

INTO THE  
MOON'S  
GROOVE

FENDY  
ZAKRI

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## INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE

*With freedom, books, flowers, and the Moon,  
who could not be happy?*  
– Oscar Wilde

In 2019, Fendy Zakri presented 'Moonlight Fragment' at TAKSU Kuala Lumpur, and I had the honour of writing about this body of work. Tightly woven around the subject of the moon, sections of the celestial body posed with geometric shapes on precise, minimalist canvases, and the works have come to serve as the unfolding of an almost half-decade long exploration of the moon's visual and symbolic properties.

## FAITH IN THE MOON

In today's solo exhibition, 'Into the Moon's Groove,' Fendy returns to the moon's visual charm and its inextricable role in faith and spirituality. Symbolically present across religion, art, literature, and cultures, the moon's permanence throughout our lives is a testament to its universality, and the artist also pays homage to the lunar effect – the moon's power over all living beings.

*"I love making works of the moon not just because the visual is beautiful, but for its narrative. Humans and nature are inseparable; we need each other to understand one another,"* he says.

It's poignant then that 'Into the Moon's Groove' is being shown simultaneously in two cities. There are 30 works in total, with exactly half destined for Kuala Lumpur and the other half for Singapore. Different nationalities, currencies, and characters transpire across the Causeway, yet the same moon appears in our skies. This is especially poignant in today's fragile climate; it's more important than ever to recall that which binds us. *"Humans and nature are inseparable; we need each other to understand one another,"* states the artist.

## A MORE POTENT MASTERY OF THE MOON

By tapping into the same subject matter and themes, Fendy has been able to evoke a deeper sense of personal identity and meaning into his current body of work. For one, the title of each work in this series starts with the number 8, a nod to the artist's birth month of August. *"This series is more personal to me. My previous series was how I observed the moon from the earth, but for this series I observed the moon even closer. In other words, each painting in this series comes with an individual number – personal grooves with personal feelings and personal understanding,"* admits the artist.

Fendy likens the 'groove' in the series' title to musical rhythms, and the melodic reference equates to a more lyrical approach to his subject matter.

In his earlier series, Fendy's works were more minimal and the canvases were punctuated with bold washes of "white" space. The moon was present, but in snippets. Today, the moon commands significant real estate on the canvases. This was not accidental. *"This time around, I wanted to bring audiences closer to the moon for a closer view, to understand more and to feel the moon's 'groove',"* argues Fendy.

Application of colours has also been choiceful this time around. *"I painted with muted colour schemes and I chose black to expel ambiguous space and to expose the moon's image... To create negative and positive views."* In fact, the colour black has played an important role across Fendy's oeuvre, with past paintings featuring solid black to evoke infinity, "untouchable" voids, or "spaces that show discipline and respect to the canvas" – reverent parts of the canvas that dictate the journey for the rest of his coloured strokes.

Fendy's richer play of tonality and colour is married with a more nuanced mastery of technique in 'Into the Moon's Groove.' Adopting a self-developed "reverse step wash technique," Fendy blocks each canvas with three coats of his desired colour, then waits for the paint to dry completely before shaping the work's patterns with thick black paint. The moon itself is then quickly manipulated with water and tools to mirror the organic surfaces of the moon – a technique which the artist claims is highly delicate. *"There is no turning back if I delay the process, and it was super difficult and challenging on big canvases,"* he states, and as it is with all things in nature, "timing and temperature are an essential part of the process."

'Into the Moon's Groove' will come to be regarded as a crescendo in Fendy's artistic journey, which has now hit the 14-year mark after initial stirrings as a hobby. The body of work demonstrates a clear elevation in technique, thought, and intention to better connect with audiences and to himself.

## A SHADOW ONTO THE SELF

Fendy writes:

*The more I paint, the more I understand myself.*

*The more I understand myself, the more I produce art.*

*The more I produce art, the more people I get to know.*

*The more people I get to know, the more problems I have to face.*

*The more problems I have to face, the more I reflect on myself.*

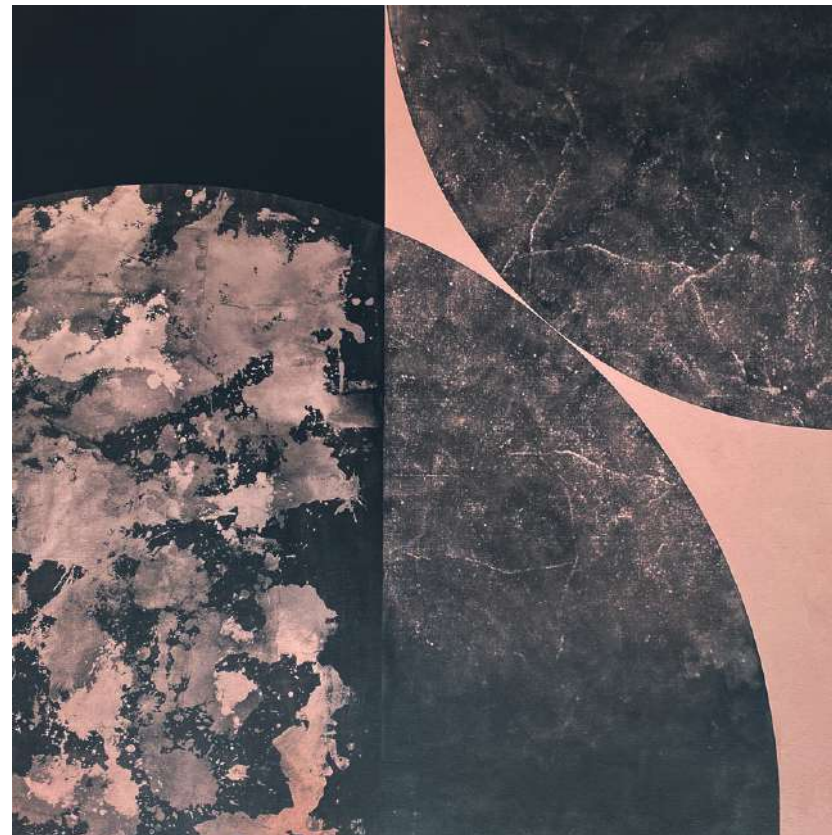
*People are not the problem; the problem is how I look at it and react to it.*

Getting closer to Fendy's works is a closer look at the artist's mainstay subject matter of the moon, a step closer to the artist, and if we allow ourselves, a chance to contemplate the deepest parts of ourselves.

ESSAY BY  
**RACHEL  
JENAGARATNAM**



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-01  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-02  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152 X 152 CM / 2023

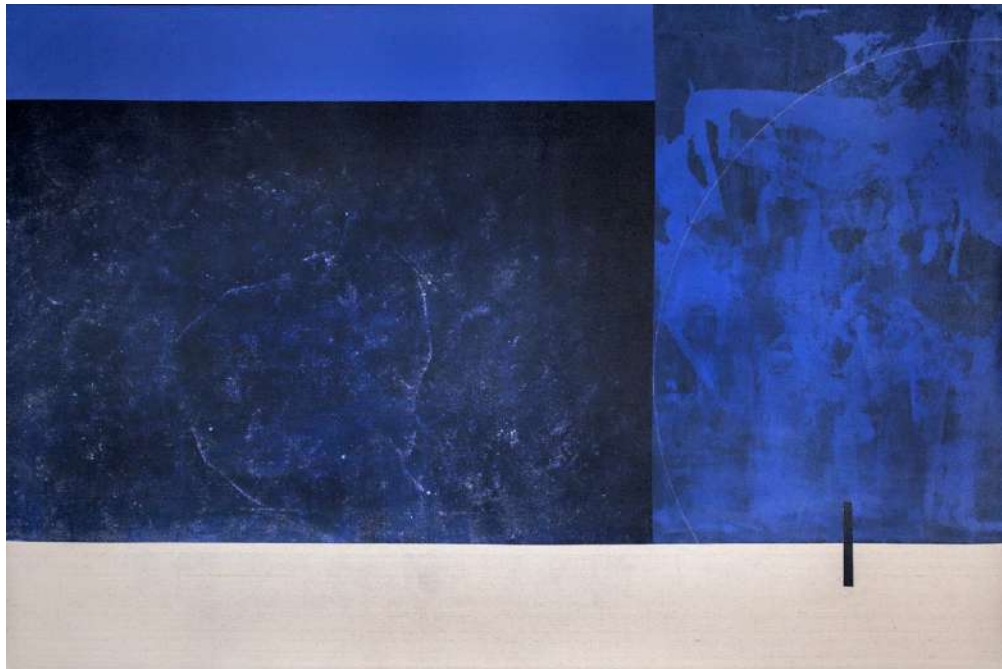


INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-06  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-03  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 122 CM / 2023





INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-05  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-07  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 122 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-04  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-09  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-10  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 152.5 CM / 2023

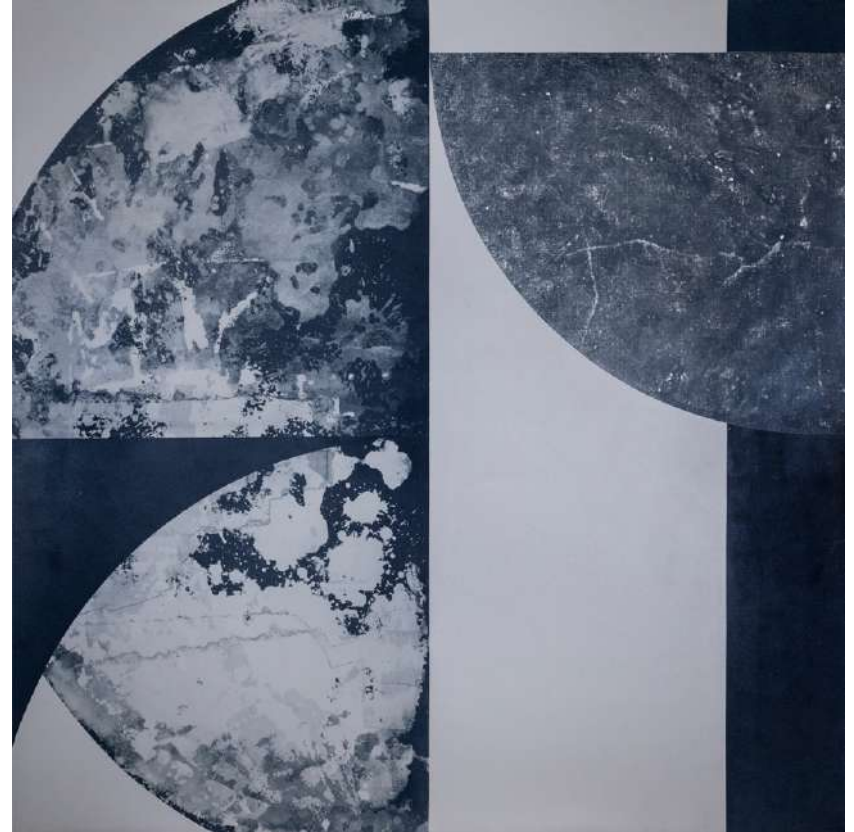


INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-13  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 183 CM / 2023





INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-11  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-12  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152 X 152 CM / 2023





INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-15  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-16  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-17  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 122 CM / 2023

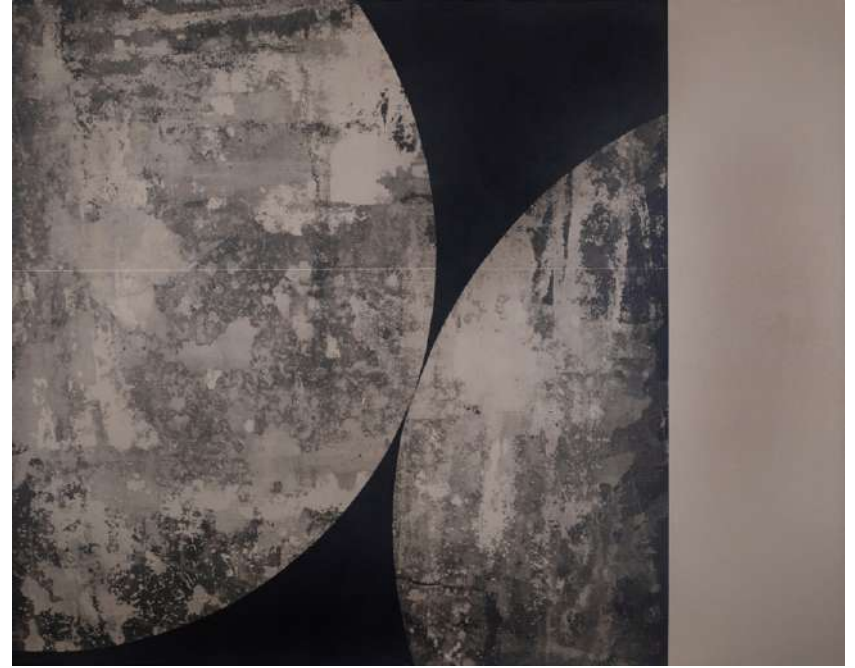


INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-18  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 122 CM / 2023





INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-19  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 122 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-23  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-20  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 244 CM / 2023





INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-14  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
152.5 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-22  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152.5 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-27  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-29  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023

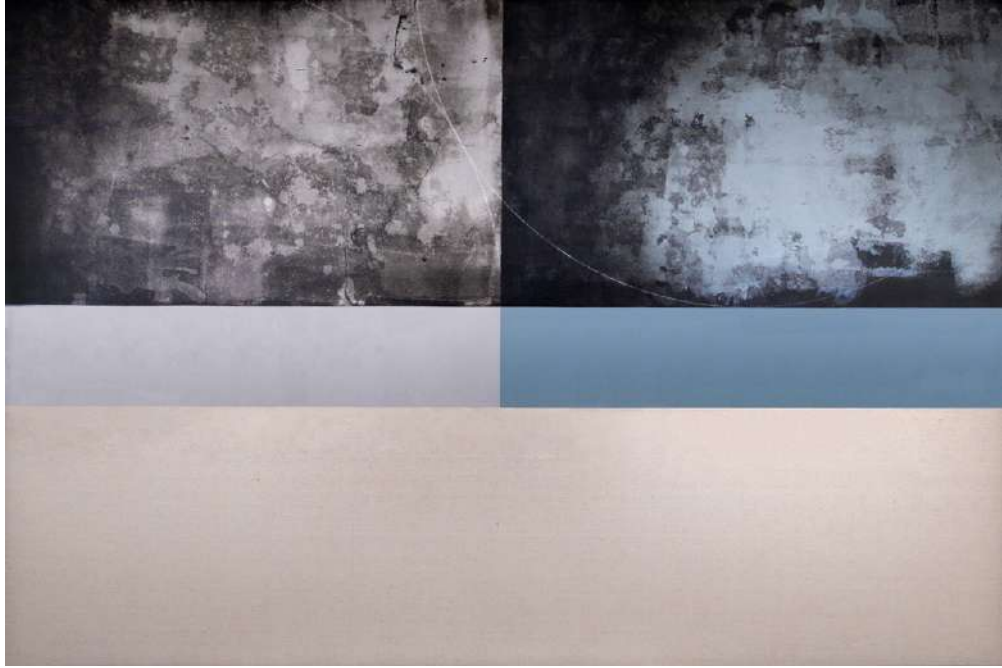




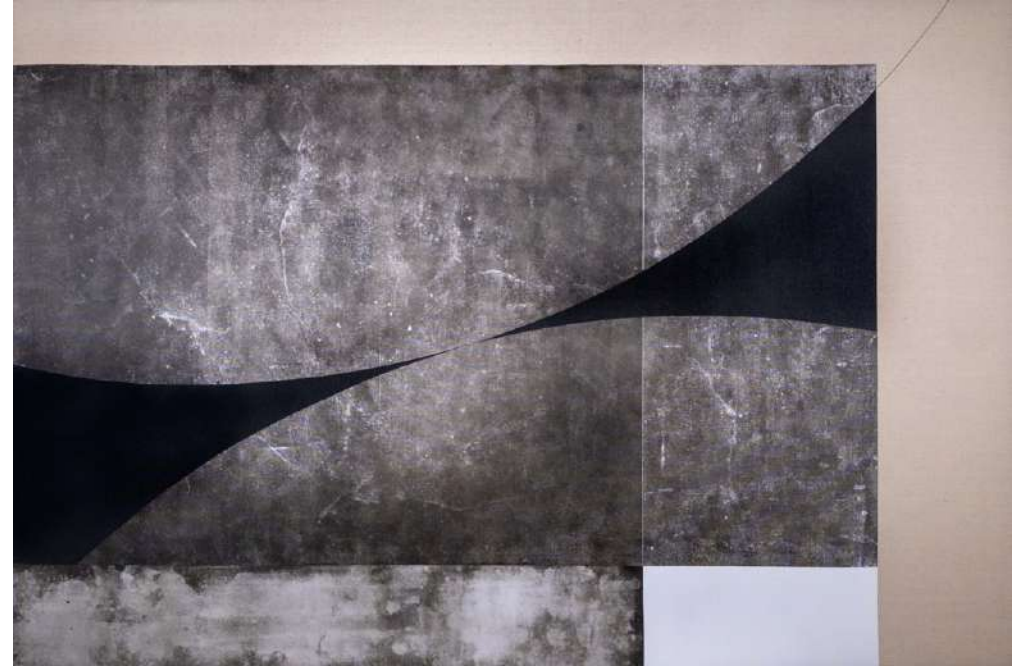
INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-28  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-31  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-30  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-33  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-28  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 152 CM / 2023



INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE 8-34  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
122 X 183 CM / 2023



To see the moon that cannot be seen, turn your eyes inward and look at yourself, in silence. - rumi

*Into the Moon's Groove* series is a testament to the power of creativity and self-expression. It is a journey of self-discovery, an exploration of the emotions and experiences that make up the human experience, that speaks to the depths of our souls.

The moon symbolises the mystical and celestial realms. By referencing the moon in the title, "moon's groove" alludes to a rhythmic and harmonious connection between the natural world, the cosmos, and our inner selves. The groove represents a sense of alignment or resonance with the universe.

Groove is commonly associated with music and rhythm, signifying a state of flow or being attuned to one's emotions. In this sense, "moon's groove" is an exploration of emotional states, a journey into the depths of one's feelings, and the expression of those emotions through art.

The moon evokes a sense of calmness and serenity. *Into the Moon's Groove* signify finding peace and tranquility within oneself or immersing oneself in a state of zen-like harmony. It may reflect the desire to capture and convey a sense of serene beauty through the artwork.

*Into the Moon's Groove* draws its inspiration from the interplays of light and shadow of tranquility and vitality. It seeks to capture the essence of serenity and the breathtaking beauty that exists in the coexistence between silence and sound, darkness and illumination, it beckons viewers to immerse themselves within its aura, to experience the echoes of emotions while contemplating the interconnectedness of existence, and it continues with the rhythmic transcendence of art, guiding you in the world of harmony, connection, and boundless creativity.

Step **into** the luminescence of the **moon's** glow and allow its captivating **groove** to reverberate within your soul.

This is the (visual) language that is unique and powerful. A language that speaks to the soul and connects us all.

Ultimately, *Into the Moon's Groove* is open to interpretation and can vary depending on artist's intention and the viewer's perspective. It is up to you to define and express what *Into the Moon's Groove* signifies for you guys.

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## ARTIST STATEMENT BY FENDY ZAKRI

## INTO THE MOON'S GROOVE

FENDY ZAKRI

TAKSU KUALA LUMPUR & SINGAPORE  
16 to 30 NOVEMBER 2023

**ONLINE**  
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Graphic Design Jeffrey Lim / Studio 25  
Printer Unico Services

**FENDY ZAKRI**  
(b. 1982) Kuala Lumpur

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** [Into the Moon's Groove](#)  
TAKSU KL & TAKSU SG  
**2019** [Moonlight fragment](#) TAKSU KL  
**2016** [Hyphen jocund](#) Richard Koh  
fine art, KL  
**2014** [Seeing the unseen](#) Richard Koh  
fine art, KL

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** [Symphony of Souls](#) CIMB Artober  
Art & Soul 2023, TAKSU KL,  
MITEC KL  
**2022** [Turun Tanah](#) Gallery Puteh, KL  
[CIMB Artober Hotel Art Fair 2023](#)  
TAKSU KL, Element Hotel KL  
[Locals Only!](#) TAKSU KL  
[Singapore Art Week](#) TAKSU SG  
**2021** [10 years anniversary](#) Segaris Art  
Center, White Box, Publika KL  
Niskala Segaris Art Center, KL  
Stay Hidden M Gallery,  
Seoul, South Korea  
[Pure Painting 2](#) Balai Seni  
Maybank, KL  
**2020** Merdeka Segaris Art Center, KL  
[Online Exhibition G13](#) Gallery, KL  
[Rejunavating Soul](#) Artas Gallery, KL  
[Kickstart](#) Segaris Art Center, KL  
TAKSU 30th Anniversary TAKSU SG  
**2019** [Art Expo](#) TAKSU KL, Mattrade, KL  
[Worship by Tradition](#) Segaris Art  
Center, White box Publika, KL  
ARTAID19 White Box Publika, KL  
[Reinterpreting Minimalism](#)  
Segaris Art Center  
[XIX nineteen](#) Segaris Art Centre, KL  
[Local only!](#) Taksu, KL  
**2018** [Pure Painting](#) Balai Seni  
Maybank, KL  
[Harapan](#) TAKSU KL  
[Transit 3x3](#) HOM Art Trans  
[Shah Alam Biennale](#) Shah Alam  
Art Expo TAKSU KL Mattrade, KL  
[Publika Art Show 2018](#) Segaris Art  
Center, Publika KL  
[Between Abstraction and Figurative](#)  
Nadine Fine Art, KL  
[Lintas Batas](#) Tentacle, Bangkok, Thailand  
[Locals Only!](#) TAKSU KL  
[Inventing abstraction III](#)  
Tapak Gallery, Shah Alam  
**2017** [Inventing Abstraction II](#)  
Tapak Gallery, Shah Alam  
[The Art of Love and Betrayal](#)  
Nadine Fine Art, KL  
[Sensation](#) Segaris Art Center,  
White Box Publika KL  
[Bilateral Bond](#) TAKSU SG

- [Object-tive TEXT](#) Gallery Serdang,  
UPM (University Putra Malaysia), KL  
[Bilateral Bond](#) TAKSU KL  
[Mimpi Jadi Landskap](#) TAKSU KL  
[Locals only!](#) TAKSU KL  
**2016** [Art Expo](#) TAKSU KL  
[Neo Expressionist](#) Tapak Gallery Shah Alam  
[Shah Alam Biennale](#) Shah Alam  
**2015** [Lucidity](#) Richard Koh Fine Art KL  
[Affordable Art F1](#) Pit Building, SG  
[Art Show Taiwan](#) Richard Koh  
Fine Art, Taiwan  
Chin Chin Gallery Starhill, KL  
**2014** [Discover Malaysian Art](#) SpACE @  
Collins, Melbourne Australia  
**2013** [Buka](#) Artellier Gallery KL  
[Inventing Abstraction](#) Tapak Gallery KL  
[Charity Show](#) Save Gaza, Putrajaya  
[Peace of me](#) White Box Publika KL  
[Langkawi Art Colony](#) Beranda  
Residency Program, Langkawi  
**2012** [Locals only!](#) TAKSU KL  
[Earth D'puncak](#) Gallery Shah Alam  
[POPup](#) HOM Art Trans, KL  
[Shah Alam Open](#) Mekar Citra Gallery,  
Shah Alam  
[Anniversary Show](#) Pace Gallery KL  
**2011** [Johor Open](#) Johor Bahru  
MEAA (Malaysian Emerging  
Artist Award) Soka Gakai KL  
Kalam 3 D'puncak Gallery, Shah Alam  
**2010** [Locals Only!](#) TAKSU KL  
[Nature Zinc](#) Gallery KL  
[Boleh!](#) TAKSU KL  
[Merdeka Mekar Citra](#) Gallery Shah Alam  
[Charity Show](#) Chandan Gallery KL  
[Expression of the Malayan Tiger](#)  
Balai Seni Maybank, KL  
**2009** [Sculpture Show](#) Chin Chin Gallery,  
Starhill KL  
[Believe](#) 360 Gallery KL  
[Young Art](#) R.A Fine Art KL

### AWARDS

- [Emerging Artist Incubation](#)  
Cendana, Malaysia  
[Residents Artist](#) Lintas Batas  
[International Art and Culture Exchange](#)  
[Intensive Award](#) Mekar Citra Gallery,  
Shah Alam  
[Finalist MEAA \(Malaysian Emerging  
Artist Award\)](#)  
[Residents Artist](#) Beranda art Colony,  
Langkawi

### PRESS

- [Fendy Zakri's minimalist art balances  
faith and spirituality](#) THE STAR,  
18 May 2019 - print  
[Inventing abstraction](#) HARIAN METRO,  
September 2013 - print

- [Selamat Pagi Malaysia](#) RTM 1,  
February 2014 - television program  
[Fendy Zakri's mirrors and smoke](#)  
THE STAR, 3 May 2014 - print  
[Obscured Lucidity showcases abstract  
reasonings](#) THE STAR,  
11 October 2014 - print  
[Hyphen Jocund](#) THE STAR,  
May 2016 - print

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TAKSU is a leading contemporary art gallery and specialist in Southeast Asia. Representing selections of fine art with distinctive urban edge, we are at the forefront of contemporary art in this region. TAKSU works to forge a platform for established and emerging artists to share their pool of creativity and knowledge through its residency programs and exhibitions. Encapsulating the true meaning of the word TAKSU; divine inspiration, energy, and spirit.

**Suherwan Abu**  
Director, TAKSU Galleries

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