

BHANU ACHAN

Nature's Translator

BY CHEE SUE ANNE



Abstract Landscape V, 2011
Oil on paper 54.5 x 67 cm x 3 pieces
SOLD RM 7,150.00
KLAS Art Auction 7 July 2013
Edition IV



Abstract Landscape, 2011 Abstract Landscape 2, 2009
Oil on paper 55 x 60.5 cm
SOLD RM 4,400.00
KLAS Art Auction 19 January 2014
Edition VII

BACKGROUND

At 64, Kuala Lumpur-born artist, Bhanu Achan is quietly content with life. If given a second chance, he would not be anything but an artist. His love for art has guided him through the twists and turns of his life to be where he is today.

Completing high school with an impeccable academic record, and marked with a brilliant future ahead, Achan enrolled into medical school in India. Experiences in that deeply spiritual land introduced to him the divine and mystical side of reality that manifested in art. His growing ardour for his paint and brushes gave him no choice but to forsake medicine. Achan returned to Malaysia, an artist. And he has never looked back since. Over the course of his 40-year career of creating art, Achan has produced spectacular masterpieces with consistent frequency. His gift for design stems from his love for nature. They are metaphoric of Achan's struggle to find meaning beyond form and content.

"Although I have endured hardships in life as an artist, including financially, I would never choose anything else," Achan stated. Achan sees the toil he goes through as a labour of love, painting imbues in him a profound sense of satisfaction. His struggle is glimpsed in his compelling creations of art that are thought provoking, bewitching and sometimes even controversial.



Forest Impression, 2016
Oil on canvas 152.5 x 88 cm
SOLD RM 5,072.40
KLAS Art Auction 12 March 2017
Edition XXVI

EXHIBITIONS

Achan's works have been exhibited extensively across the country, and this national treasure has three of his pieces included as part of the National Art Gallery's permanent collection.

Besides that achievement, Achan has had a long and illustrious career in the art industry. With more than 50 exhibitions over the past 40 years under his belt, he has earned his place and position as one of Malaysia's most preeminent artists. In 1972, Achan exhibited and sold his works at Samat Gallery, and at Le Beaux Art Gallery in 1982. Achan showcased his works at an open art exhibition at the National Art Gallery in 1980. In conjunction with the 1998 Commonwealth Games, he exhibited his art at Armada Hotel. When the country launched the Visit Malaysia campaign in 1990, Achan was there to champion the art movement alongside the booming tourism industry through the Pemandangan Malaysia Travelling Art Exhibition organised by the National Art Gallery. In 1996, he was part of the 'Up In The Clouds' exhibition organised by DNA Studios at the National Planetarium, as well as the Star Hill Art Exhibition organised by Galeri Anugerah in 2000. In 2004, Achan's art graced the walls of Galeri Seni Maya and again in 2008 at the "Interlude" art exhibition at RA Fine Arts. In 2011, his paintings stole the show at the art exhibition 'Suara dan Rupa' at Yayasan Seni Berdaftar as well as at KLPAC during his solo exhibition there.

To add to the already extensive list, Achan has also exhibited 30 of his paintings during the art exhibition at MAA@KL Sentral Artspace in 2013, one of which was his vibrant Vincent van Gogh-inspired piece, 'Himalaya 11'. The Empire Art Space was another home to his paintings as well as Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur at their festive art exhibition during Ramadan in 2015. And Achan's paintings, 'Forest Impression' and 'Teluk Cempedak II' were recently sold at KL Art Space. His invaluable works, appreciated by many, have also found their way into countless private collections. The quiet beauty his art expresses has stolen many hearts and will continue to do so for as long as Bhanu Achan can continue to use his paint brushes to translate his vision onto canvas.

ARTWORKS

Achan's artworks strive to escape the boundaries of form. Constantly inspired by nature, there is a raw and rustic mood to many of his paintings as can be seen in his recent works, 'Journey to Mount Kinabalu' and 'Forest Impression'.

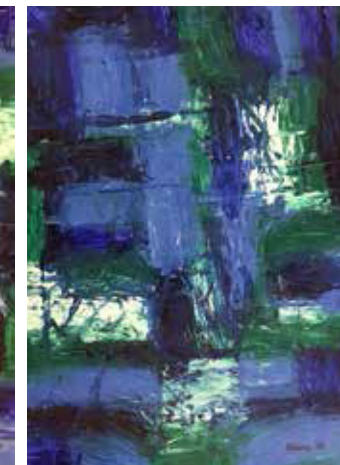
Achan's favourite piece though, is 'Lost in the Midst'. The ease and effortlessness of how it came together in his hands was amazing even to him. "I was just pouring paint and it came out as an interesting composition of greenery, mountains and morning mist," Achan said.

Breathing life to his preferred media, canvas and paper, Achan's orchestra of paint and colour never fails to harmonise fluidly, seeking to evoke an emotional response in all who lay eyes on it. His work speaks for itself. "My messages are obvious. They are what they are," Achan said.

He added that his paintings always came as a surprise to him. Achan is one of the few that creates subconsciously and moves as the art tells him to. A genius, ahead of his time, Achan has beautifully combined his love for nature and his deep spirituality to produce pieces that invoke a sense of calm, wonder and deep appreciation, and insight into the complex and obscure world we live in.



Sailing (Indian Ocean) I
Mixed media on paper 108.6 x 79.4 cm



Sailing (Indian Ocean) II
Mixed media on paper 108.6 x 79.4 cm