

# The Colour of Life

Exploring Kaleidoscopic Narratives

Explore Now



Galeri Khazanah aims to preserve and conserve historical gems and offer global audiences a glimpse of our rich art and cultural heritage.

By ANN MARIE CHANDY

AS the sovereign wealth fund of Malaysia, Khazanah Nasional has been tasked with growing the long-term wealth of the nation. Through its investments and activities, Khazanah seeks to deliver sustainable economic and long-lasting societal benefits for future generations of Malaysians.

As part of Khazanah's continued commitment to deliver value for Malaysians through its "Advancing Malaysia" strategy, it plays a significant role in capacity building and spurring vibrant communities from various sectors in Malaysia – including arts, culture and heritage.

Alongside its foundation Yayasan Hasanah, and impact organisation Think City, Khazanah has been providing opportunities for emerging talents as well as various arts, heritage and public space initiatives, and avenues for the appreciation of Malaysia's artistic talents. It is Khazanah's belief that this, in turn, drives the nation forward and contributes value for economic progress and social well-being.

"Arts, heritage, and public spaces play significant roles in the lives of all Malaysians. They form the core of what defines us – from the entertainment we consume to the places we spend our free time in," says Khazanah managing director Datuk Amirul Feisal Wan Zahir.

"Appreciating them as part of our national identity is key to ensuring they thrive through time for our future generations to enjoy."

Since Malaysia is home to a wealth of traditional arts and heritage which are at risk of being forgotten, it is one of Khazanah's aims to ensure these valuable arts and the skill sets required to create them are shared with the younger generation to enable their preservation.

In conjunction with World Art Day (April 15) that promotes the development, diffusion and enjoyment of art for all, here's a look at the various programmes and initiatives Khazanah, and its

## PRESERVING ARTS AND HERITAGE FOR NATION BUILDING

Khazanah Nasional and its affiliated entities continue to weave threads into Malaysia's rich social fabric through their arts and heritage efforts – towards nation building



Joshua Kane Gomes, seen here with Khazanah MD Datuk Amirul Feisal Wan Zahir (right), is one of the recipients of the Khazanah Nasional Associate Artist Residency Programme 2023 and has just completed a three-month arts residency at Acme Studios in London. The residency programme provides opportunities for emerging artists to be showcased locally and globally – bringing value back to the country.

related entities have embarked on over the years and continue to push forward.

### Galeri Khazanah: Wealth in art

Last year, Khazanah launched its first-ever virtual art gallery Galeri Khazanah, through which it was able to share its collection of public works by Malaysian artists which Khazanah had been acquiring since its inception in 1994.

The collection includes meaningful cultural pieces such as

drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures, crafts, as well as historical objects which serve as a fragment of the nation's institutional memory bound together through the artworks' beautiful stories and narratives.

It was hoped that through the virtual gallery ([galeri.khazanah.com.my](http://galeri.khazanah.com.my)), Khazanah would be able to preserve and conserve these historical gems and offer not just local but global audiences a glimpse of our cultural heritage through the perspective of Malaysian artists.

Its inaugural art exhibition *Time Together: Exploring Art Through Khazanah Nasional Berhad's Collection*, curated by art consultant Sarah Abu Bakar, featured over 50 artworks by senior, established and young Malaysian artists including Latiff Mohidin, M. Zain Idris, Ahmad Khalid Yusof, Datuk Chuah Thean Teng and Kok Yew Puah.

Its ongoing second exhibition *The Colour of Life: Exploring Kaleidoscopic Narratives*, launched earlier this year, highlights 65 artworks by modern

and contemporary local artists, including Nadiah Bamadhaj, Yee I-Lann, Mustapa Ibrahim and Haffendi Anuar – celebrating the splendours of the universe, imagining nature, exploring socio-cultural perspectives and interpreting folklore narratives.

"The curatorial approach for *The Colour of Life* exhibition is to bring out positive emotions through colours in the form of artwork," says Sarah, who has returned as curator of the second showcase.

"For example, the colour green – as seen in most artworks in the 'Lobby', and themed 'Harmony and Imagination' – exudes a sense of peacefulness. The selected artworks are arranged in a colour-coordinated manner to elevate the viewer's visual experience."

Apart from the gallery, there is also the Khazanah Residency Programme which develops young Malaysian talents in selected disciplines by equipping them with the latest knowledge, skills and network in their respective fields.

Programmes are chosen from established short-term residencies, fellowships or courses run by world renowned institutions. This is a non-binding, fully sponsored programme; upon completion, participants are required to pay it forward in various forms to benefit Malaysians at large. As at January 2023, 44 emerging Malaysian talents have benefited from attending various residency programmes.

There are three programmes currently running under this initiative – the Khazanah Media Fellowship, Khazanah Arts Residency, and Khazanah Public Service Residency. This year, the