

For Immediate Release

NATIONAL ART GALLERY LAUNCHES PROGRAM CALENDAR 2019

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 January 2019 - The National Art Gallery is pleased to launch the 2019 Program Calendar and Exhibition entitled *The Wall: Dinding Bandar*. The launch ceremony was held as a show-up for 2019. This year's program includes exhibitions, art talks, workshops and more. Along with the role of the National Art Gallery as the leader in the development of visual arts, the National Art Gallery opened its doors exhibiting various exhibitions such as *The Wall: Dinding Bandar* Exhibition.

The exhibition, "The Wall - Dinding Bandar" features a collection of archived materials on graffiti artworks produced by locally talented graffiti artists. The exhibition focuses on the evolving styles, methods and advancement of this particular visual genre as well as its potential in the creative art industry and society as a whole, proving significantly that art is not meant to be confined to a piece of paper but perhaps something massive such as a wall.

Visitors can look forward to marveling at a collection of archived materials covering photography and videography as well as the most recent 'masterpieces' by selected and talented graffiti artists that have been gathered through The Malaysian Graffiti Artists Database (MAGAD), an initiative established by the National Art Gallery. The collections displayed are specifically curated from Instagram tracked with the hashtag #magadmalaysia from the years 2015 to 2018. 26 local graffiti artists have been invited to show their works in a variety of surface; on paper, on canvas or on the gallery wall. The exhibition is open to the public from 26 November 2018 until 17 March 2019.

In 2009, a total of more than 50 programs and exhibitions will be exhibited at the National Art Gallery's main galleries including the creative space galleries. One of the major exhibition in 2019 is Young Art Contemporary Exhibition (*Bakat Muda Sezaman*). Through this kind of exhibition, it enable to further enhance the art activities in Malaysia thus becoming an important platform in generating the development and popularize the Malaysia Art.

The National Art Gallery will also open its first branch in Langkawi this year by applying the diversity of visual art elements to visitors. By organizing various art programs and activities, it is important to give exposure to the public so that they understand the art as well as increase the interest, understanding and appreciation of society towards the arts.

With the achievement achieved throughout the year 2018, the National Art Gallery is responsible for driving the development of the country's visual arts industry and putting the National Art Gallery on par with world-class galleries in the world.

The Launching Ceremony was held on 25 January 2019 and was officiated by YBhg. Datuk Rashidi Bin Hasbullah, Secretary General, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture of Malaysia, at 3.00 pm.

The National Art Gallery is open to the public every day from 10am to 6pm with free admission. People are invited to visit the gallery. For more information, visit www.artgallery.gov.my.

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About the National Art Gallery Malaysia

National Art Gallery was established in 1958 by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. The National Art Gallery is a renowned and oldest art gallery in the South East Asia, holding the earliest collection of modern art in the South East Asia.

About Creative Space (CS)

Launched in January 2016, National Art Gallery currently has four Creative Space (CS) exhibition areas: the National Portrait Gallery (NAG), Administrative Building Lobby (NAG) and Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTiC).

The main purpose of organising Creative Space at NAG is to become a local hub for establishing relationships or collaboration with private entities, art galleries, NGOs and art associations. CS also provides a platform for amateurs and young visual arts players to showcase, sell their work and have the opportunity to work with NAG's curatorial team. NAG plans to open more CS in the future.

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