

Recent Books from Malaysia – Nov 2016

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Art

Contemporary Feminist Artist: Eng Hwee Chu / Tan Chin Kuan
Malaysia : Tan Chin Kuan, 2016
96p.
9789671216408
\$ 50.00

Eng Hwee Chu, contemporary feminist artist.
Speacializes in acrylic painting, but also works with installation art and sculpture.
Her works expresses her own life experiences and represents a voice of women in relation to the roles and status of women in society.
Important exhibitions that she has participated include: Asian Women Artist 1984 - 2012 (Fukuoka Asian Art Museum), Osaka Triennale Exhibition 2001, The second Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1996 and Art in Southeast Asia Exhibition Tour 1997.
Her works are widely collected by art museums and private collectors.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236403>

Retrospective : A Historiographical Aesthetic in Contemporary Singapore
and Malaysia / June Yap
Malaysia : SIRD, 2016
355p.
9789670960401
\$ 25.00 /PB

Developed as an exploratory study of artworks by artists of Singapore and Malaysia, Retrospective attempts to account for contemporary artworks that engage with history. These are artworks that reference past events or narratives, of the nation and its art. Through the examination of a selection of artworks produced between 1990 and 2012, Retrospective is both an attribution and an analysis of a historiographical aesthetic within contemporary art practice. It considers that, by their method and in their assembly, these artworks perform more than a representation of a historical past. Instead, they confront history and its production, laying bare the nature and designs of the historical project via their aesthetic project.

Positing an interdisciplinary approach as necessary for understanding the historiographical as aesthetic, Retrospective considers not only historical and aesthetic perspectives, but also the philosophical, by way of ontology, in order to broaden its exposition beyond the convention of historical and contextual interpretation of art. Yet, in associating these artworks with a historiographical aesthetic, this exposition may be regarded as a historiographical exercise in itself, affirming the significance of these artworks for the history of Singapore and Malaysia.

In short, which history rarely is, Retrospective is about the art of historicisation and the historicisation of art.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236385>

Economics/Development Studies

Malaysia In Troubled Times (Economic Challenges, Difficult Decisions and the Malaysian Economy) / Shankaran Nambiar

Malaysia : SIRD,2016

117p.

9789670960425

\$ 12.50

The recent past has been tumultuous for Malaysia. Malaysia has been rocked by economic uncertainties, political turmoil and allegations of financial scandals. The economy has had to face domestically generated shocks and well as those emanating from external sources. Regional developments have been fast-paced, too. ASEAN has acquired greater significance, and there has been a convergence of interest in the area. The US, China and India have directed increased interest in the region, demanding appropriate policy responses from Malaysia. At a micro level, issues such as education and health have generated controversy and they could turn out to be problematic if not handled carefully. These issues, if ignored, could adversely affect Malaysia's economic development. If addressed correctly, Malaysia will move up the ladder of development. The present collection of essays attempts to capture the challenges that Malaysia faces. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in Malaysia's growth and development.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=235182>

The Development of Malaysian Capitalism / Elsa Lafaye de Micheaux
Malaysia : SIRD,2016
426p.
9789670960555
\$ 30.00 / PB

As Malaysia grappled with bitter ethnic and political tensions at the end of the 1960s, the government initiated growth-oriented economic reforms to promote cohesion in the young, multi-ethnic nation. The large scale and lasting effects of these policies forged the countries' exceptional economic development: by 2020, Malaysia will likely enter the club of 'high-income' countries.

This volume comprehensively surveys Malaysia's political economy, mapping the intersecting forces that inform it: economic growth, broader Asian development, the weight of colonial institutions, the influence of Islamic finance, and the sometimes ambiguous role of the state. It offers a discerning overview of Malaysian capitalism through readings of its history since 1874 - from the colonial economy through modernisation and accelerated development, up to its recent passage in global crises. The author details the causes and conditions of Malaysia's economic success; the result is a compelling portrait of a young capitalist nation sitting at both the geographic centre of Southeast Asia and at the crossroads of sovereign development.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236405>

Water Governance Dynamics in the Mekong Region / David J.H. Blake Lisa Robins
Malaysia : SIRD,2016
322p.
9789670960449
\$ 25.00 /PB

The Mekong Program on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER) is a network of organizations and individuals collaborating to democratize water governance in the Mekong Region. Since 2006, M-POWER has developed and implemented a wide range of activities across Cambodia, southern China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Younger and older scholars, practitioners and ex-officials have probed water resources decision-making, prodded policy actors on their positions, and proposed ways for more inclusive, deliberative and adaptive water governance. Some of these engagements with the politics of infrastructure development and water resources management are reflected in analysis on the ecosystems, peoples, economies and politics of the Ayeyawady–Irrawaddy, Nu–Salween–Thanlwin, Chao Phraya, Lancang–Mekong and Red river basins.

Democratizing Water Governance (2007) examined the relationships between democratization and governance through a series of sectoral reviews from hydropower and fisheries, through watershed management and urban water supply, to flood protection. Contested Waterscapes (2009) highlighted the importance of power and politics in water governance. In Water Rights and Social Justice (2011), the livelihoods of the overlooked took center stage—fishers and farmers impacted by hydropower development, and upland farmers disempowered by state watershed management policies. Governing the Mekong (2013) collected the experiences of M-POWER research fellows engaged in action-oriented research. These contributions highlighted the politics of representation, expertise and knowledge in water-related decision-making.

This final book in the series, Water Governance Dynamics in the Mekong Region, brings us full circle. A decade on and it is far from obvious that the promises of democratization and improved public accountability are inevitable. The need for multi-disciplinary scholarship and constructive contestation remains.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236407>

History

A Life Beyond Boundaries / Benedict Anderson

Malaysia : SIRD, 2016

205p.

9789670960432

\$ 18.00

An intellectual memoir by the author of the acclaimed *Imagined Communities*.

Born in China, Benedict Anderson spent his childhood in California and Ireland, was educated in England and finally found a home at Cornell University, where he immersed himself in the growing field of Southeast Asian studies. He was expelled from Suharto's Indonesia after revealing the military to be behind the attempted coup of 1965, an event which prompted reprisals that killed up to a million communists and their supporters. Banned from the country for thirty-five years, he continued his research in Thailand and the Philippines, producing a very fine study of the Filipino novelist and patriot José Rizal in *The Age of Globalization*.

In *A Life Beyond Boundaries*, Anderson recounts a life spent open to the world. Here he reveals the joys of learning languages, the importance of fieldwork, the pleasures of translation, the influence of the New Left on global thinking, the satisfactions of teaching, and a love of world literature. He discusses the ideas and inspirations behind his best-known work, *Imagined Communities* (1983), whose complexities changed the study of nationalism.

Benedict Anderson died in Java in December 2015, soon after he had finished correcting the proofs of this book. The tributes that poured in from Asia alone suggest that his work will continue to inspire and stimulate minds young and old.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236408>

The Malayan Communist Party as Recorded in the Comintern Files / Fujio Hara

Malaysia : SIRD, 2016

164p.

9789670960531

\$ 15.00 / PB

Comintern (Communist International, 1919-1943) files kept in a Russian Archive were opened to the public in 1991. Various documents relating to the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) were contained therein. Relying on these documents, this research reveals many important and hitherto unknown facts. Consulting with previous works done by C.F. Yong, Cheah Boon Kheng and others, we can identify the extent to which the British colonial Special Branch intercepted them.

The inaugural congress of the MCP, which initially depended heavily on the Comintern's instructions, was held on 22-23 April and 21 May 1930.

Consistent pivotal points of the instructions were to refrain from armed insurgency and to make every effort to obtain the support of Malays and Indians. Although instructions were stopped after 1935, the MCP continued sending reports until the Pacific War started. These reports depict its internal disputes between the left wing and the right wing, which is supposed to have been headed by Lai Teck. Without instructions from the Comintern, the MCP further strengthened its influence among the people through labour as well as anti-Japanese movements.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236410>

In Court and Kampong (Annotated edition) / High Clifford

Malaysia : Silverfish Books, 2016

216p.

9789833221547

\$ 18.00 / PB

Nineteen fascinating tales and sketches from the time in the early 20th century when Malaysia was a protectorate of the British Empire, written by the British Resident and later Governor Hugh Clifford.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236413>

Malay Sketches (Annotated Edition) / Sir Frank Athelstane Swettenham
Malaysia : Silverfish Books,2016
200p.
9789833221530
\$ 18.00 / PB

Sir Frank Athelstane Swettenham was an important figure in Southeast Asia at the turn of the century. First posted to Singapore in 1871, his prompt mastery of colloquial Malay served him well throughout his career. In 1896, he became the first Resident General of the Federated Malay States, followed by his appointment as Governor and Commander in Chief of the Straits Settlements. Drawing on twenty-five years experience in Malaya, Swettenhem presents a series of sketches of the lush landscape of Malaya, and observations of the lives, customs, beliefs and superstitions of the locals.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236414>

Small Town (A personal tribute to Kuala Kubu Baru, Hulu Selangor, Malaysia) / Rehman Rashid
Malaysia : Peskubu, 2016
63p.
\$ 19.50 / HB

Small Town is the story of how just one town - Kuala Kubu Baru - in a secluded corner of the Malaysian peninsula encapsulates the history of the state of Selangor and its nation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236415>

Law

Malaysia Master Tax Guide 2016, 33rd Edition / (Consultant Ed) Vincent Josef
Kuala Lumpur: Commerce Clearing House (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (Wolters Kluwer), 2016
xvi, 1098p.
\$ 120.00 / PB
1390gm

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236417>

Literature

LiteraCity (Fragmen Sastera Kuala Lumpur) / Nurul Aizam

Malaysia : ITBM, 2016

264p.

9789674604592

In Malay and English

\$ 15.00 / PB

LiteraCity is a literary and cultural mapping project of Kuala Lumpur. This book contains essays, interviews and photo essays that shed light of contemporary perspectives and discussions that go beyond existing discourse in regards to urban literature specifically in Kuala Lumpur.

This book is in Malay & English.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236418>

The Red Bicycle (A Historical Novel) / Dave Anthony

Malaysia : Gerakbudaya, 2016

393p.

9789832344681

\$ 16.00 /PB

The brave fighters of the Communist Party of Malaya lived hard lives in the jungles, pledging allegiance to the Party above all else. But despite their dedication, many were lost due to a traitor in their midst – one so high-ranking that nobody would have suspected him.

Dave Anthony's historical novel follows the developing love of two of the guerrilla fighters; the multiple identities of their Beloved Leader and the uneasy cooperation between the British and the communists against their common enemy.

The Red Bicycle tells a fascinating story inspired by the Communist Party of Malaya's most infamous operative. Weaving together fact and fiction, Dave Anthony has produced a compelling historical narrative that spans four South East Asian countries. More importantly, he has provided a window into the lives of Party members by highlighting the personal relationships of his main characters. In so doing, he succeeds in giving them a human face; something conspicuously absent in most other accounts of the Party.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236419>

Wolf at the Door (The Jan Xu Series: Volume 1) / J. Damask
Malaysia : Gerakbudaya, 2016
163p.
9789832344698
\$ 12.50 / PB

Jan Xu, a Singaporean Chinese Lang (wolf), mother, and daughter, receives a phone call from her sister. Marianne returns to Singapore with a new boyfriend and a hidden agenda.

Is Jan Xu able to accept this new Marianne and the threat to her stable life? What can an ex-teen vigilante do?

Welcome to Singapore, where the Myriad co-exists with ordinary humans, where ancient urges wrestle with human desires. Where the Lang straddle between many worlds.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236420>

The Boy Who Lost His Sight / Bella Zamri
Malaysia : Terfaktab, 2016
224p.
9789670774541
\$ 12.50

Away from Lenoir, Ellie Burke found a place to breathe again. A brighter home surrounded with her loved ones. A-once-in-a-lifetime chance to change her life.

Everything seemed perfect enough – until she met Riley Flynn.

A mysterious young boy with a devilish smile, silently living with a traumatic secret buried away from others. In the midst of rain, uncertainty and burning desire – Ellie Burke finally found her salvation.

But when there is hope, there is always a risk for a major heartbreak
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236423>

Chronicles of KK / Ann Lee
Malaysia : Fixi Novo (imprint of Buku Fixi), 2016
296p.
9789670954622
\$ 12.00 / PB

Chronicles of KK compiles 20 short stories and visual tales based on Kota Kinabalu (KK) - the capital city of Sabah and granite-fluid site of contemporary traditional myths about origins, love, sex, death and hairstyles.

This might be the first urban contemporary collection about this city but we hope it won't be the last. Edited by award-winning playwright Ann Lee and featuring 20 writers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236424>

Horror Stories 2 / Tunku Halim
Malaysia : Fixi Novo (imprint of Buku Fixi), 2016
380p.
9789670954615
\$ 12.50 / PB

These are the stories that were just too nasty to be included in the bestselling first volume of Horror Stories. Written over the span of two decades by Malaysia's most popular scary author Tunku Halim, this collection includes the full novella Juriah's Song as well as the blackly comic play Pig Heart.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236425>

Politics

Rob & Roll in Bolehland / Johnny Ong

Malaysia : JOCA, 2016

80p.

\$ 10.00 / PB

This collection of politically-charged cartoons by political cartoonist Johnny Ong a.k.a JOCA explores contemporary issues of corruption, economic policy, injustice, tyranny and racism with a sharp wit, a flair for satire and a distinctive style.

"There are three kinds of political cartoonists - those who ignite something the audience are familiar with; those who create something exceptionally new; and those who engage their audience by articulating what most people aren't able to.

Johnny Ong is the third kind. His cartoon is his sword."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236426>

The People's Chief Minister: Lim Guan Eng / Tomato

Malaysia : Democratic Action Party, 2016

168p.

ISBN: 9789839820614

\$ 10.00

The story of Lim Guan Eng is, in a way, a microcosm of Malaysian politician history. He was born in 1960 and took the plunge into the world of politics in the '80s. Most of his adult life was spent fighting for a more just and democratic Malaysia, while facing a slew of political persecutions in the process.

After hitting the lowest ebb of his life, he and the DAP made history on '308' (12th General Election) and became one of the main characters in the country's democratic process.

The story of Lim Guan Eng is also our story; his ups and downs reflect our hopes, struggles and aspirations as we try to make Malaysia a better country for future generations

In Comics

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236427>

Sociology

Southeast Asian Social Science Review (Vol. 1 July - December 2016) / (Ed)

Abdul Rahman Embong

Malaysia : MSSA, 2016

169p.

9770128040004

\$ 20.00 / PB

The editorial board is happy to announce the birth of the Southeast Asian Social Science Review (SEASSR), a new peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the advancement of critical scholarship in the field of social sciences and humanities. SEASSR is jointly published by the Malaysian Social Science Association (PSSM) and the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, two leading social science institutions in Malaysia and Southeast Asia. Its editors consist of social science scholars from various universities in Malaysia, with a team of renowned senior scholars from various countries who sit as members of the international advisory board.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236429>

Journal

Sabah Society Journal, Volume 32, 2015 / (Ed) Kay Lyons & Ron Griffin

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah: The Sabah Society, 2015

126p.

ISSN: 0036-2131

\$ 90.00 / PB

326gm.

Content:

- The 2015 Ranau Earthquakes: Cause and Impact / Felix Tongkul
- Changes in Sex Ration among a Foraging Population of Green Sea Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) at Mantanani, Sabah, Malaysia: Implications for Sea Turtle Management / N.J. Pilcher, D Pilcher, J William and Md. Bassa
- Advancing the Health Profile of Indigenous Communities in Sabah: A Community Health Project / Melanie Bish (et al)
- The Liwagu Valley Track: A Reply to The Sabah Society / Kevin Smith
- A Brief Account of the Present State of Birds' nest Caves and the Conservation Status of Edible-nest Swiftlets in Sabah
- A New World of Moths Explored across Three Continents / Stephen Sutton & Lim Kooi Fong

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236430>
