



# RMU e-Bulletin



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**Research Management Unit**  
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

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# Embracing Innovation and Discourse: A Message from the Rector



Esteemed colleagues, students, and friends of UiTM Kedah Branch,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of the **RMU4U E-Bulletin**. This publication showcases the intellectual energy and a wide range of expertise that have bloomed within our esteemed university.

The 38 articles presented in this issue exemplify a remarkable spectrum of scholarly inquiry. From insightful legal studies to captivating cultural reflections, from thought-provoking discussions on business and finance to explorations of the ever-evolving technological landscape, the **RMU4U E-Bulletin** offers a glimpse into the minds that are shaping the future. This e-bulletin is more than just a collection of articles; it is a platform for discourse, a springboard for critical thinking, and a catalyst for innovation. By engaging with the diverse perspectives presented here, we can cultivate a deeper understanding of the complex issues facing our world today.

I am particularly heartened by the focus on the transformative power of technology. Discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0 and the integration of AI serve as crucial reminders of the need to embrace innovation and equip ourselves with the skills to navigate the rapidly changing landscape. The articles on learning methodologies, from self-directed learning to mobile-assisted language acquisition, further underscore UiTM Kedah's commitment to providing our students with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century.

To our esteemed contributors, I extend my sincere gratitude for sharing your valuable insights and expertise. Your dedication is what fuels the intellectual engine of our university.

To our readers, I encourage you to delve into the articles, engage with the ideas presented, and later share your perspectives. Let this e-bulletin be the spark that ignites lively dialogues and fosters a culture of continuous learning within our university community.

Together, let us leverage the power of knowledge and innovation to shape a brighter future.

Sincerely,

*Prof. Dr. Rohima Sa'id*

Rector, UiTM Kedah



# A Message from the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of the RMU4U E-Bulletin from UiTM Kedah. I am excited to present 38 insightful articles that showcase the diverse academic interests and expertise within our university. Each article brings a unique perspective, contributing to a rich array of knowledge and ideas.

In this issue, our contributors have explored a wide range of subjects. We have compelling legal studies on topics such as home-schooling and child marriage, alongside cultural reflections that delve into the Semai heritage and contemporary Malaysian art. These pieces highlight the importance of preserving and understanding our cultural and societal norms.

Our business and finance section offers fresh insights into the gig economy, the integration of AI in accounting, and the nuances of tax compliance. These articles provide a closer look at the evolving economic landscape and the challenges and opportunities it presents.



Technological innovation is another prominent theme, with discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0, the critical role of information professionals, and the integration of AI in education. These articles underscore the rapid pace of technological change and its impact on various sectors.

We also feature thought-provoking pieces on self-directed learning, mobile-assisted English learning, and the transformative power of social media in libraries. These articles explore the intersections of technology, education, and communication, offering valuable insights into modern learning environments. Our goal with this e-bulletin is to foster a deeper understanding and spark meaningful conversations among our readers. We hope that the knowledge and ideas shared here will inspire and engage you.

A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors for their hard work and dedication. And to our readers, thank you for your continued support and interest in the RMU4U E-Bulletin.

Happy reading!  
Warm regards,

Dr Azyyati Anuar  
Chief Editor, RMU4U E-Bulletin



# THE RICH TAPESTRY OF SCULPTURE IN MALAYSIA

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**Figure 1:** Four sculptures by Anthony Lau in the collection of National Visual Arts Gallery Malaysia  
Image source: Pakhruddin Sulaiman.

## Introduction

The history of sculpture in Malaysia is a testament to the country's rich cultural tapestry and artistic legacy. Malaysian sculpture reflects the intricate interplay between indigenous traditions and external influences, spanning from the earliest pre-colonial era to the vibrant contemporary scene. According to art historian Dr. Khoo Salma Nasution, Malaysian sculpture has evolved over centuries, with each era leaving its own unique imprint on the artistic landscape (The Encyclopedia of Malaysia: Crafts and the Visual Arts, 1998).

## **Intricate Interplay Between Indigenous Traditions and External Influences**

External forces like colonialism, globalization, and cross-cultural exchanges have influenced Malaysian sculpture throughout history. European colonial powers introduced new materials, techniques, and styles to Malaysian artists, leading to a blending of indigenous and Western aesthetics. Nonetheless, indigenous traditions have remained resilient, continuing to shape Malaysian sculpture in profound ways. For example, the works of sculptor Syed Ahmad Jamal often fuse traditional Malay motifs with modernist sensibilities, showcasing the ongoing dialogue between tradition and innovation (Tan, 2009).

## **Exploring the Evolution of Malaysian Sculpture**

It is possible to trace the development of Malaysian sculpture through various historical eras, each with its own distinctive artistic movements and themes. From the megalithic sculptures of ancient civilizations to the religious sculptures of the colonial period, Malaysian sculpture has reflected the aspirations, beliefs, and identities of its people. In modern times, Malaysian sculptors have embraced new forms of expression, explored contemporary themes and pushed the boundaries of artistic innovation. For instance, the abstract sculptures of Datuk Haji Ibrahim Hussein reflect his deep connection to nature and traditional Malay motifs while also incorporating modernist influences (Ibrahim, 2016).

## **Highlighting Key Periods and Notable Figures**

The contributions of notable individuals who have left enduring legacies in the field have enriched Malaysian sculpture throughout history. From pre-colonial artisans to modern-day sculptors, each era has produced visionary artists whose works reflect the cultural zeitgeist of their time. Notable figures such as Abdul Rashid bin Abdullah have challenged conventional artistic norms, using sculpture as a means of social commentary and cultural critique (Rashid, 2007). Their contributions have played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of Malaysian sculpture, inspiring future generations of artists and enriching the artistic heritage of the nation.

In conclusion, the history of sculpture in Malaysia reflects the country's rich cultural heritage and artistic accomplishments. By examining its development through diverse cultural influences, the interplay between traditions and external forces, exploration of key periods, and recognition of notable figures, we gain a deeper appreciation for the dynamic spirit of Malaysian sculpture and its enduring legacy.



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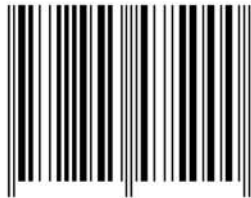
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