

NATURE

CAPTURING SARAWAK'S VISUAL HERITAGE

BY; DR. MUHAMAD HAFIZ BIN HASSAN

In the vibrant tapestry of Sarawak's artistic expression, nature emerges as a profound and multifaceted muse. The artworks in this exhibition reveal a deep connection between the land, its inhabitants, and the creative spirit that flourishes in this corner of Borneo.

From the enigmatic *Rafflesia*, the world's largest flower, to the carnivorous pitcher plants that inspired poetic musings, the flora of Sarawak captivates our imagination. Artists have employed various techniques, from pouring acrylic on canvas to create abstract representations, to meticulous brushwork that captures the intricate details of these botanical wonders.

The fauna of the region holds equal prominence. The majestic hornbill, Sarawak's emblematic bird, appears not just as a subject but as a symbol of strength, courage, and community. The crocodile, adorned with a floral halo, represents the intricate relationship between humans and nature, embodying both respect and caution.

Even the humble cat finds its place, dressed in traditional attire, bridging culture and nature in whimsical yet meaningful ways. The feline figures serve as light-hearted reminders of Kuching's name, connecting local folklore and artistic expression.

The artists' choice of media speaks volumes about their environmental consciousness. Recycled materials transform into poignant commentaries on endangered species, as seen in the lone hornbill piece "Di Manakah Rakan Saya?" This innovative approach not only creates striking visual effects but also reinforces messages of sustainability and conservation.

Landscapes, too, tell their stories. From the ethereal light in Fairy Cave to the serene turtle habitats of Pulau Talang, artists capture the essence of Sarawak's diverse ecosystems. The interplay of light and shadow, the vibrant palette of the rainforest, and the tranquil waters all contribute to a sensory experience that transports viewers to the heart of Borneo.

These works showcase nature not as a passive backdrop, but as a living, breathing entity deeply intertwined with Sarawak's cultural identity. The exhibition encourages exploration, appreciation, and reflection on the human-nature relationship, urging the preservation of Sarawak's rich biodiversity that defines this remarkable land.



Lilly Metom

Title: Pitchers

Year: 2024

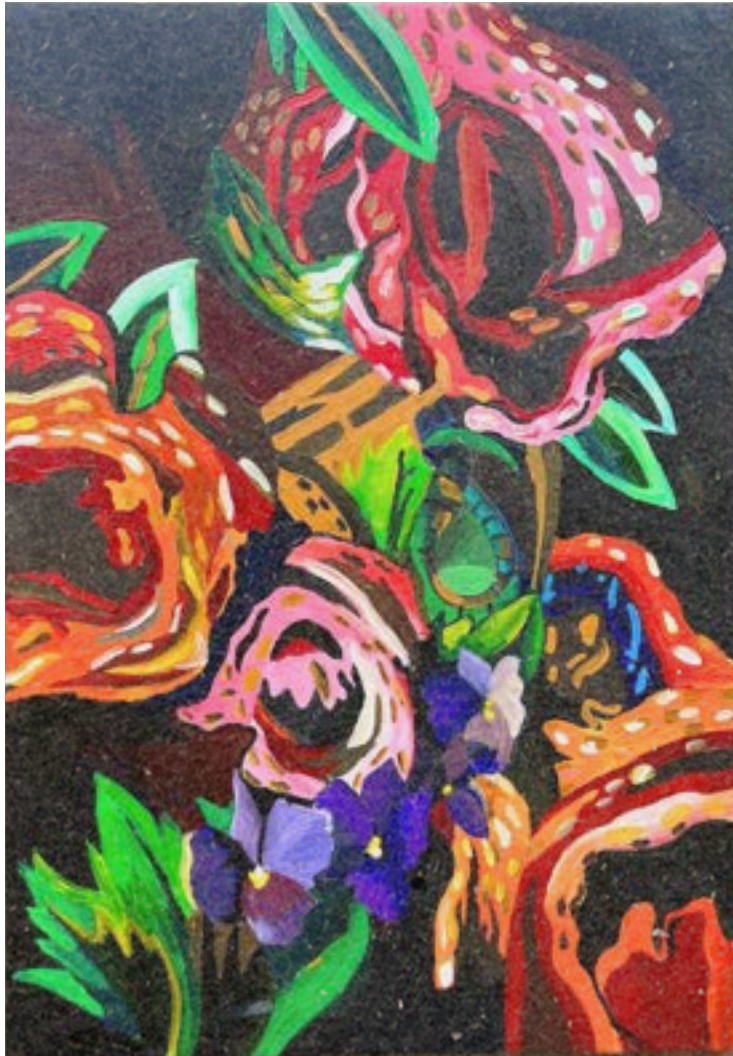
Media: Acrylic painting

Size: 42 cm x 60cm

Price: RM 3,000

Borneo's pitcher plants, a tale untold, In their silent world, secrets unfold, A botanical marvel, a sight to behold, In nature's grandeur, their story is bold.

Amidst the rainforest's verdant embrace, These carnivorous plants find their place, A dance of life and death, a delicate balance, In Borneo's wild, a mysterious trance.



Fletcher Then

Title: A Beginning of New Life

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 48cm x 68.5cm

Price: RM 3,500

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Johnny Tang

Title: A Nostalgic Memory

Year: 2017

Media: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 50cm x 40cm

Price: RM 2,000

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Ng Paik San

Title: Lundu - A Splash of Color in Sarawak

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic on canvas

Price: RM 1,100

A home is always the most beautiful space on earth.



Michelle Liou

Title: Enchanting Serenity of Borneo Forest

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic & Mixed Media

Size: 60cm x 40cm

Price: RM 3,000

The soft first light bursts through the Borneo-dense trees bringing forth a bright new day. The rustling of leaves, the chirping of birds, and the cacophony of insects screeching exude an amazing sound of primal green that gives a tranquil peace.



Muyang Anak Kumundan

TITLE: Borneo Indah

YEAR: 2024

Media: Acrylic & mixed media

SIZE: 60cm x 40cm

PRICE: RM 3,500

The painting captures some of the flora and fauna, as well as the cultures of Borneo. I highlight the proboscis monkey being one of the oldest primates and this species is only found in Borneo. Being the most iconic and living treasure, herein, the family witness the transformation of "wild" Borneo into many modern and metropolitan cities. The people are multi-racial, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic, yet peace and harmony are always a priority. Proud to be a "Bornean".



David Chew

Title: Nature Connection

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 50cm x 40cm

Price: RM 1,500

Vibrant greens, yellows, and white strokes evoke Sarawak's lush forests and rich cultures. This painting encourages viewers to feel the deep connection between people and nature, offering a peaceful and refreshing experience.



Jane Ling

Title: Rafflesia

Year: 2022

Media: Acrylic Painting

Size: 39cm x 51cm

Price: Not for sale

Rafflesia is the world's largest flower endemic to Borneo. The painting is done using the pouring technique of acrylic paint on canvas.



Sheila T L Kho

Title: TREE OF LIFE: CONNECTING OLD AND NEW

Year: -

Media: ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

Size: 65cm x 45cm

Price: RM 1,800



Angelina Bong

Title: The Sacred Rainforest

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: RM 2,000

The Rainforest is usually seen as green but beneath the naked eye, we can discover the rich and colourful biodiversity that is sacred to the people of Borneo.



Marzuki Jamilah

TITLE: Di manakah rakan saya?

Year: 2024

Media: 3d collage from recycled materials

Size: 60cm x 40cm

Price: RM 1,600

"Di Manakah Rakan Saya?" ialah sebuah karya seni yang dibuat daripada bahan kitar semula, menggambarkan seekor burung kenyalang yang bersendirian di atas pokok. Karya ini dengan penuh emosi menggambarkan kesunyian burung tersebut, menekankan tema kepupusan dan kesan alam sekitar. Penggunaan bahan terpakai menonjolkan mesej karya ini tentang kelestarian dan kepentingan pemuliharaan.



Petrus Alfred

Title: ORIGINS OF PERFUME

Year: 2024

Media: Mixed Media

Price: RM 3,000

“Origins of Perfume” means the beauty of our rainforest that is rich with wild-flowers, which gives sense to the surroundings .



Dr. Muhamad Hafiz Hassan

Title: Flower Crocodile

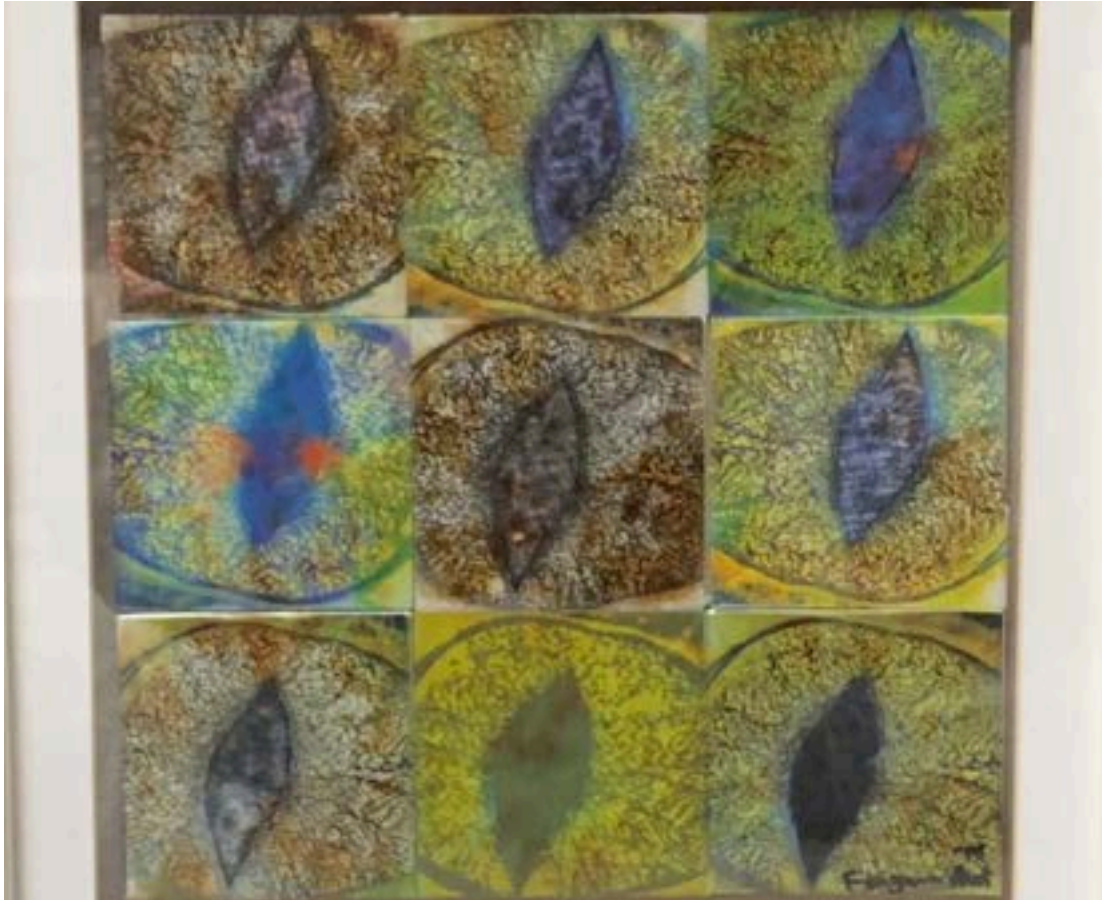
Year: 2024

Media: Mixed-media drawing

Size: 42cm x 59.4cm

Price: RM 800

This brightly coloured statue shows how much respect the people of Sarawak pay to the crocodile, the flowered halo around the large menacing looking reptile is meant to depict how irresistible the men of the region are to the local women. The contrast used here is the irony of how men and women in the cultures of Sarawak uphold each other's dignity and differences.



Mohamad Faizuan bin Mat

Title: Crocodile's Vigil

Year: 2024

Media: Mix media

Size: -

Price: RM 500

In "Crocodile's Vigil", the eyes command attention, mirroring Sarawak's untamed essence. Ancient and vigilant, they echo a legacy of survival. Through their gaze, we glimpse the river's pulse, urging respect for nature's balance and fostering a connection to Sarawak's wild heart.



Haji Shahril Anwar Mahmud

Title: 9:45am Fairy Light Bursts

Year: 2024

Media: Mixed media - Acrylic, ink

Size: 29.7cm x 42cm

Price: RM500

This painting is inspired by the light radiating from the opening high above the floor of the Fairy Cave in Bau, Sarawak. With the moss, ferns, and other plants surrounding and facing the light, it is the only source of light in the dark cave.



Wong Neng Lee

Title: Siri Harmoni - Pulau Talang-Talang Kecil

Year: 2005

Media: Mixed-Media

Size: 40cm x 51cm

Price: RM 1,680

Pulau Talang is situated 30 minutes offshore from Sematan. It is an important turtle reservation centre for green and hawksbill turtles. Besides turtles, lovely juvenile batfish can also be seen swimming there. However, Pulau Talang is not open for visitors at the moment.



Ts. Madeleine Elna Perreau

Title: Meaw Bring Cultures Together

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic & Marker

Size: 40cm x 50cm

Price: RM 555

This vibrant artwork features cats dressed in some traditional Sarawak and Indonesian attire, symbolizing the rich cultural heritage of both sides. The intricate designs and vivid colours reflect the diversity and unity of the ethnic peoples, promoting global recognition and appreciation of their unique traditions and identities.



Hjh Afiqah Ahmad

Title: SILHOUETTE

Year: 2024

Media: Acrylic on canvas

Size: 29.7cm x 42cm

Price: RM 500

Against the backdrop of the sunset, the silhouette of two contrasting symbols emerges at the Sungai Sarawak waterfront, portraying the 'new' State Assembly Building and the 'old' boats used to cross the river which are called "*penambang*".



Faizah Syazwani bt Mohamad Razeli

Title: Kenyalang Urang Sarawak

Year: 2024

Media: Mixed-media Painting

Size: 40cm x 30cm

Price: RM 500

Sarawak is often referred to as "Bumi Kenyalang" or "Land of the Hornbills". This title reflects the cultural and ecological importance of the hornbills to the indigenous communities. The bird is revered in local folklore and traditions, symbolizing strength, courage, and community. Hornbills are also a common motif in Sarawak's art and festivals, emphasising their deep-rooted significance in the state's identity.



Muhammad Danish Haikal bin Jumagus

Title: KUHACING

Year: 2024

Media: canvas printing

Size: 297mm x 420mm

Price: RM 200

There's a story when Sir James Brooke, the founder of Kuching in 1839, asked his local guide about its name. The guide, mistaking Brooke's gesture for a reference to a cat, mentioned "Kuching". This misunderstanding led to the city being named after the Malay word for cat. The tale serves as a reminder that unexpected twists of fate can lead to remarkable outcomes.



Elya Charmie Easter

Title: Golden Hour at Kuching

Year: 2024

Media: Mixed media painting

Size: 40cm x 30cm

Price: RM 500

The painting depicts a scene in Sarawak, featuring two black cats wearing an Orang Ulu's hat and the Tango Iban. They are sitting side by side, looking towards a distinctive building DUN in the background that resembles the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Building and Darul Hana bridge. The setting includes elements of local architecture and lush greenery, capturing the essence of Sarawak.