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HANYA SATU
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Krystal Valley

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Balai Seni Negara
National Art Gallery
Malaysia

An Immersive Topography by Jun Ong

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Krystal Valley

'*Krystal Valley*' adalah sebuah karya instalasi topografi yang melekatkan, diilhamkan dari kejadian pembentukan kristal dan penceritaan tersendiri pada objek-objek yang ditemui. Kini, terhampar di ruang Balai Seni Negara sebuah lembah mendapan batuan, pasir tiruan dan kristal yang berkilau ditemui terbenam dalam 'landskap batuan' ini. Setiap satunya mengandungi identiti unik yang terbentuk melalui tekanan dan peredaran masa. Lembah ini berkembang menjadi landskap futuristik dan ekologi tiruan, dipengaruhi oleh karakter, tenaga dan sifat metafizik mineral serta persekitarannya.

Tapak Pelupusan atau Lembah

Lembah ini dibentuk sebagai satu paradoks dalam ruang tidak nyata. Dengan tajuk '*Krystal Valley*', karya ini merujuk kepada lokasinya iaitu Lembah Klang. Adakah lembah ini sebuah tapak pelupusan atau sebuah bentukan geografi semula jadi yang kaya dengan mineral? Dengan tempaan kepingan besi buruk dan kertas, lembah ini mencabar skala untuk dipersembahkan sebagai monumen dan memperagakan mineral tiruan seperti mana permata berharga diperagakan. Benda buangan, milikan yang tidak bernilai dan memori yang dilupakan, dibentuk menjadi mineral berkilat menunjukkan bahawa '*economical*' tidaklah semestinya bermaksud murah. Dalam zaman ledakan maklumat, 'lembah' mendemokrasikan nilai dan membolehkan penghayatan terhadap sejarah meresapi ke kerak bumi melalui celahan ceruk gua dan memungkinkan pertukaran sosial dan penempatan.

Tentang Tabiat dan Memori

Penghabluran adalah proses molekul berkumpul untuk menstabil apabila cecair mula menyejuk dan mengeras, lalu menghasilkan kristal. Kebanyakan kristal sangat kecil, bersaiz mikroskopik. Tetapi apabila lebih banyak atom bergabung dan pola yang seragam tercipta dan berulang, maka kristal tersebut pun berkembang. Warna ungu gelap *Amethyst*, hijau lut sinar *Fluorite* dan kilauan *Bismuth*, ianya mudah dikenali melalui sifat dan komposisi kimia.

Dalam penghasilan kristal tiruan ini, kualiti objek terbuang diambil dan diberikan kepada setiap kristal yang serasi, lalu memulakan proses kitar semula sejarah. Memori dan objek dari artis sewaktu zaman kanak-kanak hingga dewasanya diadun untuk mencipta kolaj tiga dimensi. Melalui manipulasi bahan dan proses penghabluran, objek yang paling biasa dihasilkan semula dengan identiti baru, beku dalam masa namun bebas dalam mewarisi perubahan. Memori yang hilang membentuk hubungan yang tidak dijangka dengan geologi dan mengubah persepsi tentang bumi pada masa lalu dan asal-usulnya dalam alam semesta.

Estetika dan Metafizik

"Tiada salahnya mempunyai 'mineral' yang menyenangkan di tepi katil, bukan?"

'Lembah' ini juga membuka perbincangan mengenai industri penyembuhan kristal yang bernilai berbilion ringgit. Persoalannya, adakah ia berkait dengan ciri estetik kristal atau adakah ia benar-benar membuatkan kehidupan manusia menjadi lebih baik? Amalan penyembuhan kristal berasal dari tamadun Sumeria Kuno hampir 6,000 tahun lalu dengan kepercayaan untuk perlindungan, kesihatan, 'kelahiran semula' dan mengusir roh jahat. Pada tahun 1980-an, ketika era '*New Age*' bermula, batu kristal dan permata muncul semula sebagai kaedah penyembuhan. Melalui kajian, media dan budaya pop, terapi kristal telah menjadi sebahagian daripada amalan '*New Age*' yang popular seperti astrologi, yoga, meditasi, terapi bunyi, kad ramalan dan sebagainya. Sesetengah pengamal '*New Age*' menemui kebolehan meramal masa depan, sementara yang lain percaya bahawa cahaya bulan penuh dapat membersihkan dan mengecas tenaga mereka.

Namun, bagi kebanyakan kita hari ini, kristal hanyalah digunakan untuk penyembuhan tenaga, meningkatkan daya fokus dan ketenangan, membantu mengatasi kegelisahan, membawa tuah dan sebagainya. Tenaga dari kristal juga boleh dipertingkatkan melalui cahaya dan getaran. Pencahayaan tiruan disatukan dalam 'lembah', menjadikan ruang ini autonomi, memperkuat kristal sebagai entiti asing dan futuristik – dalam ruang tanpa masa, sebuah ekologi yang dipenuhi tenaga. Menembusi celah-celah 'lembah' adalah getaran bunyi yang halus, mencipta lapisan pendengaran yang menghubungkan serpihan fizikal landskap dan membangkitkan memori dan rohaniah.

Apabila anda memulakan perjalanan subversif dan ekspedisi ini, diharapkan anda bermula dengan kefahaman tentang keberadaan anda di bumi dan meninggalkan lembah ini dengan kepercayaan yang menjiwai persekitaran lain.

Krystal Valley

'*Krystal Valley*' is an immersive topographical installation inspired by the morphology of crystals and the memories of found objects. In a prestigious art institution's atrium lies a man-made landfill disguised as a 'valley' of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. Glowing 'crystals' are embedded in these rockscapes, each embodying a juxtaposed identity formed through time and pressure. The 'valley' grows into a futuristic assemblage and an artificial ecology – informed by the character, energy, and metaphysical properties of its minerals and the environment.

Junkyard or Valley

The valley is formed as a paradox in a non-place. The artwork title, '*Krystal Valley*' refers to its urban locality, Klang Valley. Is the valley a junkyard of forgotten, useless items or is it a mineral-rich natural geographical formation? Sculpted from junk steel and paper tectonics, the valley challenges scale and is presented as a monument, parading these artificial minerals akin to how prized gemstones are consumed. The discarded artifacts, worthless personal relics and forgotten memories molded into shiny minerals suggest that 'economical' doesn't mean cheap. In the age of information and data proliferation, the 'valley' democratizes value and allows for an appreciation of the deep history of the earth's crust through its man-made alcoves, caverns, and intrusions, allowing for social exchanges and habitation.

Of Habits & Memories

Crystallization is the process whereby molecules gather to stabilize when liquid starts to cool and harden over time, creating crystals. Many crystals start small, even microscopic, but as more atoms join and create a uniform and repetitive pattern, the crystal grows. The deep purple of Amethyst, the translucent green of Fluorite, and the iridescence of Bismuth allow for instant identification through their crystalline 'habits' (a complete description of a crystal's external shape) and chemical composition.

In the reproduction of these artificial crystal edifices, the inherent qualities of abandoned, found objects are abstracted and assigned to each compatible crystal, initiating the recycling of history. Memories and objects from the artist, as a child and an adult in his childhood neighbourhood, are juxtaposed to create a three-dimensional collage. Through the deft manipulation of materials and the act of 'crystallization', the most mundane objects are reborn with new identities, frozen in time yet fluid in inheriting growth and change. These lost memories forge an unexpected connection to geology and shift one's perception of Earth's past and its origins in the Universe.

Aesthetics and Metaphysics

"There is nothing wrong with having a beautiful mineral by your bedside, right?"

The 'valley' brings to the table the conversation of the billion-dollar healing crystal industry. Is it built around the aesthetics of crystals, or does it improve people's lives? The pseudoscientific practice of crystal healing stems from Ancient Sumerians almost 6,000 years ago with beliefs for protection, health, reincarnation, and purging evil spirits. In the 1980s, as the New Age dawned, crystals and gemstones re-emerge as a healing method. Through experimentation, media, and pop culture, crystal therapy became assimilated into popular New Age practices like astrology, yoga, meditation, sound baths, tarot reading, etc. Some New Agers even discovered psychic abilities while others believe that the Full Moon light can cleanse and recharge their energies.

However, for the layman today, crystals are simply used for their healing energies, often believed to increase focus and calm, aid anxiety, bring luck, etc. Energies from crystals can even be amplified through light and vibrations. Artificial lighting is weaved into the 'valley', making the space autonomous, amplifying the crystals as foreign, futuristic bodies - in a space without time, an ecology supplied with energy. Piercing through the crevices of valley are ethereal yet mechanical sound vibrations, creating an auditory layer that connects the physical fragments of the landscape to the memories and spirituality they evoke.

As one embarks on this subversive journey and expedition through the 'valley', it is hoped that they begin with an understanding of their place on earth and leave with an imbued belief in the otherworldly.

CRYSTAL INDEX

1. Amethyst O1 (small crystalline)

Resin, Artist's Father's Old Film Photos, Negatives of Said Film Photos, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Purple, Druzy, Prismatic |
Character : Intuitive, Calming, Protective]

2. Amethyst O1 (large crystalline)

Resin, Artist's Father's Old Film Photos, Acrylic Mirror From Artist's Discarded Marquette, Negatives of Said Film Photos, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, Pigments, LED Fittings, Speaker, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Purple, Druzy, Prismatic |
Character : Intuitive, Calming, Protective]

3. Amethyst O2 (large crystalline)

Resin, Artist's Father's Old Film Photos, Acrylic Mirror From Artist's Discarded Marquette, Negatives of Said Film Photos, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, Pigments, LED Fittings, Speaker, X-Ray, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Purple, Druzy, Prismatic |
Character : Intuitive, Calming, Protective]

4. Aura Quartz (large lattice)

Used Frosted Acrylic Tubes From Artist's 2023 "STAR/KL" Project, Dichroic Sheet, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Iridescent, Druzy, Prismatic |
Character : Magical, Healing, Uplifting]

5. Bismuth (large lattice)

Used Frosted Acrylic Tubes From Artist's 2023 "STAR/KL" Project, Dichroic Sheet, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Hopper, Metallic, Iridescent |
Character : Transformative, Creative, Unique]

6. Carnelian (small crystalline)

Resin, Faulty Electronic Circuit Boards in Brown, Discarded Yellow Plastic Bags, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Cryptocrystalline, Smooth, Orange-Red |
Character : Energising, Motivating, Courageous]

7. Celestite O1 (small crystalline)

Resin, Heirloom Silver Jewellery, Metallic Gold Foil, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Tabular, Prismatic, Blueish Brown |
Character : Calming, Uplifting, Wealthy]

8. Celestite O2 (large crystalline)

Resin, Heirloom Silver & Gold Jewellery, Metallic Gold Foil, Pigments, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Tabular, Prismatic, Blueish Brown |
Character : Calming, Uplifting, Wealthy]

9. Celestite O3 (large crystalline)

Resin, Heirloom Silver & Gold Jewellery, Metallic Gold Foil, Pigments, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Tabular, Prismatic, Blueish Brown |
Character : Calming, Uplifting, Wealthy]

10. Citrine (small crystalline)

Resin, Metallic Gold Foil, Gold Dust, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
Habits : Golden, Granular, Glassy |
Character : Energising, Abundant, Joyful]

11. Clear Quartz (large lattice)

Used Frosted Acrylic Tubes From Artist's 2023 "STAR/KL" Project, Dichroic Sheet, LED Fittings, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Prismatic, Hexagonal, Druzy |
Character : Amplifying, Clarifying, Healing]

12. Fluorite O1 (small crystalline)

Resin, Faulty Radio & Telephone Circuit Boards in Green, Discarded Food Packaging, Pigments, LED Fittings, Speaker, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Cubic, Octahedral, Green |
Character : Healing, Grounding, Nurturing]

13. Fluorite 02 (small crystalline)

Resin, Faulty Radio & Telephone Circuit Boards in Green, Discarded Food Packaging, Preloved Purple Tassels, Vintage Men's Health Magazine, Pigments, LED Fittings, Speaker, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Cubic, Octahedral, Purplish-green | Character : Harmonizing, Insightful, Balancing]

14. Rockscape

Corroded Mild Steel Frames, Metallic Black Paper, Matte Black Paper, Black Two-Core Electrical Cables, Black Mesh Net, Nylon Ropes, LED Fittings, Real Crystals, Terrarium Glass Vitrines, Used Cart, Black Flysheets, Foldable Chairs, TV, Speakers, Black Carpet

15. Moonstone (large lattice)

Used Frosted Acrylic Tubes From Artist's 2023 "STAR/KL" Project, Dichroic Sheet, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolt
[Habits : Tabular, Smooth, Iridescent | Character : Intuitive, Soothing, Feminine]

16. Opalite (large lattice)

Used Frosted Acrylic Tubes From Artist's 2023 "STAR/KL" Project, Dichroic Sheet, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Amorphous, Smooth, Iridescent | Character : Dreamy, Calming, Insightful]

17. Pyrite (large crystalline)

Resin, Discarded Mirrors, Acrylic Mirror From Artist's Discarded Marquette, Iridescent Silver Foil, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, LED Fittings, Metallic Gold Foil, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Cubic, Pyritohedral, Metallic | Character : Protective, Abundant, Energizing]

18. Rhodonite 01 (small crystalline)

Resin, Burnt Charcoal from Buddhist Temple Incense, Used Hewlett-Packard CD-ROM, Dark Pink Foil, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Granular, Tabular, Pink with Black Veins | Character : Compassionate, Healing, Protective]

19. Rhodonite 02 (small crystalline)

Resin, Burnt Charcoal from Buddhist Temple Incense, Used Hewlett-Packard CD-ROM, Dark Pink Foil, Pigments, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Granular, Tabular, Pink with Black Veins | Character : Compassionate, Healing, Protective]

20. Rhodonite 03 (large crystalline)

Resin, Burnt Charcoal from Buddhist Temple Incense, Used Hewlett-Packard CD-ROM, Dark Pink Foil, Pigments, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Granular, Tabular, Pink with Black Veins | Character : Compassionate, Healing, Protective]

21. Rhodonite 04 (large crystalline)

Resin, Burnt Charcoal from Buddhist Temple Incense, Used Hewlett-Packard CD-ROM, Dark Pink Foil, Pigments, Used Acrylic Panels from artist's 2023 "Prism" Project, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Granular, Tabular, Pink with Black Veins | Character : Compassionate, Healing, Protective]

22. Rose Quartz (small crystalline)

Resin, LED Fittings, Pigments, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Prismatic, Hexagonal, Pink | Character : Loving, Compassionate, Soothing]

23. Selenite (small crystalline)

Resin, LED Fittings, Stainless Steel Bracket, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Tabular, Columnar, Fibrous | Character : Cleaning, Healing, Spiritual]

24. Aragonite (hanging crystalline)

Dichroic Sheets, Frosted PP Sheets, LED Fittings, Steel Wireframe, Nuts, Bolts
[Habits : Hexagonal, prismatic, needle-like | Character : Energizing, Grounding, Nurturing]

Profil Artis

Jun Ong (b. 1988) adalah seorang artis yang menggunakan cahaya sebagai medium menetap di Kuala Lumpur. Karya beliau 'Star' – sebuah karya instalasi cahaya telah dicalonkan untuk *World's Best in Spatial Art* di Media Architecture Biennale (2016), Sydney. Baru-baru ini, beliau telah ditawarkan untuk menghasilkan arca cahaya berskala besar dan kekal, 'Astra' di puncak One Raffles Place, salah satu menara tertinggi di Singapura. Beliau telah berpameran di festival-festival seni ternama seperti Art SG (2023), Taiwan International Light Festival (2024), Art Central Hong Kong (2018) dan iLight Marina Bay Singapura (2016 & 2023).

Mendapat latihan dalam bidang seni bina, Jun meneliti bahawa manipulasi cahaya buatan dan media baru boleh mempengaruhi cara menghayati bentuk binaan dan persekitarannya. Jun telah bekerjasama dengan pengatur cara, artis video, ahli fizik kuantum dan artis bunyi dalam penghasilan karya beliau. Jun telah mendapat kepercayaan oleh jenama seperti Nike, The Hour Glass, Gucci, PUBG dan Philips Lighting untuk penataan cahaya di tapak spesifik. Bergerak bersama kumpulannya, Jun membangunkan penyelidikan dan reka bentuk dalam *sensorial deprivation*, pertunjukan cahaya dan psikologi iluminatif.

Artist Profile

Born in 1988, Jun Ong is a Kuala Lumpur-based light artist. His work "Star" - a five-story light installation in Penang was nominated for World's Best in Spatial Art at the Media Architecture Biennale (2016) in Sydney. He was recently commissioned for a large-scale permanent light sculpture, "Astra" on the pinnacle of One Raffles Place, one of the tallest towers in Singapore. He has shown at major art festivals like Art SG (2023), Taiwan International Light Festival (2024), Art Central Hong Kong (2018), and iLight Marina Bay Singapore (2016 & 2023).

Trained in architecture, he examines how the manipulation of artificial light and new media could affect the way we experience the built form and its environment. He has collaborated with programmers, video artists, quantum physicists, and sound artists in his multi-scaled works. Jun has been commissioned by brands like Nike, The Hour Glass, Gucci, PUBG, and Philips Lighting for site-specific light installations. With a think-tank approach, Jun and his studio develop research and design in sensorial deprivation, performative lighting, and illuminative psychology.



Kumpulan Projek Project Team

Artis Artist
Jun Ong

Pengurus Projek Project Manager
Ng Xiaolan

Pasukan Artis Artist Team

Farah Yazid
How Han Ze
Law Min Zhen
Benjamin Chay
Angie Lee
Kristine Low
Ahmad Muizzuddin Abd Muttalib
Shervina Samuel
Desmond Lim
Wong Siew Tong (Jaclyn)
Tay Win Shen
Low Yu Qi

Videografi Videography
Ng Cuan Cheng (Happy)

Fotografi Photography
Farah Yazid
Benjamin Chay
How Han Ze
Ng Cuan Cheng (Happy)

Pereka Grafik Graphic Designer
Christine Jong

Artis Soundscape Soundscape Artist
Jona Lim

Pasukan Pemasangan Installation Team
Art Point Signcraft
Riizkuah Electrical Services
MYLED

Perhubungan Awam Public Relations
Team Lemon PR

Pengurusan Acara Event Management
Hustle & Bustle Group

Penyumbang Contributors

Multifoil
KURZ
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Liew Chee Heai
Marcus Damn
Ong Keng Wee

& Semua Rakan Kerjasama.
& Fellow Collaborators Across All Activations.

Layari www.junong.co atau ikuti artis di IG (@junihaoni).
Visit www.junong.co or follow the artist on IG (@junihaoni)
to participate in the upcoming activations curated for
"Krystal Valley."

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AdinaQuraisa binti Ibrahim

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