



Art inspired

RECENTLY OPENED IN THE HEART OF KUALA LUMPUR, ILHAM (MEANING ‘INSPIRE’) IS A PUBLIC ART GALLERY THAT HOLDS A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT, UNDERSTANDING, EDUCATION, AND ENJOYMENT OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART FROM MALAYSIANS WITHIN A REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT



The ILHAM gallery, situated on the 3rd and 5th floors of the brand-new ILHAM tower, which is the fifth-tallest building in Malaysia, is currently holding its inaugural exhibition entitled ‘Picturing the Nation’. It will run until the end of the year and is curated by Valentine Willie.

The exhibition features the entire collection of works from one of the nation’s pioneer artists, the late Dato’ Hoessein Enas. Known as the artist who defined portraiture in Malaysia during the post-independence years, he has also painted portraits of visiting celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, as well as many prominent Malaysian leaders. Also featured in the exhibition, creating a dialogue with Hoessein Enas’ historical legacy, are four Malaysian contemporary artists, Ahmad Zakii Anwar, Dain Iskandar Said, Vincent Leong, and Yee I-Lann. Together, the collective works explore what it means to ‘picture the nation’, from a variety of perspectives. The exhibition is also accompanied by a publication as well

as other public programmes such as panel discussions, curatorial tours, and public talks.

Offering free admission, the art gallery means to serve as a public education art space that aims to attract students as well as people from all walks of life to appreciate and learn from the arts without cost. It aims to appeal to a diverse and broad audience, as well as serve as a resource to those engaged in arts, as well as to those who are new to the arts and would like to gain more perspective. ■

