

SAMBAL GORENG

*Celebrating Hari Raya &
Maya Gallery's 7th Anniversary*

1 June – 10 June 2019

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Sarkasi Said
Iskandar Jalil
Idris Ali
Karto
Aziza Ali
Teng Wen Chang
P. Gnana
Jeffrey Wandly
Masturah Sha'ari
Terence Tan
Nhawfal Juma'at

COVER

Peace of Ramadan I

Masturah Sha'ari
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 40 cm, 2018

Maya
GALLERY

FOREWORD



Sambal Goreng—an art exhibition, art talk and community art activity—was a good example of how cross-cultural and inter-faith understanding could be enhanced through the arts. By featuring artists of different races in Singapore, *Sambal Goreng* not only showcased the richness of our Malay heritage, but also provided a platform for people from different communities to engage in dialogue on art appreciation.

The social harmony we enjoy in Singapore is precious and needs to be constantly protected and advanced. The arts play an important role in this effort, by deepening appreciation of our diverse cultures and beliefs among different communities. The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth is happy to support initiatives that promote racial and religious harmony in Singapore, such as *Sambal Goreng*, through the Harmony Fund.

Congratulations to Maya Gallery for *Sambal Goreng*. And best wishes for continued success in the years ahead!

MS SIM ANN

Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
Ministry of Communications and Information

HARMONY THROUGH ART

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity states that "...cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature." Cultural diversity is not only fundamental, but makes societies more robust, creative and prepared to cope with changes and conflicts. Strengthening social cohesion amongst people of diverse cultures is thus crucial in establishing peace not only in that society but between nations across the world. This social harmony can only be achieved with cultural tolerance, without which racism, prejudice and xenophobia run riot, leading to regional tensions and global conflicts.



In a multiracial and multireligious society like Singapore, our strong social harmony allows people of diverse cultures, languages and faiths to live harmoniously, communicate and work together, and have respect for each other's distinct customs, traditions and heritage. The social cohesion that we have strongly nurtured and upheld over the years can be easily broken by misunderstanding, racial discrimination and ignorance especially in times of crisis. A fragile, divided and vulnerable society hinders its prosperity and future.

The basis of harmony in a culturally diverse society lies in dialogue and exchanges between people of different cultures, sharing of a common good, mutual respect and the celebration of our differences. Eating together and sharing interests or passions such as sports, music and arts can go a long way to improve relations across races and groups.

French author André Maurois said, "Art is an effort to create, beside the real world, a more humane world." Art galleries, institutions and artists can play an important role in creatively contributing to the development and well-being of our society, as well as to help safeguard our cultural diversity and harmony. Art events can bring people together to engage and share an experience albeit in many different ways. Discussing a work of art promotes social discourse, making us more tolerant of one another's cultural and religious differences. Art helps us identify with one another the notion of unity and solidarity necessary in order to consider solutions for global issues we face today.

Maya Gallery offers a platform to create this conversation through **Sambal Goreng**, its inaugural project comprising an art exhibition, art talk and community art activity. Running from 1st to 10th June 2019 to tie in with Hari Raya Puasa celebrations, the project aims to capture the spirit of Hari Raya, share the rich Malay heritage and provide an intimate view into a faith that promotes peace and embraces diversity.

Marking the end of Ramadan (a month of fasting for Muslims), Hari Raya Puasa, also known as Hari Raya *Aidilfitri* or *Eid al-Fitr*, is a period of forgiveness, rejoice and renewal. Hari Raya Puasa falls on the first day of Syawal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. Starting the day with special prayers at the mosque, after which families seek forgiveness from each other, Malay families then don the *baju kurung* and *baju Melayu* (traditional attires for Malay women and men respectively) before heading out to visit relatives and start feasting.

A favourite dish served during Hari Raya is *sambal goreng*, made up of various ingredients like assorted meat, prawn, *tauhu* (tofu or bean curd) and *tempe* (soy bean cake). Like the dish itself, *Sambal Goreng* showcases a strong selection of artwork by prominent and emerging Singaporean artists from the different racial groups—Malay, Chinese and Indian. Featuring paintings, ceramics, photography, pinhole cameras and an art installation, the exhibition reflects the colours, energy and vitality of Singapore's cultural diversity.

As an artist-run and non-profit art gallery, Maya Gallery has supported the initial development of young and emerging artists, some of whom have gone into the register of bigger and well-known galleries and become successful. Apart from exhibitions, the gallery has also hosted numerous talks and seminars amongst a broad spectrum of society—from artists and arts practitioners to corporate professionals, cultural leaders, educators, students, art enthusiasts and members of the public. Maya Gallery hopes that *Sambal Goreng* will increase cross-cultural and inter-faith understanding, encouraging Singaporeans and the international audience to appreciate the social harmony that we proudly uphold.

We are grateful to all the artists participating in *Sambal Goreng*, including chef and culinary expert Mdm Aziza Ali for her authentic *sambal goreng* specially made for *iftar* (breaking of fast) on our opening night. Thank you to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) for the Harmony Fund in support of the exhibition.

MASTURAH SHA'ARI
Cofounder & Director

JEFFREY WANDLY
Cofounder

SARKASI SAID

b. 1940, Singapore

Sarkasi Said, who goes by the artist name Tzee, is an internationally renowned batik artist known for his bold and vibrant abstract style, and mastery of unconventional wax-resist techniques. His works have been exhibited internationally and can be found in many public and private collections. He set a Guinness World Record for the world's longest batik painting in 2003. He is a recipient of *Pingat APAD* (Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya) in 1974 and Best Foreign Entry (Sarasota Art Exhibition in the United States) in 1981.



Swamp
Batik on canvas, 142 x 84 cm, 2018

Happiness
Batik on canvas, 142 x 83 cm, 2018

ISKANDAR JALIL

b. 1940, Singapore

Iskandar Jalil, Singapore's celebrated master potter, is highly regarded for his high level of discipline, tenacity and dedication to his craft. An art practitioner, teacher and mentor to many, he received two Colombo Plan Scholarships to study textiles and ceramics. He is the recipient of the Cultural Medallion in 1988 and Japan's Order of the Rising Sun (Gold Rays with Rosette) in 2015. He was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2016.



Jawi Vessel
Stoneware clay, 16 x 16 x 20 cm, 1300°C reduction gas firing, 2019

IDRIS ALI

b. 1944, Singapore

Idris Mohamed Ali is a self-taught artist recognised for his watercolour landscapes and street scenes of Singapore and the region. Painting for more than 50 years, his work serve as visual documentation of our national heritage. Apart from a career as an illustrator at a few award-winning advertising agencies, Idris was a dedicated teacher with Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya (APAD) of Association of Artists of Various Resources, at a time when many Malay families could not afford art education for their children. His works have been exhibited in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, and can be found in the collection of the National Heritage Board, as well as public and private collectors. Idris is a recipient of *Pingat APAD* in 1974 and *Cipta Mekar* (by APAD) in 1990.



Bebas
Watercolour on paper, 69 x 33 cm, 2014

KARTO

b. 1946, Singapore

Karto, or Khamis Ariffen, is known for his handmade pinhole cameras, a craft only a rare few can boast to possess. He has exhibited his pinhole cameras in Singapore, Hong Kong and Amsterdam. His cameras are collected by enthusiasts internationally. An accomplished commercial photographer, Karto has been imparting his knowledge to students keen to improve their skills to the next level.



Box, Can #2

Handmade, recycled materials, 13.5 x 10 x 5 cm

Square 2, Leather Top #5

Handmade, recycled materials, 16 x 7 x 9 cm



Box, Stand #1 - Abstract

Handmade, recycled materials, 11.3 x 9 x 5 cm

AZIZA ALI

b. 1950, Singapore

Aziza Ali is a self taught artist who painted Presley, Gandhi, Nehru, Ringo Star, Paul Newman and P. Ramlee in pencil at the age of 12. She continued this creativity in cooking and food presentation in her close to 30 years of fine dining. Painting seriously in 2007, she has exhibited extensively. Her works can be found in the collection of dignitaries and private individuals internationally. She was inducted into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2016.



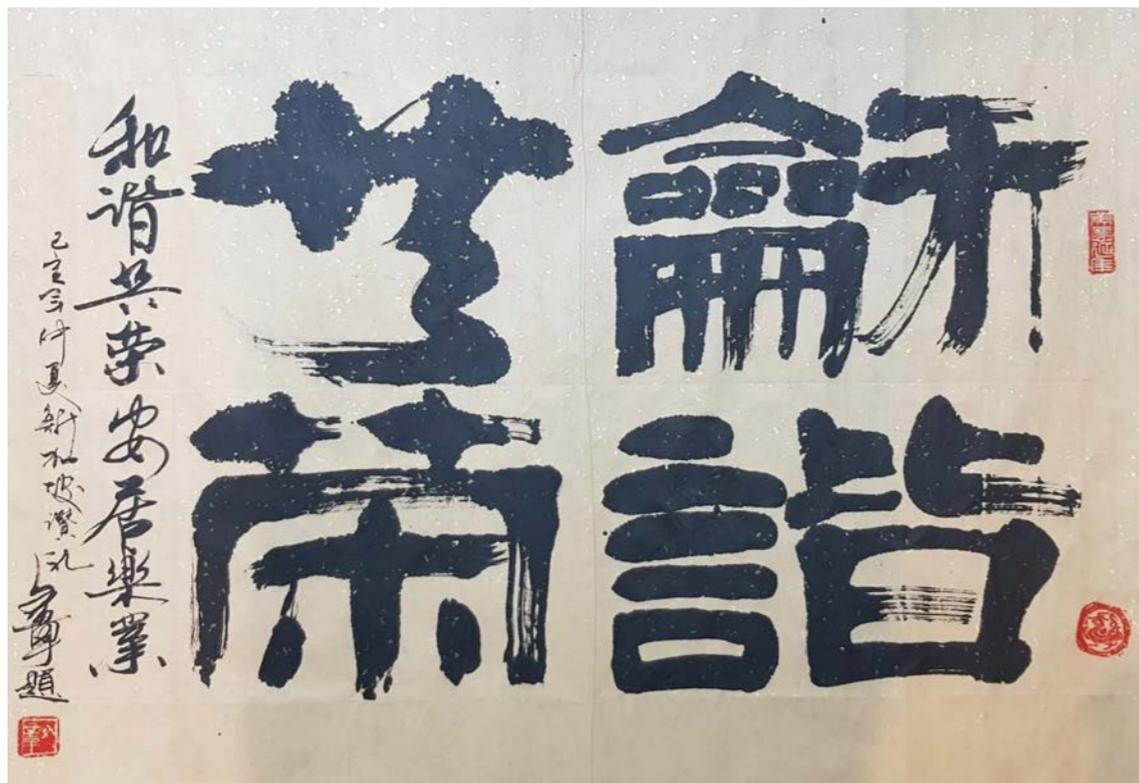
Raya Eve

Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90 cm, 2019

TENG WEN CHANG

b. 1952, Taiwan

Teng Wen Chang is a multimedia artist. He is currently Art Director of Jinghua Creative Arts Studio and Vice Chairman of the International Arts & Culture (Singapore) Federation. He has served as television art advisor in Taiwan, China and Singapore, and art director for the Golden Horse Award, Golden Jubilee Award and Golden Bell Award. His artworks have won local and international awards, and can be found in institutional and private collections.



Harmony and Prosperity
Chinese calligraphy, 88 x 60 cm, 2019

P. GNANA

b. 1970, Singapore

P. Gnana is a leading painter and sculptor. His childhood affiliation towards the cow is beautifully rekindled and visually manifested in his artworks. He received the LASALLE Scholarship in 2002 and graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2004. His works are collected in Southeast Asia, Europe and South Asia, and can also be found in the collections of the President of Singapore and Singapore Art Museum, as well as corporate and private collectors.



Kampong I, II
Oil on canvas, 122 x 21 cm, 2019

JEFFREY WANDLY

b. 1964, Singapore

Jeffrey Wandly is known for capturing intimate portraits of heritage landmarks and places. Fondly called “building whisperer” by his collectors, his works have been exhibited in Southeast Asia and can be found in public and private collections. A recipient of the MENDAKI Excellence Award and Architecture Angullia Scholarship, he graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture (Hons) from National University of Singapore and holds a Masters of Project Management from Queensland University of Technology. An architect and project development professional, Jeffrey is the cofounder of Maya Gallery.

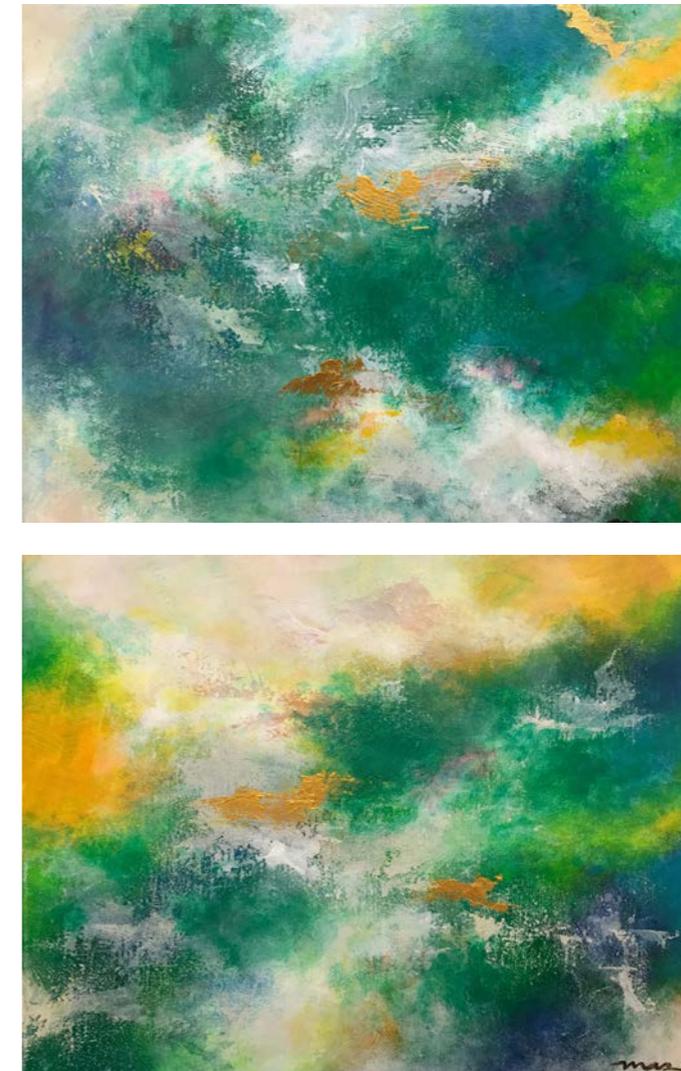


Rumah Tjaniago I, II (Marantau series)
Ink and acrylic on canvas, 50 x 120 cm, 2019

MASTURAH SHA'ARI

b. 1969, Singapore

As a professional designer, painting allows Masturah Sha'ari to break free from grids and enter into her inner world. Her abstract expressions are painted in layers, each revealing memories, experiences and personal stories. Her works have been exhibited and collected in Singapore and Malaysia. Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Economics and Malay Studies, from National University of Singapore, she also holds a Diploma in Design Communication from LASALLE College of the Arts. A mother of three children, Masturah is the cofounder of Maya Gallery.

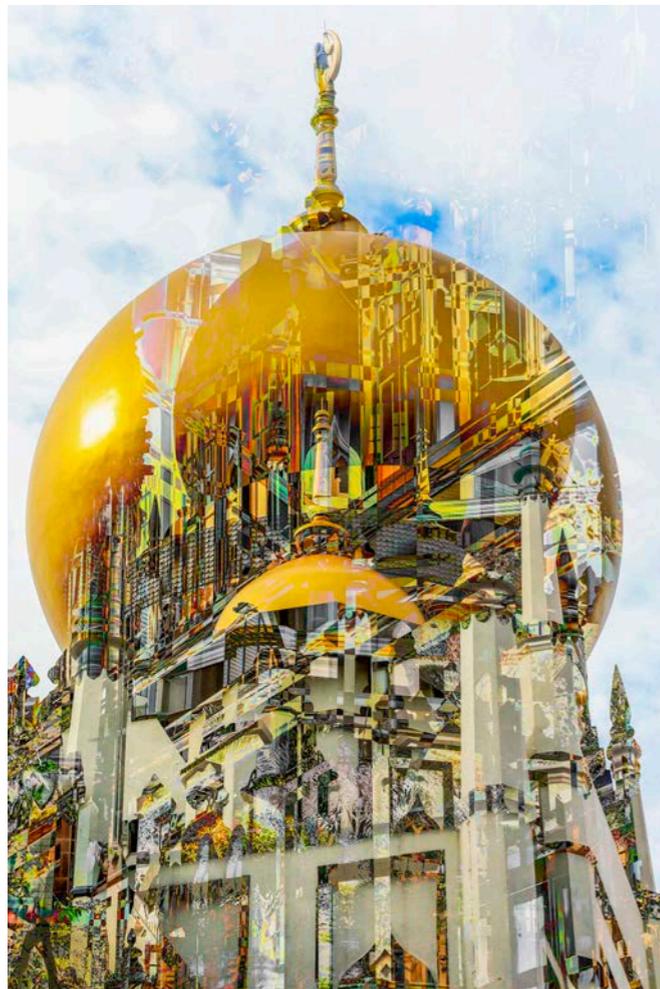


Peace of Ramadan I, II
Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40 cm, 2018

TERENCE TAN

b. 1970, Singapore

Terence Tan is interested in capturing the beauty that exists in daily life, making images that elevate its subject or context from the mundane to the extraordinary. He often utilises layers and juxtaposes images to create beautifully composed artworks with a painterly eye. He was second runner-up in the #OurHawkerCulture photography contest by National Geographic, in partnership with Ministry of Communications and Information.

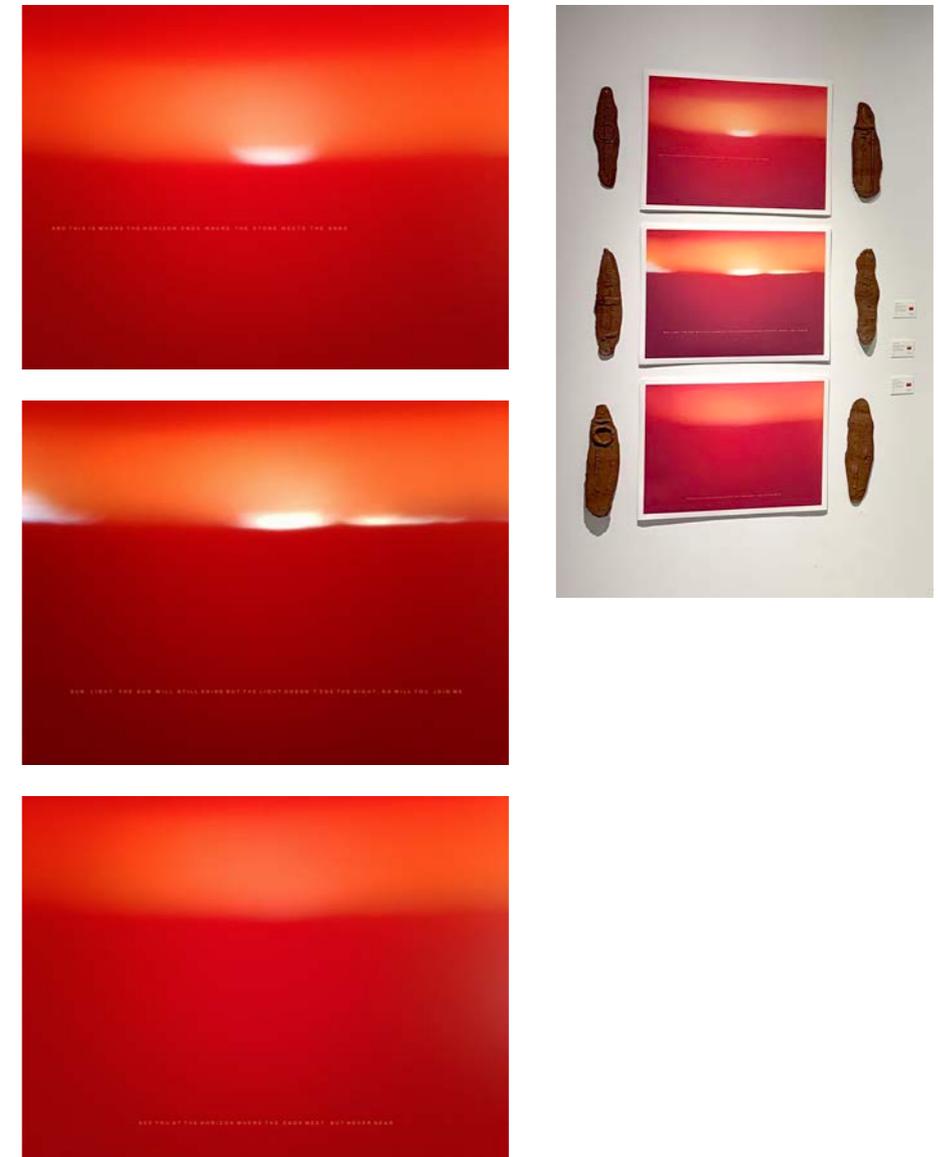


Masjid Sultan I
Fine art photography & giclee print, 57 x 38 cm, 2019

NHAWFAL JUMA'AT

b. 1991, Singapore

Nhawfal Juma'at makes conceptually driven artworks which are a direct response to his surrounding environment. He has exhibited extensively in Singapore. He curated *Landscapes of Our Mind* (2018) as a form of advocacy for mental wellness, and co-curated *The Lucky Show* (2018) and *RUANG* (2017). He is currently adjunct lecturer in the art academies and art instructor with Club Heal, a psychiatric rehabilitation centre.



Writings on the Horizon I, II, III
Photo Print on Paper and High-Fired Terracotta, 29.7 x 42 cm (Photo Prints), 34 x 47 cm (Ceramic Slab), 2019

SAMBAL GORENG Celebrating Hari Raya & Maya Gallery's 7th Anniversary

OPENING 1 JUNE 2019, SATURDAY

Officiated by Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Ministry of Communications and Information

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ART CONVERSATION

8 JUNE 2019, SATURDAY

SPEAKERS

Prof Kwok Kian Woon
Assoc Provost, Nanyang Technological University

Teo Han Wue
Art Writer, Former Director of Private Museum

Sarkasi Said, Idris Ali, Jeffrey Wandly, Aziza Ali,
Terence Tan, Masturah Sha'ari

© Photography Khalid Baba, Terence Tan



COMMUNITY BATIK

8-9 JUNE 2019, SAT & SUN

with Sarkasi Said & Imelda Sarkasi

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This catalog is published on the occasion of the group exhibition:

Sambal Goreng: Celebrating Hari Raya
Sarkasi Said, Iskandar Jalil, Idris Ali, Karto, Aziza Ali, Teng Wen Chang,
P. Gnana, Jeffrey Wandly, Masturah Sha'ari, Terence Tan, Nhawfal Juma'at

June 1 – 10, 2019, The Art Space by Natalie Wong

opening 1 June 2019	art conversation 8 June 2019	community batik 8–9 June 2019
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Guest of Honour
Ms Sim Ann, *Senior Minister of State*
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
Ministry of Communications and Information

Organiser

Maya
GALLERY

With the Support of

mccy
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



MAYA GALLERY

Maya Gallery aims to connect people through contemporary art with a focus on heritage and culture. Representing both local and regional artists, the gallery has followed an international programme of active participation in art fairs such as Singapore Contemporary, Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Art Expo Malaysia, Artshow Busan and Bank Art Fair Hong Kong. It has also exhibited in Indonesia, Vietnam and Shanghai. Upholding a social responsibility, we work with corporate organisations, institutions and schools to provide customised art activities and workshops. We have hosted talks, book clubs and sometimes music performances. We also offer art and design communication consultancy services.

Originally located in historic Kampong Glam in 2012, the gallery currently operates in the industrial district of Ubi. We invite artists, art lovers and art collectors to venture out of the city and into unlikely spaces—to appreciate local and regional artistry.

An artist-run non-profit initiative founded by Jeffrey Wandly and Masturah Sha'ari, Maya Gallery was voted as one of the Top 10 Art Galleries in Singapore by Tallypress.com (2018) and awarded the Recommended Favourite Art Gallery at the Expat Living Reader Awards (2015).

Maya Gallery™ is managed by Maya Arthaus Ltd.

cofounder
& director
Masturah Sha'ari

cofounder
Jeffrey Wandly

managed by

MAYA
ARTHAUS

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GALLERY

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