



PRESS RELEASE

3 November 2018

SPOTLIGHT BY PENANG ART DISTRICT – AN EXCITING PLATFORM FOR YOUNG MALAYSIAN ARTISTS

Penang Art District is proud to present a group exhibition featuring artworks by the Top 20 Finalists of the Spotlight art competition. The exhibition will run from 3 November 2018 to 2 December 2018 with an opening reception on Saturday, 3 November 2018, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The exhibition was officiated by YB Tuan Muhammad Bakhtiar bin Wan Chik, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Malaysia.

Spotlight by Penang Art District is a creative platform that nurtures young Malaysian talents and gives them the opportunity to realise their true potential. As part of Penang Art District's objective to invigorate the creative industry, Spotlight aims to bring out the best in Malaysian artists and to push the local art scene to its pinnacle.

The art competition received encouraging submissions for its first ever nationwide art competition for young artists below the age of 30. A variety of artworks highlighting diverse artistic techniques, ideation and expression poured in from Kedah, Penang, Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Johor and even Sarawak over a period of two months.

Out of the Top 20 Finalists selected by a panel of judges, consisting of artists, art collectors, an art educator and art space owner, the Grand Prize winner will go home with RM5,000 cash and a solo exhibition at Hin Bus Depot supported by Penang Art District. The Grand Prize winner, Yap Ley Min, will be given the opportunity to work with a mentor to help her through the journey of developing the solo exhibition for January 2019.

“Nurturing and investing in creativity are vital in preserving our cultural expression and identity. By supporting and encouraging the young generation in pursuing art, we can ensure continuity of the arts for its aesthetic and historical significance,” said YB Bakhtiar.

According to YB Bakhtiar, the creative industry has played pivotal role in our country which has contributed to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2015, according to Department of Statistic Malaysia; the Malaysian creative industry's economic contribution was RM27.9 billion and accounted for 2.66 per cent of the Malaysian economy. Since 2015, the industry has created 146,250 jobs and 10,559 establishments, which accounted for one out of 48 jobs in Malaysia.

The Spotlight art competition is part of the Penang Art District's role in building a supportive environment and ecosystem that allow artists to come together to explore, experiment and evolve. With curated programmes that focus on providing learning opportunities for young practitioners and connecting them and their works globally through creative exchange, the art district becomes an important platform for artists who wish to expand their creative career.

Penang Art District will be Malaysia's first dedicated art district. All major international cities have influential art hubs, and Penang through PAD, is poised to join their ranks. This is in line with Penang's positioning and reputation as Malaysia's cultural and heritage hub.

For more information, you may contact Stephanie Kee (stephanie@pceb.my) or Kenny Ng (kenny@pceb.my) at +604 261 6161.

List of Grand Prize Winner & Top 20 Finalists

| Category | Name | Title of Artwork |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grand Prize Winner | Yap Ley Min | Burning District |
| Jury's Choice Award | Charis Loke | Omelas |
| | Goh Sheng Jie | Reflection in A Wide Space |
| | Lee Jia Wen | Letting Go |
| | Mirza Marwan | Erotic Part |
| | Nur Hana Kai Ling Tan Ah Kim Abdullah | Internal Glitch |
| | Ryan Ng | Red |
| | Susan Ho | Listen to Me |
| | Syawahida binti Yusof | Ronda Kampung |
| | Tang Tze Lye | Night Falls |
| Finalists | Joey Wong | Massive Transmission |
| | Ong Wei Xuan | Malaysian Beauty from the Past |
| | Rosezienna Shika Anak Kalambu | Menganyam Ronda Petang |
| | Sim Li Mei | Back to the Root |
| | Sheryn Tanya Speldewinde | Betta Malaysia |
| | Sivabalan Arumugam | Stand Together II |
| | Suhaibatun Hanisah Johari | Harmoni |
| | Teh Jun Yang | Wash Disher |
| | Teoh Bin Xin | Third Eye |
| | Valery Koh | Little Details |

Organiser

Penang Art District

Penang Art District is envisioned by the Penang State Government to be the creative hub of Penang's contemporary arts and culture, as an initiative to catalyse the economic growth of the creative industry in Penang. With an existing dynamic arts scene in Penang that is growing as a contemporary cultural centre, PAD enhances the value of Penang's arts and culture by engaging artists, craftsmen, educators and the community at large through the activation of creative spaces with interactive art-related programmes. PAD is an incubation centre for aspiring and emerging artists who are looking for support and opportunities to expand their creative career. It is envisaged to be a creative network that unifies the dispersed arts scene in Penang and connects them with international counterparts.

Venue Sponsors

EcoWorld

EcoWorld Malaysia is a public listed Malaysian company involved mainly in property development. The Group is led by some of the most well-known and respected players in the property industry. It has secured approximately 8,126.4 acres of land bank with a total gross development value (GDV) of RM87.5 billion. Currently, EcoWorld Malaysia has a presence in the Klang Valley, Iskandar Malaysia and Penang with 20 projects in total comprising a product range that includes affordable, upgrader and luxury homes, integrated high-rise developments and green business parks. Through Eco World International Berhad (EcoWorld International), the brand has also extended its reach to the United Kingdom and Australia. In 2017 and 2016, EcoWorld Malaysia is honoured to be one of the Top 10 Developers at The Edge Malaysia Property Excellence Awards and also proud to be named 'Best of the Best Employers - Malaysia' in AON's Best Employer Studies.

Hin Bus Depot

Hin Bus Depot is a community art space that supports and nurtures emerging artists by providing a channel for their creativity. Began as a space run by independent artists, Hin Bus Depot has since evolved into a community project run on the belief that there should be no limit to the expression of art—and that each person, no matter their profession, is an art lover and collector at heart. Today, Hin Bus Depot is managed by a small but passionate creative collective working together with the community to sustain the depot as a space which supports and showcases progressive and upcoming artists, artworks, events, and art forms of all kinds.