

GAJAH GALLERY PRESENTS

THE NEW NOW IV: TENSION/CREATION

14 AUGUST – 6 SEPTEMBER 2020



Gajah Gallery proudly presents *The New Now IV: TENSION/CREATION*, the latest edition of our annual New Now series, featuring fresh, innovative works by promising upcoming artists from Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

The New Now IV: Tension/Creation explores how each handpicked artist grapples with forms of tension and tribulations in their burgeoning artistic practice. Marked with trials and uncomfortable transitions, these works serve as an insight into the reality of ‘emerging artists’ – one marked with organic experimentation, mutation and change.

The curatorial premise was chosen due to the connection between these artists' works of a shared tendency to investigate unease in different shades and degrees, pondering the questions: What are the various forms of pressures and tensions that they are wrestling with today, and what have they yet to face? And ultimately, as young artists, why is it necessary to confront the difficult, the uncertain and the unspoken?

The four artists in the show portray this tension through varying subliminal and explicit ways. **Luh Gede Gita Sangita Yasa** struggles to create a perfect cohesive whole, an 'ideal reality' out of fragments from memories, dreams and mundane routines, a sensible narrative out of these divergent parts. Likewise, **Noreen Loh** creates a new reality – new fantastical species of flora, capturing the enigmatic, whimsical appeal of objects of nature through unconventional synthetic mediums.

Kass Koh draws inspiration from science fiction and video games to create alternative imaginative realms that expand upon mythology, portraying worlds within worlds. **Koh Kai Ting** renders animals and creatures in distress, harshly removed from their natural environment, capturing a peculiar tension between beauty and mortality.

For these artists, this exhibition is only just the beginning, as they step out onto their unique paths in embracing these discomforts. Marking the launch of their artistic careers, the show fosters a space for the participating artists to see these challenges no longer a burden, but as a vital tool for growth.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Kass Koh (b. 1992, Singapore) is an emerging inter-disciplinary artist who dwells in the complexities of myths through a metamodern lens. Drawing inspiration from speculative themes of science fiction, ancient mythology, video games, board games and comic books, Koh creates alternate realms that expand upon the imagination and dialogue of personal myths and archetypes.

Koh Kai Ting (b. 1996, Malaysia) is an emerging Singapore-based artist whose works explore facets of human desires and the complexity of social systems. Her current practice investigates the primal instincts of pain, fear and violence; how these have become fundamental parts of civilization, being utilized to maintain and enhance the current distribution of power – a subject that has become increasingly relevant with recent events across the globe.

Luh Gede Gita Sangita Yasa (b. 1997, Indonesia) is a Balinese, Bandung-based visual artist whose current series titled '*Paradiso*' explores the idea of 'ideal memories'. The 'ideal' or 'Paradise' is a state that she attempts to reach through her paintings of simulated scenes with various items and sections added, reduced or erased – these fragments being evocative of memories, in the process of being recalled or forgotten, in search of perfection.

Noreen Loh Hui Miun (b. 1981, Malaysia) is a Singapore-based artist whose practice is defined by experimentation and versatility – incorporating the unconventional, to create the fantastical. In her series '*The Marriage*', Miun extracts the essence of petals, patterns and details from flowers to create a new series of abstract laminate floral pieces. The sculptures are an artistic re-imagining of the wonders of nature, in all its whimsical glory.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 1996, Gajah Gallery is a Singapore-based contemporary art institution dedicated to the representation, promotion and exhibition of Southeast Asian artists locally and internationally. The gallery has remained at the forefront of the regional art scene holding premier exhibitions curated by the region's leading academics and art historians. In addition to raising artists to the international platform, the Gallery ignites critical discourse in the contemporary art community, engaging in collaborative features with local universities and private institutions. Gajah Gallery has collaborated with several national institutions such as exhibitions at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) in 2005 with a joint show of Srihadi Soedarsono & Chua Ek Kay; with the University of Singapore Museum (NUS) in 2007 & 2009 with exhibitions on Yunizar and the Jendela Art Group respectively.

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In accordance with governmental measures, the Gallery will be implementing safety measures such as temperature screening, contact tracing, and limiting entry into our premises. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gajahgallery/

Instagram: [@gajahgallery](https://www.instagram.com/gajahgallery)

For images, interviews and other media enquiries, please contact:

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Kass Koh
Survival of the Fittest
2018
Acrylic, gouache and graphite on wood
30.5 x 30.5 x 2.5 cm



Kass Koh

Trophy I

2018

Acrylic, gouache and graphite on wood

30.5 x 30.5 x 2.5 cm



Noreen Loh

Plantae I

2015

Laminate, natural materials and bell jar

62 x 32 x 32 cm



Noreen Loh

Plantae VII

2015

Laminate, natural materials and bell jar

40 x 28 x 28 cm



Koh Kai Ting
Golden Rain, 2018
Watercolor on polyester mesh, mounted on wooden panel
90 x 110 cm



Koh Kai Ting
Tangled (Sacred Violence), 2018
Watercolor on polyester mesh, mounted on wooden panel
80 x 96 cm



Luh Gede Gita Sangita Yasa
Paradiso #3 – Girl Who Leaps Through Time and Space, 2020
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 170 cm



Luh Gede Gita Sangita Yasa
Paradiso #5, 2020
Oil and acrylic on canvas
120 x 170 cm