

GAJAH GALLERY PRESENTS

THE HUMANITY OF SMALL THINGS

19 JUNE – 12 JULY 2020



“Little events, ordinary things, smashed and reconstituted. Suddenly, they become the bleached bones of a story.”

- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

Gajah Gallery proudly presents *The Humanity of Small Things*, an online-only exhibition featuring small works created during the recent period of self-isolation by aspiring and accomplished artists from the region and beyond.

In the face of something as monumental as a global pandemic, how do we find and regain grounding? When much of the comfortable routines, places we once deemed safe, and grand plans we had tightly embraced have been drastically changed, and even taken away – what do we now cling to?

Created in the solitude of each artist's home or studio in a time of great uncertainty, the pieces in this show attempt to answer such questions with small expressions of creativity and attempts to seek beauty in the little, the intimate and the fragile – but not any less powerful – phenomena in the controlled and contained spaces we live in; the quiet, fleeting moments that now command our attention.

This exhibition is a reflection on this return to smallness – reflected not just through the size of the works, but how they are metaphors for the objects, people, places and moments that once were overlooked or deemed unworthy, now imbued and weighted with new meaning.

At the same time, the show contemplates on a contemporary art world in the midst of a major shift – a world being forced to move from the glitz and glamour of big, blockbuster exhibits to something more raw, modest and real. It is an invitation for artists to meditate and reflect on our rapidly changing world – the ordinary stories; the small victories; the quiet and neglected voices that had been sidelined now filled with vigor and renewed significance.

As a colossal, historical event sweeps the world at present, as Roy suggests, these small stories are what ultimately make up the skeletons, textures and patterns for bigger and grander things.

Whilst the future may be hazy, we look forward one day at a time – trusting in the hope of tomorrow. Survival, it seems, must begin with these small, humble steps.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

1. Ashley Bickerton (USA/Indonesia)
2. Choong Kam Kow (Malaysia)
3. Erizal As (Indonesia)
4. Fika Ria Santika (Indonesia)
5. I Made Djirna (Indonesia)
6. Ibrahim (Indonesia)
7. Jason Lim (Singapore)
8. Jigger Cruz (Philippines)
9. Kara Inez (Malaysia)
10. Kayleigh Goh (Malaysia)
11. Li Jin (China)
12. Mahalakshmi Kannappan (Singapore)
13. Mangu Putra (Indonesia)
14. Suzann Victor (Singapore/Australia)
15. Uji 'Hahan' Handoko (Indonesia)
16. Yunizar (Indonesia)

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.

Gajah Gallery,
39 Keppel Road,
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Singapore 089065

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gallery is temporarily closed until further notice.
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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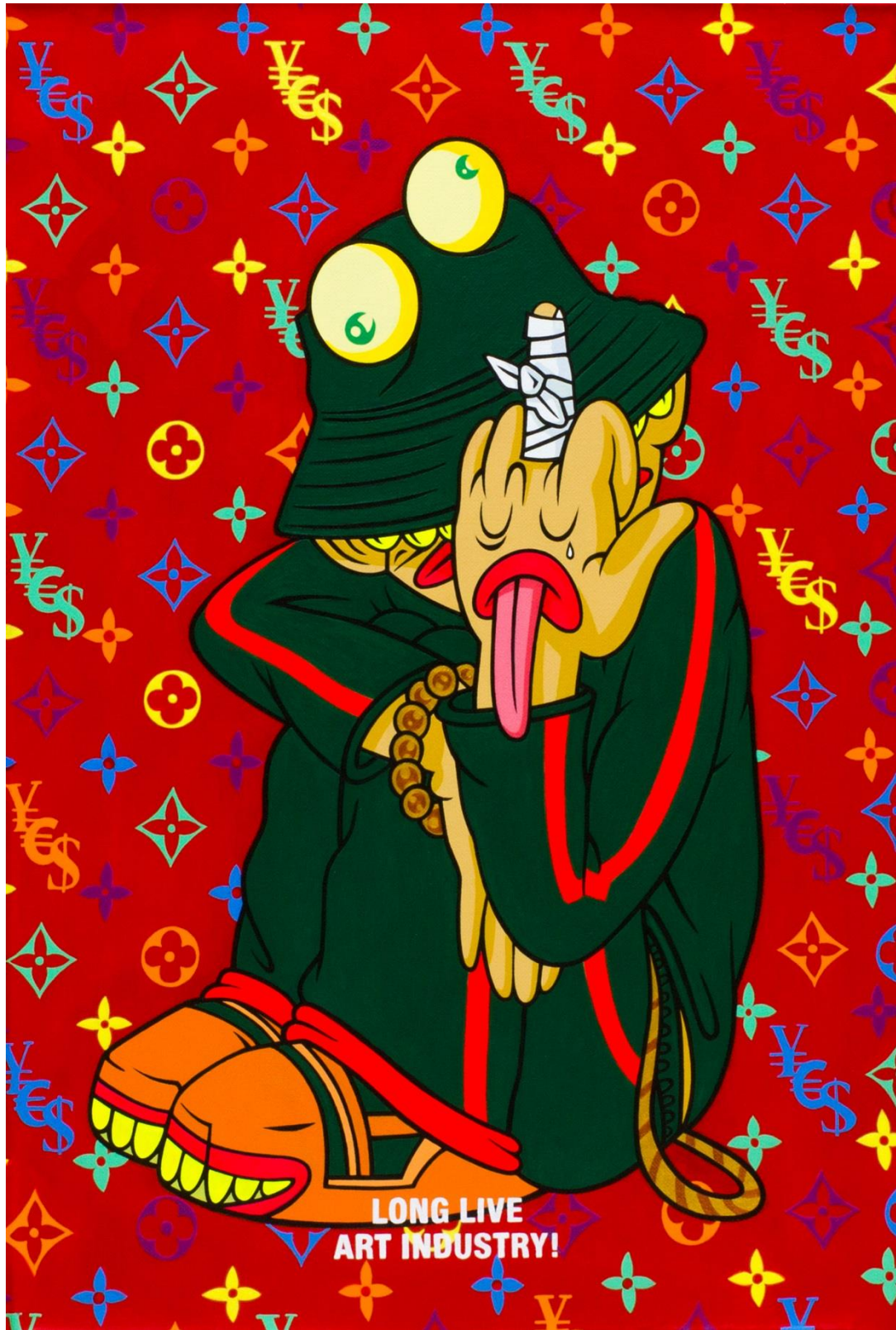
Ashley Bickerton
Small Flotsam Painting (Orange/Purple), 2020
Acrylic and Found Beach Flotsam on Canvas Board with Artist Made Plywood Construction
59.7 x 78.7 x 14 cm



Detail of Small Flotsam Painting (Orange/Purple)



Li Jin
颂
2019
Ink on paper
65 x 137 cm



Uji 'Hahan' Handoko
The Breaking of Our Middle Finger, 2020
Acrylic on canvas; 59 x 40 cm



Ibrahim

Valley

2020

Acrylic and pencil on canvas

80.5 x 80 cm



Kayleigh Goh
Beneath the Lights 02, 03, 04
2020
Paint on ceramic
10cm diameter each



I Made Djrna
Dirumah Saja (Stay Home)
2020
Mix media on canvas
45 x 45 cm x 3 panels



Erizal As
Physical Distance (Jarak), 2020
oil on canvas, 100 x 160 cm