

CHOY SIEW KEK

Choy Siew Kek is acknowledged to be one of Malaysia's prominent artists; his batik paintings consistently express his instinctive and perceptive way of viewing colour and light. Siew Kek was born in Penang, Malaysia in 1947. He obtained a scholarship to study at the South German Plastic Institute in 1972.

Siew Kek grew up in a family of artists, his father, the renowned master batik artist Chuah Thean Teng, introduced Siew Kek to the art of batik painting. Siew Kek became fascinated with the medium of batik as an art form and subsequently created many acclaimed batik paintings. Among his works are "BLOOM" and "RELAXING"; both of which are in the permanent collection of the Yahong Art Gallery and can be viewed at this gallery in Batu Ferringhi.

His bold experimentation uniquely expresses his intuitive and insightful perspective, depicting the Malaysian lifestyle in nuances of varying hues and illuminations. His paintings have a striking poetic atmosphere that express with sensational effect. He composes a union of figures with the natural environment, creating an earthy display.

Batik painting is a slow and fascinatingly meticulous endeavor that requires patience as well as artistic talent. The batik medium uses wax to block the dye on the fabric as a resist technique. The waxing and dyeing process is repeated for each individual colour until the artist achieves the desired result.

Siew Kek's talent has been recognized in many international art publications, such as "Asia Expo 86". He was selected by the German television Channel Zweites-Deutsches-Fernsehen-Trans-Tel to demonstrate, with his two brothers, the technique of batik art for German Viewers.

Siew Kek has participated in many Malaysian art exhibitions, including the Alam Seni Fabrik Malaysia which was held at the prestigious National Art Gallery of Malaysia. He has also frequently participated in numerous international art shows. Included among his international art exhibitions are:

1973 Travelling Art Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
1975 Kanda Gallery, Tokyo, Osaka and Okinawa, Japan
1975 Art Exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, Australia
1976 Eva Chan Gallery, California, U.S.A.

Currently on permanent exhibition at the Yahong Art Gallery, Penang, Malaysia.

Siew Kek is a gifted artist with many remarkable talents. In addition to his artistic accomplishments, Siew Kek is also a skilled linguist, he speaks many languages including Japanese, German, English, Malay, Mandarin and several other Chinese dialects. Siew Kek's knowledge of botany led him to artistically explore one floral species in particular, the orchid. This exotic flower manifests an expression of great beauty in his native Malaysia. Siew Kek's paintings of the orchid's ethereal beauty captivate the observer's thoughts and transforms them into sublime contemplations; and effect not lost on the viewer.

Siew Kek utilizes a spacious range of colours, both bright and subdued, that portray his unique style in batik painting. He demonstrates a boundless versatility and timeless depictions that manifest the artist's thoughts.