

**Minstrel Kuik** (b. 1976, Malaysia) left her hometown Pantai Remis at 18 years old. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Taiwan, she obtained her master's degree in photography in Arles, France. Kuik loves working across a range of contexts by stretching the tension between the mechanic tools, the digital devices and the manual labour. Her mediums are versatile, including photography, drawing, painting, poetry, textile, mixed-media assemblage and installation, always with a focus on women's writing (*Écriture féminine*).

The access to different cultures through her multilingual education has come amid the first awareness about the politics of place, gender and identity, to which her migratory body has to constantly conform or reinvent. With a belief that the private space is the major battlefield of ideological, political and economic interests, she explores art as a historical trajectory where the personal mutation through the process of reading, thinking, making, revisiting and counterbalancing is traceable, and hopefully, reflective and transformative.

Kuik has exhibited widely in Southeast-Asia and overseas institutions such as National Gallery Singapore; Singapore Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei; Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Australia; Ilham Gallery, Malaysia; FotoFest, Houston; Photoquai, Musée du quai Branly, Paris; Higashikawa Photo Festival, Higashikawa, Japan; and at the Lishui Biennial Photography Festival in China, Melbourne International Festival of Photography, Australia.

Her awards include the Regional Winner of one-month Fukuoka Asian Art Museum residency (2015); Winner of the UOB Painting of the Year (2014) for the Established Artist Category, Malaysia; Winner of the International Photographer Award (2013), Higashikawa Photo Festival Japan. Public collections include: Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Higashikawa International Photo Festival (Japan), United Overseas Bank (Singapore).

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## EDUCATION

- 2003-2006 Master in photography with first class honors, National Superior School of Photography of Arles, France.
- 2000-2003 Diploma of Fine Arts with honors in photography, School of Fine-Arts of Versailles, France
- 1995-1999 BFA in Oil Painting, Department of Fine Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Nobody Exists in A Still Life, Haridas Contemporary, Singapore
- 2023 Story Time, The Back Room, Malaysia
- 2021 Memory Games for A House in Motion, Richard Koh Fine Art, Malaysia
- 2020 She who has no self, Melbourne International Festival of Photography, Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Horsham, Australia
- 2019 Merdeka, the Lonesome Club, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
- 2018 Old Wave Brings Empty Shells, Cross Art Projects, Sydney, Australia
- 2017 P for Place, Lumenvisum, Hong Kong
- 2016 After-image: Living with the Ghosts in My House, Wei-ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2015 After-Image: The One, the Many & the Unrepresentative, Run Amok Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
- A Kneeling Posture, Art Stage, Singapore
- 2008 See the Water, Alliance Française at Lorong Guerney. Gallery of Taylor's University College, HELP University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 Does it burn? T'cha Gallery, Paris, France

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Back Room back room, The Back Room, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Small Things Brought Together, Haridas Contemporary, Singapore
- The Plantation Plot, ILHAM Gallery & KADIST, Kuala Lumpur
- Paradise is at the tip of a needle, Linda Neo & Albert Lim Collection, Primz Gallery, Singapore
- 2024 Everyday Practice, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

- Strategies of Dissent, +n by UR-MU, Kuala Lumpur  
 Not just in Black and White, Steve Wong Collection, GDP, Kuala Lumpur  
 Crossing Sea 03: In Times to Come, DECK, Singapore
- 2023 Living Pictures: Photography in Southeast Asia, National Gallery of Singapore, Singapore
- 2022 A Short History of Instant Noodles, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 A+ Preferred, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Steep and Sample: Possible Futures/Impossible Present, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Travel Agency, A+ Works of Art, Artspace@Helutrans, Singapore  
 CIMB Art and Soul: Curtain Call, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2021 As We Were, Michelangelo & Lourdes Samson Collection, Helu-trans, Singapore
- 2020 In Our Own Frame: 15<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 Art-staged: No Booth, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore  
 Stories We Tell to Scare Ourselves, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2018 Against the Day, OUR ArtProjects, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Art Stage, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
- 2017 Imagined Communities, Nationalism & Violence, Rubber Factory, New York, USA  
 We Are Here, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Photography & Place, Angkor Photography Festival, Cambodia  
 Where Does the Future Get Made? Lishui Biennial Photography Festival, Lishui, China  
 On Attachments and Unknowns, Sa Sa Bassac, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 Collective/Individuals, Urbanscapes, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Our Studio Selves, Art Space, Sydney, Australia
- 2016 The Immeasurable Here, Outlet Gallery, Brooklyn, U.S.A  
 The Past is Never Where You Think You Left it, Wei-ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2015 Making Durian, Run Amok Gallery, Penang, Malaysia  
 Person(a), Black Box, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- My Story, My Strength, Women's Center for Change, George Town Festival, Penang, Malaysia
- Pause, Photo Bangkok, BACC, Bangkok, Thailand
- Only A Fragment, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014 Family Snaps – Photography in Southeast Asia, Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 刻舟求剑 - Pulau Melayu - Lost & Found, Lostgens', Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Fall into The Sea to Become an Island, George Town Festival, Run Amok Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
- Eating Wind, VT Artsalon, Taipei, Taiwan
- The Good Malaysian Woman, All Women's Action Society & Interpr8 Gallery, Map Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Women's Voices-International Photography Exhibition 2014, Soulangh Cultural Park, Tainan City, Taiwan
- My Country, Shalini Ganendra Fine Art in cooperation with Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York, USA
- 2013 The Home Series, Higashikawa Photo Festival, Higashikawa, Japan
- M for Malaise, Magasin de Jouets, Arles, France
- Eating Wind, Run Amok Gallery, Penang, Malaysia
- 2011 Melaka Art & Performance Festival (Visual Art Program), Melaka, Malaysia
- Cross+scape, Asean-Korea Contemporary Media Art Exhibition, Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea. Jeonbuk Museum of Art, JeonJu, Korea. GoEun Museum of Photography, Busan, Korea.
- Photoquai 2011, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France
- Review: KL, Datum Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival, Map, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Tanah Ayeh, Valentine Willie Fine Art and Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2010 3 Young Contemporaries, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur
- Through the Looking Glass, The Annex, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 2902 Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 International Discoveries II, FotoFest, Houston, USA
- Secured Area, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 Entry Points Community Project, 1948 art space, Sri Kembangan New Village, Malaysia

- Out of Berlin, Pass the picture, The Annex, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 Artsfest, Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), Cork, Ireland
- Future Image, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dublin, Ireland
- Out of Berlin, Pass the picture, Goethe Institute, Berlin
- Sharing Space: Contemporary Photography of Malaysia & Japan, Biennale of Kuala Lumpur International of Photography, The Annex, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Photos Divers, Festival of Levallois, Levallois, France
- 2006 Work in Progress, International Festival of Photography of Arles, Arles, France
- 1999 Sales 0.99, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan

## PROJECT

- 2012-2013 刻舟求剑 - Pulau Melayu - Lost & Found, art project initiated by 4 Malaysian Chinese artists in order to engage more exchange and discussion
- 2007 Future Image, selected among 10 Asian emerging photographers to participate digital photography workshop organized by Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Ireland
- 2006-2007 Involved in glass sculpture and photography project conducted by American artist, Robert Wilson
- 2005 Photographic documentation of renovation of Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation, New York, USA
- Involved in installation project of Brazilian resident graffiti artists Os Gemelos, Annual Watermill Center Benefit, New York, USA
- Photographic documentation of Summer Program 2005 of Byrd Hoffman Foundation Archives, including Robert Wilson's rehearsals, site-specific installations, performances, conferences, etc.

AWARD

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| 2015      | Regional Winner of one-month Fukuoka Asian Art Museum residency, collaboration between FAAM and UOB Painting of the Year |
| 2014      | Winner of UOB Painting of the Year for the Established Artist Category, Malaysia   |
| 2013      | Winner of International Photographer Award, Higashikawa Photo Festival, Higashikawa, Japan                               |
| 2010      | Short-listed for Photoquai's Residency for project "Merdeka, the Lonesome Club"  |
| 2006      | Six-months scholarship by French Embassy in Malaysia for higher studies in France  |
| 1994-1999 | Excellent academic performance for Overseas Chinese Students, National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan          |

PUBLIC COLLECTION

Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

Higashikawa International Photo Festival, Hokkaido, Japan

United Overseas Bank, Singapore