

# Passing and Forgetting (Nothing Is Forever)

"Passing and Forgetting (Nothing Is Forever)" is an installation art project. Project inspiration from the profound changes in the rubber industry over time, the project explores the transient nature of moments and the relentless passage of time through the lens of abandoned building materials.

Through the reuse of raw materials and found objects from an abandoned rubber smokehouse, "Passing and Forgetting (Nothing Is Forever)" breathes new life into these relics of the past. The installation art created from these materials reflects the rise and fall of an era and an industry, inviting viewers to experience the transformation firsthand.

The suggested exhibition locations, including the original site of the smokehouse in Bukit Gambir, Johor, and the art gallery at Dasein Academy of Art in Kuala Lumpur, provide diverse contexts to engage with the artwork. The juxtaposition of the old and the new, the past and the present, stimulates introspection on the ever-changing nature of life and encourages new perspectives.

"Passing and Forgetting (Nothing Is Forever)" is an artistic endeavor to capture the essence of fleeting moments and to reflect on the ever-turning wheel of time. I hope that through this installation art can invite audiences to explore the passage of time and contemplate the significance of embracing each present moment with fresh attitudes and perspectives.

## Project Description

Objects and industry that people forget. Rubber used to be a specialty of Malaya and a major agricultural product. At that time, Malaysia's gum industry was the world's leading, and the price of gum was related to the ups and downs of Malaysia's economy.

Since 1980s in Malaysia, with the increase of global demand for palm oil, the owner of the estate changed to planting palm trees, and the gum planting area decreased year by year. In addition, the golden age of gum is no longer the most important product in the industry due to the competition and attack from artificial gums and plastics, which can replace by machinery.

The economic recovery has driven a strong rebound in the demand for rubber products such as gloves. However, it has not helped change the attitude of rubber planters towards the industry. The rubber plantation sector is overly reliant on the international market, and prices are highly influenced by global supply and demand, making it very unstable. Additionally, the difficulty in hiring foreign labor adds to the challenges faced by the rubber industry, leading it towards a decline, which is an undeniable fact.

Even though Malaysia's rubber glove exports are currently experiencing high demand and reaching new heights in export value, indicating a gradual recovery in the domestic rubber market, it has not been enough to alter the pessimistic view of rubber planters regarding the future of the industry.

The smokehouse was a significance mark of rubber industry, the workers used to carry the rubber sheet into the smokehouse, hung high on a bamboo pole and fumigated with fire. In between, the rubber sheet is turned upside down so that the smoke is evenly smoked and golden, and it is ready to be sold to exporters.

The workers built the smokehouse and working in this industry with effort. By changing of times, it was abandoned. It is not only loss of an industry but also loss hard work and effort of a generation. Facing the losing is powerless just like the timbers and bricks pile

randomly in a corner. The rise and fall of an era and an industry, with the passage of time, go through cycles of prosperity and decline will never end.

The rise and fall of an era and an industry will never cease, and though we may be powerless to change it, however we can always approach and interpret each present moment with new attitudes and perspectives.

## Elements and materials

I'm interested in studying things and objects which consider as a documentary method that keeps track of time. Through those memorable things and objects we can feel the flow of time.

I'm going to use the found objects to discuss the things that pass away, disappearing and forgotten. Raw material found objects with their own languages can tell the flow of time rather than creation.

I'm going to do an installation art in this project. I'm going to collect and use found objects such as abandoned timbers and bricks from the rubber smokehouse. Through this method, give these dismantled and abandoned pieces of woods and bricks a new life. I also hope to present directly to the audience the succession and transformation of an era and an industry, allowing them to feel it firsthand.



*Rubber smokehouse before destruction.(2020)*

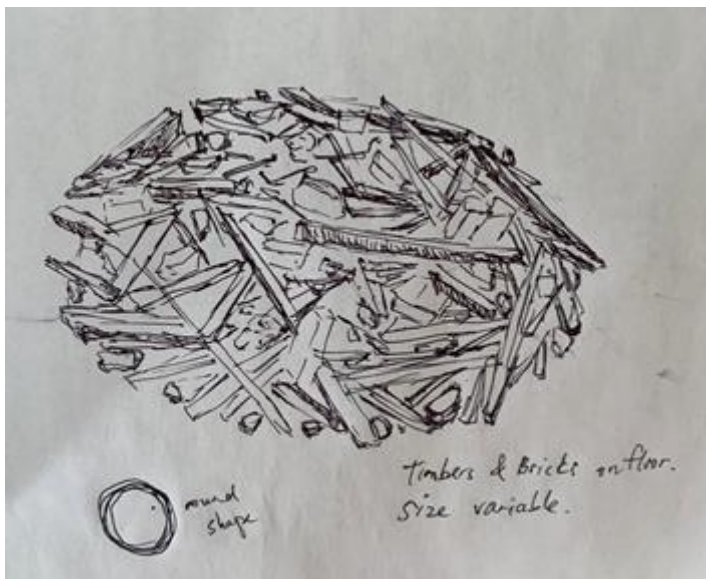


*Abandoned timbers from the smokehouse.(2023)*

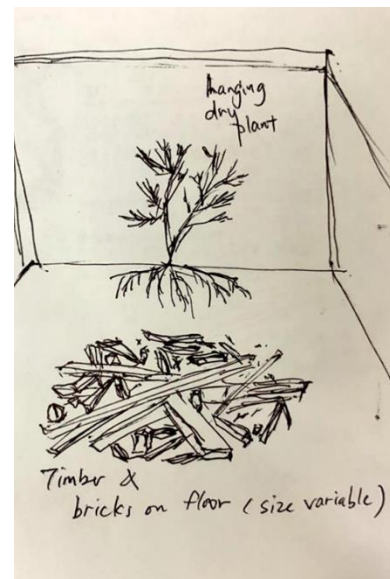
## Final Works

In this project “Passing and forgetting (Nothing is forever)”, I’m going to create an installation artwork with the found objects, bricks and timbers from abandoned rubber smokehouse site. The building materials of smokehouse such as woods and bricks keeps track of time and well represent the symbol of that industry.

Through the reuse of these building materials in this installation artwork, give it a new life. The rise and fall of an era and an industry will never cease, and though we may be powerless to change it, however we can always approach and interpret each present moment with new attitudes and perspectives.



*Installation art on floor with medium of bricks and timbers from abandoned rubber smokehouse site.*



*The installation combine with building materials and hanging dry plant.*

## Suggested Location of Exhibition

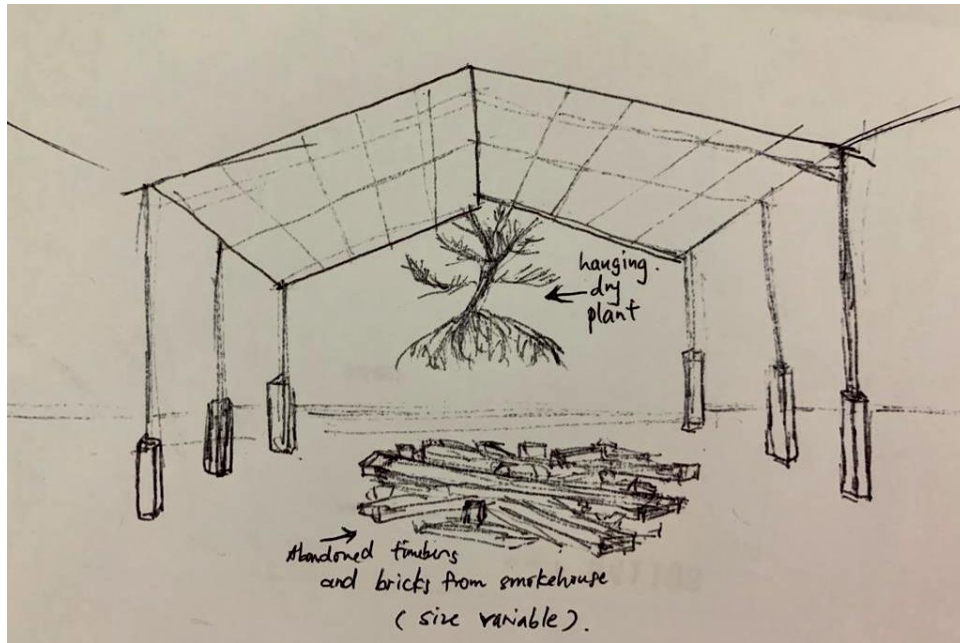
In an effort to respond to calls and suggestions for creating within the new norms and exploring local spaces, several exhibition proposals will be held in stages and eventually combined. The following are suggested location for "Art on Site" exhibitions:

### 1) Outdoor space ( Original site of smokehouse at **Bukit Gambir, Johor**)

In these area in Johor, there are many estates, and agriculture used to be the main occupation, witnessing the changes of an entire generation and industry. Using the remaining original building materials on the site, an installation art is recreated, giving new life to these abandoned relics of the past, presenting a completely new perspective. This allows the audience to enter this space and experience this artwork firsthand.



*Original site of the rubber smokehouse after destruction.*



*Sketch of the installation art at original site.*

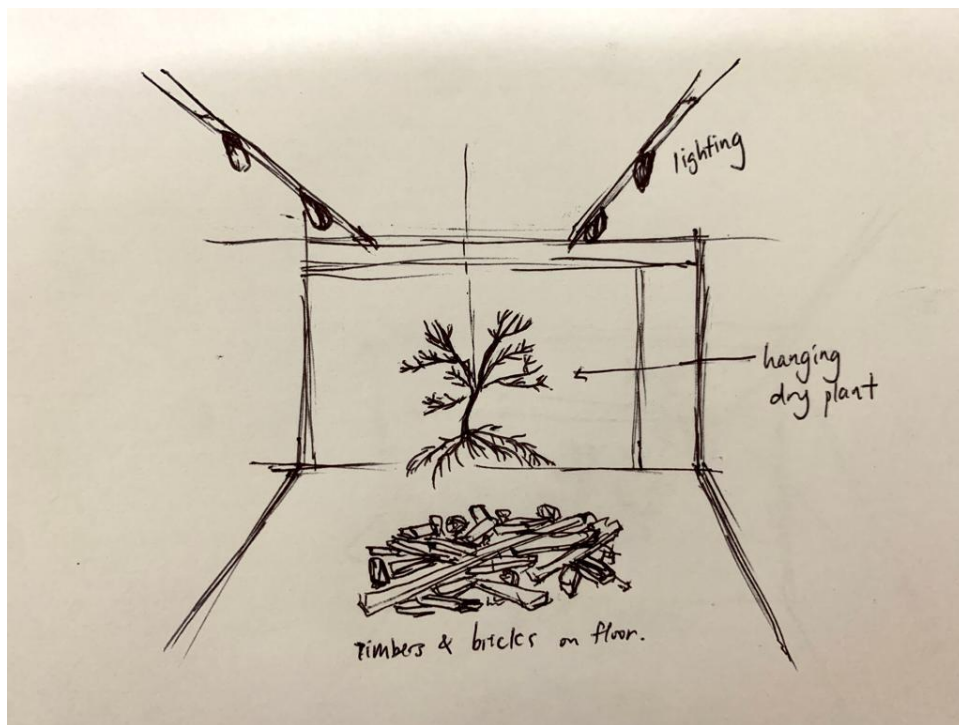
## 2) Indoor space ( Art gallery at Dasein Academy of Art, **Old Klang Road, Kuala Lumpur**)

Another option of the exhibition location. Placing the raw materials/found objects in a modern indoor exhibition hall, using the interior decoration and lighting of contemporary buildings to create contrast and impact between the artwork and the entire space, allowing the audience to experience the collision of the new and the old, the past and the present, and thus reflect on their own current and future situation.





*Multiple exhibition space in Dasein Academy of Art.*



*Sketch of the installation art at indoor exhibition hall.*