



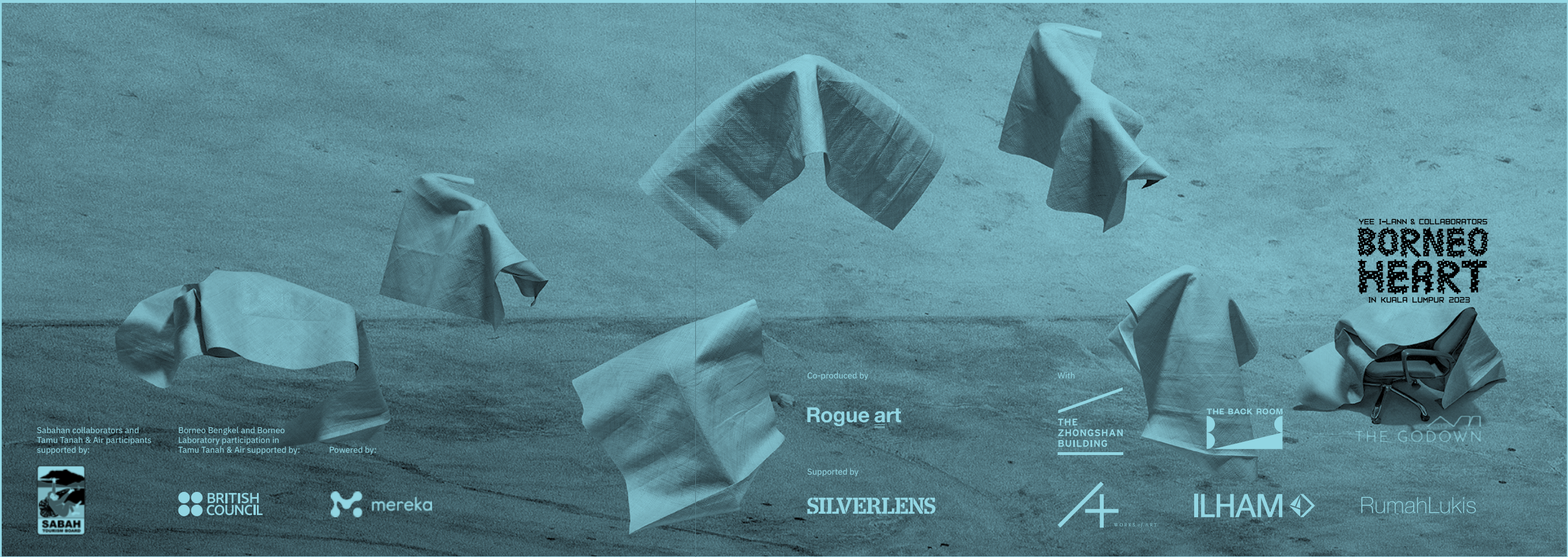
For general updates  
and information,  
please visit our website  
[borneoheart.yeelann.com](http://borneoheart.yeelann.com)

Follow us on Instagram  
and Facebook  
[borneoheart.exhibition](https://borneoheart.exhibition)

or use our  
[linktr.ee/borneoheartinkl](https://linktr.ee/borneoheartinkl)



Cover Image:  
Detail of Yee I-Lann, *Measuring*  
*Project: Chapter Six* (2022)





# About Borneo Heart in Kuala Lumpur

Borneo Heart was initiated in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, in 2021, and was the artist Yee I-Lann's first exhibition in her homeland of Sabah, presenting works made in collaboration with weavers, film-makers, dancers, other fellow creative producers and friends. It was not just an art exhibition, but a major celebration of the community, cultures, and knowledge of the indigenous peoples of Sabah, to whom I-Lann's recent practice is heavily indebted.

Borneo Heart turns on two concepts: the *tikar* (woven mat) as a collective platform for community, storytelling and ritual, and the *tamu* (weekly market) as a meeting place for the exchange of goods, stories and ideas. It celebrates the possibility of creating new spaces, aesthetic languages and shared ideas through conversation and collaboration.

In the same way, the Kuala Lumpur iteration of Borneo Heart is also driven by the spirit of community and horizontal knowledge-sharing. Rather than gather the exhibition in one site, Borneo Heart depends on the hospitality and collaboration of art spaces joining their 'tikars' together to make use of it for their communities. It is a sharing of different mats.

Text: Ellen Lee & Beverly Yong

## ARTWORK COLLABORATORS:

**Dusun and Murut weavers in Keningau:** Johin Endelengau, Julitah Kulinting, Julia Ginasius, S. Narty Raitom, Lili Naming, Mohammed Shahrizan Bin Juin, Siat Yanau, Zaitun Raitom.

**Bajau Sama DiLaut weavers in Pulau Omadal:** Adik Alini, Adik Aisha, Adik Alisya, Kak Anjung, Pak Annik, Makcik Bagai, Kak Bedihing, Makcik Billung, Abang Boby, Makcik Braini, Kak Budi, Makcik Burah, Adik Darwisa, Adik Dela, Adik Dawing, Adik Dayang, Kak Ebbuh, Kak Elna, Kak Endik, Kak Enidah, Adik Erna, Kak Horma, Makcik Gangah, Kak Ginnuh, Kak Gultiam, Kak Kanuk, Kak Kenindi, Kak Kinnuhong, Kak Koddil, Makcik Kuluk, Kak Leleng, Adik Lornah, Adik Marsha, Kak Norbaya, Kak Norsaida, Kak Roziyah, Kak Runggu, Kak Sanah, Adik Shima, Kak Sulbi, Kak Sulman, Adik Tasya, Abang Tularan, Adik Umairah.

**In Kota Kinabalu:** Tagaps Dance Theatre, Huntwo Studios, Deebee Studio, Third Rice Culture, Kota-K Studio, KerbauWorks

**In Kuala Lumpur:** artpix (formerly E Photo Media), Party-cipate @ TZB WhatsApp group

**East and West Malaysia:** Everyone who donated hugs to *Rasa Sayang* (2012–2021)

## EXHIBITION PEOPLE:

**Borneo Heart in Kuala Lumpur is co-produced by:** RogueArt and Yee I-Lann with The Zhongshan Building, The Back Room, The Godown Arts Centre, A+ Works of Art, ILHAM Gallery and Rumah Lukis.

**Supported by:** Silverlens

**Sabahan collaborators and Tamu Tanah & Air participants supported by:** Sabah Tourism

**Borneo Bengkel and Borneo Laboratory participation in Tamu Tanah & Air supported by:** The British Council

**Powered by:** Mereka Connect

**Borneo Heart in Kuala Lumpur team:** Yee I-Lann, RogueArt, Venice Chau Xien Foo, Hariz Raof, Syaza Ramli

**Curatorial co-ordinator:** Beverly Yong, RogueArt

**Design for Borneo Heart website and media:** KerbauWorks

**Leaflet design:** Kenta.Works

**Special thanks to:** Liza Ho, Ellen Lee, Rahel Joseph, Joshua Lim, Denise Lai, Pital Maarof, Wan Yee Lim, Emily Wee, Afiqah Izzati, Lim Jo Yi, Viv Adram, Amey Azizan, Arkitrek, Rati Mujumdar, Telvinder Singh, Sol Yap & Jordan Lok, Puan Noredah Othman, Florence Lambert, Erica Choong, Sara Ahmad, Hana Harun, Regina Sulit, Kenta Chai, Joe Kidd, chi too, Chuah Chong Yong, Dennis Chan, Ben Oh, Tommy Le Baker, Kantata, Dickson Lee, Li-Hsian Choo, Harbir Gill, Stephanie Kee, Francis Koh, Susana Fontanilla, our families

# Share the Mat!

@ The Zhongshan Building



The Zhongshan Building channels the spirit of the tikar as a site for community. A place for people to gather around and chat, eat, exchange knowledge, share ideas, cook, ferment. It's a celebration of live cultures and keeping cultures alive.

The festivities begin here with a series of “fermentations”, followed by a showcase of tikar artworks by Yee I-Lann, including TIKAR/MEJA at The Back Room, Seven Propaganda Posters, and a giant “karaoke mat” dedicated to the people of Zhongshan and Malaysia, with weaving by Johin Endelengau, Shahrizan bin Juin, Lili Naming and Siat Yanau.

Text: Ellen Lee

## TIKAR/MEJA



An exhibition by Yee I-Lann featuring work made with weaving by Kak Sanah, Kak Kinnohung, Kak Budi, Kak Leleng, Kak Horma, Makcik Bilung, Kak Roziah, Adik Dela, Adik Erna, Abang Bobby, Adik Alini, Adik Aisha, Adik Darwisa, Adik Marsha, Adik Dayang, Adik Tasya, Adik Shima, Adik Umaira, Abang Tularan

An installation of dozens of woven mats that depict tables. The works interrogate the symbolic prestige of the table by juxtaposing its inherited colonial power against the communal character of the tikar.

Text: Ellen Lee

Dates

Workshops:

**7 Jan** Mami Ita Tapai Workshop;

**18 Feb** Joey's Tempeh Workshop;

**19 Feb** Tommy Le Baker performance lecture on yeast.

Exhibition:

**25 Feb–12 Mar 2023**

Admission

Workshops: Ticketed

Exhibition: Free

Contact

✉ ellenlee.jl@gmail.com

🌐 thezhongshanbuilding.com

📍 thezhongshanbuilding

Address

The Zhongshan Building  
80–84 Jalan Rotan  
Off Jalan Kampung Attap  
50460 Kuala Lumpur

@ The Back Room

Dates

**25 Feb–12 Mar 2023**

Opening Hours

Wed–Sun  
12–6pm

Admission

Free

Contact

✉ hello@thebackroomkl.com

🌐 thebackroomkl.com

📍 thebackroomkl

Address

The Zhongshan Building  
First Floor, 80A  
Off Jalan Kampung Attap  
50460 Kuala Lumpur

# Allo! Amatai!

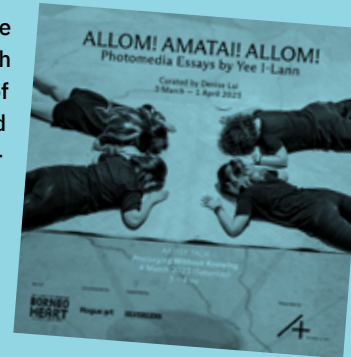
## Allo!

@ A+ Works of Art

An exhibition of three photomedia essays by Yee I-Lann: *Rasa Sayang*, *Measuring Project: Chapters 1–7*, and *Untitled Self-Portrait*. These works narrate the Sabahan artist's journey towards the *tikar* (mats) of “Borneo Heart” and, in the process, her embracing of alternative value systems that challenged those of her own.

To think about measurements through the body, through life and death, is to challenge cultures of objectivity concerned with precision and quantification. These were the technologies of governance employed by colonial rulers — standardisation and administration — against which I-Lann proposes new frameworks encompassing unruly bodies organised around forms of kinship, ritual, and womanhood.

Text: Denise Lai



Dates

Exhibition:

**3 Mar–1 April 2023**

Artist Talk:

**4 Mar 2023**

Opening Hours

Tue–Sat  
12–7pm

Admission

Exhibition: Free

Artist Talk: Free (register)



Contact

✉ info@aplusart.asia

📍 aplusart.asia

Address

D6-G-8, d6 Trade Centre  
801, Jalan Sentul  
51000 Kuala Lumpur

# Lift the Tikar!

@ ILHAM Gallery

An exhibition of video works, woven sculpture and tikar works by Yee I-Lann which hopes to draw out ways in which the “tikar” in form and concept can act as a medium for thinking about art, power, language and how we shape society.



Dates

Exhibition:

**11 Mar–18 Jun 2023**

Book launch:

**3 Jun 2023**

Opening Hours

Tue–Sat, 11am–7pm  
Sun, 11am–5pm

Admission

Exhibition: Free

Book launch: Kindly register by email: info@ilhamgallery.com

Contact

✉ info@ilhamgallery.com

🌐 ilhamgallery.com

📍 ilhamgallerykl

Address

Level 3, ILHAM Tower  
8, Jalan Binjai  
50450 Kuala Lumpur

When I-Lann began working with groups of weavers in Keningau and in Pulau Omdal, Semporna, it was to see what they could discover from the tikar together. The collaborations themselves have been a process of weaving — of different visual languages, art histories, stories, philosophies, economies, geographies.

In the tikar, we can find a representation of an egalitarian, communal, feminist politics. It is a social architecture that is flat and modular rather than hierarchical, that is flexible, that can afford to be generous.

Text: Beverly Yong



# Balai Bikin

@ RumahLukis

Balai Bikin at Rumah Lukis tells three stories about making. First it probes into the materials, concepts, and collaborative process behind four *tikar* works or series in *Borneo Heart* — Tikar Reben, &, The Tukad Kad Sequence and TIKAR/MEJA. It then traces the unfolding of Borneo Heart itself and the network of collaborators involved from the inaugural exhibition in Kota Kinabalu in 2021 to its current presentation.

Looking forward, it follows the progress of “Balai Bikin”, a project by the weavers of the Pulau Omdal community and Yee I-Lann, working with Arkitrek Camp, to create a community and making hall in their village, giving insights into its ideals, processes, challenges faced and hopefully its successful implementation later this year.

Text: Beverly Yong

# Tamu Tanah & Air

@ The Godown Arts Centre

TAMU TANAH & AIR

“Tanah” & “Air” = tanahair. Come join us on the mat!

Dari Borneo: Arkitrek Camp, Borneo Bengkel (“Making Noise”), Borneo Laboratory (Serumpun), Kadazan Dusun Language Foundation, KerbauWorks (with Johin Endelengau, Lili Naming, Shahrizan bin Juin), Magic Bamboo, KeTAMU (Wagas Dati & Flores Gam), Kota-K Art Gallery (with Harold Egn Eswar), Mami Ita: Tapai Maker, PACOS Trust, Pangrok Sulap & Light Up Borneo, Ruang Tamu Ekosistem (Pangrok Sulap, Kambai Records, Tunj Sundatang), TONIBUNG (TObpinai NIngkokoton koBUruon kampuNG), WAPO (Persatuan Wanita Pulau Omdal), Yee I-Lann

Dari Semenanjung: Bundusan Books, Dee May Tan (PLATES), Free Tree Society, Lostgens, t.i.g.a. (Tindakan Gerak Asuh), Projek Rabak, The Ricecooker Archives, Teckwyn Lim, Shaq Koyok, Tak-Tik Visual Solutions, The Zhongshan Building Community

ANAK TAMU:

Storytelling and creative workshops by Ammi Leong, Uncle NAI (Nor Azar Ishak) and My Poetry School, learn about art advocacy, different forms of energy and make a Hydroelectric Turbine with Atom & The Dot (& Pangrok Sulap!), learn Mandarin through Chinese Picture Books with Ms Au & Mr Ng, Anak Tamu tours, traditional games and other activities on the mat, kids reading corner and bookshop, co-ordinated by Li-Hsian Choo

With Tikar Emoji, TanahAirKu #02 and TanahAirKu #03

Text: Beverly Yong

Dates

**25 & 26 Feb 2023**

Opening Hours

25 Feb 2023, 11am–8pm  
26 Feb 2023, 11am–6pm

Admission

Ticketed

RM10 earlybird online

bookings, or

linktr.ee/borneoheartinkl

RM15 on the door.



Children under 12 and  
warga emas free entry.

Contact

✉ info@thegodown.

com.my or

contact@rogueart.asia

🌐 thegodown.com.my

📍 thegodownkl

Address

The Godown Arts Centre  
11, Lorong Ampang 7  
50250 Kuala Lumpur