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Activity Report June 2023

Visual Art  
Studies

(a) Teaching & Learning

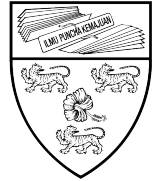


VA Students of ROD7005 Southeast Asian Modern Art visited Cult Gallery together with students from Malaysian Institute of the Arts on 31 May 2023. They visited the solo exhibition of painter Amar Shahid. The artist gave a tour of his paintings to all present. These paintings were based on historical photographs taken by his photojournalist father.

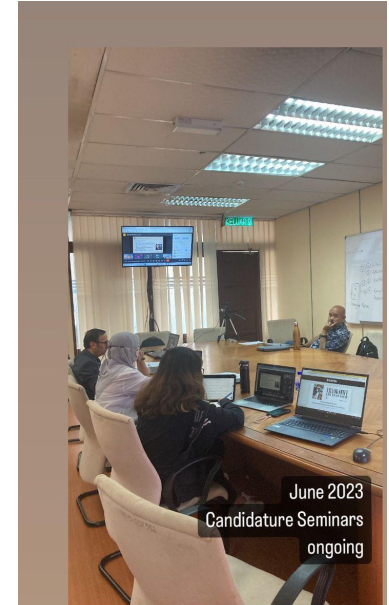


Students of ROD7004 Malaysian Art staged their final project exhibition titled Imagine Nation from 21 June - 12 July 2023 at Piyadasa Gallery!

12 students presented at the recently completed Candidature Seminars from 26 - 28 June 2023.



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## (b) Internationalisation & Networking



Small: Hassan, I can sleep through part of the heavy speeches. 1992/2000.  
Image credit: © 2019 Photo, Double Exposure, Pictura by Photo Club KSA.

**Date:**  
24 & 25 February 2024

**Venue:**  
School of the Arts,  
Universiti Sains Malaysia,  
Pulau Pinang, MALAYSIA

Imagining  
Asian Art  
in Transition:  
Symposium on  
Modern and  
Contemporary  
Asian Art



SMART PARTNERSHIP WITH



We invite proposals for the two-day symposium on "Imagining Asian Art in Transition" to be held at School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang, Malaysia on 24th and 25th February 2024. The symposium is organised by School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia, in collaboration with Faculty of Creative Arts, Universiti Malaya. The convenors of the symposium are Associate Professor Dr. Sarena Abdullah, Associate Professor Dr. Safrizal Shahir, and Dr. Simon Soon.

As the region of Asia continues to undergo rapid transformation, the modern and contemporary art of the region has experienced a corresponding shift. In turn, artists, curators and scholars have sought to make sense of the role of museums and new forms of cultural institutions in shaping the discourse around Asian art today.

The symposium aims to explore the complex and evolving qualities of modern and contemporary art of Asia, focusing on the key issues that have arisen in the field in recent years. For example, how technology has transformed the way artists work and has opened up new avenues for expression to explore questions of representation and power in relation to artistic practices. Additionally, new networks, pressures and opportunities brought about by globalisation have broadened our understanding of Asian Art. New challenges in the thinking about art in relation to broader environmental issues and at a planetary scale in the context of the present day have also contributed to the writing of modern and contemporary Asian art history.

We seek proposals of papers from scholars, art historians, artists, curators, and other professionals working in the field of Asian art that might offer new and enriched perspectives in the study of the modern and contemporary art of Asia. We welcome submissions addressing some of the issues mentioned in this call, and also encourage proposals that explore related issues beyond these parameters. Postgraduate students and emerging scholars in related disciplines are highly encouraged to submit their proposals for this symposium.

To apply, please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words outlining your proposed paper, along with a brief bio and contact information to [safrazal@usm.my](mailto:safrazal@usm.my). The deadline for application is 31 July 2023. Selections will be made in August 2023, and notifications of acceptance will be sent out in early September 2023. Participants are required to pay a symposium fee of RM220 for Malaysians or USD100 for International participants.

In addition, selected papers will be compiled and published in a special section on the symposium in the 2025 issue of Wacana Seni Journal of Arts Discourse. Article processing charges for Wacana Seni Journal of Arts Discourse will be borne by the authors.

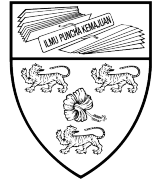
We look forward to receiving your proposals!



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Imagining  
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Upcoming conference call for papers. Postgraduate students are encouraged to apply!  
<http://art.usm.my/index.php/announcement/news/imagining-asian-art-in-transition-symposium-on-modern-and-contemporary-asian-art-2024>

## (b) Internationalisation & Networking

**Agenda:** Possible collaboration towards amended MoA

**Proposed project:** edited book or special issue journal

**Editors:** TBA (1 from CFAD, and 1 from FCA)

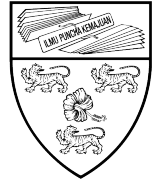
**Publication date:** November 2025

**Working title/theme:** Performing History through Art & Design

**Preliminary abstract:** To approach history as not simply documented fact of irrefutable past, but as something that is actively performed in the present within contested domains. History in this sense is not limited to the custody of historians and doctorates who produce data for public consumption. Instead, we shall look at artists, curators, designers, and informants as active agents who perform history by filling in the gaps in the present. We shall diverge from traditional/conventional definition of history as written text and look at how history is enacted through non-textual materiality/media (fabric, clay, paint, metal, space, form, images, technology, etc.).

### Working Timeline:

1. Confirm participants, if anyone interested (3 from each side?): **9 June 2023**
2. Publication workshop 1: **November 2023**  
Internal (participants only). Preliminary discussions & feedback. 1 day event spread over 2 days (4hrs/day)
3. Publication workshop 2: **TBC (after CFAD's CAA?)**
  - Public talk (online). Follow-up on w/shop 1 (public presentation). 1 day event. 15 min. presentation + 15 Q & A. Start 1000 am SHJ.



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**MoA with College of Fine Arts and Design,  
University of Sharjah**



(c) Award & Stewardship & Student/Alumni Achievements



MA Mixed-mode student Yusra Zulkifli is invited by Dr. Rusaslina Idrus to present her research on the Bajau Tepo Mat to undergraduate students in Gender Studies, FASS UM.

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FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
IN COLLABORATION WITH **GIG** GoInternationalGroup.com

ENGLISH CARNIVAL PRESENTS

# WALINONG SARI

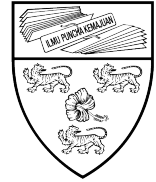
FILM SCREENING AND TALK BY  
**HONEY AHMAD**  
AUTHOR AND SCREENWRITER

📅 10th June 2023 (Saturday)  
🕒 1:00PM - 2:30PM  
📍 Dewan Tunku Canselor  
Universiti Malaya

**Honey Ahmad**  
Moderator  
**Dr. Sharifah A. Osman**  
Department of English  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

**About the speaker:**  
Honey Ahmad currently works as a scriptwriter. Her films have won best super short at the New York Food Film Festival and top prize at Kuala Lumpur's 48-hour Film Project. In 2020, her radio script Tujuh Hari Tengkujuh was highly commended by the BBC World Service International Playwriting Competition judging team. Right now, her animated short, *Walinong Sari* (based on a Pahang princess) has won awards in festivals in New York, LA, Berlin and Chile. She also hosts a bookish podcast, *Two Book Nerds Talking*, and is a kuih conversationist who has authored two cookbooks on traditional Malaysian kuih.

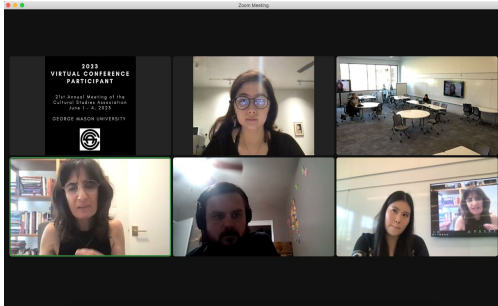
FOR MORE INFORMATION: @um\_englishcarnival



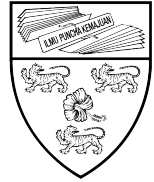
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MA Mixed-mode alumni Eugene Foo's animated short film *Walinong Sari* was screened at The UM English Festival at Dewan Tunku Canselor on 10 June 2023, introduced by screenwriter Honey Ahmad. *Walinong Sari* tells the story of a warrior princess who is groomed to rule the kingdom of Inderapura. When her father accepts a proposal of marriage she does not agree with, *Walinong Sari* set off on a journey down the Pahang River to escape the arranged marriage.

(d) Recognition & Professional Services



Dr. Wang Jiabao has presented her paper entitled 'An Inconclusive History: The Political Use of Folk Culture in Early 21st Century China' at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association on 2 June.



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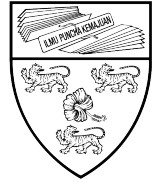


Dr. Wang Jiabao has reviewed a journal article for *WACANA SENI Journal of Arts Discourse*.

(d) Recognition & Professional Services



Dr. Roslina led the panel of jury for the ASM ArtScience Prize 2022 Exhibition which runs from 19 June - 7 July 2023 at Balai Seni Maybank.



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Khaled Ramadan was invited to judge a doodle competition for Sabah Fiesta. Sabah Fiesta is a festival organised by the University Malaya Sabahan Students Association. For the competition, the contestants were asked to draw a doodle based on the theme "Kaamatan Membudayakan Perpaduan".





(f) Others



We extend a warm welcome the latest addition to our Program, Dr. Dzul Afiq Zakaria, who recently completed his PhD as a SLAB fellow of Universiti Malaya. In addition to helping out with the heavy supervision load and also the Research Methodology course, Dr. Dzul will assist in designing two S.H.E. courses for the Faculty.



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The department has agreed to put forward the suggestion for the change of name from Visual Arts program to **Art and Visual Culture Program** to better reflect the scope of research undertaken by the department academic staff and students.