

Issarezal Ismail: *Tides*: a solo exhibition
16 June to 30 June 2010 at ZINC Art Space

Opening reception for the artist: Wednesday, June 16th, from 7pm to 10pm

ZINC Art Space is proud to present an exhibition of paintings by **Issarezal Ismail**. In his latest series, *Tides*, local artist Issarezal Ismail forays into the political arena with humility and aplomb, proving once again that what hits home with this talented painter hits home with both local and foreign hearts and minds.

Issarezal's *Tides* series is inspired by discourse on the present-day temperature of Indonesia/Malaysia political and social relations. The series was created with an 'on-site' perspective as the young artist has been undertaking PhD studies in Bandung, Indonesia. Each work in *Tides* connects regional history and local current affairs with painting, thereby delivering an extremely welcome display of distinctively contemporary Malaysian art. With the signature impact of Issarezal Ismail's visual language, *Tides* brings to light the conflict between Indonesia and Malaysia over Borneo in the second half of the 1960s. Addressing this 'unofficial war' that took place so recently, the paintings in *Tides* are also a reaction to tensions and ownership issues over art and artifacts arising now from cultural similarities between the two nations and their common but conflicting desires to form unique national identities. Issa's imagery strikes immediately with each work, executed from a personal, highly intellectual and truly creative perspective. ZINC Art Space is the ideal platform from which to display Issarezal's youthful energy and subtle sensibilities that see pop and traditional artistic tendencies combined.

Issarezal Ismail is 31 years old and a Fine Art graduate of UiTM Perak. He has taken part in many group shows in Malaysia, including the opening of ZINC. In 2009 Issarezal held his first solo exhibition, *Cokelat*, at Pelita Hati in Kuala Lumpur to wide acclaim. ZINC Art Space is extremely excited to host Issarezal Ismail's current solo exhibition, *Tides*, June 16 -30 in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.

ISSAREZAL ISMAIL:

(translation by Adawiyah Abu Abid)

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PASANG/SURUT (Tides)

Siri Pasang/Surut terinspirasi dari pernyataan yang diungkapkan oleh pakar kebudayaan Indonesia-Malaysia iaitu Prof. Dr. Tjetjep Rohendi Rohidi. Menurutnya, pergeseran-pergeseran yang mengatasnamakan seni-budaya antara Indonesia-Malaysia semakin menjadi suatu hal yang sering dilihat dan didengar terutama disebabkan oleh isu kepemilikan dan legitimasi terhadap objek-objek kebudayaan seperti kesenian asal Nusantara.

Dalam hal ini, kesusantaraan sebagai benda abstrak yang dikaitkan dengan identiti dan integriti bangsa, khususnya di Malaysia dan Indonesia, dan berbagai kesannya dalam kehidupan sosial-budaya, terutama dalam kehadiran upaya menegaskan diri masyarakat yang bersangkutan dalam lalu-lintas budaya yang semakin terbuka saat ini. Untuk lebih kelihatan saksama, situasi pasang-surut hubungan kedua negara yang berlaku saat ini tidak lebih dari suatu refleksi atas perlawanan atas kesadaran, rasa kepemilikan, dan sumber gagasan yang menjadi dasar pengembangan nilai kehidupan berbangsa untuk menyatakan dirinya sebagai bangsa dalam sistem negara modern, sebagai acuan nilai bagi pergerakan, pertumbuhan, dan perkembangan bangsa di Indonesia dan Malaysia.

Walaupun sehingga ke saat ini masih ada sahaja gejala-gejala baru yang bakal menciptakan gelombang pasang yang besar, namun pada umumnya masih ramai juga yang menantikan gelombang surut yang mampu mengintegrasikan buih-buih yang dihempas gelombang sebelumnya kerana dalam konteks hubungan dan keterkaitan budaya, terutama budaya Melayu dan Jawa sebagai representasi kebudayaan Malaysia dan Indonesia saat ini, pantun Melayu berikut menjelaskannya: *Kalau roboh kota Melaka/ papan di Jawa hamba dirikan/ kalau sungguh bagai dikata/badan dan nyawa hamba berikan.*

The Tides series has been inspired by a statement made by a well-known figure in the area of Malay Archipelago culture (Prof. Dr. Tjetjep Rohendi Rohidi). According to him, Malaysia-Indonesia disputes on arts-culture are becoming more and more rampant mainly those pertaining to the ownership and legitimatization of cultural items in the Malay Archipelago. This, inevitably, involves the subjects of racial identity and integrity and its implications on socio-cultural issues, thus the needs to emphasize one's distinctiveness arise with the existence of borderless world these days.

To be fair, however, the recent high-low currents overshadowing the relationship between these two countries can be seen as a reflection on the awareness and the urge to demonstrate power of ownership, the source from which values in life are founded, the grounds that identify one as a modern and independent country.

And as for today, even though there is always looming threats that might create high tides of intimidation to the frail relationship of these two neighbouring countries, there are still possible low tides that would calm the situation, thus integrate, strengthen and restore this relationship which can largely be seen in two of the most significant cultures in Malaysia and Indonesia: the Malay and Javanese cultures.

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Opening hours
Monday - Saturday 12pm - 7pm
Sundays & Public Holidays open by appointment