

A vibrant watercolor painting depicting a family scene in a lush, sun-dappled garden. In the center, a woman in a purple top is seen from the side, reaching out towards a young girl in a colorful floral dress who is holding a baby. To the right, another woman in a purple top holds a young child in a blue and yellow outfit. The background is filled with various shades of green, brown, and purple, suggesting dense foliage and trees. The overall mood is warm and joyful.

G13
gallery

The Joy of Living
The Artistry of Calvin Chua

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by Tan Sei Hon

An adept at oil and acrylic, veteran artist Calvin Chua Cheng Koon (b.1961) is also among the country's leading specialist in watercolour painting today. Calvin was first exposed to the works of Yong Mun Sen (1896-1962) and later Lee Loong Looi (b.1942) while he was still barely in his teens back in his home town, Bukit Timah, Kedah. During his senior year in high school, Calvin was invited for his first ever exhibition in a two man show with Lye Yau Fatt (b.1950) then the leading artist of the dry brush technique. It was a charity exhibition to secure funds to be used for the upkeep of the school.

Initially unsure of what he would like to pursue as a vocation at the end of his secondary school year, Calvin opted for a career in art even though many were aware at that time that life as a full time artist would not be easy at all. However, art was something he enjoyed doing and with Yau Fatt's encouragement and later, with the blessings from his mother Chong Kim Chuan, Calvin set off to the capital to pursue his formal studies in fine art at the now defunct Kuala Lumpur College of Art (KLCA) in 1979. Calvin had fond recollections of his time there and is ever grateful to have received a strong art foundation under the tutelage of senior artists Cheah Yew Saik (b.1939) the late Ng Gaik Hong and Lai Loong Soong (b.1944). Calvin, who still sketches and paints daily, is today very much appreciated for his innovative and versatile approach to traditional mediums and meaningful choice of subject matters.

The artist possesses a keen eye for capturing the unassuming and often overlooked aspects of everyday life which then he presents as simple but profound metaphors for contemplation on a handful of topics close to his heart. Nature and our place in it is one of them. Mankind's symbiotic relationship with the natural world often manifests itself through images of labour and leisure in Calvin's papers and canvases. From his morning glories, which made its humble début in his tempayan series followed by his gardens, rivers and fruit seasons series, these subject matters and situations usually highlight traits that Calvin finds admirable. Attitudes such as humility, simplicity and human industry are celebrated together with a sincere respect for nature. Calvin's world is happily devoid of the poignancy or calculated irony that is fashionable among contemporary artists or the overtly sentimental.

The veteran painter who is also known for his depictions of the serene life in the kampong, is that handful of local artists who continues to surprise each time he unveils new drawings and paintings. A four letter word, 'PLAY' continues to make its presence felt especially his series depicting children and young adults engaged in leisure activities by the rivers and waterfalls. Calvin's canvasses too are becoming increasingly expressive, with multicoloured strokes and

daubs as though capturing the primal energies generated by the figures as they participate in the 'flow' that is life through the pleasures of play and joie de verve.

Since winning the country's prestigious national art competition, the Young Contemporary Award (1986) and also the Yayasan Seni Selangor Award (2009) among many others, the current President and chief mover behind the Malaysian Watercolour Society (MWS) continues to be active in the local art circuit with yearly invitations to participate in international exhibitions. To date, Calvin have participated in exhibitions in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, France, Jordan, the United States just to name a few.

Calvin's work in the 2015 Maritime Silk Road Coastal Shantou-International Watercolour Painting event in Shantou, China which was also participated by many esteemed painters from America, Europe, Asia, etc, was awarded the 2nd Prize by a panel of international jurors. Recently he was part of a Malaysian delegation of artists to Beijing for an exhibition organized by the Malaysia China Friendship Association to enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries. A regular feature at the Malaysian Art Expo since its inception in 2007, Calvin's monthly schedule continues to be packed with exhibitions and other related commitments.

At the age of 55, when many of his contemporaries have given up being innovative long time ago and simply opt to churn out familiar images or subject matters on which their reputations were built upon decades before, Calvin has no intention of slowing down and continues to push himself technically and creatively. Calvin's trust in the creative process is unconditional and subscribes to the notion that an artist should paint subjects that he/she is intimately acquainted. One must have a necessary understanding of the properties and qualities of an object, subject or a situation to appreciate its circumstances and unanticipated fortuities.

Calvin returns for his second solo exhibition at G13 Gallery this November. What should art lovers expect from this latest exposition of water colours and oils by the veteran artist? With his sunny disposition and optimistic outlook, Calvin's works will undoubtedly delight and inspire all to always look at the brighter side of life while embracing the joys of living with humility, simplicity and sincerity. Above all, have fun!

In such challenging times, we are all the better for it.

Artworks

Colours of the Stream 1601
81 x 204 cm Acrylic on Jute 2016



Colours of the Stream 1602

81 x 204 cm Acrylic on Jute 2016



Moving Forward

102 x 233 cm Oil on Linen 2016



Over The Moon

91 x 151 cm Oil on Linen 2016



Swing 1501

55 x 75 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Swing 1502

55 x 75 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



2015

Swing 1503

55 x 76 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Swing 1504

55 x 76 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Swing 1505

41 x 59 cm Watercolor on Paper 2016



38°

56 x 78 cm Watercolor on Arches Paper 2016



Colours of The Stream V
36 x 78 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015





Colours of The Stream VI
36 x 78 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015

Colours of The Stream VII
30 x 46 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015





Colours of The Stream VIII
30 x 46 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Colours of The Stream IX
41 x 59 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Colours of The Stream X
30 x 46 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Colours of The Stream XI
30 x 46 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Indulge I
38 x 76 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



Indulge II
38 x 76 cm Watercolor on Paper 2015



CALVIN CHUA

Born 1961, Kedah, Malaysia

EDUCATION

1982 Diploma in Fine Art, KLCA

SOLO EXHIBITION

2016 The Joys of Living: The Artistry Of Calvin Chua at G13 Gallery, Malaysia
2013 "Rhapsodies Beyond The Silk Road" at G13 Gallery, Malaysia
2011 Fruit Season Galeri Mutiara Penang, Malaysia
2008 River Series Galeri Mutiara Penang, Malaysia
2008 The Village Fo Guang Shan Selangor, Malaysia
2007 River Series NN Gallery K.L., Malaysia
2006 Lobby Centre NSTP K.L., Malaysia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

2016 Art Expo Malaysia Plus 2016 with G13 Gallery, Malaysia
Malaca: Where Friendship Begins (Joyart Gallery, Beijing 798)
Vietnam- Malaysia- Thailand Art Exhibition and Exchange Exhibition (Hanoi, Vietnam)
China/NWS International Small Image Exchange Exhibition, NWS Gallery, CA, USA
L'Exposition Internationale Invitee des Beaux-arts des Chinois – France

2015 International Small Image Exchange Exhibition
Maritime Silk Road, Coastal Shantau International Watercolour Workshop
Art Taipei 2015, G13 Gallery, Taiwan
Art Expo Malaysia 2015, G13 Gallery, Malaysia
Bazaar Art Jakarta 2015, G13 Gallery, Indonesia
Integrated Dialogue
Splash 2
The Art Fest @LFR
SWS Annual Show, Singapore
Incheon Global Art Exhibition, Korea
Thessaloniki Watercolour Salon, Greece
Re-interpretation : International Watercolour Tour in China

2014 Splashes International Watercolour Exhibition (Bank Negara Malaysia Gallery)
Incheon Global Cities Art Exchange Grand Festival (South Korea)
Asian Water Colour Expression II (Malaysia)
Sasaran International Art Festival 2014 (Malaysia)
Art Expo Malaysia 2014, G13 Gallery at Matrade Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2013 2013 Incheon Global Cities Arts Exchange Grand Festival (South Korea)
Art Expo Malaysia
Shenzhen International Watercolour Biennial (China)
MWS PleinAir Show 2013
Impression of Malaysia Contemporary Art Exhibition 2013 (Penang & China)
1Malaysia Contemporary Art Tourism Festival 2013
Artist's Favourite II (Penang State Gallery)

2012 MWS Annual Show (Kuala Lumpur)
"Faces 2012" (University Malaya)
"Dry Run Series" Malaysia Chapter, (LAC 2012)
PWCS Annual Show (Penang)
Asian Watercolour Expression 2012 (Indonesia)

"Dialogue II" Gaya Art Space (Bali Indonesia)
Towards Serenity (G13 Gallery Kuala Lumpur)
2012 Incheon Global Cities Arts Exchange Grand Festival (South Korea)
Watercolour Gems (Singapore)
Art Expo Malaysia

2011 Impression of Malaysia Contemporary Art Exhibition
MWS Annual show
2nd Joint Exhibition PWCS + MWS
Genting Arts Festival 2011
The First New Expression of World Art Biennial (Henan China)
Open show G13 Gallery Kuala Lumpur
Art Expo Malaysia

2010 Shanghai Zhu Jia Jiao International Watercolour Biennial Exhibition
Splashes of Watercolour by Singapore Watercolour Society 41st Annual Exhibition
MWS Annual Show at NN Gallery, KL
2010 Art Expo Malaysia at Matrade Exhibition & Convention Centre, KL
DUET, MWS and Penang Watercolour Society (PWS) joint show at Art Village Gallery, Bangsar.
Heritage of Penang & Singapore: SWS & PWCS joint show, Penang
Journey in Art by North Kedah Art Society annual show, Kedah.
The Art Route – Xinlu II, Soka Gakkai, KL

2009 Putrajaya Floria Festival (Waterfront Putrajaya)
International Watercolour Show at Nagoya, Japan
MWS Annual Group Show at NN Gallery, KL
Shah Alam Open Show at Gallery Shah Alam

2008 2nd International Art Expo Malaysia (MATRADE)

2007 Malaysian Watercolour 2007 (NN Gallery)
7th International Watercolour Exhibition (Nigata, Japan)
Enchanting Watercolor (Gallery Mutiara Penang)

2006 Enchanting Colourful (National Art Gallery)
MWO Annual Exhibition (NN Gallery)
6th International Watercolour Exhibition (Nigata, Japan)

2005 Malaysian Watercolors 2005 – NN Gallery
5th International Watercolor Exhibition (Nigata, Japan)
The Charms of Sabah (Kota Kinabalu)

2004 Kelantan in Watercolor (Kota Bharu)
4th International Watercolor Exhibition (Nigata, Japan)
National Day Art Exhibition (Kuala Lumpur)

2003 Poems and Images of Merdeka (Kuala Lumpur)
Colors of Malaysia (Aman, Jordan)
New-Brain Exhibition (Korea)
3th International Watercolor Exhibition (Nigata, Japan)

2002 Malaysian Watercolor Exhibition (Malacca)
Seoul New World Exhibition (Korea)

2001 Image Of Malaysia & India (New Delhi)
 Images of Malaysia (Sao Paulo)
 Asia Pacific Watercolor Exhibition (Taipei)

2000 Citarasa 2000 'Malaysia Tanah Airku' (Bank Negara)
 WWF-Art For Nature 2000 (Islamic Arts Museum)
 Asian Pacific Watercolor Painting Exhibition (Taipei)
 Seoul New-Topic Exhibition (Korea)

1999 Aku '99 Potret Diri (Kuala Lumpur)
 Singapore Watercolor Society 30 (Singapore)
 Asian Pacific Watercolor Painting Confederation Exhibition (Taipei)
 Art Marathon- Bank Negara (Kuala Lumpur)
 Imbasan Bakat Muda (National Art Gallery)

1998 Asian Pacific Watercolor Painting Exhibition (Taipei)
 Asian Watercolor 98 (Seoul)
 WWF- Art For Nature Exhibition (Kuala Lumpur)

1997 ASIAN WIND NOW 97 (Japan)
 19th International Brussels Independent Film Festival (Brussels, Belgium)
 Two Weeks In The Summer Of Sweden (Kuala Lumpur)
 Landscape Of Malaysia (Konst Museet Sweden)
 The 12th Asian Watercolor Confederation (Singapore)

1996 The 11th Asian Watercolor Confederation (Hong Kong)
 Asian Pacific Watercolor Painting Exhibition (Taiwan)
 CITARASA '96 PERAYAAN (Bank Negara Malaysia)

1995 The 10th Asian Watercolor Confederation (Bangkok)
 Beautiful Malaysia, KL Hilton International

1994 The 9th Asian Watercolor Confederation
 25 Years of Watercolor Painting in Singapore

1993 Watercolor '93 (Singapore)
 The 8th Asian Watercolor Confederation (Bali / Jakarta)

1992 Koleksi '92 (MAA Annual Show)

1991 Asean Bankers Invitation Art Show (Maybank Gallery)

1990 Watercolor in Asia by Art Base (Singapore)

1989 Pameran Titian II (National Art Gallery Bangkok)
 The 4th Asian Watercolor Confederation (Bangkok)

1988 The 3rd Asian Watercolor Confederation (Kuala Lumpur)

1988-1996 Singapore Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition
 1986-1991 Open Show (National Art Gallery)
 1985-1991 The Young Contemporaries Exhibition (National Art Gallery)
 1982-1986 Nine Man Show Exhibition

Collectors

Bank Negara Malaysia
 Container Nasional
 K & N Kenanga
 Margaret Yeo & Nasrim
 Museum Kedah
 Bhd.
 Price Waterhouse
 Southern Bank Berhad
 University Utara Malaysia
 Sdn.Bhd.
 Yayasan Sarawak
 Credit Corporation (M) Sdn. Bhd.
 Petronas Gallery
 Kurnia Insurance
 Putrajaya Holding
 NN Gallery
 Mutiara Art Gallery Penang
 University Malaya

Commerce International Merchant Banker
 Duetsch Bank
 Kwong Yik Bank Berhad
 Malaysian Airline System
 Malaysian Shipyard & Engineering Sdn.
 Rashid Hussain Securities Sdn. Bhd.
 Holiday Villa Hotel
 Tan Chong & Sons Motor Company

Malayan Banking Berhad
 Persatuan Insurans Nyawa Malaysia
 Carigali Bhd
 The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts
 DYMM Sultan of Kedah
 Perlis State Art Gallery
 G13 Gallery

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For complete artist's CV, please log on to www.g13gallery.com

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www.g13gallery.com

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