

MULAIKA

A Thousand Days of Change
SOLO EXHIBITION



Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya Malaysia
Ministry Of Tourism, Arts And Culture Malaysia



بالاى سنڤ نڤارا
Balai Seni Negara
National Art Gallery



28 March – 26 May 2019
Creative Space
National Art Gallery

Publisher

National Art Gallery
No 2 Jalan Temerloh
Off Jalan Tun Razak
53200 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

T: 603 4026 7000
F: 603 4025 4987

Editorial

Zanita Anuar
Alizam Hasan
Norazmah Rashid
Osmihamidy Osman
Rosaniza Abbidin

Curator

Jumaatun Azmi

Assistant Curator

Zahara Nordin

Photography

Muhammad Yunus Shamsul Bahari
Alham Akhyar Badrul Hisham
Natasha Bany

Designer

Muhammad Teja of Tukang Buku

Cover Detail:

MULAIKA

Bawang Merah & Cotton Candy
2018
Acrylic on canvas
90 x 90 cm

© 2019 National Art Gallery

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or any means, electrical photocopying, mechanical, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from the publisher.

www.artgallery.gov.my

www.mulaika.com

CONTENTS

01 Introduction

Artworks

03 A Sudden Beginning

11 Blue Series

19 Family and Self

27 On Loss

33 Travels

45 School Life

52 Short Films

55 Artist Statement

56 Acknowledgement

A THOUSAND DAYS OF CHANGE

The solo exhibition 'A Thousand Days of Change' captures the sudden and peculiar start to the outpouring of artistic work of Mulaika. She started putting paint on canvas a few days after her grandfather's death in January 2016 and has not stopped ever since. With over 100 paintings to date, this show presents 55 of her best work in 'a thousand days' since the first painting (2016-2018). Mulaika created these works when she was between the age of 12 and 14, making her the youngest artist ever hosted by the National Art Gallery of Malaysia for emerging artists.

The exhibition explores themes of relationships, travel, loss, identity and her life events. It captures the growth and evolution of a naturally gifted artist in her transition from a sensitive child to an inquisitive young adult.

The exhibition also features eight short films written, directed and produced by the artist.

Jumaatun Azmi
Curator



Self Portrait
2016
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm

A sudden beginning

When Mulaika's grandfather died, it seemed like a spiritual and artistic reservoir was unleashed as the artist for the first time grapples with the reality of death at 12 years of age. Her first painting done a few days after the funeral was **Sakura**. The artworks hasn't stopped since. These are the selected few from her early inspired works.



Sakura
2016
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm



Sakura III
2016
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm



Life and Water
2017
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm



Tuesday
2016
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 50 cm



Gabriel
2017
Acrylic on board
70 x 40 cm





Tender

2017

Acrylic on canvas

50 x 50 cm

Blue Series

The colour blue and smoke are recurring elements in Mulaika's works in early 2017. It was a long period of moody hues of blue, grey, black and white smoke. This is captured on canvas and boards as well as a short film - the **Smoke Studies**. This period ended with her biggest work to date - **Forces**.



Ribut II
2017
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 102 cm



Still Mountain
2017
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm



Still Mountain II
2017
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 50 cm

Dreamscape
2017
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm



Blue Rising
2018
Acrylic on canvas
90 x 120 cm





Forces
2018
Acrylic on canvas
231 x 85 cm



Family and Self

Mulaika's art inspired by family revolves around her grandparents and her brother. The melancholic **Bunga Kertas di Langit** is about her grandparents, their love for the flower and the idea of them together. **Tok's Pond** is both bright as well as dark reflecting quite accurately the mood of early 2016.



Grandmother's Baju Kurung

2018

Acrylic on canvas

110 x 70 cm



Bunga Kertas di Langit

2018

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 110 cm



Tok's Pond
2016
Acrylic on board
60 x 80 cm



Introvert Gardens

2018

Acrylic on wood

58 x 82 cm



You
2018
Acrylic on paper
42 x 59 cm



Me
2018
Acrylic and metal on canvas
42 x 59 cm



Pribumi II
2017
Pen on paper
20 x 29 cm



Pribumi
2017
Pen on paper
20 x 29 cm

On loss

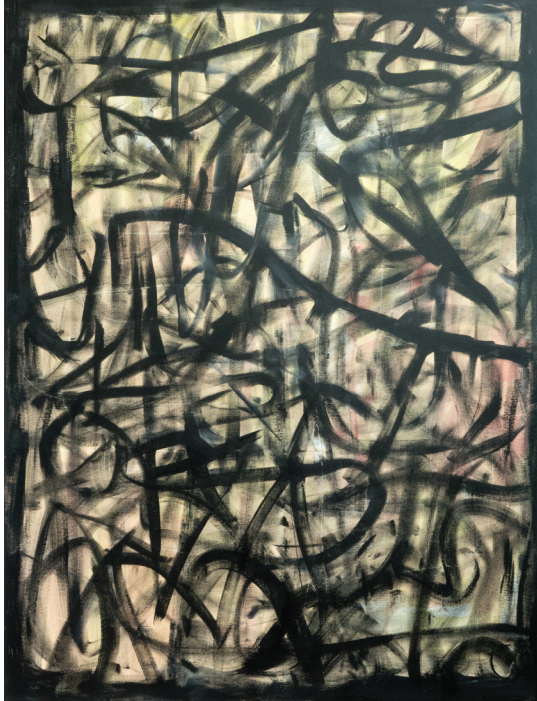
The artworks in this theme are about loss and the end of relationships. It's an exploration of what pain could look like and the reality and fragility of human life.



Dust to Dust I
2018
Acrylic and industrial
paint on canvas
90 x 120 cm



Dust to Dust II
2018
Acrylic and industrial
paint on canvas
90 x 120 cm



Dust to Dust III
2018
Acrylic and industrial
paint on canvas
90 x 120 cm



N9
2018
Mixed media on canvas
40 x 59 cm



Memories in Red
2018
Acrylic on canvas
76 x 76 cm



Throb
2018
Acrylic on canvas
138 x 171 cm

Travels

These works reflect how her travels affect her canvas. A wet winter in Istanbul and the grey of London are clearly evident in the first few works in this section. Equally obvious is how her travel to sunny Sydney changed her outlook and palette evident in the bright and beautiful colours of **Bawang Merah & Cotton Candy** (about her being a mixed kid), **Raining Silk**, **Love Birds**, **Waterfall**, **Optimist with a Broken Ribcage** and **The Park**.



Industrialized
2018
Acrylic on canvas
67 x 87 cm



Mosque by the Bosphorus
2017
Mixed media on board
62 x 78 cm

Factory
2018
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 91 cm



Outside St. Paul's Cathedral
2018
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 91 cm





Fake Plastic Trees
2018
Mixed media
on canvas
61 x 92 cm

Melanie Gordon '18



Pollution
2018
Acrylic and plastic on canvas
91 x 91 cm



Bawang Merah & Cotton Candy

2018

Acrylic on canvas

90 x 90 cm



Raining Silk
2018
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 91 cm



Lovebirds
2018
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 cm



Waterfall
2018
Mixed media on canvas
60 x 60 cm



Optimist with a Broken Ribcage

2018

Acrylic on paper

60 x 42 cm



The Park
2018
Acrylic on canvas
90 x 90 cm

School life

The art derived from her experience in school is telltale. From **Schoolmates** to the truth of **Kindergarten**, the works in this theme depict her ups and downs in school. The mind-boggling **Multiplicity** series came from her experience with mathematics. A particularly disastrous day at school is immortalized in **Billik Kounseling**.



Schoolmates
2018
Acrylic on canvas
91 x 91cm



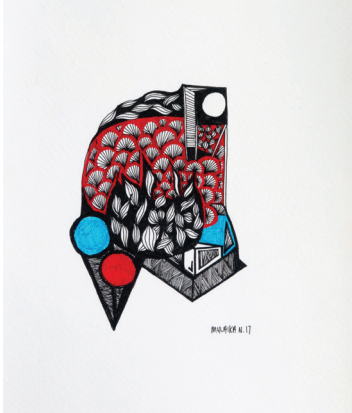
Trying to be Happy
2018
Mixed media on paper
40 x 30cm

Perspective
2018
Acrylic on canvas
80 x 80 cm



A Boy
2017
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm

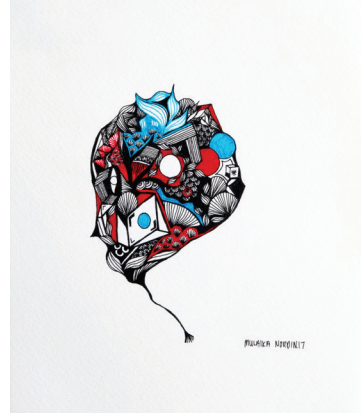




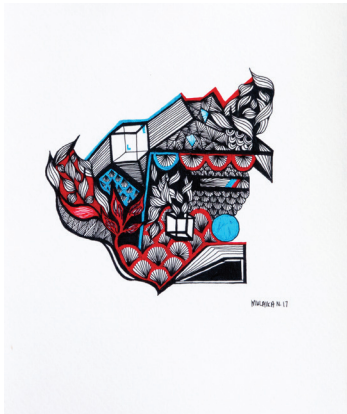
МАЛЫК N. 17



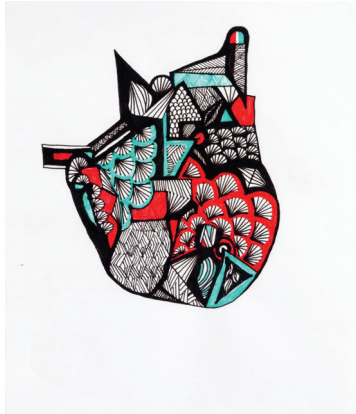
МАЛЫК N. 17



МАЛЫК N. 17

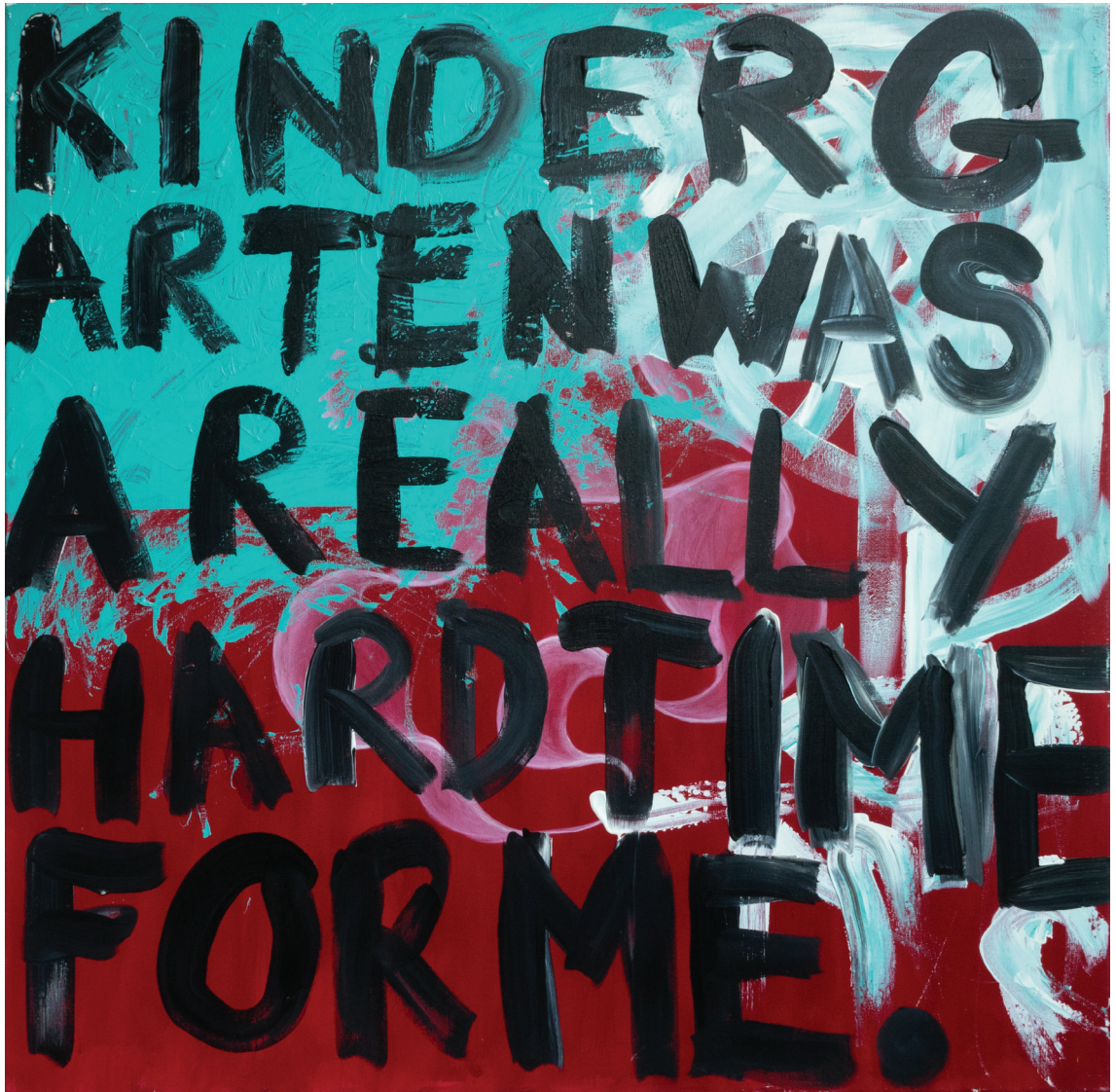


МАЛЫК N. 17





Multiplicity
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J
2017
Pen on paper
15 x 21 cm



Kindergarten
2018
Acrylic on canvas
90 x 90 cm



Bilik Kounseling
2018
Acrylic on canvas
121 x 121 cm

SHORT FILMS



Everyday Dies

2017 Video

1.26 minutes

Music performed by Mikael Hashim
*It's maghrib and I have anxiety for
school tomorrow*



Art is Subjective

2017 Video

2.01 minutes

*Some people take my art seriously,
others think it's a joke*



Smoke Study

2017 Video

1.33 minutes

Tools of destruction



Windows: Japan

2017 Video

48 seconds

Music written and performed by
Omar Nordin
Japan via windows



RESIST

2017 Video

1 minute

A response towards excessive consumerism



Deathbed

2018 Video

36 seconds

A reflection on the fragility of life



6. Kurt Cobain

2017 Video

32 seconds

Kurt Cobain: Its better to burn out than to fade away



Golden Hour Waves

2018 Video

23 seconds

Study of light and shadow



ARTIST STATEMENT

It has been interesting for me in the past three years, discovering more about myself through painting. I'm always thinking, contemplating and observing.

It's tiring but I feel the need to do so,
I feel the need to create.

I had to make these works, I feel like I would explode if I didn't. Sometimes it takes months to finish a piece, others in three hours. The process is always changing with time.

The only constant in my work is change.

I've had amazing support from everyone around me and I'm really thankful for that. Without them, I think I still would still make art, but never showing my works, ever.

I thank God for everything.

Mulaika
Born December 14, 2003
Kuala Lumpur

I would like to thank...

Allahyarham Azmi Abu Hassan
Allahyarham Ronnie Rosli
Khairiah Ahmad
Jumaatun Azmi
Nordin Abdullah
Omar Nordin
Zahara Nordin
Anni Azmi
En. Zain Azahari
Salwah Shukor
Hanis Ismail
Athirah Raihana
Gregory Wong
Hadeeqah Hizamiri
Zara Raisa Kassim
Naim Mazlan
Brenda Ho
Hydheer Akson
Shania Mira Sekaran
Matthew Tan
Michael Tan
Aisha Jamaluddin
Hana Jamaluddin
Adeleena Lim
Rebecca Adams

The National Art Gallery Team
The Artist's Collectors
Timothée Chalamet
Bjork
Wes Anderson
Mark Rothko
Sufjan Stevens
Laurent Brancowitz
Thomas Mars
Ella Yelich-O'Connor
Michael Clifford
Lou Rhodes
Andy Barlow
My late pet fishes, Kualii & Surat Khabar
Credence Barebone
Tengku Adam
Zach Farooq

Hiroki Harada Gabriel

With His Grace.

Love,

