song selected is a representation of a certain period in his life; past, present and future.

His daughter's scribbles can be seen at the bottom of the artwork. This three-piece artwork is an open letter to her, which he hopes will mean something in the future and that the love for art can be passed on to her.

Mr Nik Ashri reignited his passion for art when he started working in Universiti Malaysia Kelantan and was surrounded by a group of artists. He is a Universiti Sains Malaysia graduate and won the consolation prize in Bakat Muda Pulau Pinang in 2006.





Silver

Artist: Sack Tin Lim  
Title: *Self Portrait – All Grown Up*  
Medium: Acrylic on paper  
Size (cm): 90 x 180

Paper doll dress up is a childhood hobby close to the artist's heart, its memory brims nostalgia. The self-made collection since 2000 is tucked away safely in a cherished rusty tin box to this day.

In *Self Portrait – All Grown Up*, the artist revisited and further explored the fun of crafting paper doll outfits through the lens of his current self. This diptych consists of 167 miniature outfit cutouts that feature a wide range of fashion designs and ready-to-wear. The outfits are split into two panels, female and male designs and arranged according to the colour spectrum.

Art should be playful and imaginative. Through this collection, the artist hopes the viewer experiences the same nostalgic delight and sheer joy of the whole creation process.

Mr Sack Tin Lim graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2020. He was the second runner-up in the division level, open category for the 36th Sabah Annual Art Selection Award. He is currently an art lecturer at The One Academy of Communication Design and is still in his creative pursuit as an artist.





**Bronze**

Artist: Raden Hisbullah bin Radin Abu Bakar  
Title: *Contiguous Will Continue*  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
(Acrylic and Chinese ink)  
Size (cm): 152.4 x 91.44

*Contiguous Will Continue* emphasised on the things that will continue to happen even after the pandemic is over, where the attrition warfare against the disease seems endless. The shapes and forms show several illusions to real-life prevalence during this pandemic.

The narrative of *Contiguous Will Continue* is depicted in the form of shapes and colours with emotional and moody tones.

Mr Raden Hisbullah graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Hons) at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Seri Iskandar. He is a full-time artist and a muralist on the side. His most recent achievement is winning second place in the Mural Open Category for the Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur 'Wall Battle 2020'.



## 2021 UOB Painting of the Year

### Panel of Judges

#### **Bibi Chew**

Art Advisor, Educator and  
Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist

#### **Choy Chun Wei**

Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist

#### **Nur Hanim Khairuddin**

Established Curator and Editor



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