

2023 Bakat Muda Sezaman Seni Di Lokasi

Artwork Proposal

Artist: Lim Mei Tzin

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ARTWORK PROPOSAL

A) Main Theme

Nostalgia

noun. a longing to return to an earlier period or condition of life recalled as being better than the present in some way.

B) Background and Concept

My family originates from Kuala Lumpur. I remember growing up listening to my late father talking about his childhood in Brickfields back in the 1950s to 1960s. He said he had picked rambutans from rambutan trees planted in the nearby orchard across the road (the land where KL Sentral is built on today), swam in the Klang river after school and caught fighting fishes in the river with his friends. When I was a kid, those kampung life adventures were fascinating to me, simply because those imageries contradicted with what I was used to experiencing as an urban kid.

As I grew older, I found him began to sound like a broken record for repeating the same stories over and over again. They got less exciting and I paid lesser attention as time went by. I did not find resonance in his stories because I grew up in a totally different era and environment. Now, the storyteller is no longer around, and the feeling of nostalgia hits. It is during moments like this I begin to understand why my father looked back on his childhood often even when he reached old age. He wanted to find connectedness with us.

When facing major changes or going through major events in life, humans naturally tend to think a lot about the past, which is feeling nostalgic. It is a comforting feeling to remind us who we have been, what we had been through and who we are going to be. By understanding this theory, I am able to empathise with my father. He might have had compared the childhood of his children living in an urban area while reminiscing his childhood in the village. He might have had hoped that we were still able to grow up happily despite missing certain type of fun that he used to enjoy as a child. Whether consciously or not, having shared his childhood with us was a way of uniting sense of identity. This had allowed us to form close parent-child bond since young.

To me, nostalgia is bittersweet. Remembering the best times and the fond memories we shared being the sweet part. Irreversible of time spent with my father and having to deal with longing memories of him that I can never be retrieve again is bitter.

In terms of art practice, I have been using art as a medium for therapy to help me in my grieving journey. Therefore, for 2023 Bakat Muda Sezaman project, I would like to make an installation artwork that can convey my artistic conception on what nostalgia is like for me. I intend to create a space where the audience can interact with. In the said space, the audience can temporarily abandon the current state of mind and let themselves travel back in time, to be in touch with their fondest memories that they have shared with their closest person. Playing with opaque and transparent forms, I hope to visualise the metaphorical meaning of present times versus the longing memories of the past.

C) Proposed Location

The proposed location is at one of the shop houses situated at 159, Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. The shop houses are believed to have been built since around the 1940s to 1950s.

I read an article published on says.com about how a shop house in Brickfields is refurbished and turned into a vintage home filled with antiques and furniture that are period-correct with the property's history. The photographs published on says.com instantly draw my attention because I recognise this is the area where my paternal family used to live since the 1950s until late 1980s.

In July 2023, I went to visit the property and one of the tenants (currently occupying one of the units named Nam Hoe) showed me the common area at the back of the property. It was an outdoor open-air deck, currently decorated with vintage furniture. The scene looked as though it was stuck in time, which coincidentally matches my art-making objectives and artistic concept for this project (please refer to section D for drafted artwork presentation).

Furthermore, I think this place is the suitable venue for the exhibition due to the following reasons:

- Convenient location connected by various public transportations and parking spaces are available around the area.
- This outdoor open-air deck is directly accessible via a backdoor of the property, which means judges, guests and the public are able to enter the exhibition venue with minimal to no disturbance caused to the other occupants.

Address: 159-1, Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur (above Anak Baba)



Open-air deck.



Top view of the old shop houses in Brickfields. The proposed location is as indicated above.

https://images.says.com/uploads/story_source/source_image/1050097/d7ff.jpg

D) Presentation Arrangement and Installation Manual

1. Materials: PVA glue or latex glue, cotton gauze.
2. Method: Skinning.
3. To construct a modern living room setting within a vintage space.
4. Skinned glue sheets/structure of modern day's furniture and appliances are placed within the vintage space to interact with their retrospective counterpart.
5. Fishing lines are to be used to suspend the skinned glue sheets from ceiling to mid-air.
6. Lightings (track lights) are pre-installed at the venue.
7. Artwork placement sketch:



The above draft artwork placement is for illustration purposes only, actual artwork may vary.

8. Previous work done with skinning method and presentation arrangement:



Skinned car logo on a steering wheel.



Skinned daily objects suspending mid-air with fishing lines.

E) Curriculum Vitae of Artist

Relevant Experience

2022 - 2023

Art Assistant

Yorokobi Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Education

2021 - 2023

Diploma in Fine Art

Dasein Academy of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2014

Oxford Brookes University's Bachelor in Science for Applied Accounting

Sunway College, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

2011 - 2016

ACCA

Sunway College, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

Biography

Lim Mei Tzin (b. 1993, Subang Jaya) received Fine Art education from Dasein Academy of Art. I work and reside in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. After working as a tax professional for approximately four years, I have decided to pursue fine art in the year of 2021.

Not limited by two-dimensional or three-dimensional forms, I often experiment with industrial materials such as PVA glue, latex, renovation materials, as well as ordinary household objects.

In my earlier works, I raised discussion on the happenings in my external surroundings, covering societal and socio-political issues. I wish to bring attention to the younger generation how social and political issues can affect the daily lives of the people.

Currently, I am keen to learn about psychology. I begin creating installation artworks touching on topics relating to my inner self. It helps me to express emotions unknown to my conscious self. In the meantime, I am expanding my understanding between time and space, construction and deconstruction, life and death, permanence and impermanence, memories and nostalgia.

I find purpose in art creation by achieving self-expression that has a universal understanding. I hope my artwork can serve as a form of therapy for myself and at the same time, bring comfort to people who are experiencing emotional hardships.

F) References

Location:

<https://says.com/my/lifestyle/malaysian-transforms-kindergarten-shophouse-into-cosy-vintage-home>

Artwork / artist blog:

<https://limmeitzin.blogspot.com/>