



Yau Bee Ling (b. 1972), *Home Dinner II (Family Series)*
1995, Oil on canvas, 87 cm × 116 cm

1. In this crowded family dinner scene, everyone has sat down to dinner except for one family member. The food on the table remains untouched, as if everyone is waiting for him or her to take his place before they all begin. Dinner is served in a style typical of many Malaysian families, with multiple dishes for everyone to share. Why do you think the artist has chosen to portray the family at a dinner table? What does that tell us about the family?
 - a. Imagine you are inside the painting. What do you see? What can you hear? What aromas can you smell? How do you feel? Do you feel welcome?
 - b. Look carefully at the figures in the painting. What are their relationships? Do they often spend time together? Do they get on? What clues in the painting help you answer these questions? Why is one figure not seated at the table?

2. These two mugs of coffee and Milo look almost real! The artist Joshua Kane Gomes decided he wanted to recreate his father's and his favourite drink orders when they spend time together. On the sculpture are the words "Just a little bit longer" as he is aware that as his father gets older, the day will come when he will no longer be able to enjoy sharing this precious time with him. In a way, this is also a family portrait even though we do not see the artist or his father represented in the work. The two mugs makes us think of the artist and his father and the close relationship that they share.



Joshua Kane Gomes (b. 1993), *The Weight of your Silver Lining*
2024, Embroidery thread, plastic, epoxy putty, epoxy resin & silicone, 12 cm × 23 cm × 9 cm

- a. What item makes you think of your parents or family?

3. This photograph was taken by the artist Ismail Hashim. Can you spot the following:

A cat A television set

A mat A mosquito coil

- a. Most people choose to take photographs of special events or places. But artist Ismail Hashim did the opposite! He loved to take pictures of ordinary people and everyday objects in his hometown of Penang. He found beauty in ordinary things – a sleeping lady and her sleeping cat in a living room. He also found the unexpected humour in situations – the news on the television is about an exploding bomb but the woman (and cat) blissfully sleep on.



Ismail Hashim (b. 1940 – d. 2013), *Tidur punya ralat bom meletup pun tak sedar*
(I can sleep through even if the bomb explodes)
1983, Toned gelatin silver hand-print, 33 cm × 49 cm

- b. Imagine if you were a photographer like Ismail Hashim. Try walking around your neighbourhood or your home, taking pictures of all of the things you don't normally notice: the street signs, the neighbourhood cats, the trees, even the rubbish!



Kide Baharudin (b. 1990), *Kerja Rumah*
1983, Acrylic on canvas, 51 cm × 51 cm

4. Do you think the scene in this painting is calm, quiet and restful or do you think it is noisy, boisterous and fun?

- a. To make the scene appear busy and noisy, the artist has painted different people doing different things. Who are the people in the painting? Describe what each one is doing.

- c. Look at everyone's arms and legs! Why do you think the artist has drawn them like that?

- d. Can you find the objects in the room:

Mosquito Coil Calendar
Radio Oil lamp Pipe Vase

- b. Who do you think loves reading? Who likes writing or journaling? Who enjoys daydreaming? Who do you think is the busiest of everyone?

- e. Where do you think this house is – in the city or in the kampung? Why?



Nadirah Zakariya (b. 1984), *MCO Day 59 - RGB*
2020, Digital inkjet print on paper, 29 cm × 41 cm

5. Nadirah Zakariya's still life photograph depicts flowers in vases. A still life refers to the depiction of objects, whether man-made or natural, including flowers, fruit, vegetables, and so on. This photograph highlights the beauty that can come from ordinary things and places.

a. Look at the vases Nadirah has chosen for her flower arrangements. Why do you think she has chosen to use discarded cans as vases? What other objects would you use to put flowers in? Why?



6. This painting by Rafiee Ghani also depicts a vase of flowers. But the artist has included other objects – a red chair, a table, a potted plant. Can you identify any other objects?

a. Look at the bright colours the artist has used – red, yellow and green. How do these colours make you feel?

b. Nadirah and Rafiee use different approaches to depict similar objects. Nadirah's work is a photograph and Rafiee's is a painting. Do you think there are any other similarities or differences between the two works?

c. If you were these artists, what other still life artwork would you like to make? Here are some steps to help you with brainstorming.

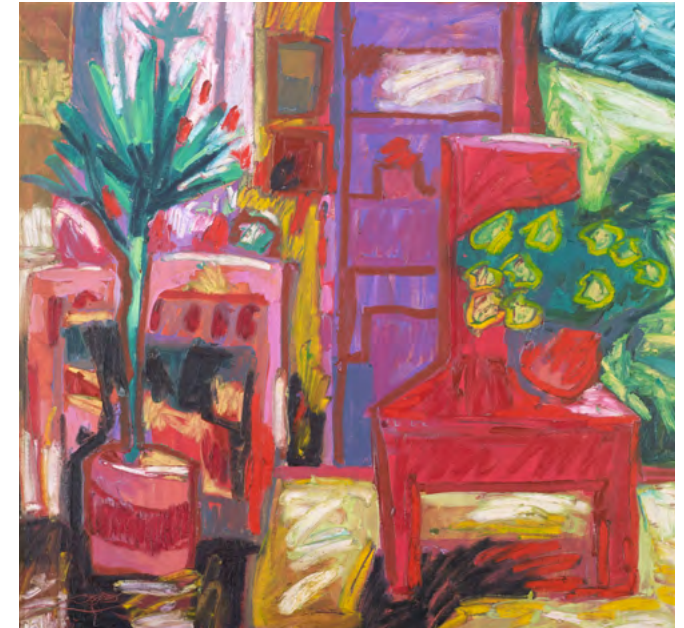
- Pick a favourite space in your house. It could be the kitchen, the garden or your own bedroom.

- Choose one item to focus on. Maybe it is your favourite object or a funny-looking one.

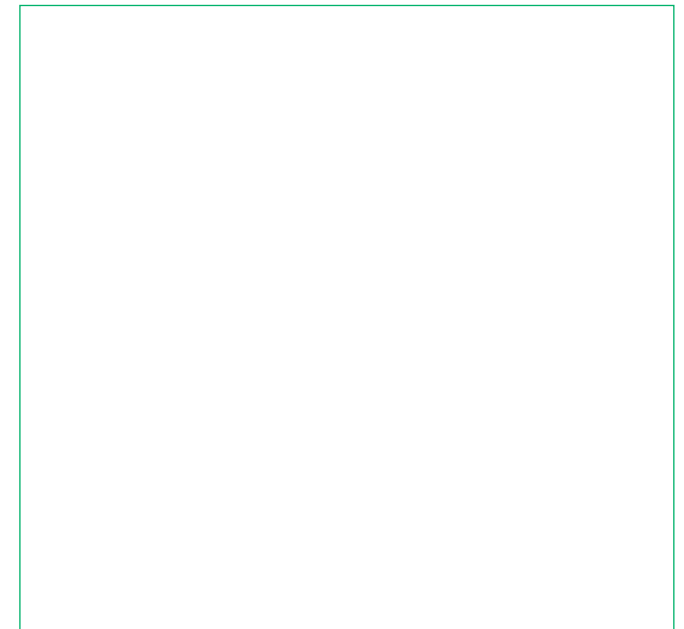
- Identify other objects around it. These objects might help make your main object stand out.

- Create your still life by capturing the object and its surrounding using whatever medium you like! It could be a painting, a drawing or a photograph!

d. Try creating a sketch of your idea on the right:



Rafiee Ghani (b. 1962), *The Red Chair with Flowers*
1994, Oil on canvas, 62 cm × 65 cm



7. Can you hear the sound of horns blaring?

In this work, the artist Anisa Abdullah makes us feel that we are in the middle of a very chaotic traffic jam in the city. Tilted angles of the buses, cars and buildings in a compressed space evoke a sense of motion and disorientation.

- Look at all of the different shapes she has included in the work. How many circles can you find? How many rectangles? How many squares?
- This work looks like an ordinary painting but if you look closely, you will see that the artist has cut up pieces of paper and stuck them together to create these images of buses, cars and motorbikes. This technique is called collage.



Padil Osman (b. 1976), *The Great Landscape*
1994, Batik and natural dye on cotton, 109 cm × 122 cm

- In this work, the artist has used the batik process to create the silhouette of rubber trees. He has done this by drawing and filling the outline of the rubber trees with wax. This approach is known as *batik lukis*, a method of drawing batik patterns directly on the fabric. Once the wax has dried, colour is added to the fabric and what is left behind is the silhouette of the rubber trees because wax can't absorb the dye!

- Do you know that the artist had to use a special, traditional tool to draw the trees? It's called a *canting*, and it works like a pen, except instead of applying ink on paper, it applies wax on fabric!

LEARNING WITH ILHAM

Rubber has played an important role in the story of Malaysia's economy. In 1888, twenty-two rubber seedlings from Brazil were sent to Malaya. It is said that you can still see the rubber tree in Kuala Kangsar, Perak that was planted from one of those original seedlings! A botanist called H.N. Ridley introduced new methods of rubber tapping, which resulted in rubber becoming commercially viable. By the end of the 19th century, there were rubber plantations all over Malaya! Rubber became a viable cash crop and by the 1960s, Malaysia was one of the largest producers of rubber in the world.



Sharon Chin (b. 1980), *Big Law In This Place: Moon phases and Tides for December 2021*
Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan/ Perintah Agung Tempat Ini: Fasa Bulan dan Pasang-surut untuk Disember 2021, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan
2021, Collagraph prints on Saa (Thai mulberry) paper, 23 cm × 16 cm

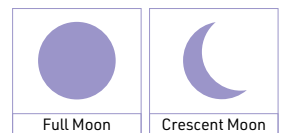
- Artist Sharon Chin lives in Port Dickson, a town by the sea. In this series of work, she has measured the moon phases and the tides in Port Dickson for the entire month of December 2021.

- What are tides?**
Do you notice how the sea moves in and pulls back from the shore when you're at the beach? Those are tides! They are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun on the Earth.

- Can you identify where the moon and the sea are in the prints? What shapes do you see?

- Moons have different phases, and that means they don't look the same every few days! So, the Moon tonight will look different if you were to look at it again in another 5 days.

- Below are two moon phases.
a) a full moon and b) a crescent moon. Sketch and draw your own landscapes according to the moon phases below! You could draw the sea or the scene outside your house at night!



10. This artwork is by an artist collective known as Pangrok Sulap. They are based in Sabah, East Malaysia. The artwork is titled *Rencana Alam*, which means "Nature's Plan". The artists used a woodcut – which means they carved the design into wood – and then stamped it on a big cloth. It shows a busy and crowded city with many big buildings and factories. Let's take a look at the artwork and see what you can find!

a. Can you find these things?

A robot

A ferris wheel

A lorry

Smoke

Birds

b. Do you see any trees and their long-growing branches? Can you describe them? What's happening with their branches?

c. How does this image make you feel? Would you want to live in a city like this?

d. Let's imagine ourselves as explorers in this city and engage our senses!

👁️ What would be the first thing you see when exploring this city? Where would you go first?

👂 What sounds would you hear in this city? Would it be really noisy or quiet and why do you think so?

👃 What would you smell in the city? Would it smell clean and fresh or smoky and polluted? Can you point out what is contributing to the smell?



Pangrok Sulap (formed in 2010), *Rencana Alam*
2015, Woodcut on cloth, 122 cm x 130 cm

Based on its title, *Rencana Alam* (Nature's Plan), and by looking at the artwork, what do you think is Nature's plan for this city? You could make a story about what happens next! What will happen to the city?

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Levels 3 & 5, ILHAM Tower
No. 8, Jalan Binjai
50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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