

PearlLam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries Singapore presents
Abiogenesis: Terhah Landscape
by Syaiful Garibaldi



Abiogenesis: Terhah Landscape #3 (2014), Acrylic on paper, 132 x 223 cm (52 x 87 4/5 in.)

Exhibition Dates

22 March–11 May, 2014

Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–7pm; Sunday, 12–6pm
(Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)

Opening reception: Saturday, 22 March, 2014, 7–9pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 9 Lock Road, #03-22, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 108937

Singapore— Pearl Lam Galleries presents the current repertoire of the budding Indonesian artist Syaiful Aulia Garibaldi, fondly known as Tepu to his friends. Tepu's art visualises the tiny and often overlooked workings of nature on a large scale, reminding us of the importance of minute life-forms that decompose waste and regenerate new life. In his first solo exhibition outside of Indonesia, Tepu puts on view a varied selection of artworks across diverse mediums, including stylised paintings of microorganisms, spore prints, and installation art pieces involving mushrooms, moss and orchids. His unique reading of life and nature is evident through the quirky use of organic materials in his art practice.

In the midst of the bustling art market, with local and international audiences clamouring for the loud and obvious, Tepu stands out quiet but confident, original and yet aware of the great Indonesian masters before him.

Starting off as a student of agriculture in university, Tepu switched to experimental fine arts and applies his scientific background to create a conceptual foundation for his art. As he peers into his microscope, he records images of cellular growth and uses them as alphabets to create a new language he named "Terhah", meaning 'idea', a project so thorough it came complete with a dictionary. He then progressively expanded and populated his constructed, imaginative world with small organisms which feature in his prints, sketches, paintings and, finally, installation art.

Essays contributed by Enin Supriyanto, one of Indonesia's leading independent curators and Tan Siuli, Assistant Director (Programmes) and Curator at the Singapore Art Museum, illuminates the discursive nature of Tepu's creations. Supriyanto writes, "Tepu enforces the notion that as material, fungi—or more importantly: new media artistic expressions—are directly related to the need for new languages". Tan supports this point, as she writes: "Like the thread-like body of the fungus which appears to have no beginning and no end, only an ever-expanding network of nodes and connections—the possibilities for a constantly evolving and enquiring art-making process, nourished by its interdisciplinary conjunctions and modalities—are infinite indeed."

The upcoming exhibition at Pearl Lam Galleries serves as an arena for Tepu to further introduce and make tangible the fascinating world of Terhah.

About the Artist

Syaiful Aulia Garibaldi was born in 1985 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and currently works in Bandung, Indonesia.

Syaiful, fondly known as Tepu, started off as a student of agriculture in university before pursuing experimental fine arts where he applies his scientific background to create a conceptual foundation for his art. Tepu's works show a remarkably strong vision of art that collides with science in a graceful manner. His creation of an immersive environment was sparked by his interest in the networked and interconnected nature of ecologies, and the evocative power of microorganisms as symbols of death and decay, as well as life. Infusion between art and science transcends through Tepu's work and gives way to a new gateway of knowledge, which is illuminated within his prints and installations.

Tepu has participated in several exhibitions in Indonesia and abroad. His recent exhibitions include *Regnum Fungi* (2012), Padi Artground, Bandung, Indonesia; *Pressing* (2013), Videoinsight® Center, Turin, Italy; *Trick or Truth* (2012), Fang Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia; *Design Art: Renegotiating Boundaries* (2012), Lawangwangi, Bandung, Indonesia; and *Hybrid Project: The Butterfly Effect* (2011), Barli Museum, Bandung, Indonesia. In 2013, he was awarded Best Artworks at Bandung Contemporary Art Awards #3.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China. Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, the Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

Contemporary Chinese abstract art is heavily represented in the Galleries roster. Influential Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai who synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language are presented internationally with work now included in major

private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists such as Jenny Holzer, Jim Lambie and Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work. Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new works, which engage specifically with the region—collaborating to produce thought-provoking and culturally relevant work.

Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers, including Maarten Baas; Mattia Bonetti; André Dubreuil; and Studio Makkink & Bey, in exhibitions and design fairs around the world. They are invited to push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques and create new works that reflect their experiences in China. A fourth gallery and concept store devoted solely to design will open shortly in Shanghai.

About Pearl Lam

Pearl Lam has been at the forefront of re-imagining China's cultural place in the world for almost two decades through Pearl Lam Galleries and through the China Art Foundation, a trust that she co-founded in 2008.

In Asia, where the cultural infrastructure is developing fast and in innovative ways, Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore stand out for its intellectual and cultural ambition.

Pearl Lam is also a collector, patron, and curator. As a curator, among many other exhibitions, she conceived and organised the critically acclaimed *Awakening: La France Mandarine*, an exhibition on the French influence on Chinese art, which was a central part of the 2004 French Year in China. As a patron, she has donated works to museums as various as the V&A, London; the Asia Art Society Museum, New York; the KW Institute, Berlin; the Museum of Art and Design, New York; and the Peabody Museum, Boston.

About Keong Ruoh Ling

Ms. Keong Ruoh Ling is the Acting Director of Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore. She has almost 15 years of experience in the contemporary art world. She was Head of Christie's Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art department from 1999 to 2011 in Singapore. A native of Singapore, she has always worked in the region and has a personal relationship with many of the top artists and private collectors in Southeast Asia.

Press Enquiries

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