



OUTCOME REPORT

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Our Story

GERIMIS Art Project started in March 2018 by Wendi Sia and Sebastian Heng. The idea came when we went hiking in Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve, were stopped by police because of trespassing, and then learned that there were Orang Asli (OA) living in Puchong. In disbelief of our ignorance, we wanted to know more about Malaysia's indigenous people, which history, stories and narratives have been systematically marginalised from top-down.

As creatives, what was the best way for us to learn? Through an art project. We didn't want to learn from research papers and textbooks (although it was necessary for us to read first before anything else). But we didn't want to do an art project about OA. We wanted to do an art project with the OA, to grow together creatively, and to encourage knowledge exchange. Thus, birthed GERIMIS Art Project.







OUR JOURNEY...so far









Funders

INXO Arts Fund 藝 件 事





In 2018, GERIMIS Art Project received arts fund from INXO Arts Fund, Krishen Jit ASTRO Fund, and Hai-O Arts & Culture Grant, which contributed RM10k each to the overall budget of bringing GERIMIS Art Exhibition to George Town Festival 2019.

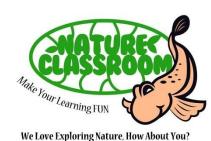
Team & Artists

From top left: Wendi Sia (Project Manager), Sebastian Heng (Creative Director), Sarah Amer (Comms), Sharon Yap (Art Director), Artists: Shaq Koyok, Leny Maknoh, Ramlan Koyok, Vicky Eluq, Ronnie Bahari, Jefree Salim, Weavers: Yau Niuk & Nadiawati Miah, Maznah Unyan, Illustrators: Yiow Shuey Myn and Goni Room: Afiq & Soufi

Collaborators









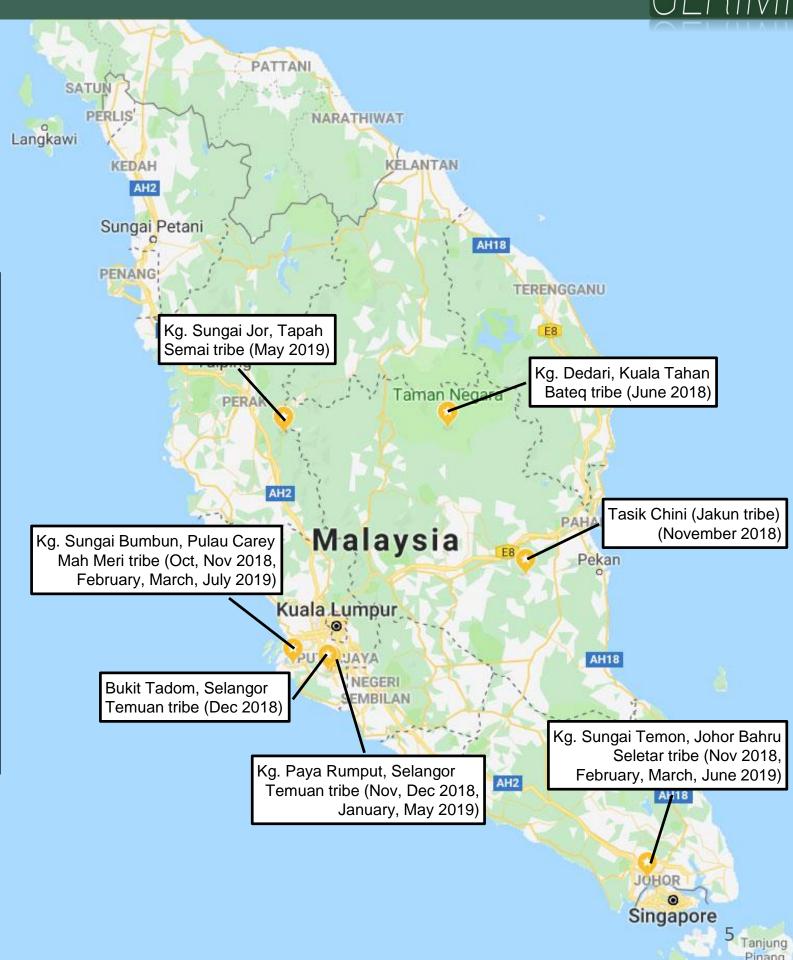


Research & Development

From our fieldwork at several OA villages located at Tapah, Johor Bahru, Tasik Chini, Pulau Carey, Paya Rumput, and Kuala Tahan, we learned that the forest and the sea mean identity to OA. We discover how forests shape a people and how its loss means much more than just losing trees.

Without the forest, they lose many aspects of their identity as their traditions and culture come from close relationship with nature. Many of their stories and songs portray the love and reverence for the forest, river, and mountains that surround them.

Therefore, GERIMIS focuses on both the struggles and the success of the OA—fighting deforestation and land rights, while celebrating their arts and cultural treasures and talents.













































TASIK CHINI (JAKUN)













GFRIMIS







KG. PAYA RUMPUT (TEMUAN)



















BUKIT TADOM: HARI MOYANG (TEMUAN)



















KG. SUNGAI TEMON (SELETAR)



















KG. SUNGAI JOR (SEMAI)













Our first show: INXO Arts Fund Preview



GERIMIS: First Preview

Dates: 8 – 9 December 2018

Venue: Kongsi KL

Opening times: 2pm to 9pm daily Non-ticketed. Free admission.

About:

As one of the recipients of INXO Arts Fund 2018, we were required to present a preview of our project. Visitors were invited to observe and explore the first public viewing of GERIMIS Art Exhibition. Besides showcasing some work from our artists, they will also be selling their work at the Kaka Arts Market, which happened at the same time with our preview. Through GERIMIS, we hope to stimulate intercultural understanding as a way for the public to gain a more comprehensive view of the cultural biodiversity that exists beyond the mainstream in Malaysia.



INXO Arts Fund Preview @ Kongsi KL









INXO Arts Fund Preview @ Kongsi KL



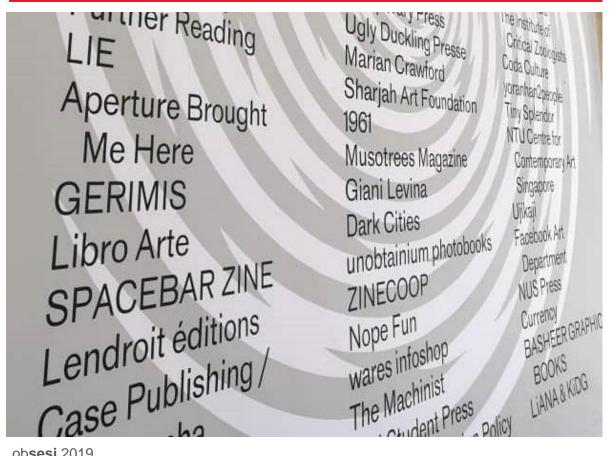






Our zine debut: Singapore Art Book Fair (SGABF2019)





GERIMIS @ SGABF2019

Dates: 28 – 30 June 2019

Venue: NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore

Opening times: 12pm to 8pm daily. Booth B07

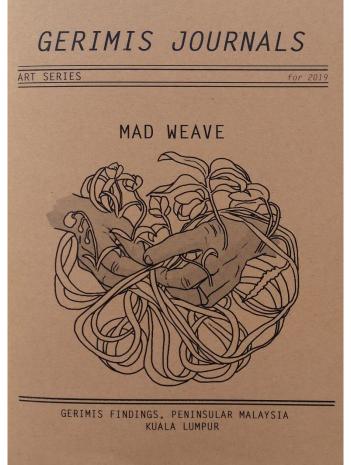
Non-ticketed. Free admission.

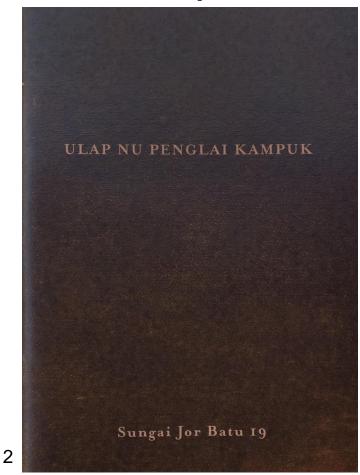
About:

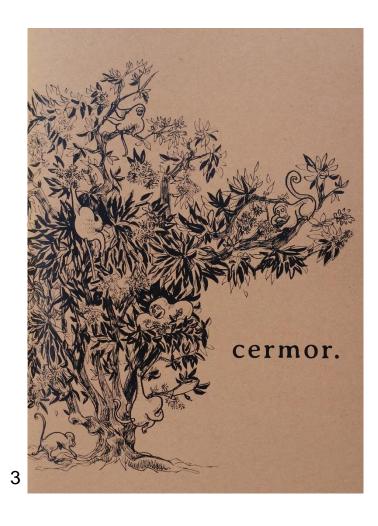
GERIMIS [MY] is an ongoing art exhibition and archiving initiative that explores Malaysian Orang Asli (OA) narratives. For SGABF2019, GERIMIS is collaborating with the Seletar Cultural & Arts Society and Persatuan Kebudayaan & Kesenian Orang Asal Perak (PKKOAP) to produce zines . Exploring the story of the land, what happened to the people that lived there, and where they are today, GERIMIS seeks to empower the OA community through these collaborative works via knowledge-sharing and exchange to empower them to be the champions of their own narratives.

- We exhibited GERIMIS zines alongside international publishers to share and spread Orang Asli knowledge, art and culture to the people of Singapore.
- Mad Weave, Orang Asli Laut Seletar, Ulap Nu Penglai Kampuk Sungai Jor Batu 19, and Cermor zines were well-received by the crowd, publishers, students, researchers, and libraries.
- The zines are currently at the libraries of Persatuan Tiong Hua Johor Bahru and Singapore National Art Museum. Besides that, British Council (SG), Asiapac Publisher (SG), Difference Engine Publisher (SG), and The Book Society (Korea) showed interest in the zines.

Singapore Art Book Fair (SGABF2019)









We contemporarised the information we collected throughout our research & development for future use, as a database to encompass and to preserve Orang Asli intangible knowledge. A collaboration between various associations and talents to realise this project.

Singapore Art Book Fair (SGABF2019)

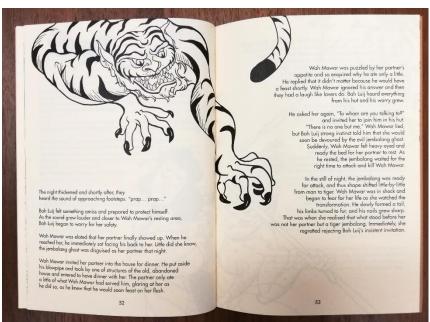


1. Mad Weave

A journal that unmasks the craftswomen behind craftmaking, told through an anecdote of how the heart and soul are weaved into creations. Featuring Master Weaver Yau Niuk and her daughter, Nadiahwati Miah. Illustrated by Sebastian Heng. Written by Wendi Sia.



2. Ulap Nu Penglai Kampuk Sungai Jor Batu 19 (Bahasa Semai) Translates to "Ulam dan Herba Kampung Sungai Jor Batu 19." A zine that documents the types of herbs and its usage at Kampung Sungai Jor Batu 19, Tapah, Perak. Documented by PKKOAP. Design and illustrations by Goni Room. Written by Sarah Amer and Eijas Ariffin.



3. Cermor

This zine contains 4 illustrated cermor told by Puan Wah Ngah a/p Pandak from Kampung Sg. Peria, Sahom, Perak. Cermor is an oral storytelling session among the Semai people of the Orang Asli community. Documented by PKKOAP. Illustrated by Yiow Shuey Myn and Sebastian Heng. Translated by Wendi Sia.



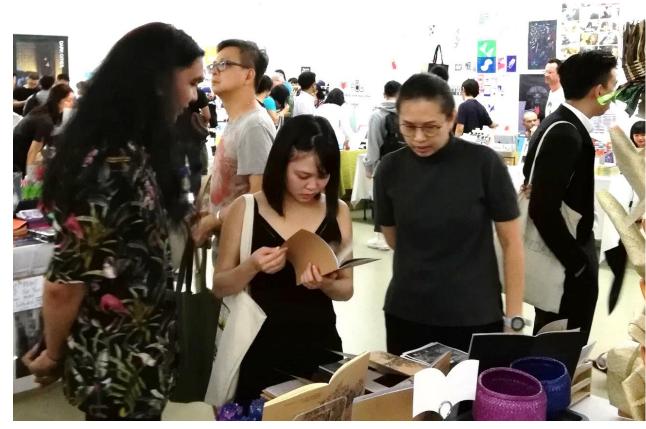
4. Orang Asli Laut Seletar

A photobook by Seletar photographer Jefree Salim from Kampung Sungai Temon, Johor that captures the everyday lives of the Seletar people who lives and work by and on the waters of the Straits of Johor. Photography by Jefree Salim and the captions are written by Wendi Sia.

Singapore Art Book Fair (SGABF2019)

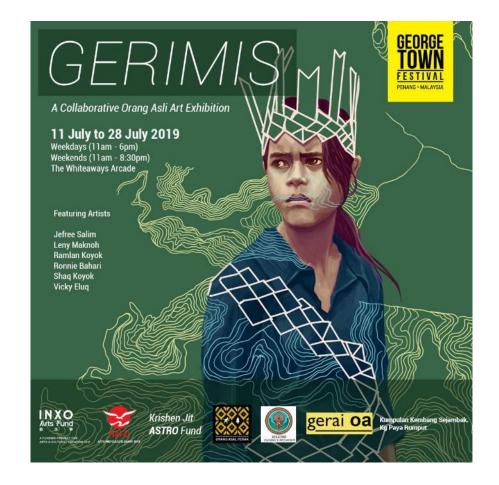








Our main show: George Town Festival (GTF2019)



WEEKEND PROGRAMMES

Weaving with Pandanus

Date: 20 July 2019 (Saturday) **Sessions:** 3pm, 4pm, 5pm

Cermor, Semai Folklore

Date: 21 July 2019 (Sunday) Sessions: 2:30pm & 4pm **GERIMIS: A Collaborative Orang Asli Art Exhibition**

Dates: 11 July to 28 July 2019 **Venue:** The Whiteaways Arcade

Opening times: Weekdays (11am - 6pm) || Weekends (11am - 8:30pm)

Non-ticketed. Free admission.

About:

GERIMIS is a collaborative art exhibition and archiving initiative that explores Orang Asli (OA) narratives through the reconstruction of spaces and the coming together of various OA contemporary artists, photographers, and weavers.

They are contemporary artists Shaq Koyok (Temuan), Ramlan Koyok (Temuan), and Leny Maknoh (Temuan); digital artist Vicky Eluq (Semai); photographers Jefree Salim (Orang Seletar) and Ronnie Bahari (Semai); partners Persatuan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Orang Asal Perak and Seletar Cultural and Arts Society; and Temuan weavers of the Kumpulan Kembang Sejambak from Kampung Paya Rumput, Selangor.

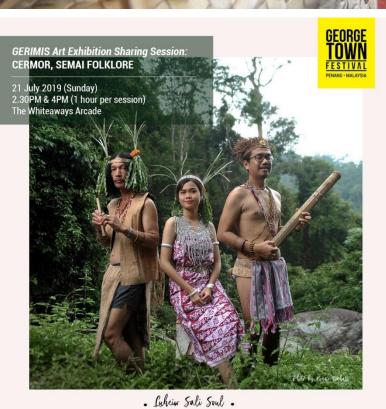
Exploring the story of the land, what happened to the people that lived there, and where they are today, GERIMIS collectively documents OA shared history, practices and changing adaptions of culture and community via a series of artworks, photographs, zines, and installations.

With support from INXO Arts Fund, Krishen Jit Astro Fund, and Hai-O Arts & Culture Grant. Special thanks to Gerai OA, Persatuan Kebudayaan & Kesenian Orang Asal Perak, Seletar Cultural & Arts Society, and weavers of Kumpulan Kembang Sejambak from Kampung Paya Rumput, Selangor.

POSTERS



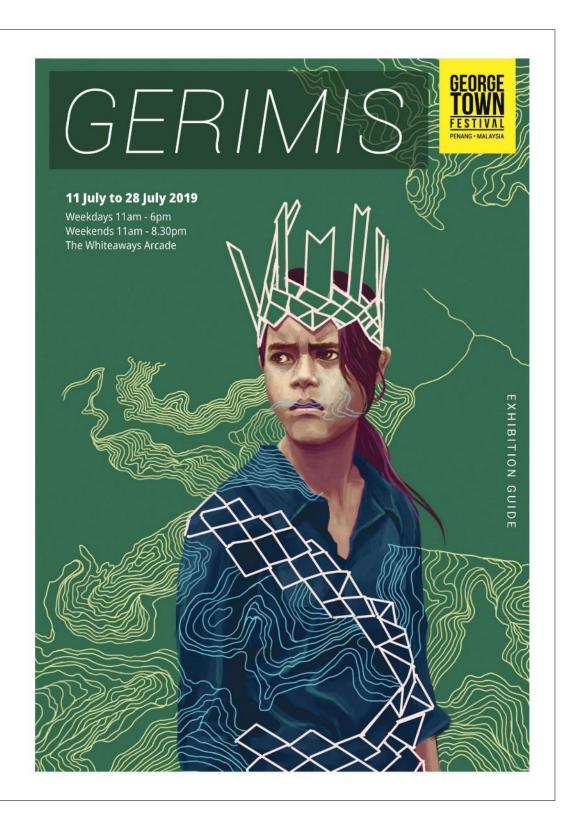




D E T A I

Gallery Guide: Front & Back





Gallery Guide: Inner Pages

About

GERIMIS is a collaborative art exhibition and archiving initiative that explores Orang Asli (OA) narratives through the reconstruction of spaces and the coming together of various OA contemporary artists, photographers, and weavers.

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Exploring the story of the land, what happened to the people that lived there, and where they are today, *GERIMIS* collectively documents OA shared history, practices and changing adaptions of culture and community via a series of artworks, photographs, zines, and installations.

Shaq Koyok presents an acrylic series, painted on traditional Temuan woven mengkuang (pandanus) mats, while Leny Maknoh treats us to her hyperrealism work of pencil portraits and Ramlan Koyok shows his pen, pencil, and watercolour skills. Meanwhile, Vicky Eluq showcases his Orang Asli centric visual graphics.

Ronnie Bahari, a strong advocate of preserving and promoting the OA of Perak's culture and traditions, presents a series of photographers of his people of the Semai tribe. Seletar photographer Jefree Salim captures moments of his people as they fish, swim, and play in the sea and mangroves surrounding his village, while documenting stories of his people in relation to the rampant land reclamations at Johor's coastal area.

The Mad Weave, Orang Asli Laut Seletar, Ulap Nu Penglai Kampuk Sungai Jor Batu 19, and Cermor zines are an initiative to present OA knowledge in contemporary format. The zines debuted at Singapore Art Book Fair 2019.

Through these collaborative works, *GERIMIS* seeks to empower the OA community with knowledge-sharing and exchange and to bring forward OA content driven by OA themselves so that one day they can be the champions of their own narratives.

Programmes

Weaving with Pandanus by Persatuan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Orang Asal Perak (PKKOAP)

20 July 2019 Saturday | 3pm, 4pm, 5pm

Watch a demonstration of Semai pandanus weaving then learn the basics in this interactive workshop with Orang Asli weaving practitioners from Perak. The classes will be an open format followed by a Q&A session about the materials and methods. Maximum 10 participants per session. Free admission.

PKKOAP is an association that develops the arts and culture of the Orang Asli in Perak. It is a grassroots initiative with efforts to empower and also re-establish the lost traditions and culture of the Orang Asli in Perak.

Cermor, Semai Folklore with Luheiw Sali Soul

21 July 2019 Sunday | 2.30pm & 4pm

Experience a storytelling performance that presents Orang Asli Semai mythical stories and folklore passed down verbally through generations, also known as cermor. This storytelling session is accompanied by a graceful traditional dance and the melodious sounds of pensol (nose flute) and kerep (bamboo guitar). Catch this immersive and rarely seen performance by Luheiw Sali Soul, a musical band that features Orang Asli traditional musical instruments. Maximum 15 participants. Free admission.

For enquiries, please contact 016-2962865 (Wendi) or email pkkoap@gmail.com.

GERIMIS Journals

MA WAYE

Mad Weave, together with Temuan weavers from Paya Rumput, Kuala Langat, Selanga

A journal that unmasks the craftswomen behind craftmaking, told through an anecdote of how the heart and soul are weaved into creations. Featuring Master Weaver Yau Niuk and her daughter, Nadiahwati Miah (30s). Iliustrated by Sebastian Heng. Written by Wendi Sia.



Orang Asli Laut Seletar, by Seletar photographer Jefree Salim from Kompung Sungai Temon, Johor,

A photobook that captures the everyday lives of the Seletar people who lives and work by and on the waters of the Straits of Johor. All photos are taken by Jefree Salim and the captions are written by Wendi Sia



Ulap Nu Penglai Kampuk Sungai Jor Batu 19 (Bahasa Semai), translates to "ulam dan herba kampung sungai jar batu 19."

A zine that documents the types of herbs and its usage at Kampung Sungai Jor Batu 19, Tapah, Perak. Documented by PKKOAP, Design and Ilustrations by Goni Room. Written by Eijas Ariffin and Sarah Amer.



Cermor, Semai Folklore. Stories told by Puon Wah Ngoh o/p Pandak from Kampung Sa, Peria, Sahom, Perak.

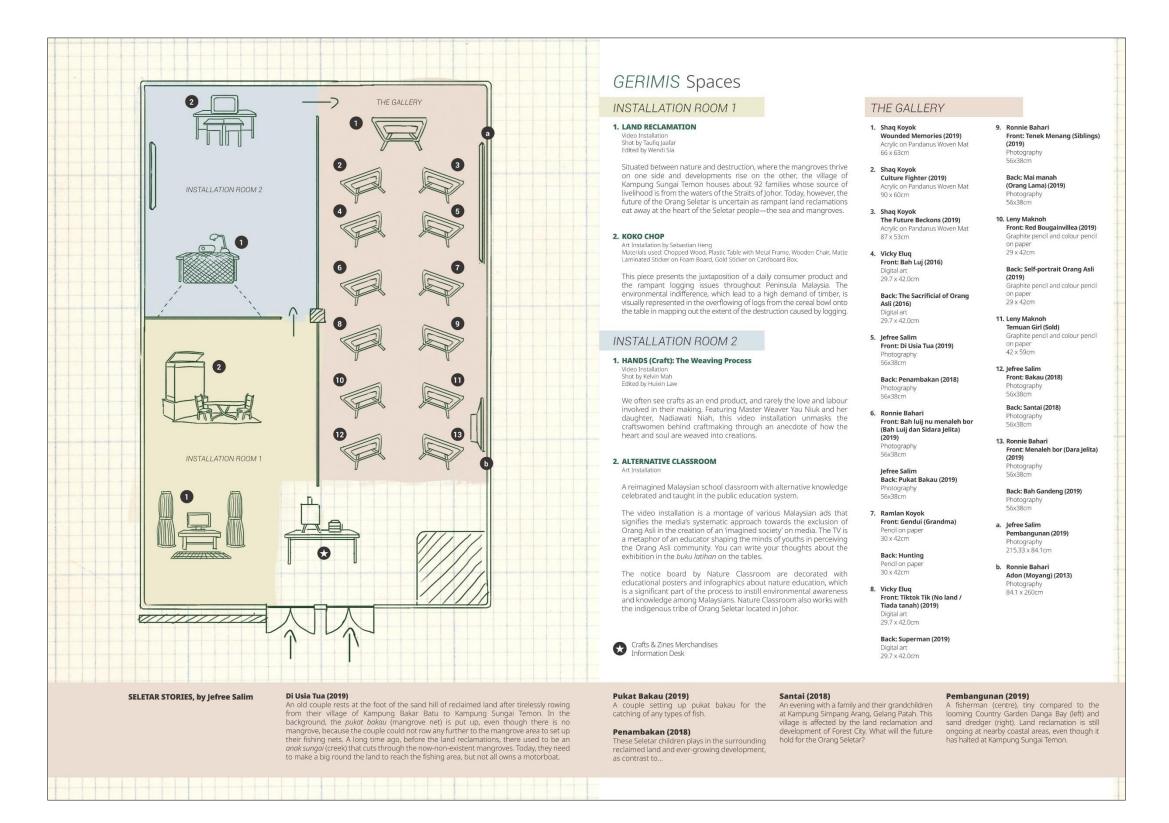
This zine contains 4 illustrated cermor. Cermor is an oral storytelling session among the Semai people of the Orang Asli community. Documented by PKKOAP. Illustrated by Yiow Shuey Myn and Sebastian Heng. Translated by Wendi Sia.

Background Story

GERIMIS art project started in mid-2018 by Wendi Sia and Sebastian Heng. From their fieldwork at several OA villages located at Johor, Tasik Chini, Puchong, Pulau Carey, Paya Rumput, and Kuala Tahan, we learned that the forest means identity to OA. We discover how forests shape a people and how its loss means much more than just losing trees. Without the forest, they lose many aspects of their identity.

GERIMIS translates as 'drizzle', which means rain in very small, light drops. Due to their small sizes, drizzle largely evaporates before reaching the surface and so may be undetected by many. Thus, GERIMIS is an analogy of what exists before our eyes but remain unobserved.

Gallery Guide: Centre Spread



E T A I

Exhibition IMPACT: Objectives



#1: To encourage intercultural understanding as a way to gain a more comprehensive view of the cultural biodiversity that exists in Malaysia.

- Objective achieved? YES.
- How? Through the exhibition and weekend programmes, visitors and participants were able to gain knowledge about the various Orang Asli (OA) tribes specifically inhabiting Peninsula Malaysia, through OA artists, weavers, and performers. It was surprising to observe the lack of awareness about OA issues as many visitors who came to the gallery thought that OA were from Borneo and did not know about the existence of 18 tribes. It was clear to us that GERIMIS was a source of knowledge for them, adding value to their knowledge about Malaysia. A democratic space was created via GERIMIS where cultural and intellectual exchanges occurred freely between the OA and the public.



#2: To collaborate with key figures of OA community to give them the control of narrative—to tell their own stories through artistic expression.

- Objective achieved? YES.
- How? GERIMIS worked with OA artists, such as contemporary artist Shaq Koyok who presented an acrylic series, painted on traditional Temuan woven mengkuang mats, while Leny Maknoh showcased her hyperrealism work of pencil portraits. Ramlan Koyok showed his pen, pencil, and watercolour skills and Vicky Eluq exhibited his Orang Asli centric visual graphics. Ronnie Bahari presented a series of photographs of his Semai tribespeople. Seletar photographer Jefree Salim captured stories of his people in relation to the rampant land reclamations at Johor's coasts.

Exhibition IMPACT: Objectives



#3: To create a platform that nurtures and empower OA community by fostering a sense of pride among OA youths through role model creation.

- Objective achieved? YES.
- How? During the weekend programmes, facilitated by Persatuan Kebudayaan & Kesenian Orang Asal Perak (PKKOAP), Ronnie Bahari, the president of the association, inivited Orang Asli youths, particularly the daughters of the weavers (aged between 13 to 17 years old). The aim was to teach/expose the young OA to the ways of managing a weaving workshop from the elders. This clearly encourages and inspires the younger OA generation (who often disregard their cultural and traditional art) to take charge of preserving and championing their tribe's traditions.



#4: To address the need to create a sense of belonging among OA as a member of the larger Malaysian society.

- **Objective achieved?** YES, however our team noticed that visitors were very interested to listen to the stories from other indigenous communities. We acknowledged visitors' suggestions but for further developing this area, additional exhibition space and budget are required.
- How? George Town Festival was a great platform for the OA to showcase their artistic talents, language, musical instruments while celebrating their culture and history among international and local content in this year's GTF programming. Not often OA stories are included in the mainstream narrative. There were Orang Asli (working in Penang and travelled from other states) who came to the gallery, with pride to see Orang Asli content exhibited in a large festival.

Community: Artists



- GERIMIS is the first Orang Asli group exhibition, featuring talents and collaboration from various tribes across Peninsula Malaysia: Temuan (Selangor & Negeri Sembilan), Semai (Perak), Seletar (Johor), and Mah Meri (Selangor).
- The artists learned from each other, as Shaq is an experienced artist, and we learned from Leny as she is a growing artist. For example, the importance of numbered art prints and artist signature for exclusivity.
- Leny sold all her exhibited artworks. Shaq sold one of his A0 sized painting. Both artists sold prints and generated income to support future artwork development.
- Many visitors expressed admiration for Leny's work while established photographers (such as Vignesh of OBSCURA) were impressed by Jefree's and Ronnie's photography. Name cards were exchanged between the artists and the public, thus supporting the network growth of the OA artists.
- The artists were interviewed to discuss their artworks as well as the stories of their people.





I M P A C

Community: Weavers









- It was the first time for the Semai weavers from Kampung Tangkai Cermin, Tanjong Tualang, Perak to teach a weaving workshop to the public as well as to sell their crafts and showcase their weaving skills.
- Through the Weaving with Pandanus workshop, the weavers managed to receive crafts commission from participants and also interest from onlookers, where name cards were shared for future handcrafts commissions.
- There is a **potential knowledge exchange** in the near future as the Semai weavers watched the weaving video installation in the exhibition and expressed their wish to learn the Mad Weave technique from Temuan master weaver, Yau Niuk.

Community: Performers









- Cermor, Semai Folklore weekend programme saw Luhiew Sali Soul debuted as a band at both The Whiteaways Arcade and Hin Bus Depot to perform the traditional Semai storytelling, 'cermor', which was never before performed in this manner.
- Showcase of traditional OA instruments such as kerep (bamboo guitar) and pensol (nose flute). Further information about the instruments were shared with audience who wanted to know more about the instruments.
- The **performers expressed their gratitude** to be given the chance to perform and share their culture and traditions with pride to the festival goers.

Footfall

	Visitor Count	Notes
Weekdays (Average)	30 people	
Weekends (Average)	150 people	Crowd spillover from other weekend programmes nearby and at the same building.
Weaving with Pandanus	10-15 participants (per session). There were 3 sessions.	There were several onlookers who eventually joined the workshop. One of the weavers would teach them as the other participants were already preoccupied to complete their weave.
Cermor, Semai Folklore	15-20 participants (per session). There were 2 sessions.	Similar to weaving, onlookers eventually joined in or listened to the performance from a distance.
TOTAL (Estimated)	1,370	







M

Visitor Reviews

"Congratulations on this initiative. It's so important for all Malaysians to know about, and respect, our Orang Asli communities." - Pauline Fan, PUSAKA

What a great initiative! It's good to be able to learn more about Orang Asli. Even I don't know much about them as a Malaysian. I hope to see more exhibitions an events like this. Orang Asli and our nature are definitely important parts that make us who we are now. All the best!

A very great idea & project/program to let the Orang Asli unique culture to be seen in the eyes of the world. Malaysia need more dedicated guys like you all to make our home land more lovely & lively! Syabas! - SK Ong

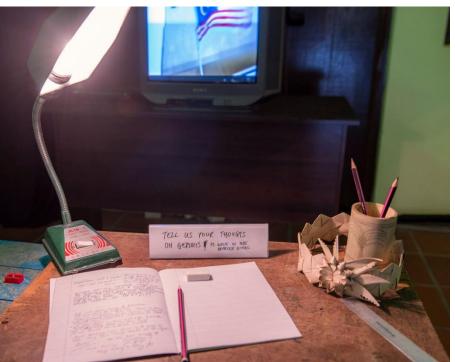
Hopefully some interactive sessions with Orang Asli artists from all over Malaysia next time round. A good show. Thank you very much!

Sungguh berbangga dapat mengenali artis-artis Orang Asli. Berharap dapat diteruskan. Loved the art! Neat to see Indigenous work/representation. Love it! - Jen & Ted, Canada

These stories need to be told! Thank you for telling them. - Alecia Neo, Ayer-Ayer Project, Singapore

So glad that your wonderful work brings us urbanites a little closer to our Orang Asli fellow citizens. Please do that again. Very much looking forward to seeing more of Orang Asli work in GTF 2020.

Read more reviews







ob**sesi** 2019

Budget Breakdown

MYR
10,000 10,000
10,000
10,000
40,000

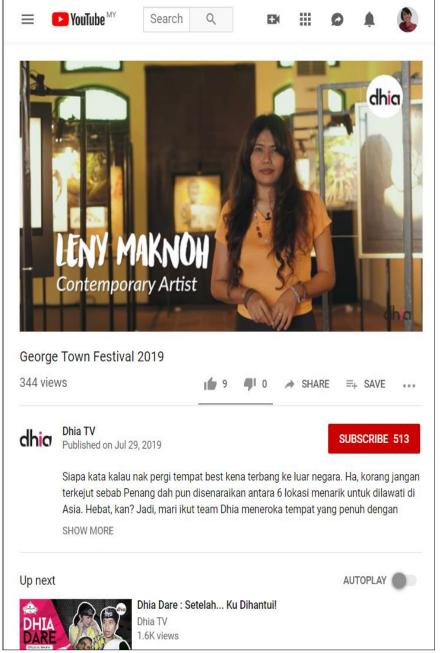
Click for PDF version

GERIMIS Art Project

	INANCIAL REPORT			13-Aug-19
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	AMOUNT	NOTES
Α	GTF 2019 PRODUCTION COST			
1	Gallery & Artworks			
	Acrylic frames		1,835	
	Photographs printing		780	
	Exhibition guidebook		340	
	Info poster		54	
	Spotlights, Lights, Light Bulbs		1,163	
	Floor Standing AC		2,000	GTF paid the other 509
	3M stickers & fishing lines		121.5	
2	Installations			
	Cork Board		188	
	Laptop Security Locks		126	
	Bulldozer toys		92	
	Cereal bowls & spoons		25.6	
	Bubble Wraps		78	
	Koko Chop Box & Large Prints		640	
	Stationaries & Cloth		57	
3	Exhibition Set Up			
	Uncle Robin		1,750	
4	Props			
	Tables (Coffee, Round, Banquet)		461.5	
	Classic TV		100	Secondhar
	Teacher's table		128	
	Weaving Décor	Tompoq Tomoh	100	
5	Audio Visual			
J	Projector		2,140	
	HDMI converter		189	
	Computer Monitor		407	
	Computer Monitor		407	
6	Programming			
	Workshop & Sharing Session	PKKOAP	5,900	Ipoh-Penar
	Transport		1,130	Penang-lpo
	Accommodation (Team PKKOAP)		736	Lorong Ceylo
7	Miscellanous			
1	Hin Bus Depot booth rental		72	
	GERIMIS t-shirts		851	Token to collaborato
	Meal allowances		1,500	TOKETT TO COTTABOTATO
	Research & Development		2,000	
•				
8	Logistics Transport to Penang		1,500	3 trips (car, train, fligh
	Transport balik KL	The Lorry	1,050	o anpo (oan) alami, mgi
	Transportation around Penang	1	500	Petrol, Gra
	Accommodation (Team Gerimis)		2,930	Gat Lebuh Macallu
В	SGBAF 2019			
Ь	Zine printing		5,300	
	Handcrafts		873	
	Booth props		65	
	Accommodation		1,254	
^	INVO A 1 E I D			
С	INXO Arts Fund Preview Art Materials		137	
	Props		240	
	Photo printing		351	
	Stationaries		340	
	Logistics		306	
	TOTAL		39,812	

Publicity: Media Coverage







Read here

Read <u>here</u> Watch <u>here</u>

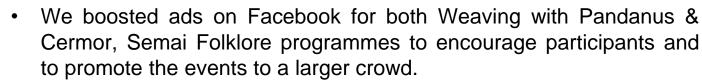
Publicity: Facebook Ads



Experience a storytelling performance that presents Orang Asli Semai mythical stories and folklore, also known as cermor. The session is accompanied by a graceful traditional dance and the melodious sounds of... More

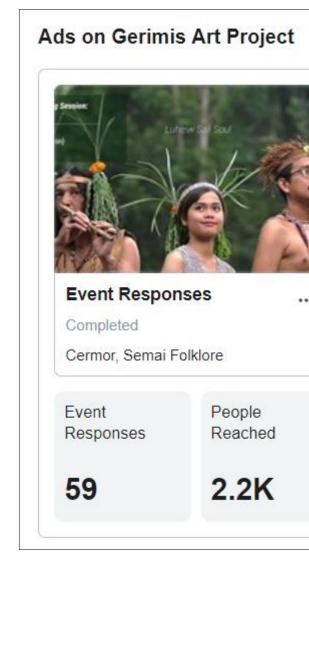
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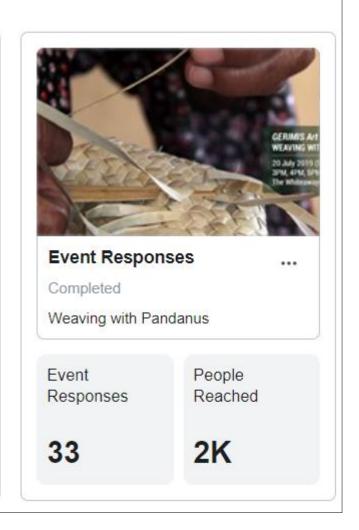
9 197 people interested



- The participants also contacted us via email and phone calls to register for the events.
- The eventual crowd was a mix of both online and offline promotion.







Click for more photos & videos







PHOTOS & VIDEOS













THANK YOU!