

# Art Discovery Tour Guide

## Patani Semasa

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Here is a guide for your visit today. It covers all the works of art featured on the tour, along with practical information about your child is learning, and suggestions for how to engage even more with what you see together.

We know there may not be time to read everything as we are walking around; therefore we've put only the information you may want to refer to quickly, in bold. The rest serves to give you further insight into what your child was exposed to, to help keep the conversation going at home - about art and topics surrounding the works explored.

### **Welcome: 5th Floor, Ilham Gallery Gift Shop**

The importance of visiting an art gallery is discussed in our warm-up session, and children will learn about how and why Patani Semasa came to Malaysia from Thailand.

Some reasons given:

- To see paintings for yourself in real life - actual size, colour, impact etc.
- To meet artists and other like-minded people in the community who appreciate art.
- By going to an art gallery you are choosing to spend your time around creativity and works of art, instead of doing everyday things such as watching television or going to a mall. The experience can inspire you to have ideas and create artworks of your own.

Quick tips.

- Go over behaviour expectations with your child: Remind them to help keep artwork safe (including installations) by not touching anything in the galleries. Also, please

take all snack breaks at the designated area as food and drinks are not allowed in the gallery exhibition areas.

- Encourage your child to introduce himself to at least one other child at this time, as tours are designed as great opportunities to make new friends and learn about the creative world of art together.

## **Public Sculptures: In Front of Building**

### **Brest Stupa Topiary, Pinaree Sanpitak, 2013**

*Created by one of Southeast Asia's most admired artists, the eight freestanding objects are designed to support the growth of plants, and is an open invitation to play.*

### **Divina Proportione, Ai Weiwei, 2015**

*An expression of mathematical elegance and beauty, the polished bronze and stainless steel construction forms an industrial aesthetic, perfectly positioned in the high-tech architectural landscape of Kuala Lumpur.*

#### **What your child learns.**

- Sculptural art is a great way to encourage children to use different materials and tools when making art; giving them an expansive idea of what art can be made of (almost anything!)
- Looking at artwork from different vantage points and angles builds the valuable ability to spot and knit together details; as proven with future doctors at Yale School of Medicine - who were taken to art museums in order to train their brains to bring multiple dimensions and gain much-needed perspective, for their work.<sup>1</sup>
- Exposure and access to these types of multifaceted works nurture curiosity and give children an experience they aren't finding anywhere else.

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel P. Jones and Karen Peart, "Class Helping Future Doctors Learn the Art of Observation," Yale News, 2009.

- For children who are Art Discovery Tour veterans, seeing something again is an important aspect of understanding art, as art is a product of the intuitive and there will always be something in the work that hasn't been seen before in a previous tour.

## **The Langkasuka Cookbook, 3rd Floor**

### **Roslisham Ismail ("Ise"), 2012**

*Food as a way to tell a story about the history and culture of the Langkasuka Kingdom is discussed through the cookbook, video interviews, photographs, drawings and sound installations. Children will be asked what their favourite family recipe is and why.*

#### **What your child learns.**

- Children are taught that artists can bring their curiosity and creativity into food; and that cooking and art can be intertwined.
- Thinking about art in the context of food helps children learn that creative ideas can come from unexpected places, and gives them a new perspective about how recipes and cookbooks are constructed.

## **The Patani Region - 5th Floor, Main Gallery**

### **Historical Timeline of Patani**

*A brief history of the Patani region and reasons why the exhibition is significant will be shared. The process of bringing an exhibition from another country is discussed.*

#### **What your child learns.**

- Linking works with history helps children to make the connection between life and artistic expression, giving richer context to artwork that is viewed.

- Children are taught that artists can come from a variety of backgrounds and still make a great impact in the world of art, as their work is often inspired by their individual life experiences.
- Children are also informed how different audiences can respond to the same exhibition and artwork in unique ways depending on their backgrounds and cultures - e.g. how Patani Semasa could be seen differently in a country with a muslim minority (Thailand) and how it could be seen differently in a country with a muslim majority (Malaysia).
- Being in a formal gallery environment helps children practice their social etiquette and teaches them how to conduct themselves in a unique and controlled setting, whilst still having fun!
- By contemplating the process of how the show was put together, and the various people involved, children gain a deeper appreciation for what it takes to run a public art gallery.
- You can also read about the exhibition here:  
<https://www.star2.com/culture/2018/04/11/patani-semasa-art-exhibition/>

## **Living in Harmony**

**The Movement of Turtle's Back, Korakot Sangnoy, 2015.**

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**Life of Kedai Cina 2, Sirichai Pummak, 2016.**

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**The Way of Life of Malay Locals in the Three Southernmost Provinces of Thailand, Jehabdulloh Jehsorhoh, 2005.**

*The beauty of Malay culture and heritage in the life of Thai Malays is shown through traditional and classical Thai painting techniques. Cultural differences and similarities are discussed, as well as contemporary social issues in Patani.*

**What your child learns.**

- Describing artwork to children builds important pre-literacy skills; as a strong narrative helps children “read” what they see in a piece of work.
- Looking closely at art requires focus and attention (skills which the digital world and fast-paced media full of quick-changes and lots of action, compete for today).
- The opportunity to discuss differing opinions on art and take in the beauty of creative expression with thoughtful adults, not only supports visual perception skills, but also logical and creative thinking skills; and makes children feel heard and important.
- Observational skills are an step in science education (the ability to predict an outcome of something begins with first looking closely at the details). A child’s visual skills are sharpened with trained to look beyond the obvious.

**The Impact of Installation Art, How It Engages Audiences**

**Smile-Reminds, Hasnah Tayae, Paosee Tayae, Affar Tayae, Affan Tayae, Anis Nagasevi, 2013.**

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**Symbols of Violence 11, Suhaidee Sata, 2016**

*The context of growing up in a hostile environment is presented in relation to the installation and portraits from a place of conflict. Children are asked to imagine what life is like under martial law and themes of peace and diversity are discussed.*

**What your child learns.**

- By experiencing a something through installation art, children can feel the impact of a situation or an idea.

- Listening to the thoughts, opinions and creations of others - which may be different from their own - children are made aware that art can mean many different things to different people and that all ideas are equally valid.
- Children are given the opportunity to think the fact that despite outward differences and different cultural identities, we all share many similarities in terms of hope and dreams.
- They also gain insight, into a community that is perhaps different from the one they are growing up in - a great starting point for instilling interest as well as positive respect for people of all religions and cultures.

## **Poetry as an Art Form, Presented as an Art Piece**

### **Aku Nampak Diriku (I See Myself), Zakariya Amataya**

*The issue of identity being a Malay Muslim in Southernmost Thailand is envisioned, through the poem. Poetry as a form of art and its presentation on cloth as a piece of art is discussed.*

#### **What your child learns.**

- Learning that poetry is a form of art to be contemplated can further a child's interest in using language to express emotions and help them understand art in a deeper way.
- Creative language development can be sparked by positive experiences with poetry.

## **Traditional & Modern Approaches to Art**

### **The Beautiful Flower Hidden in Pattani, Jehabdulloh Jehsorhoh, 2011**

*The characteristics of a Malay Muslim woman represented by the artist is explored, along with the marine life motifs on the woman's niqab. The Pointillism (dots) and Batik style is highlighted, along with the intricate process of creating the artwork.*

#### **What your child learns.**

- By articulating what they see, children are able to organise their thoughts and sharpen their vocabulary around communicating their ideas.

## **Reading, Activity & Discussion: 5th Floor, Ilham Gallery**

### **Gift Shop**

### **“The Enemy: A Book About Peace,” by Davide Cali, Illustrated by Serge Bloch**

*Children will be asked thought-provoking questions after the reading of the book, and given a chance to share their point of view on topics such as the nature of war and the importance of peace. They will then make a unique diorama scene depicting a peaceful resolution to the story; based on their own creative ideas.*

*What is a diorama? It is a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures, either in miniature or as a large-scale museum exhibit.*

1. *Historical: a scenic painting, viewed through a peephole, in which changes in colour and direction of illumination simulate changes in the weather, time of day, etc.*
2. *A miniature film set used for special effects or animation.*

## What your child learns.

- Children practice their ability to watch closely and listen carefully to specific instructions, before carrying them out neatly and accurately to produce a visible result that is aesthetically pleasing.
- The creative process challenges children to find immersive involvement in tasks, take on problem solving, develop self-motivation, and tolerate ambiguity and anxiety, as they are encouraged to try a task without certainty of the outcome.<sup>2</sup>
- When experimenting with a new art-making technique, children are practicing existing fine motor skills in a novel way, and gaining experience with a variety of materials and methods will increase their willingness to try out new combinations in the future.
- The process of experimentation (regardless of outcome) helps children learn to envision new possibilities, study situations in depth, prioritise and make unexpected connections, give form to their ideas and visualise solutions (prototyping). When children put ideas to work they are essentially testing themselves, allowing solutions to appear in stages as well as learn to see the value not knowing for sure how things will turn out.
- Creating a piece of art where several steps are involved fosters patience and a greater sense of accomplishment when the project is completed.
- Some links to the book and resources for discussion with your child:
  - “The Enemy: A Book About Peace” by Davide Cali and illustrated by Serge Bloch – see <https://www.amazon.com/The-Enemy/dp/B0058M8WBY>.
  - Video Reading of the Book: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3K\\_iny61Ew](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3K_iny61Ew)
  - Book Discussion Guides:
    - [http://wilkinsfarago.com.au/Enemy\\_teachers\\_notes.pdf](http://wilkinsfarago.com.au/Enemy_teachers_notes.pdf)
    - <http://tinlids.ca/resources/LessonPlanTheEnemy.pdf>
  - Another great option for younger children is “Enemy Pie,” by Derek Munson which you can find online at <http://www.storylineonline.net/books/enemy-pie/>

## After your visit...

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<sup>2</sup> Deering, Julia. “The Playful Parent.”



Thank you for bringing your child to our Art Discovery Tour for Kids! We loved having you, and hope to see you again at another exhibition. Until then, we'd like to encourage you to keep the conversation going at home, and continue to expose your child to art. We believe you don't need to be in gallery for art to have a profound effect on your child's development and understanding of the world. We would like to leave you with a few ideas and tips we personally think are great for getting children to appreciate art from wherever you are. If you have any of your own you'd like to share with us, please email them to us!

**What to keep in mind.**

1. Let go of the notion that you need to have a degree in art history to study art with your child. When you look closely at artwork together, whether in a book or on an iPad, it is less about what you know, and more about what you discover WITH your child.
2. Questions are a great place to start. You can use the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) questions mentioned in the Pre-Visit Handout e.g. "What's going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that? And what more can you find?" Or try questions like, "Do you think you can create something like that artwork we saw the other day?"
3. Set up opportunities for your child to create for your child at home (temporary or permanent) where your child can play at making something. You can use a low bench or table, or a wipe-clean floor surface as a creative station, and stock it with a few tools and art supplies.

## Things you can do at home.

We want to show you that you don't need overpriced craft-kits to deliver creative experiences to your child. In fact making your own art activities can be even more effective than anything pre-packaged and more fun! Plus it enhances your standing in your child's eyes, e.g. "Wow my mom / dad is so clever he or she can create that artwork from just those few supplies / make that piece from just a few pieces of paper!" This turns you into a creative role model for your little ones.

- Don't forget to share your child's creations at home (that have been inspired by their visit to ILHAM and the tour) with us by tagging @ilhamgallerykl when you post, as we love looking at original art!
- Start collecting extra material for construction and collage work. You can save anything from old wrapping paper, to foil, feathers and anything recyclable in large containers or bags to pull out whenever you want to inspire your child to make something with his hands.
- Look in art books or online for artwork you can show your child. A list of 20 Great Artworks to Look at with Young Kids<sup>3</sup> can be found online at The Art Curator for Kids (artcuratorforkids.com).
- Start a collection of artwork your child likes at home. Print them out and make a wordless art book, and get your child to tell stories about what happens next in the pictures.
- Provide creative material for art making. You don't need to be a 'Pinterest Mom' and make insanely perfect things, just follow your child's lead on what to make. Some great websites with super-simple projects you can try: Deepspacesparkle.com, Redtedart.com, Kid Blogger Network Activities and Crafts Board<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://artcuratorforkids.com/20-great-artworks-to-look-at-with-young-kids/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pinterest.com/playdrmom/kid-blogger-network-activities-crafts/>