



Hitam Putih

by Idris Ali

6 January – 6 February 2023

OPENING RECEPTION Sun 8 Jan, 3–5 pm

Guest of Honour Mr Zainul Abidin Rasheed, *Non-Resident Ambassador to Kuwait*

ART CONVERSATION Sat 14 Jan, 3 – 4 pm

MASTERCLASS Sat 28 Jan, 11 am – 1 pm

CURATORIAL WALKTHROUGH Sat & Sun, 2–3 pm

Maya Gallery, 57 Genting Lane #05-00 Singapore 349564
12 pm to 6 pm [closed on Mon & PH]

Maya Gallery presents “Hitam Putih” (meaning ‘Black and White’ in Malay), a solo exhibition by senior Singaporean artist Idris Ali. For over 60 years, Pak Idris has been known for his vibrant watercolour works depicting Singapore’s heritage architecture and scenes of the quotidian.

The exhibition will showcase more than 20 monochromatic works from the 1970s till today, which are very distinct from his watercolour works. These works demonstrate the versatility of black and white as a visual language to create forms and elements of design. Without the distraction of colour, the beautiful stripped back sketches also expose the intimate emotional connections between Idris and his subject matter.

MEDIA RELEASE



Many of the images —shophouses, the old *kampongs* at Geylang and Kranji, and street cobblers—reflect a landscape and a way of life that has been engulfed by manufactured greenery and air-conditioned shopping malls. These monochromatic sketches convey a haunting sense of nostalgia, like fading impressions of a bygone era.

Also exhibited for the first time are candid depictions of fellow artists—the late Abdul Ghani Hamid, S.Mohdir, and Rohaini Ismail who were his close friends and mentors.

With his expressive and intimate pen strokes, he truly captures his personal memories for the next generation.

Part of Singapore Art Week 2023, Hitam Putih is supported by National Arts Council, curated by Vanessa Yeo and presented by Maya Gallery. The exhibition will run from 6 Jan–6 Feb 2023.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

For close to 60 years, **Idris Mohamed Ali** (b.1944, Singapore) has brilliantly captured Singapore's landscapes in watercolour, and exhibited at numerous group exhibitions, including three solo shows. His works can be found in the collections of the National Gallery Singapore, National Heritage Board, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various government agencies in Singapore and Malaysia, private organisations and individuals. A member of *Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya* or APAD (Association of Artists of Various Resources) formed in 1962, he has taught many students under its *Tunas* (Budding) programme, and mentored art teachers. He is a recipient of the inaugural *Hadiah Warisan* (Heritage Prize) in 2021, *Pingat APAD* (1974) and *Cipta Mekar* (1990), and has illustrated many award-winning publications.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Vanessa Yeo (b. 1984, Singapore) is a freelance curator and art writer. She recently graduated from an MA in Asian Art History where she explored the role and significance of nature in sculpture. Her recent work includes curating *Wild Fragments* and an exhibition review for *Plural Art Mag*.

ABOUT MAYA GALLERY

Maya Gallery is a leading artist-run art gallery with a focus on heritage, culture, Singapore and Southeast Asian art. Since its opening in 2012, the gallery has liaised with curators, organisations and institutions to introduce international artists to Singapore, and Singapore artists to the world. It has held numerous exhibitions locally and regionally, and continues to support emerging and established artists. Maya Gallery was voted Top 10 Art Galleries in Singapore (tallypress.com, 2018) and awarded the Recommended Art Gallery (Expat Living Reader Awards, 2015). Described as a gallery that has "won the hearts of art enthusiasts with its locally flavoured exhibitions" (mydestination.com), Maya Gallery has contributed strongly to Singapore's art scene in the past 10 years.

MEDIA RELEASE

SELECTED WORKS



Back Lane
Pen & ink on paper
30 x 40 cm, 1990



Lor 3 Geylang
Pen & ink on paper
30 x 40 cm, 1983



Cobbler
Pen & ink on paper
30 x 40 cm, 1982



Singapore Street Scene
Pen & ink on paper
30 x 40 cm, 1980

CONTACT

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