

An abstract painting by Benedetta Segala. The composition is divided into several distinct color fields. At the top, there's a warm, textured area in shades of orange and red. Below this is a horizontal band of light green and white. The middle section is dominated by a large, dark green field. To the right, a vertical strip of bright yellow is visible. The bottom left corner shows a mix of light blue and white. The overall style is expressive and gestural, with visible brushstrokes and a rich, layered color palette.

# DIAL & CTIC

BENEDETTA SEGALA

A DUO SHOW WITH  
M. SHAFARIN GHANI

17 MARCH - 14 APRIL 2018

**TAPAK**

No. 1, Jalan Tanjong 8/28, Section 8,  
40000 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan,  
MALAYSIA.

# DIALECTIC

# The Meeting of East and West

## Introduction

The human story has traditionally followed an approach of looking at the past in separate chunks divided by geography and time. Such that long before ancient Greece flourished, architects in Mesopotamia had been building cities, while artists in Egypt were decorating colossal tombs with wall paintings and sculptures. Africans had made cubist sculptures and masks before Picasso realized it, and American natives had created artistic ceremonial objects in the pristine New World. Great thinkers like Socrates, Buddha and Confucius arose around the same brief but advanced period in the 6-5th century B.C. E.

Though they were in separate locations around the globe, each of them represent the actors of change who espoused advanced knowledge that revolutionized the thoughts of their people. There is no doubt that the meeting of foreign cultures will serve more in the long run to enrich both sides of the divide.

It was not until later times when the early European explorers left the west in search of the east did they make amazing new discoveries. The Italian Marco Polo traveled extensively through Asia and discovered artistic objects and government of high civilizations. Another Italian, the historian Antonio Pigafetta was able to produce an Italian-Malay dictionary in collaboration with a Malay interpreter and sailor, Panglima Awang, on board Ferdinand Magellan's ship that circumnavigated the world in the early 1500s A.C.E.

These exchanges and many others have brought previously foreign worlds in touch with each other and left indelible impact on both sides of the globe. It has drastically aided our understanding of life and the world as a whole – as well as crucial advancements that existed in other parts within it – that which affects all humanity and civilizations as a whole, from art to politics to religion, war and money.

In “DIALECTIC”, the art of Benedetta and Shafarin seeks to breach the boundaries of time and geography. Their approaches differ as their backgrounds, but the exchanges they share together over the years have nourished their artistic journey and their attitude towards the world, and more often, arriving at the truth.

Hence **DIALECTIC @ Galeri TAPAK**

**Riz Nordin**

Shah Alam, March 2018

# MESSAGE FROM THE EMBASSY

I am very pleased to support this remarkable initiative, which is representative of the good relationship existing between Italy and Malaysia, as well as of the many instances of cultural exchange between our two countries and their peoples.

I have no doubt in fact that Benedetta Segala's paintings have been enriched by her contact with this country, and that her husband M. Shafarin Ghani has likewise been influenced by the painting styles of Europe.

Indeed, I am convinced that when different cultures interact, they produce something new and innovative, borne from the best traits both can offer, and I therefore wish both Benedetta and Shafarin to be able to paint – together – for many more years!



**H.E. Cristiano Maggipinto**  
Ambassador of Italy to Malaysia  
Kuala Lumpur, February 2018

# DIAL & CTIC DUO

Italian artist Benedetta Segala and her Malaysian husband M. Shafarin Ghani show us through this exhibition of theirs what a truly dialectic duo they are!

Hailing from two geographically distant countries with different cultural backgrounds, languages (the flowery rambling of Italian, the weighted simplicity of English and the directness of Malay) and thought, each was confronted and forged by disparate realities.

When they started off, their only common denominator was their choice of medium (oil paint) and their thirst for more, the inner and outward search that unsurprisingly brought them to widen their horizons in many diverse lands, searching their own selves, confronting themselves, eventually actually finding themselves, in the same place at the same time, and more than once... growing as persons and artists through it all.

Their respective journeys are illustrated here in this exhibition.

For Benedetta, it's almost never an impulsive casting of paint on canvas, rather a lengthy - initially contemplative then introspective - process, inspired by the light and often spread over time, continents even... And through this interval the thoughts conjured up in the meditative phase, and the feelings they have triggered, are transformed yet again by new realities and emotions which the painter experiences next. It is this latter metamorphosis, further reshaped through her subconscious, which ultimately begets the final artwork. It is only then that everything suddenly makes sense, that new elements unexpectedly make their appearance and take shape on canvas, finally revealing themselves. Hers is an intricate, beautiful journey of transformation on such diverse levels and layers, which ultimately dictates - at the very end and only then - the title of the final painting, which suddenly and unmistakably reveals itself to its maker.

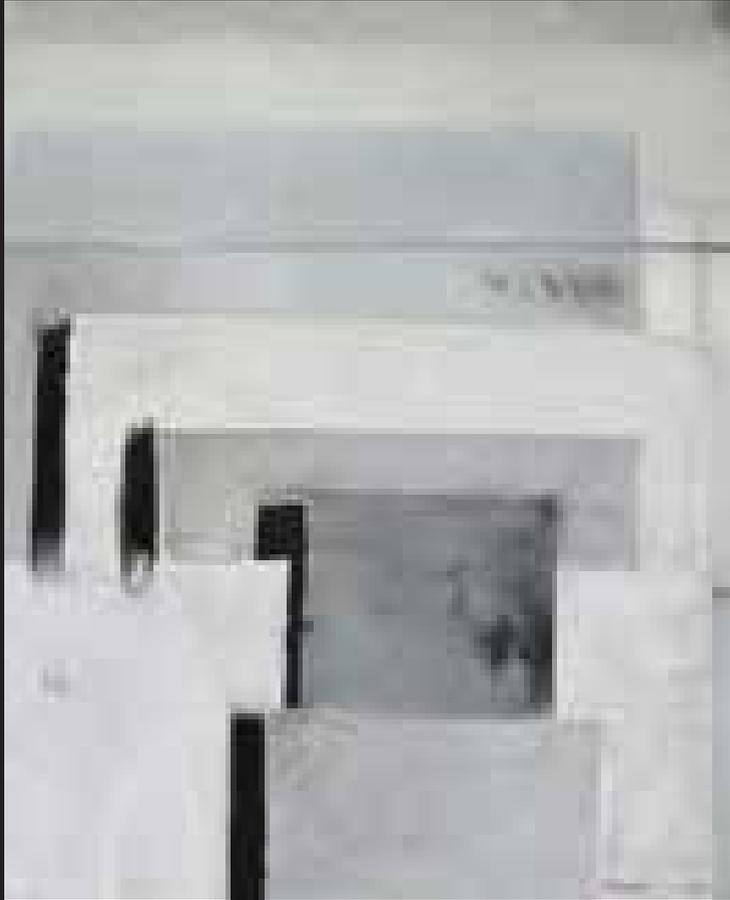
The purist - though extremely bold - Shafarin makes art for art's sake, to explore the wider possibilities of contemporary abstraction. His paintings always spring from spontaneity rather than routine, drawing on memories and feelings from past experiences; they are inspired by darkness and its many layers, by nature and the life that surrounds us. The transparent glazing used, the choice of vivid, unrestrained, boisterous colours, the meticulously executed strokes tone on tone or of contrasting hues producing countless and infinite superimposed layers, all conjure up paintings which are throbbingly intense, deeply expressive and emotionally charged, embodying a fiery passion that goes beyond space and time. They capture our searching, meditative souls, enthralling and drawing us into their hypnotic, mesmerising riot of colours, taking us deeper and deeper, into our inner selves...

Benedetta and Shafarin, two individuals so different yet so similar, and probably the yin to each other's yang, have shown us through this exhibition "beauty through diversity", and the "beauty of diversity".

Kuala Lumpur, February 2018

**Eliana Salvi**

Cultural Office Embassy of Italy in Kuala Lumpur



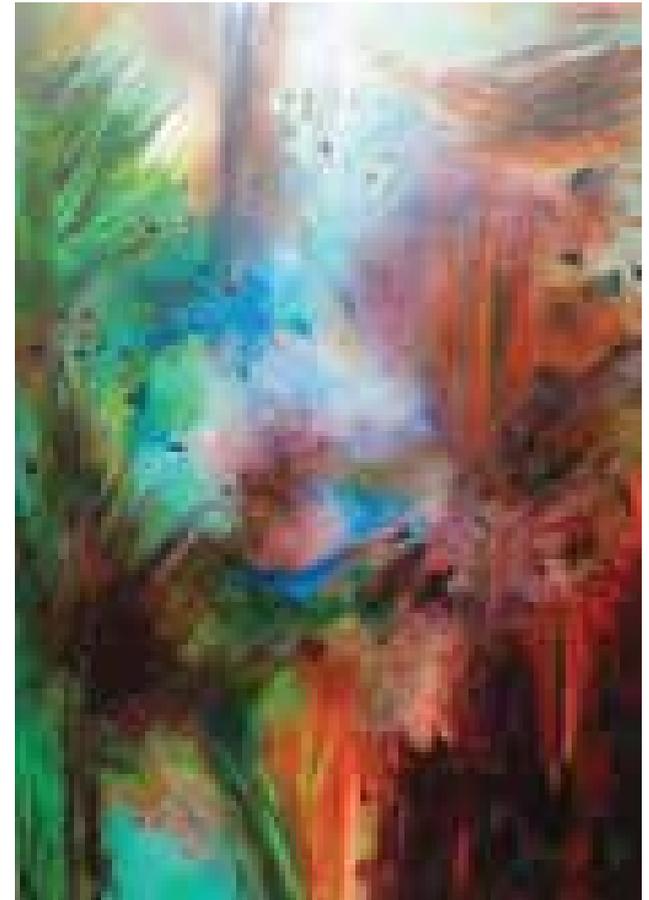
**8 Hertz**  
Oil on canvas  
73 cm x 58 cm  
2014



**La piscina degli uccelli**  
Oil on canvas  
60 cm x 65 cm  
2014



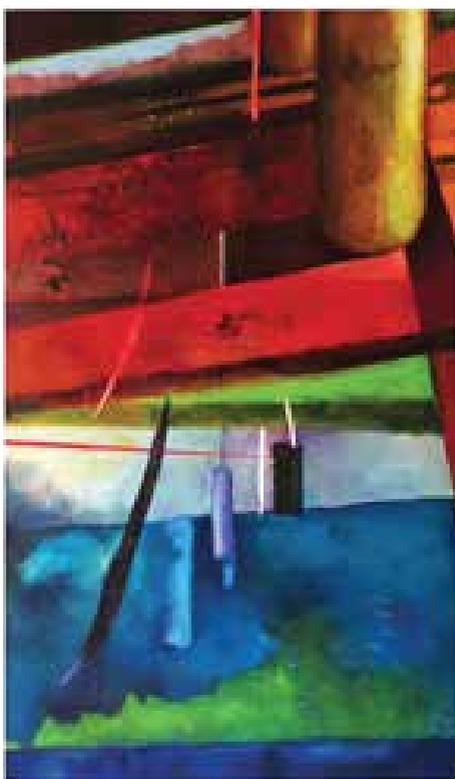
**L'acqua brucia, il fuoco spegne**  
Oil on canvas  
90 cm x 135 cm  
2016



**Un giorno**  
Oil on canvas  
140 cm x 90 cm  
2016



**Fuoco e luna**  
Oil on canvas  
182 cm x 122 cm  
2016



**Non così distanti**  
Oil on canvas  
182 cm x 102 cm + 182 cm x 145 cm (*Diptyque*)  
2016



# Benedetta Segala

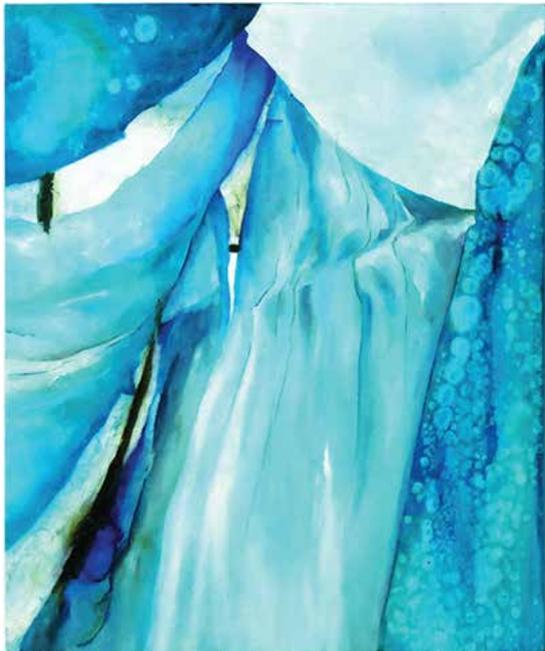
Benedetta paints in a minimalistic or semi-abstract way, transforming real visual experiences into abstraction. While in France, she experimented reversing the process from abstraction into real matter in the form of three dimensional installations. She resumed painting again upon returning to her native Italy where she was also engaged in restoring classical frescoes, and fell in love with its bright and delicate palette.

Benedetta enjoys contemplation and is fascinated by the passage of time and existence, within which she discovers her own personal experiences and a place for her memories. That 'space' of her life within the broad spectrum of the universe translates into colours in her paintings. She explains how her paintings are a transformation of her real world visual experiences in the form of synthesis or dissipation of elements. How natural organic forms evolve and appear alive. Imperfect spaces inhabited by colours, geometry by intuition, contours becoming transparent or reflected in shadows – these are some of the key elements of her expressions.

Her current works in DIALECTIC are inspired by her new home in Malaysia, with its unique environment and culture. Yet for Benedetta, the natural elements in her paintings are evocations in an abstract context, as its final forms are not intentional. During these period, she found opposites that complement each other which became themes for her paintings, allowing the elements to flourish on her canvas as she paints.



**Round Trip** Oil on canvas 73 cm x 177 cm (*Triptych*) 2016



**Blue Velvet 1/2**  
Oil on canvas  
90 cm x 75 cm (*Diptyque*)  
2016



**Germinazione** Oil on canvas 90 cm x 115 cm 2017



**Seed** Oil on canvas 50 cm x 64 cm 2017

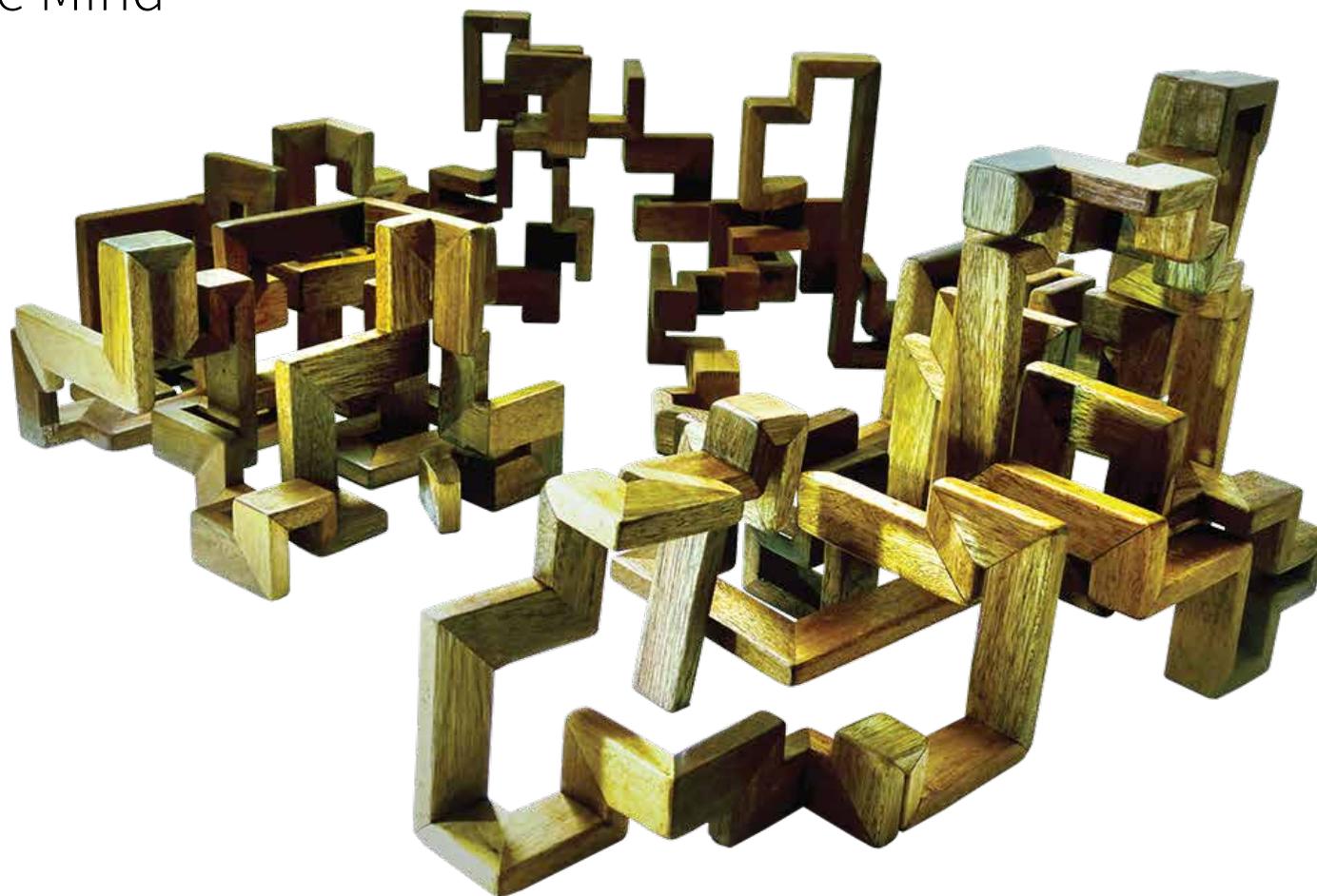


**Maternita'** Oil on canvas 115 cm x 90 cm 2018

# Sculpture of The Mind

This 3-dimensional sculpture began as a personal project which is intended to be realized as a public sculpture in 1:10 scale using wax cement in an open green space. Light or sun rays from varying angles throughout the day will create different possibilities of interacting with the lights and shadows affected by the sculpture, as well as any reflections caused by the presence of water within its space.

The sculpture represents the workings of the mind.



## **Mind**

wooden sculpture on mirror base  
125 cm x 100 cm x 40 cm  
2018

*Took 4 years to realization, the assembly of almost 400 pieces of the wooden remains of my frames, make up a tangled linear structure which starts from the earth and ends up in the air, using only glue. The combination of glue and wood, strengthen the elements of rhythm, weight and balance. If exaggerating everything collapses. The inspiration of great philosophical reflection about the order and nature of things in the world. The geometric rule of the 45 degrees being used to cut the edges, creating infinite variations in the evolution of the shape. The latter arise from a parallel with the organ of the brain: two hemispheres with different lobes and a cerebellum. The brain as a symbol of knowledge and ability of thought and consciousness of mankind. (Problem solving, capacity of judgment, motor function, sensation, handwriting, body position, memory, hearing, visual processing system, etc.). This version of sculpture, show the path of thought, which generates what we are.*

## The Meeting

Global artists in global times learn from each other, not only to avoid conflict, but also to flourish together. Benedetta and Shafarin draw inspirations from one another, and from their foreign or local surroundings, often in deep contemplation of the natural world and humanity, as well as the experiences and emotions they go through, inevitably shaping the way they see the world and beyond.

Their paintings are personal expressions of their deeper selves which began from opposite ends of the spectrum, she working from light and he from darkness.

Benedetta's strange colours, impasto and transparency techniques seem to signify her coming out to embrace a new environment and a unique way of life. While Shafarin's glazing approach and classic colours express a sense of an inward journey that manifest his emotions and energy by revealing what is essential on the canvas.

Through the blurred lines, irregular forms and dynamic space in their paintings, both artists endeavour to achieve a sense of drama or of balance and harmony according to his or her expression.

## Benedetta SEGALA

born 1978. Mantova, ITALY.

+60 011 3820 2957

+39 349 7514 235

benedetta.segala@gmail.com

[www.benedettasegala.com](http://www.benedettasegala.com)

### EDUCATION

- 2003 **D.N.S.E.P. Luminy School of Fine Arts**  
(*Diplôme National Supérieure d'Expression Plastique*) Contemporary Art – Master 5  
Marseille, FRANCE
- 1997 **Secondary Degree Diploma**  
Giulio Romano High School Design  
Mantova, ITALY

### ART RESIDENCY

- 2013 **Perahu Art Residency**  
Yogyakarta, INDONESIA

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 **Dial&ctic (Duo)**  
TAPAK Gallery - Shah Alam, MALAYSIA
- 2014 **Esistere**  
1 Stile Gallery - Mantova, ITALY
- 2012 **Segala/Ghani (Duo)**  
Espace Provisoire - Maison Bleu Gallery - Digne, FRANCE  
**Journée internationale pour l'élimination  
de la violence à l'égard des femmes**  
Italian Cultural Institute & European Congress  
- Marseille, FRANCE
- 2011 **Aquatique**  
Toursky Theatre - Marseille, FRANCE  
**Talents de femmes**  
Maison de la Région - Marseille, FRANCE  
**Œuvres 2005-2011**  
City Hall Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE

- 2008 **Terre Créatrice**  
Céladon Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE  
**Grain de sable, grain de peau**  
Sahella Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE
- 2006 **Mirages**  
L'Entrée des Bains Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE
- 2005 **Frammenti**  
Libenter Gallery - Mantova ITALY
- 2004 **International Art and Crafts Fair**  
Milano, ITALY
- 2003 **Sculptures**  
Imagina Gallery - Mantova, ITALY  
**Sculptures**  
MAC Contemporary Art Museum - Marseille, FRANCE

### ART CURATOR / ART WRITER

- 2017 **Lines - Solo exhibition by Anees Maani**  
Chandan Gallery - Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
- 2015 **Abstrak : Kini dan Dulu**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA  
<http://malaysiacontemporaryart.coredesigngallery.com>
- 2015 **The Grass is greener on this side**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA  
<http://malaysiacontemporaryart.coredesigngallery.com>

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 **Pameran Seni Rupa Lima Benua**  
Rumah Lebah Imoghiri (Art Jog) - Yogyakarta, INDONESIA
- 2016 **Shah Alam Biennale Pangea**  
Alam Impian Art Gallery - Shah Alam, MALAYSIA  
**Mantovana (Italian Capital of Culture 2016)**  
1 Stile Gallery - Mantova, ITALY  
**Horizon**  
Guimik Art Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE
- 2015 **Abstrak : Kini dan Dulu**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- 2014 **SoyaCincau**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA  
**Bank Art Fair**  
Zero Gallery - Pan Pacific Hotel SINGAPORE  
**Langkawi Art Biennale**  
Lagoon Resort - Langkawi MALAYSIA
- 2012 **Consul'Art**  
Palais des Arts - Marseille, FRANCE
- 2009 **For Them**  
CDAA & Cuadro Fine Art Gallery - Dubai, UAE  
**A vendre**  
Montgrand Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE  
**Votre prix sera le notre**  
Artcade Gallery - Marseille, FRANCE  
**Art Auction LECLERE**  
Marseille, FRANCE
- 2008 **Semaine de l'Art Contemporain**  
City hall - Riez la Romaine, FRANCE
- 2007 **Quadriennale L. da Vinci**  
Vittoriano Museum Complex - Roma, ITALY  
**Regards de Provence**  
Palais des Arts - Marseille, FRANCE
- 2005 **Temporale**  
Thomas Charles Gallery - Phoenix, USA



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The artists would like to thank :

TAPAK Gallery, Yusof Ghani and the Team to support and host the exhibition.

Embassy of Italy in Kuala Lumpur  
The Ambassador : H.E. Cristiano Maggipinto  
Deputy Head of Mission : Counsellor Silvia Marrara  
Cultural Officer : Eliana Salvi

All our family and friends.

Fayçal Saadane and La Maison Bleue.

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M. SHAFARIN GHANI

A DUO SHOW WITH  
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MALAYSIA.

# FOREWORD

An art show is that rare occasion where we gather to witness an artist's form of thought. Dialectic is far more unique as a show because it features a husband and wife team artists. It's interesting that we are able to experience that marriage of cultures from the world divide and the tensions associated with it. Shafarin from his Utara (Penang) point of view of the world and perhaps how his marriage to the Italian Benedetta influenced his mind and his art, vice versa.

Tapak is proud to house this Shafarin Benedetta showcase, and we hope many can benefit and be curious and ask as many questions on the art journey of this lovely couple. May we continue to benefit from the art experiences of others. Tapak sends her best energies to all the visitors.

**TAPAK**



**Lautan**

Oil on canvas  
140 cm x 160 cm  
2017



**Lembah**

Oil on canvas  
107 cm x 153 cm 2017

**The Light of Spirit**  
Oil on canvas  
100 cm x 140 cm  
2015-2018



**Flanger**  
Oil on canvas  
107 cm x 153 cm  
2016

# Mohd Shafarin Ghani

As if knowing at the tender age of 12 what he was going to be in the future, Shafarin knocked on the door of a portrait maestro in Penang who accepted him under his tutelage and taught him the foundations of art skills and techniques which has made him into the artist today. He had his first group show at the age of 16 and a solo exhibition the following year.

Shafarin also discovered his talent for music and promptly mastered the violin. Music always plays an important role in his psyche and in his art as he draws inspiration from it. Reading and travelling also help sharpen his insights on philosophy, humanity and spirituality, all of which help fuel his artistic journey.

Shafarin is always concerned with the emotional content of his works as they are expressions of his deeper self. His previous works of seascapes executed with glazing and chiaroscuro evoke rich emotions as if in a symphony that combines the intricacies into a harmonious tune.

He paints purely from imagination, memory or a feeling with a flavour of abstract expressionism. He has also delved into minimalism using universal geometrical images that prompt viewers to seek and reflect within themselves.



**The Sound of Distortion**

Oil on canvas  
92 cm x 151 cm  
2017



**The Lake I Never Knew**

Oil on canvas  
97 cm x 153 cm  
2011-2018



**Thinking of You** Oil on canvas 130 cm x 160 cm 2017



**End Title** Oil on canvas 153 cm x 107 cm 2018

## Mohd Shafarin GHANI

Born 1981. Penang, MALAYSIA.

inggsakura@gmail.com

[www.mshafarin.com](http://www.mshafarin.com)

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### ART RESIDENCY

- 2013 **Perahu Art Residency**  
Yogyakarta, INDONESIA

### AUCTION

- Henry Butcher     **"The ninth"**  
                              **" OeuvreXVIII"**

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### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 **Dialectic (Duo)**  
TAPAK Gallery - Shah Alam, MALAYSIA
- 2014 **Man and his God**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- 2012 **Segala/Ghani (Duo)**  
Espace Provisoire - Maison Bleu Gallery - Digne, FRANCE
- Oeuvre of Mouvement N.2 - Yang Tersembunyi**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA

- 2010 **Oeuvre of Mouvement N.1**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- 2008 **Dramatic Movement**  
Seni Mutiara Gallery - Penang, MALAYSIA
- 1998 **Solo**  
Zhong Hwa Art House - Penang, MALAYSIA

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### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 **The Unreal Deal**  
Bank Negara Museum & Art Gallery  
- Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
- Pameran Seni Rupa Lima Benua**  
Rumah Lebah Imoghiri (Art Jog) - Yogyakarta, INDONESIA
- 2016 **Shah Alam Biennale Pangea**  
Alam Impian Art Gallery - Shah Alam, MALAYSIA
- 2015 **Abstrak : Kini dan Dulu**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- Grande 2**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- Aperitivo d'arte**  
1 Stile Gallery - Mantova, ITALY
- The grass is greener on this side**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- 2014 **SoyaCincau**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- Grande 2**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- 2011 **Art Expo Malaysia**  
Matrade - Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

- 2010 **Beautiful People**  
Core Design Gallery - Subang Jaya, MALAYSIA
- Dual Romanticism**  
Penang, MALAYSIA
- 2009 **International Art Exhibition**  
Penang, MALAYSIA
- 2007 **Malaysia Merdeka Exhibition**  
Seni Mutiara Gallery - Penang, MALAYSIA
- Group Art Exhibition**  
Pahang, MALAYSIA
- 2005 **Gelora Rasa Art Exhibition**  
Sri Pinang Art Gallery - Penang, MALAYSIA
- 2003 **Penang Artist Exhibition**  
USM Art Gallery Museum - Penang, MALAYSIA
- 2001 **Group Art Exhibition**  
Pahang, MALAYSIA
- 1999 **Art Exhibition**  
Bangkok, THAILAND
- 1997 **Group Exhibition**  
Penang State Art Gallery - Penang, MALAYSIA
- Open Exhibition**  
Penang State Art Gallery - Penang, MALAYSIA

