

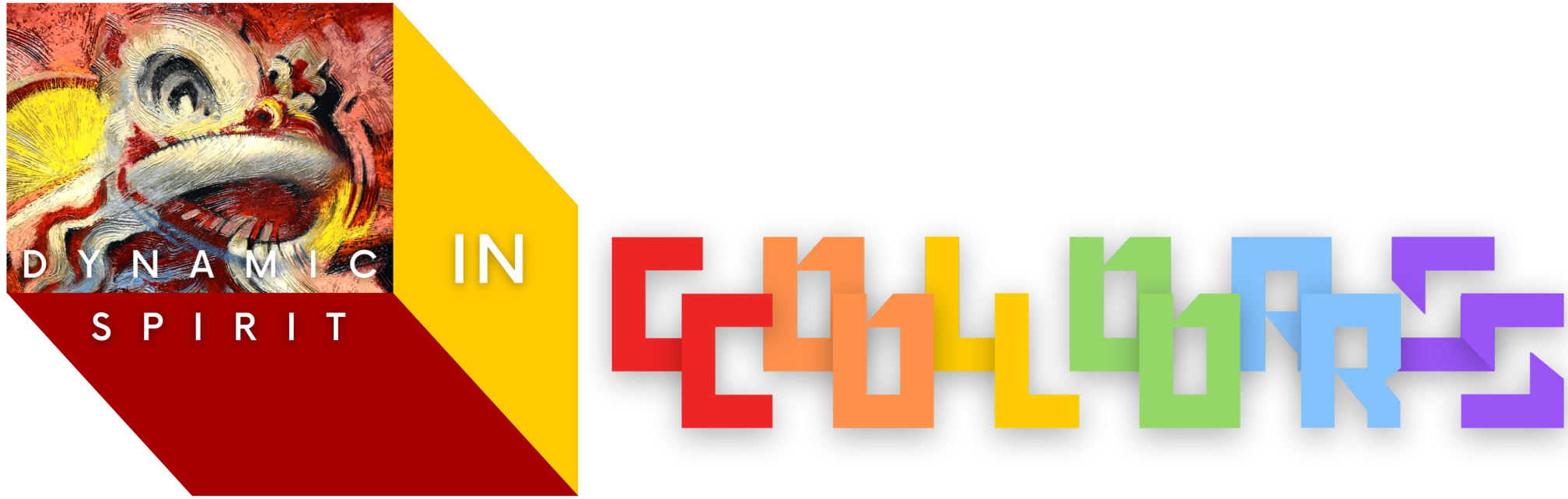
溫錦章



D Y N A M I C

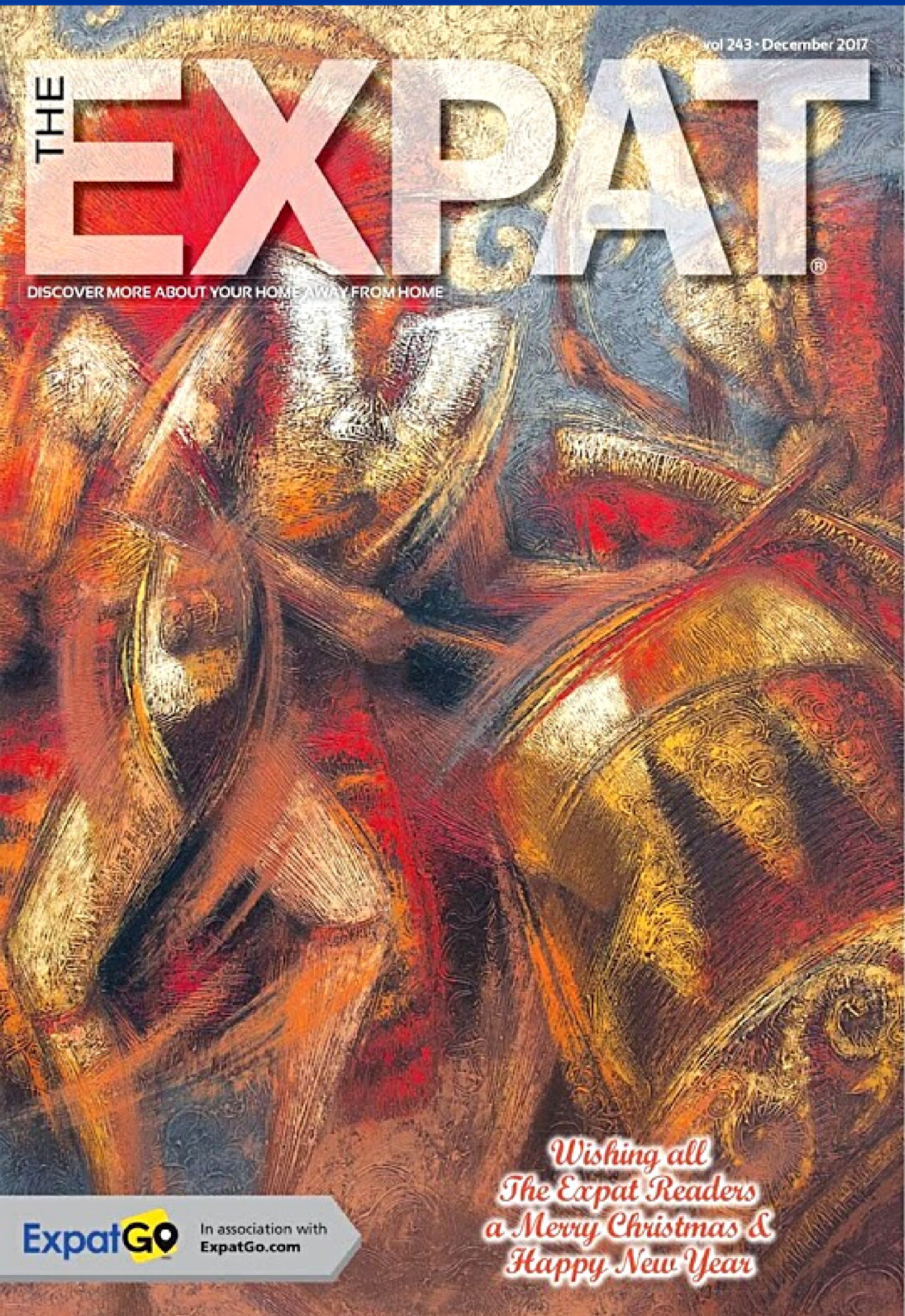
S P I R I T I N

C O L O U R S



Born in 1968 is from Kuala Lumpur. He graduated from the Satio Academy of Graphic Design 1992 and started self-training in fine art. He has his first solo exhibition "Vibrancy-1st Solo Exhibition" in 2011. His paintings have been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions organised by museums and art galleries, including Klang Art Centre, Penang State Art Gallery, Daiichi Modern Art Gallery and La Galerie Du Monde. He also has participated in some important group exhibitions: The Philips Morris Group of Malaysia Award at National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, "World Of Imagination Vol.2" at APW Gallery, Long Island City, USA, and "Malaysian Chinese Art Exhibition In Conjunction with commemorate the 35th Anniversary Malaysia-China diplomatic ties"





vol 243 - December 2017

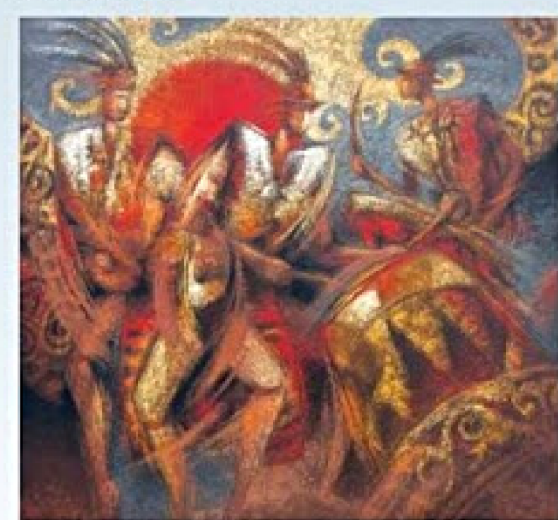
THE EXPAT

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

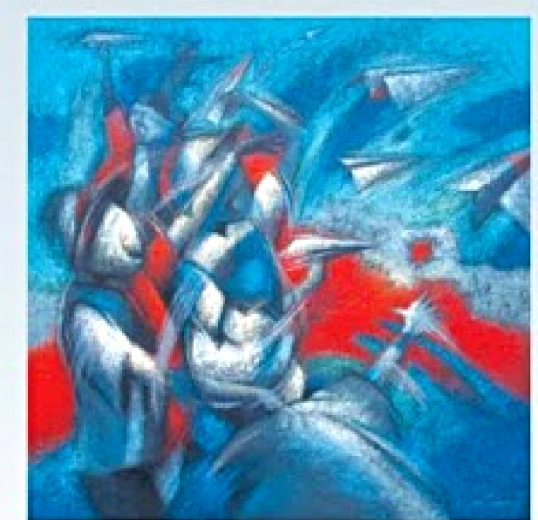
*Wishing all
The Expat Readers
a Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

ExpatGO In association with ExpatGo.com

art
BY SHARUNA SEGAREN



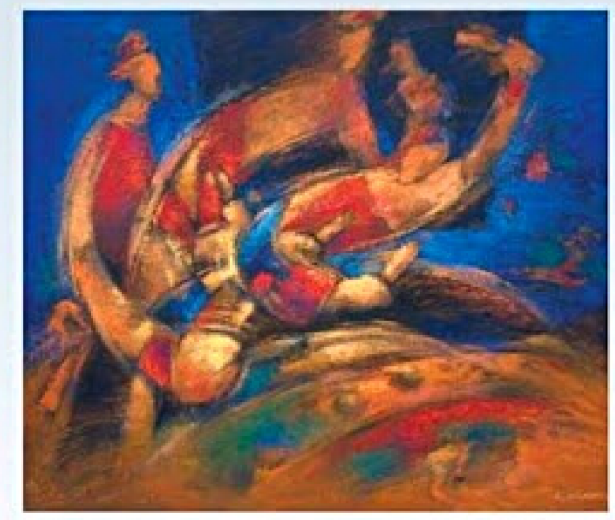
Title: Drummers & Warrior Dancer
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 152.5cm x 152.5cm
Year: 2017



Title: Fly To "Success"
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 152.5cm x 152.5cm
Year: 2017



Title: Fly Your Dream
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 152.5cm x 152.5cm
Year: 2017



Title: Drum and Drummer 13
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 152.5cm x 127cm
Year: 2009

Culture & Colour

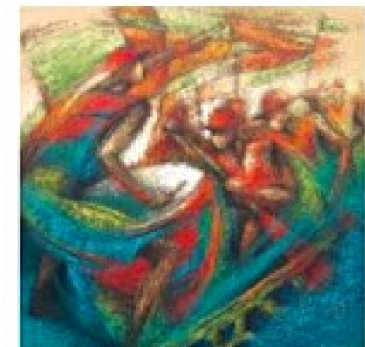
Artist Profile: Voon Kim Cheong



Voon Kim Cheong



Title: Deers Searching Foods
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 61cm x 61cm
Year: 2016



Title: Teamwork
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 107cm x 107cm
Year: 2017

Based in Selangor, 49-year-old artist Voon Kim Cheong paints stunning abstract artworks with cultural elements in vivid colour. After graduating from Saito Academy in 1992, he continued honing his craft by learning from experienced artists. Today, he has successfully found and established his own identity as an artist through his unique artwork that perfectly embodies the rich colours and culture of Malaysia.

Kim Cheong said he is always inspired by the local culture and customs. "In multi-racial Malaysia, there is so much natural landscape and vivid culture in our surroundings. I apply these cultural elements in my paintings."

As his paintings are abstract, at first glance you might not see the subject matter. However, if you look carefully, you can see the outlines of the fluid scenes and what they really depict.

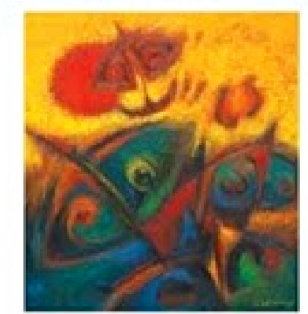
Using rough textures and dynamic combinations of colour with oils, Kim Cheong applies both gentle and strong strokes into the painting.

He said, "Personally, I get most of my ideas and concepts through sketching randomly to capture the composition, strokes, colours, and the culture elements. In my latest 'Cultural Exuberance' series, you can see that the use of abstract figure subjects focuses on wau, gasing, traditional dances, drums, children playing games such as flying paper airplanes, instruments, and textiles to highlight Malaysian elements."

In his latest series, some of the works are inspired by East Malaysia's cultural elements expressing energy in the form of pulsating drums, drummers, warrior dancers, and their instruments. He explained, "I symbolize the round-shaped drum as an amalgamation of the sun and moon, the sun is harder while the moon is soft as sometimes when you bang a drum it is hard, and other times is soft. I captured the flow of sounds, waves, and even movements by my twirling stroke gesture and energetic colours which move across the surface, overlapping form of figures and subject forming unity based on the tension between the balance of colour, shape, texture,



Title: Drum & Drummer 11
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 127cm x 152.5cm
Year: 2009



Title: "Wau" Kites Festival
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 59cm x 65cm
Year: 2016



Title: Drum & Drummer 14
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size: 152.5cm x 127cm
Year: 2009

surface, and depth. I drew figures in their finery and executed their movements in both gentle and strong strokes, drawing the force of the actions of drummers and warrior dancers. I try to communicate these issues of identity of a multicultural country with the understanding and respectful harmony of races and cultures."

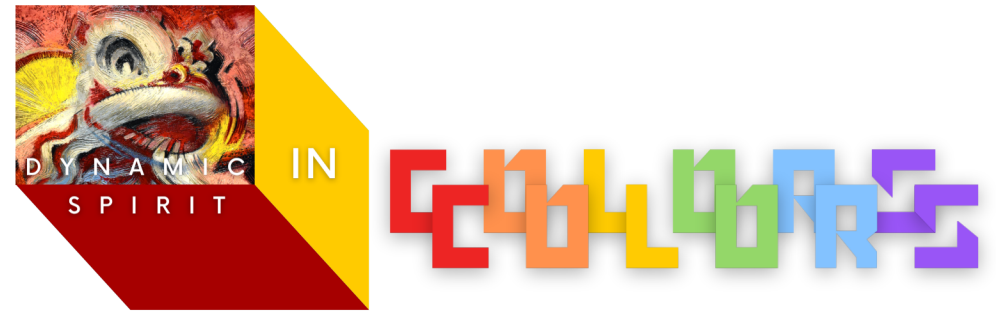
His works are also focused on emotions and movements. For the Wau paintings he was fascinated and mesmerized by the graceful glides of the traditional kite. Wau flying is one

of the most popular traditional cultures on the East Coast of Malaysia. "I captured the movement of the kites in abstract form overlapping each other and apply strong and gentle strokes moving across the surface, and texture mixed with vibrant colour. The kites are viewed as a symbol of having high aspirations and elevated vision. Man always had an inherent wish to fly high in the sky and reach the sky, so this would have surely made him invent the kite that can touch the sky on his behalf, giving him the satisfaction that he indeed touched

the sky as high as he likes. The Red Sun behind overlapping the kite in this painting symbolises the 'light' and 'hope' to achieve our goal in success."

Kim Cheong emphasized, "I intend to share messages of spirit of unity, joy, strength, courage, harmony, and energy through my work, which to me, is the very essence of our Malaysian culture." ■

For more information on the artist and his paintings, please e-mail sharuna@tegmedia.my.



SOLD

- E** 2019 Culture Diversity by Voon Kim Cheong, Sofitel Kuala Lumpur
X 2018 Culture Exuberance by Voon Kim Cheong, GS Artcade Fine Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
H 2011 Vibrancy, Artsense Creative, Selangor
I
BITIONS

SELECTED GROUP

- E** 2021 Aesthetic Vibes - Tony Ng & Voon Kim Cheong Duo Exhibition, Art WeMe Contemporary Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
X 2018 Art Expo Malaysia, Matrade Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur
H 2018 Multi-Racial Malaysia Art Exhibition, Penang State Art Gallery, Penang
I 2018 Journey In Art 28, North Kedah Art Society, Star City Hotel, Kedah
B 2018 Blossoms - Malaysian Art Groups, City Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
I 2017 Malaysia China Art Exhibition - Penang Art Society 64th Annual Exhibition, One East Museum
T 2016 Wildlife In Art, Wildlife Art Society Singapore, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore
I 2016 Art In Touch - Invitation Art Show, Artsense Creative, Selangor
U 2014 1221 Contemporary Art Show, Artsense Creative, Selangor
N 2013 2Men Creative Art Journey: Lam Le Siang & Voon Kim Cheong, Island Gallery, Penang
S 2012 Canvas Arts: Lam Le Siang & Voon Kim Cheong, The Alliance Francaise de Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur



Lam's *Down Memory Lane* series (from left): One can almost hear the whirr of the sewing machine as the woman works; washing clothes the old-fashioned way; break time under blue skies.

Life, revived

Two artists explore how far vivid splashes of colour can carry them in life and art.

By **ROUWEN LIN**
star2@thestar.com.my

A WOMAN with a flower in her hair flutters her fan, a temporary respite from the hot weather, before she starts on her housekeeping chores. Clothes have to be washed, ironed and sewn to size.

Somewhere outdoors, children run care-free with their spinning tops and kites. A cat meows, and further away on the waters, a drummer faces the paddlers and beats on his drum at one end of the long boat.

There is a comforting sense of familiarity hanging on the walls of ArtSense Creative in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, where I met with artists Lam Le Siang and Voon Kim Cheong to talk about their upcoming *Canvas Arts Contemporary Art Exhibition*.

Comprising around 30 art works, this show is the first collaboration between the two men.

Lam's paintings, inspired by his childhood memories, are firmly set in the past, but Voon — who opts for a more abstract style — creates paintings of sweeping colours that transcend time. Their oil works, although rather different in style and technique, incorporate elements of Malaysian culture.

"This similarity was what struck me when I first saw Voon's works," says Lam, who then raised the suggestion of working together.

Ask, and it shall be done — after lots of hard

work, of course. All the pieces for this display, from Lam's *Down Memory Lane* series and Voon's *Vibrancy* series, are new creations.

Voon's art works are, in his own words, all about movement, motion and energy.

"My paintings are dynamic, vibrant, never static. They show the spirit of teamwork, the joyful moments a child spends playing ball, flying kites, playing with the *gasing* (top) and paper planes, and the collaborative effort and energy in dragon boat races," he says.

His paintings are composed mainly of rich colours and vigorously curved lines that, even in their solid and textured state, manage to appear agile and rhythmic. Most of his works for this exhibition will feature figures, and he makes use of straight, rigid lines, sparingly, for balance and form.

Lam, however, adopts a different approach.

Growing up in Batu Pahat, Johor, in the 1950s and 1960s, life was very different from what we know today, he recalls. Drawing inspiration from his childhood days, *Down Memory Lane* transports the viewer back in time to a simpler life in a small town, with a close-knit community and lush greenery, a stark contrast to the hectic city life and concrete buildings that many people are now accustomed to.

"I'm inspired by the things I remember from my childhood, the simple life of the past, when everything was still pure. Kampung life was so good back then. I could run around

and play football and go to any neighbour's house to drink and eat.

"Nowadays, things are different. These memories and reflections on the past were what prompted me to create art works with this message," says Lam, 62, who has been a full-time artist for more than 10 years.

His current theme of choice gives him plenty of room to play.

"I love this series, it is very broad. You can go far, far away and you can explore many things with this theme, and that is what I plan to do," he adds.

Despite his art being rooted in history, he takes some liberty with the detailing of his subjects, lending a contemporary twist to images steeped in days long past.

"I've made the clothes on the woman a bit more modern, but not too much. I have simplified the sewing machine, and although you shouldn't expect every single detail to be included, I have retained enough so that the person looking at the painting knows that it is an old machine.

"My art is contemporary; you will have no issues identifying the objects in the paintings, but it is not meant to be a realistic portrayal," he explains.

While Lam's nostalgic works hark back to the past, Voon, who is 44 years old, does not impose a time stamp on his.

"What I paint could be something that had happened in the past, is happening in the present, or may happen in the future," he says.



In this piece from his *Vibrancy* series, Voon captures a flurry of motion and urgency in his depiction of dragonboat racing.

Bright, swirling colours depicting energetic children hard at play, an everyday scene frozen in time.



Whether it is fast and furious dragon boat races, traditional music instruments, soaring paper planes or a child chasing after a ball, it is timeless simplicity — no doubt with a lot of liveliness and vitality — that he seems to strive for.

"At the end, what's most important is to draw what you like. Choose something you are passionate about," advises Voon. It might seem like a no-brainer, but it is a path that is apparently easy to stray from.

"Through my works, aside from a sense of motion and energy, I also try to capture the spirit of unity, teamwork, and a harmonious life," he says.

Now, more than ever before, perhaps this is something all of us could have more of.

■ Canvas Arts Contemporary Art Exhibition will be on at Alliance Francaise de Kuala Lumpur, 15, Lorong Gurney, KL, from Aug 25 (opening at 2.30pm) to Sept 1. Viewing from Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 8pm. For more information, visit alliancefrancaise.org.my or call 03-2694 7880.



In his series entitled *Vibrancy*, Voon Kim Cheong uses rich, bold colours, sweeping strokes and curved lines to create a sense of movement and energy.

Lam Le Siang holding up one of his paintings. "I'm inspired by the things I remember from my childhood. Kampung life was so good back then," he says.



Voon standing next to one of his paintings which will be featured in his upcoming solo exhibition titled *Cultural Exuberance*. — Photos: LÓW LAY PHON/The Star

Within bold hues and strokes, Voon incorporates cultural patterns for the observant viewer to appreciate.

Strokes of cultural exuberance

Artist hopes to share message of joy and harmony through solo exhibition



A painting entitled 'Fly To Success' depicting children playing with paper planes, which harkens back to a simpler childhood, will also be on display at the solo exhibition.

By **BRENDA CH'NG**
brenda@thestar.com.my

SOAK up the colourful Malaysian culture and tradition through the eyes of local contemporary artist Voon Kim Cheong, who has been passionately working on his abstract masterpieces since 2013.

With a total of 36 pieces on display for his upcoming solo exhibition titled "Cultural Exuberance", Voon, 50, hopes to captivate visitors with his lively paintings.

His exhibition will be on from Nov 3 to 22, with the opening ceremony scheduled for 6pm on the first day at GS Arcade Fine Art Gallery along Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya.

Using only dynamic colours, Voon's paintings are of lively traditional dances, various drum performances, dragon boat racing, *wau*, paper planes and deers.

"If you look at my paintings you can see that the figures look like they are moving and dancing on the canvas," said Voon, who has been painting since 1991.

Voon explained that his technique involved the use of overlapping cultural elements by infusing certain cultural patterns and design into his painting.

It isn't really obvious but if look at it closely, the elements in the painting will pop and tell a story about the origins and what is happening.

At first glance, the paintings might just be an energetic piece with bold colours but take a step back and slowly take in every shape and design.

Look closely and see the outlines of images telling a Malaysian cultural story with the precise flick of Voon's various brushstrokes. Like in one of his paintings called "The Rhythm of Life", he was able to capture three cultures playing various drums all in one frame.

On the left is a performer playing the Chinese drums, on the right is another performer with the *kompang* while in the center is a performer playing what resembles the *dholak*, an Indian folk musical instrument.

The interesting thing about Voon's paint-



One of Voon's wau-inspired paintings.

ing is that he does not paint the people with facial features or expressions.

However, his brush strokes and incorporation of designs from the various cultures are enough to portray the mood and of the performer and origins of the painting.

"Personally, I like to develop ideas and concepts through random sketching to capture the composition, strokes, form and colour before proceeding to canvas.

"I prefer to have visual plains and geometric shapes intersecting and overlapping to

create a sense of visual distance and depth," he said.

Voon hopes to share his message of joy, strength, courage, harmony and the spirit of unity through this solo exhibition, which to him, captures the very essence of the Malaysian culture.

All his paintings will be on sale during the exhibition.

The gallery is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 9am to 7pm and closed on Sundays and public holidays.

The background is a complex, abstract painting. It features a central figure, possibly a woman, wearing a white, flowing garment. The figure is surrounded by intricate, swirling patterns in shades of blue, yellow, and purple. The overall style is reminiscent of modernist or expressionist art, with bold colors and dynamic, organic forms. The text 'ARTWORKS' is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

ARTWORKS



Swift As Deers, 61 x 61cm, oil on jute, 2020

DEER 鹿

一对被吉祥和繁荣标志包围的吉祥鹿往往会吸引财富和长寿的震动。Voon具有鹿的动态动作，因此它们看起来像携带着精力充沛，并以强壮的身体快速移动。

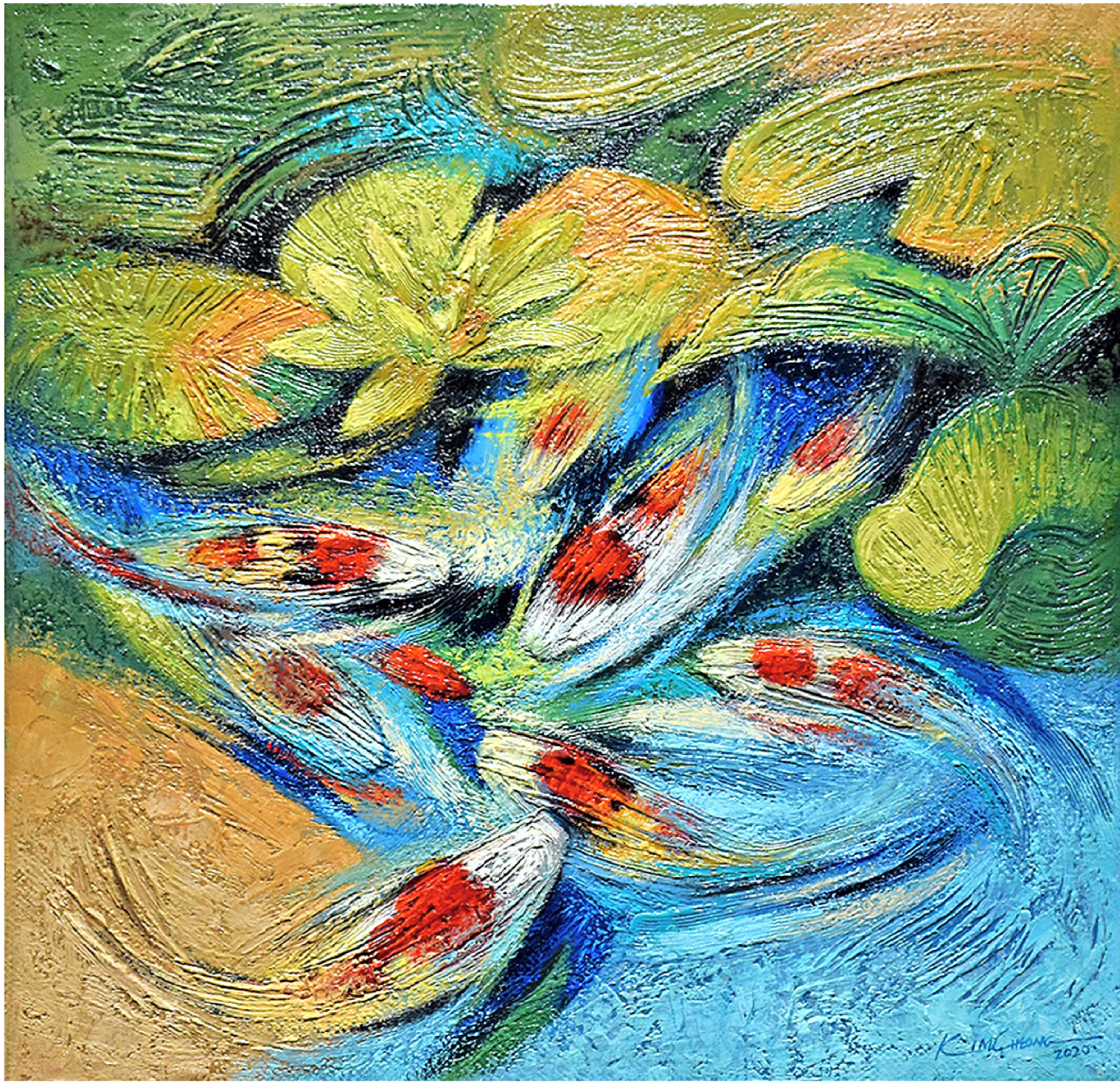
A pair of auspicious deer surrounded by good fortune and prosperity symbols tend to attract wealth and longevity vibrations. Voon features dynamic movements of deers, so they look like carrying full of energy and moving fast with their strong bodies.

"If you look at my paintings, you can see that figures look like they are moving and dancing on the canvas."

Voon Kim Cheong



Move On 61 x 61cm, oil on jute, 2020



Perseverance, 61 x 61cm, oil on jute, 2020

KOI 鲤



Determination, 61 x 61cm, oil on jute, 2020

锦鲤因在逆境中的毅力和毅力而备受赞誉，就像锦鲤鱼越过瀑布一样。游泳锦鲤代表着进步和决心。鱼通常象征着财富和剩余，中国人认为锦鲤在商业和学术界尤其代表着好运。另一方面，佛教徒将锦鲤视为勇气的代表。它们一起在锦鲤池塘中代表着爱与友谊。

Koi are often admired for their endurance and perseverance in the face of adversity, as seen in the koi fish leaping over waterfall. Swimming koi represent advancement and determination. Fish in general symbolise wealth and surplus, and the Chinese believe koi particularly represent good fortune in business and academics. Buddhists on the other hand see koi as representations of courage. Together in a koi pond, they represent love and friendship.

演

PERFORMER

Voon has a deep sense of vision and energy that reveals his purposeful movements of strokes in his works. Inspired by traditional dances of various ethnic groups of the indigenous, Voon exhibited their diverse dance forms enchantingly on canvas. Emotions are high and movements are significantly portrayed in the spirit of unity, joy, strength and courage set in multicultural environment. Swift-flowing strokes and vibrant mix of colours are beguiling of Voon's works.

员



Culture Beat I, 30.5 x 30.5cm x 2, oil on jute, 2020

Voon具有深刻的视野和活力，可以揭示他在作品中有目的的笔触动作。受到土著各族传统舞蹈的启发，Voon在画布上迷人地展示了其多种舞蹈形式。多元文化环境中的团结，喜悦，力量和勇气精神高涨，动作刻画深刻。迅捷的笔触和鲜艳的色彩迷惑了Voon的作品。

鼓 与 鼓 手

DRUM & DRUMMER

I symbolize the round-shaped drum as an amalgamation of the sun and moon. I use vivid colours with curves, contrasting backgrounds with harmonizing hues; however, coordination and collaboration among the drummers are vital producing symphony...vibrancy.

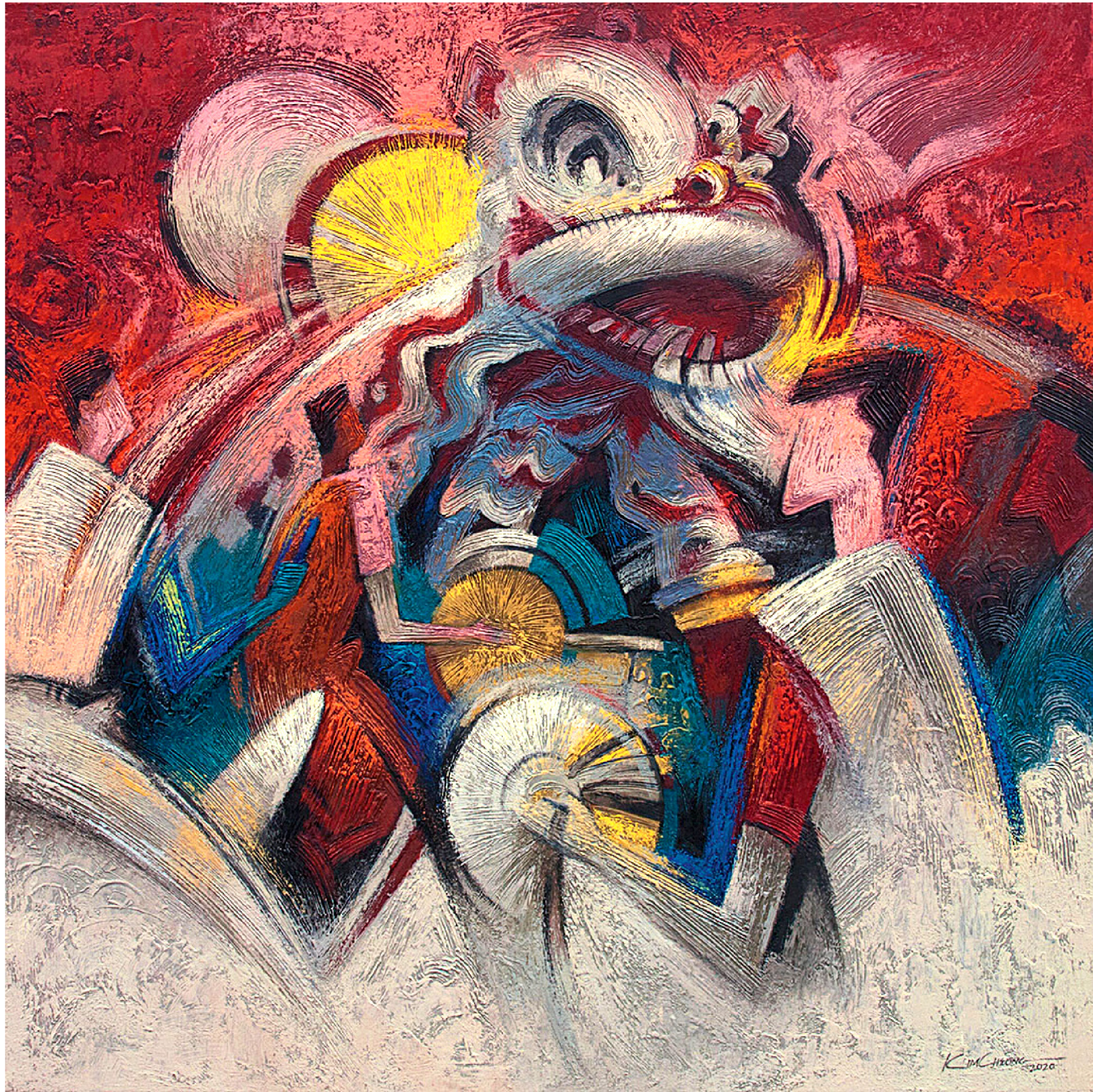
我将圆形鼓象征日月融为一体。我使用鲜艳的色彩和曲线，将背景与色调进行对比。然而，鼓手之间的协调与协作对于产生交响乐...充满活力至关重要。

Culture Beat II, 30.5 x 30.5cm x 2, oil on jute, 2020



Culture Beat III, 30.5 x 30.5cm x 2, oil on jute, 2020





An Abundance of Colours, 152.5 x 152.5cm, oil on jute, 2020



Lion Dances, 80 x 80cm, oil on jute, 2020



Art WeMe
Contemporary Gallery
唯美艺术画廊

Art WeMe Contemporary Gallery features established and mid-career international artist. Based in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) with a gallery in Carmel-By-The-Sea (California, United States) and a consulting office in Singapore.

Art WeMe believes art exploration is an amazing journey that is both personal and engaging. Once embarked, the exciting journey provides us a boundless media to individualise our personal value, accomplishment and success. It's our vision to introduce art that adds great dynamism to various spaces: personal, home, work, and social. Whether you are just beginning to buy art or looking to add to your existing collection, the gallery's exquisite artworks will intrigue your imagination and interest.

唯美藝術畫廊以知名和處於職業生涯中期的國際藝術家為特色。總部位於吉隆坡（馬來西亞），在 Carmel-By-The-Sea（美國加利福尼亞州）設有畫廊，在新加坡設有諮詢辦公室。

唯美相信藝術探索是一段既個人化又引人入勝的奇妙旅程。一旦啟程，激動人心的旅程為我們提供了一個無限的媒介來個性化我們的個人價值觀、成就和成功。我們的願景是引入藝術，為各種空間增添活力：個人、家庭、工作、社交。無論您是剛剛開始購買藝術品還是想增加現有收藏，畫廊的精美藝術品都會激發您的想像力和興趣。



Art WeMe
Contemporary Gallery

唯美艺术画廊



ARTSY



WEBSITE



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

ART WEME CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

MALAYSIA

Lot 2.100.00 & 2.101.00

166 Jalan Bukit Bintang,

Pavilion Elite,

55100 Kuala Lumpur

Operation Hours

Daily from 10am - 9pm

Including weekends and public holidays



+6 (03) 2110 6822



www.info@artweme.com