

## Recent Books from Singapore – July 2021

**Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd**  
**Blk 231, Bain Street**  
**#03-05, Bras Basah Complex**  
**Singapore 180231**  
**Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204**  
[info@marymartin.com](mailto:info@marymartin.com)  
[www.marymartin.com](http://www.marymartin.com)

### Art

Twentyfifteen 12/20 : We Are Farmers / Ore Huiying  
A Project By Platform  
Singapore: Platform (Twentyfifteen.sg), 2015  
36p. ; 38x28cm.  
9789810934361  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
258gm.

Huiying comes from a family that runs one of the few surviving farms in Singapore. She started to photograph her family as an attempt to delve into a subject that's commonly taken for granted. By doing so, she discovered that her family was the most extraordinary.

From the introduction of the book, "After 24 years of hard work, the farm is still running and the family is still together. This series of photographs is an exploration of the hopes and dreams that tie us together, and a reflection of where my sense of self, community and tradition comes from."

The founders of Platform – Tay Kay Chin, Darren Soh, Ernest Goh and Leonard Goh – initiated TWENTYFIFTEEN to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence. 20 photographers have been chosen to create 15 images each, with a folio published for each photographer in the months leading up to August 9, 2015.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775668>

-----  
Stealing Public Space : How Southeast Asian Contemporary Art  
Co-Opts the City and Other Collective Sites / Iola Lenzi  
Singapore: The Substation, 2020

100p.

9789811465505

\$ 45.00 / HB

520gm.

*Stealing Public Space* examines Southeast Asian contemporary art that co-opts different types of public space to engage and empower the public on collective, social issues.

Since the 1970s, and more markedly after 1990, regional artists have occupied alternative spaces for their works to expand viewership beyond the white cube, or in reaction to institutions unreceptive to experimental art. This site-specificity emerges from necessity, and a desire to activate art as an incursion into public zones, which can be physical, as well as sometimes immaterial.

*Stealing Public Space* explores the connection between Southeast Asian art languages, the city, and intangible or symbolic public “sites” such as money, national anthems, history, and maps. This expansive exhibition comprises 25 artists and 32 historical and newly-commissioned works by established and emerging artists from across the region. Several works invite audience participation, exemplifying expressive strategies that distinguish Southeast Asian contemporary art on the global scene.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768514>

-----  
Ashley Bickerton : Heresy or Codswallop / Jasdeep Sandhu &  
Gregory Galligan

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2021

76p. ; 29.5x25cm.

9789811497810

\$ 70.00 / PB

515gm.

Heresy or Codswallop brings together 19 major artworks from 6 of Bickerton's celebrated series: 'Blue Man', 'Mitochondrial Eve', 'Silver Ladies', 'Coral', 'Wall-Wall', and 'Flotsam' – in addition to several new paintings and sculptures.

In conjunction with the exhibition Ashley Bickerton: Heresy or Codswallop at Gajah Gallery 19 January 2021 – 14 February 2021

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774447>

---

Mangu Putra : Between History and The Quotidian / Adrian Vickers, Jasdeep Sandhu & Jim Supangkat (Artist) Mangu Putra  
Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2016

52p.

9789811117756

\$ 50.00 / PB

395gm.

In his most recent paintings, Putra re-examines historic archival footage of the Dutch colonization in Bali in the early to mid 1900s. This follows the artist's decade-long research interest in uncovering the stories of Indonesian veterans and the surviving fighters of Indonesia's revolution: a generation of men who have been marginalized by history.

Using archival colonial photographs published by Dutch institutions, Putra re-imagines historic scenes, changing the emphasis by placing the Balinese people at the center.

The eleven works presented in *Between History and the Quotidian* also display Mangu Putra's affinity for hyper-realism, and an uncompromising attention to detail.

In conjunction with the exhibition ***Mangu Putra: Between History and The Quotidian*** at Gajah Gallery 24 November – 11 December 2016

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774448>

-----  
Semsar Siahaan : Art, Liberation / Aminudin TH Siregar (et al.)  
(Ed) T.K. Sabapathy  
Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2017  
122p. ; 26x22x0.5cm.  
9789811154690  
\$ 90.00 / PB  
620gm.

Gajah Gallery proudly presents a solo exhibition of the late Indonesian artist, **Semsar Siahaan**, entitled ***Semsar Siahaan: Art, Liberation***. An important figure in Indonesian art, he stood out for his strength and resilience in shedding light on critical sociopolitical themes – not only through his career as an artist but also as a social activist.

Prominently featured in the development of Indonesian contemporary art and its fight against the despotism of the New Order regime, Siahaan envisaged art as signifying humanity's liberation and in this vein as touching all humankind. As he continued to utilize his art as a tool to protest the state of social injustice, he was infamous in representing the rebellious student art movement of the 1980s, as well as the various labor rights activism in the following decade.

Semsar's art is always intended to immortalize humanism and it always exudes a sense of realism. Semsar Siahaan. Art, Liberation displays a range of works spanning the 1980s to about 2004, including the frequently mentioned but rarely exhibited Olympia: Identity with Mother and Child and the magnificent G-8 Pizza – the last monumental work created towards the end of his oeuvre.

The particularity of his art's content is one which appeals to a kind of transcendent or universal humanism. Like the courageous activist fighter that he is, his works are bold and they never tire from expressing critiques towards injustice. In conjunction with the exhibition Art, Liberation by Semsar Siahaan at Gajah Gallery 1-29 November 2017

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774449>

---

Shaping Geographies : Art, Woman, Southeast Asia / Jasdeep Sandhu, Dr. Michele Antoinette & Dr. Wulan Digantoro (Artist)

Anida Yoeu Ali (et al.)

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2019

120p. ; 25.5x21.5x1.2cm.

9789811447129

\$ 100.00 / HB

590gm.

Shaping Geographies: Art | Woman | Southeast Asia, a major group exhibition featuring works by 11 leading contemporary female artists from the region. Turning the spotlight on the growing number of active women artists in Southeast Asia, the show brings together these diverse artistic practices through three key intersections and tensions of the terms 'Art', 'Woman' and 'Southeast Asia'.

In conjunction with the exhibition *Shaping Geographies: Art | Woman | Southeast Asia* at Gajah Gallery 23 November 2019 – 12 January 2020.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768512>

---

See Like A Heretic : On Vision and Life : A Solo Exhibition / Suzann Victor (et al.)

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2018

104p. ; 25x21x1cm.

9789811172175

\$ 70.00 / PB

510gm

See Like a Heretic: On Vision and Belief, a solo exhibition by acclaimed international artist, Suzann Victor. Based in Australia since the late 1990s, Victor's art continues to be a

regular feature of the contemporary art scene in Singapore, collected and exhibited by Singapore's major cultural institutions and significant to Singapore's contemporary art history.

In conjunction with the exhibition ***See Like A Heretic: On Vision And Belief*** by ***Suzann Victor*** at Gajah Gallery 11 May – 10 June 2018

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=764421>

---

Landscape's Legacies : Visualizing Alam Minangkabau / Aminudin TH Sitegar, Jasdeep Sandhu & Katherin Bruhn (Artist) Abdi Setiawan (et al.)

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2018

132p.

9789811163210

\$ 30.00 / PB

525gm.

***Landscape's Legacies: Visualizing Alam***

***Minangkabau***, presents the work of 15 artists from West Sumatra, the region that is today synonymous with the Minangkabau ethnic group.

In conjunction with the exhibition ***Landscape's Legacies : Visualizing Alam Minangkabau*** at Gajah Gallery 24 Jan – 15 February 2018

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=764415>

---

Erizal As : Formless Existence / Erizal As (et al.)

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2019

64p. ; 25x21x0.5cm.

9789811428739

\$ 30.00 / PB

280gm.

***Formless Existence***, a solo exhibition featuring Erizal As. Departing from his earlier discourses on identity and the essence of humanity, this show documents the result of artistic introspection as Erizal turns the spotlight onto his recent explorations into extinction, corruption, and the loss of identity.

Questioning the existence of theism, righteousness, and justice, values that once were held so sacred to him, Erizal expresses his concern for the current condition of mankind. *Formless Existence* poses a shift in the artist's perspective, a change of heart spurred by the onslaught of corruption and greed deep seeded in those in power and illuminated by media interjection. This devaluation of former moral principles gives life to the emergence of a formless existence experienced by Erizal which drives his recent artistic curiosity. However, rather than a manifestation of the pursuit of this elusive idea, this exhibition instead focuses on the subtle changing language of the abstract and how this art movement can be applied to the concept of formless existence.

Using paint as the primary medium, the works in this exhibition lend themselves to the artist's imagination as he created each one as an ode to his obvious fascination with abstract art. Through his scrutiny, *Formless Existence* was built to portray the defiance of paint when seen through the lens of visual aesthetics.

Lending a larger meaning to paint as merely a medium, this exhibition acts as a metaphorical manifestation of Erizal's personal views about the amoral and contradictory governance that imposes upon us all.

In conjunction with the exhibition *Formless Exhibition* by Erizal As at Gajah Gallery 25 July – 31 August 2019

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774452>

---

Jason Lim : Contemplate / Jason Lim, Christine Han & Jasdeep Sandhu

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2019

54p. ; 25x21cm.

\$ 40.00 / PB

275gm.

Take a good look at the masterpieces of Singaporean ceramist and performance artist Jason Lim. Contemplate showcases ceramic experimentations that weave in trivial inanimate items – think tree branches, rocks and stones – mundane things that vibrate in Jason's life. By creating sculptures that mirror and function as landscapes, the artist reminds us of the significance found in nature, hoping to evoke a sense of wonderment, reflection and contemplation.

In conjunction with the exhibition Contemplate by Jason Lim at Gajah Gallery 18 July – 4 August 2019

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774454>

-----  
Sabri Idrus : Power – Now and There/ Jasdeep Sandhu & Louis Ho (Artist) Sabri Idrus

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2018

24p.

9789811194641

\$ 30.00 / PB

140gm.

“Power – Now and There”, a solo exhibition by renowned Malaysian artist, Sabri Idrus. Based in Selangor, Malaysia; the artist’s work has become a key feature in the contemporary art scene at home and abroad, being collected and exhibited across Asia, Europe and the United States. Known for his experimental approach in combining painting, graphic design and industrial materials, Sabri’s practice places a strong focus on the artistic process. His works are known to revolve around working with surface and the spatial stacking of various patterns, materials and forms, creating sensual textures through a meticulous process of layering. Sabri returns to Gajah with a new series focusing on the concept of ‘power’.

Twelve new works (the largest spanning four metres in length) engage with the theme of freedom and the power of choice. Sabri explores the strength and limits of the artist, drawing attention to the decision-making process – when does one decide that a painting is complete? In this fashion, these works are left as is: unsmoothed, raw, textured.

In conjunction with the exhibition *Power: Now and There* by Sabri Idrus at Gajah Gallery 14 – 29 November 2018

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774457>

---

Kayleigh Goh : *And Yet, If Only*/ Kayleigh Goh, Jasdeep Sandhu & Joyce Choong

Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2018

60p. ; 25x21x1cm.

\$ 40.00 / PB

270gm.

Launching her solo exhibition debut, local artist Kayleigh Goh's displays works that are rooted in the all-too-familiar disaffection of construction materials taken from the world of functionality in order to create serene, balance spaces of contemplations. A total of 14 new works are featured at the exhibition – each of them raw, textured concrete and exposed wood bare to illusory spaces, expressing a sense of vulnerability. It poses as an escape from the dissonance of life into an illusion in the mind that draws you away yet keeps you chained to reality.

In conjunction with the exhibition *And Yet, If*

*Only* by **Kayleigh Goh** at Gajah Gallery from September 28, 2018 – October 18, 2018

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774459>

---

Georgette Chen : *At Home In The World* / Cai Heng (et al) (Ed)  
Russell Storer

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

214p.

9789811449222

1. Chen, Georgette, 1907-1993 – Exhibitions.

2. Women painters – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 65.00 / HB

1006gm.

One of Singapore's most significant modern artists, Georgette Chen's love of painting was the mainstay of her eventful and peripatetic life: across the world, through two World Wars, and two Chinese Revolutions, her commitment to her practice never waned. *Georgette Chen: At Home in the World* accompanies Chen's survey exhibition at National Gallery Singapore, which holds the world's largest public collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian modern art.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775693>

---

Daily Singapore / Marie Dailey

Singapore: Marie Dailey Photography Pte Ltd. 2020

140p.

9789811482250

\$ 150.00 / PB

754gm.

A book of street photographs of daily life in Singapore by Marie Dailey. She portrays daily life as authentically as possible through unique snapshots that tell stories of individual people, but which are universal in their humanity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775694>

---

Eng Tow – The Sixth Sense / Eng Tow & Lim Shujuan (Ed)

Elaine Ee

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

144p.

Something New Must Turn Up : Six Singaporean Artists After 1965

9789811480058

1. Tow, Eng, 1947 – Exhibitions.
2. Art, Singaporean – Exhibitions.
3. Artists – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

554gm.

Eng Tow is an interdisciplinary artist whose works merge the disciplines of fine art, craft, and design. This catalogue traces Tow's artistic navigation through life, highlighting key shifts in her practice from methodical fabric constructions to cast, collaged and painted abstractions. The natural world is a significant influence on Tow, and her works offer an insight into nature's unseen energies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775695>

---

Jaafar Latiff : In the Time of Textile / Jaafar Latiff & Goh Sze Ying (Ed) Elaine Ee

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

120p.

Something New Must Turn Up : Six Singaporean Artists After 1965

9789811480010

1. Jaafar Latiff, 1937-2007 – Exhibitions.
2. Art – Singaporean – Exhibitions.
3. Artists – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

454gm.

Jaafar Latiff is a painter acclaimed for his trailblazing approach in invigorating the batik medium. Succeeding an earlier generation of batik artists, he broadened the scope of painting in this medium beyond the pictorial conventions commonplace until the 1970s by integrating conventional

techniques of batik painting with his own expressive and abstract style. In the Time of Textile highlights Jaafar's advances in batik through his rigorous experiments between the 1970s and 1990s, with a focus on three of his major painting series: Wandering, Batik 87/88, and Self-Portrait. It also traces his adjacent explorations in other mediums, such as acrylic painting and computer art, revealing his bold embrace of the modernist ethos to be in search of the new.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775696>

---

Goh Beng Kwan : Nervous City / Goh Beng Kwan & Joleen Loh (Ed) Elaine Ee

Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021

116p.

Something New Must Turn Up : Six Singaporean Artists After 1965

9789811480034

1. Goh, Beng Kwan, 1937 – Exhibitions.
2. Art – Singaporean – Exhibitions.
3. Artists – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

434gm.

Goh Beng Kwan is recognised for his masterful use of collage to explore issues around identity, cultural representation, and urban life. "Nervous City" is a phrase Goh often uses to describe New York, where he lived in the 1960s, to allude to its frenetic pace, high stress level and polluted atmosphere. It may also express his sentiments towards the rapidly industrialising cityscape of Singapore upon his return in 1966. Featuring essays, interviews, and the artist's photographs alongside his artworks, this catalogue explores how the urban environment has shaped the material and cultural basis for Goh's artmaking from the 1950s to the 1990s.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775698>

---

Mohammad Din Mohammad : The Mistaken Ancestor /  
Mohammad Din Mohammad, Shabbir Hussain Mustafa & Teo  
Hui Min (Ed) Elaine Ee  
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021  
160p.

Something New Must Turn Up : Six Singaporean Artists After  
1965

9789811480027

1. Mohammad Din Mohammad, 1955-2007 – Exhibitions.
2. Art – Singaporean – Exhibitions.
3. Artists – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

580gm.

The Mistaken Ancestor provides a critical introduction to the life of Mohammad Din Mohammad. An artist, traditional healer, Malay martial arts master, writer, and collector of Southeast Asian objects, Mohammad Din was a Sufi mystic guided by the view that all things in the universe are interrelated. He drew on this sensibility in developing his art, which he intended to operate as vehicles for navigating the social and economic pressures of modern life. Featuring writings, artworks, and photographs, this exhibition catalogue offers insights into Mohammad Din's life-long commitment to harnessing different facets of Sufi mysticism for the rejuvenation of the human body and spirit.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775699>

---

Chng Seok Tin : Drawn Through A Press / Chng Seok Tin &  
Cheng Jia Yun (Ed) Elaine Ee  
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2021  
144p.

9789811480003

Something New Must Turn Up : Six Singaporean Artists After 1965

1. Zhuang xin, 1946 – Exhibitions.
2. Art – Singaporean – Exhibitions.
3. Artists – Singapore – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

554gm.

Chng Seok Tin is one of Singapore's most prominent printmakers, and has displayed dexterity as an artist through her exceptional range of tonality and scale. Drawn through a Press features Chng's works on paper, sculptures, installations and writings. This catalogue seeks to capture the rigorous yet playful approach that drove her experiments in printmaking and writing, as well as her advocacy for new and adaptable ways of making art.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775700>

---

Science of the Secondary : Banana, No. 11 (An Atlas of the everyday) / Atelier HOKO

Singapore: Atelier HOKO, 2020

54p.

9789811423338

\$ 32.00 / PB

110gm.

“With its near-phallic shape stirring in most fully-grown adults sexual imageries condemned by many religious and proper people, the banana remains a highly popular fruit enjoyed by millions around the world. Large scale farming has made the tropical fruit accessible almost all year round and in most countries, so much so that it is rare to come across anyone who is completely unaware of this iconic fruit. Popularity aside, it is perhaps important to note that one of the most significant aspects of this yellow fruit is its role in the beginning and end of most human life; its soft, easily mashable

texture makes eating easy for both teething babies and the toothless elderly...”

‘Science of the Secondary: Banana’ is the eleventh edition in the series of ongoing research conceived and developed by Atelier HOKO.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775103>

---

We Were Farmers / Ore Huiying (Photo Ed) Zhuang Wubin  
Singapore: Ore Huiying, 2021

1v.

9789811816796

\$ 75.00 / PB

386gm.

Ore Huiying’s family have been farmers for generations, from the 1960s till 2020.

We Were Farmers, exhibiting at Objectifs from 29 Jul – 29 Aug 2021, is the culmination of her 12-year personal project documenting their experience and resilience, and a commentary on changing agricultural practices and urban development in Singapore, through photography.

The multimedia exhibition and photobook of the same title both comprise archival photos from family albums, text and video, in addition to Ore’s images, which reflect her position as a participant-observer: both as a documentary photographer, and as a member of the family.

We Were Farmers depicts the hopes, dreams and memories that tie Ore and her family together. It is a poignant tribute to not only the family farm, but also where her understanding of community and tradition, and sense of self, come from.

The book features an afterword by Terence Heng, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775701>

---

Wayside Trees, Edition One / Marvin Tang  
Singapore: Marvin Tang, 2020  
38p. ; 17.8x23.1cm.  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
160gm.

Wayside Trees is a collection of "Trees" planted between 2018 and 2021 on roadsides in Singapore as a by-product of the construction of new major transport infrastructures. The collection is part of a broader visual anthology, investigating the maintenance of a national narrative.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775702>

---

Kayleigh Goh : The Scent that Lingers / Jasdeep Sandhu & Nicole Soriano (Artist) Kayleigh Goh  
Singapore: Gajah Gallery, 2020  
48p. ; 14.5x20x0.4cm.  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
135gm.

"Just as particular scents can transport us to the intimate moments of our lives, so do the spaces she creates. Marked by delicate, significant details, Kayleigh's work mirrors the disjointed nature of memory – giving the viewer the agency to tell their own story. Despite this, Kayleigh is profoundly aware that these experiences can only be absorbed when we become present to the wonder of our everyday. She asks the audience to closely observe these small moments, giving them the power to linger just a little bit longer." – Nicole Soriano.  
In conjunction with the exhibition The Scent that Lingers by Kayleigh Goh Gajah Gallery 4 – July 2019  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774464>

---

A Guide to the Sculptures of the Singapore Botanic Gardens / Grace Lee (et al.)  
Singapore: National Parks Board, 2021

100p.  
9789811499142  
\$ 20.00 / PB  
210gm.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens' landscapes are a living gallery for nearly 40 sculptures. These are made from diverse materials and created by local sculptors as well as artists from around the world. Many have have generously donated and mark partnerships with nations, corporations, communities and individuals, making them an important slice of the Gardens' history. Explore these works of art with this first published guide to the sculptures of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768506>

---

Stroll on The Island / Ray Lim

Singapore: Ray Lim, 2019

32p. ; 15x15cm. ; Cotton cloth cover with Maple Bright 100gsm inner pages, Saddle stitch

\$ 35.00 / PB

54gm.

Drenched in afternoon light, the mosaic tiled buildings, rusted steel window grille glimmer. The painted signs and pedestrian path on the road lead the people's wearabouts.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775703>

---

Virtue and Virility / Lee Chang Ming

Second Edition

Singapore: Nope Fun, 2020

32p. ; Risograph printed 1 colour (black) ; A6: Saddle stitched

\$ 30.00 / PB

30gm.

Virtue and Virility presents a series images and quotes taken from various gay networking mobile apps. The quotes are taken from the “about me” sections where individuals can introduce themselves. The project seeks to highlight the intriguing ways gay men choose to present themselves in virtual space through photography and text, and looks at questions of masculinity, sexuality and self-portrayal. The self-portraits underscore perceived societal ideals of masculinity and sexual desirability; yet their anonymity also depicts an underlying concern of privacy and stigma for promiscuously found even within the domain of queer spaces.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775704>

---

### **Biography/Memoirs**

Winston Choo : A Soldier at Heart : A Memoir / Winston Choo,  
Chua Siew San & Judith d’Silva  
Singapore: Landmark Books Pte Ltd, 2021  
288p.  
9789811811715  
\$ 39.95 / PB  
605gm.

“Don’t be a coward. What are you afraid of? Never mind if people do not take favourably to what you have to share. Just be honest and truthful, don’t embellish but humbly present your story.” This was how Winston Choo convinced himself to write this memoir. As a boy, all he wanted was to be a soldier. Never in his wildest dream did he imagine that he would, one day, have three stars on his shoulders. He tells how he was groomed by Dr Goh Keng Swee to lead the Singapore Armed Forces – and yet had to surmount hurdles within both the military and civilian administration. He relates how he shaped the structure, values and culture of the SAF by focusing on people and esprit de corps, and taking a strategic yet pragmatic approach. After 33 years being a man of war, he

found himself once again handpicked, this time to be a man of peace – first in the diplomatic service, then as Chairman of the Singapore Red Cross. His novel experience of being ADC to President Yusof Ishak and his astute dealings with the military around the world for the SAF ensured his success in making friends for his homeland. Stricken with cancer, but ever disciplined and never ready to surrender, Winston Choo shares what keeps him soldiering on.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775108>

---

She Never Rode That Trishaw Again / (Photography and text)  
Sim Chi Yin

Singapore: Sim Chi Yin, 2021

144p.

9789811811449

\$ 90.00 / PB

305gm.

*She Never Rode That Trishaw Again* tells the story of Loo Ngan Yue, a woman widowed by the British war against anti-colonial forces in Malaya — a 12-year conflict that became a template for other counter-insurgency campaigns around the world, including Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Artist and author Sim Chi Yin juxtaposes vacation photographs of Loo — her late paternal grandmother — with oral history excerpts on the family’s trauma. This intimate volume, using vernacular photographs to create a filmic experience, takes us inside the emotional world of a family shattered by geopolitics. It is the first in a trilogy of books Sim is making around the “Malayan Emergency” of 1948 to 1960, and its colonial and post-colonial representations, painting a picture of anguish, loss and, amnesia — an allegory for Southeast Asia’s lingering traumas as a Cold War battleground.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774968>

---

## **Ecology/Environment**

Pang Sua Woodland : Sanctuary Unveiled Along the Rail  
Corridor / (Eds) Teresa Teo Guttensohn & Leong Kwok Peng  
Singapore: Cicada Tree-Eco-Place & Nature Society  
(Singapore), 2021  
232p.  
9789811499449  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
670gm.

The book unveils a sanctuary hidden in plain sight along the northern stretch of the Rail Corridor, documented in beautiful prose and vibrant photography by volunteers.

Nestled between housing estates in Choa Chu Kang and Bukit Panjang, Pang Sua Woodland is unassuming at first glance. Yet, this green oasis is a critical lifeline for both people and wildlife and should be preserved.

Community surveys of the woodland show how it is an important habitat and conduit for animals which include Otters, Civets, Spotted Wood Owls and Changeable Hawk-eagles, among others.

Connecting past and present, the book also documents the rich heritage and communities of Bukit Panjang, articulating a biophilic vision for its development as a space for recreation and green connectivity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768404>

-----  
Tropical Plants in Focus : Botanical Illustration at the  
Singapore Botanic Gardens / Michele Rodda  
Singapore: National Parks Board, 2021  
108p.

Includes Index ; Select Bibliography  
9789811477843  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
445gm.

In Singapore, the first botanical illustrations were made in the early 19th century, commissioned by Sir Stamford Raffles and Nathaniel Wallich. It was Henry Nicholas Ridley, however, who in 1890 employed the first artist and started the botanical art collections at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Numerous artists followed, engaged to illustrate rare native species, edible and useful plants, and ornamental garden hybrids, each reflecting the changing priorities over the Gardens' history. The collections today include more than 2,000 botanical paintings and hundreds of sketches, line drawings and photographs. This book outlines the development of botanical illustration in Singapore, and in particular at the Gardens. It showcases a selection of illustrations which can be viewed in person at the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Botanical Art Gallery.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775105>

-----  
The Sauce – On Food, Community and Inspirations : Soil, The Inaugural Issue, November 2020 / (Ed) Vivian Lee (et al.) (Illus.) Lotte Verstappen  
Singapore: Foodscape Pages, 2020  
91p. ; 21.8x28.5cm.  
\$ 50.00 / PB  
358gm.

An independent journal on food, community and inspirations, *The Sauce* gathers voices from the foodscape in Singapore and the bioregion to document and highlight stories about and around food in relation to our selves, community, society, and the planet. The issue includes longform writings, interviews, photoessays, personal letters and an artist's feature.

The inaugural issue focuses on Soil – a matter that is the foundation to growing nourishing food. Soil is not only biophysical; it is also social, and so we explore it – from tidbits on soil science and history, to personal journeys in

composting, essays on our relationships with soil, an article on growing method, and interviews with farmers on their regenerative practices; this labour of love took a village in the making to complete, with beautiful illustrations and layout design.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775708>

---

## **Cookbook**

Recipe Book : Kelentang Kelentung Warisan = Buku Resepi Kelentang Kelentung Warisan

Singapore: ScreenBox Pte Ltd, 2021

1v.

English & Malay Language

\$ 75.00 / HB

With the intention to preserve our rich Malay food heritage, the idea to publish the Kelentang Kelentung Warisan Recipe Book was born - for today's generation and the rest to come. With 50 traditional recipes (in Malay and English) by our beloved mothers and recipe contributors, a lot of time and energy was spent in hopes that it brings warmth and joy to your families through the kitchens of your home.

There are 50 traditional recipes in this book, including Nasi Bancaan, Ondeh-Ondeh, Sambal Goreng Sayur, Bubur Kacang Hijau, Cha Cha Keledek, Durian Serawa Pulut, Tempoyak Pucuk Ubi, Embe-Embe, Masak Lemak Ikan Sepat & Nenas, Kuih Kaswi, Kuih Bakar Berlauk, Lompang Boyan, Roti Boyan, Udang Geragau Goreng, Jemput-jemput Pisang, Ayam Lemak Cili Padi, Keria Keledek, Kuih Bakar Berlauk, Sambal Goreng Godok, Opor Nangka, Rendang Daging, Badak Berendam and more! 50 recipes in total!

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=770292>

---

## **Economics**

Poverty and Unequal Society in Hong Kong / Gary Lai  
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021

xiv, 354p.

Includes Bibliography

9789814914048

\$ 29.90 / PB

350gm.

Hong Kong is a dynamic city. But the contrast between the well-off and the poor is stark. In the 1980s and 1990s, and to a lesser extent in this century, Luxury brand bag-toting women can often be seen walking past beggars on the sidewalks of busy streets. Poverty has always existed in the city. Where else can we find it there and is it getting worse? Does it matter? Inequality has been steadily increasing from 1976. Poverty makes people more vulnerable and corruptible, whether to choosing bad leaders or undertaking terrorist activities. The motivation of this book is to ascertain the extent of poverty in Hong Kong in the context of the experiences in other parts of the world. The meditations in this book are not meant to be encyclopaedic. They are a sample of the unique challenges that exist in different parts of the world. This book does not take a stand on the current political protests against the diminishing freedom and autonomy imposed by Beijing in Hong Kong, although it proffers underlying causes for the demonstrations. Inequality is a recurring theme, so are the social chasms that the wealth, education, and digital gaps created.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775710>

---

## History

On a Little Hill in Chinatown : Singapore's Ann Siang Hill /  
Kevin Y. L. Tan

Singapore: Mileage Communications Pte Ltd, 2018  
x, 206p.  
9789810978839  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
670gm.

Mileage Communications is proud to present *On a Little Hill in Chinatown*, a 206-page tome documenting the lives of its early occupants (immigrants, guilds and businesses, such as Hoo Ah Kay—better known as Mr Whampoa—whose family lived at Liberty House on Club Street) as well as its present-day owners and business operators. Bursting with countless vibrant photographs, the book charts the development of the Ann Siang Hill neighbourhood\* from colonial to contemporary times and promises to enthrall any heritage enthusiast. This is the first definitive book capturing the history and essence of life from the colonial times to the present day of Ann Siang Hill and the surrounding environment. The 204-page book, packed with countless photographs, documents the lives of early immigrants, inhabitants and the activities of guilds, schools and businesses in the following streets – Ann Siang Road, Club Street, Amoy Street, Gemmill Lane, South Bridge Road, Erskine Road, Kadayanallur Street, Maxwell Road and Mohamed Ali Lane. This is one book that will enthrall historians, heritage buffs, tour guides, tourists, school children and any citizen interested in Singapore’s historical past.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775107>

-----  
The Phantom World of Digul : Policing as Politics in Colonial  
Indonesia, 1926-1941 / Takashi Shiraishi

Singapore: NUS Press, 2021

xii, 352p. ; 229x153mm. ; 9 b/w images.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

Kyoto-CSEAS Series on Asian Studies No. 23 – Center for  
Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

9789813251410

1. Boven Digoel (Concentration camp) – History.
2. Indonesia – Politics and government – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Political participation – Indonesia – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\$ 32.00 / PB

555gm.

Digul was an internment colony for political prisoners established in 1926, upriver in West Papua. It is the key to understanding Indonesia's colonial rule between the failed communist rebellion of late 1926 and the fall of the Indies to the Japanese in 1942, a time when the Dutch regime attempted to impose "*rust en orde*", peace and order, on the Indonesian people via the suppression of politics by the police. The political policing regime the Dutch Indies state created was both a success and a failure. The native terrain was never completely pacified. Activists linked up with each other in fluid networks that cut across spatial and ideational boundaries. How did the government deploy political policing to achieve its policy objectives? What were the consequences and challenges for Indonesian activists? How was the government able to fashion its policing apparatus as the most potent instrument to achieve peace and order when the Great Depression hit the Indies, nationalist and communist forces were gaining strength in other places of the world and war was coming both in Europe and Asia? This long-awaited sequel to the author's acclaimed *An Age in Motion: Popular Radicalism in Java, 1912-1926*, attempts to answer these questions.

\*\*\*

*"A life-long project comes to its magnificent culmination with Shiraishi's new book, a worthy sequel to his Age in Motion."* - **Rudolf Mrázek**, author of *Engineers of Happy Land*.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774461>

-----

Sea Nomads of Southeast Asia : From the Past to the Present /  
(Ed) Bérénice Bellina, Roger Blench & Jean-Christophe  
Galipaud

Singapore: NUS Press, 2021

xvi, 384p.

Includes Index

9789813251250

1. Nomads – Southeast Asia – History.
2. Bajau (Southeast Asian people) – History.
3. Seafaring life – Southeast Asia – History.

\$ 32.00 / PB

590gm.

Sea nomads have been part of the economic and political landscape of Southeast Asia for millennia. They have played many roles over the *longue-durée*: in certain periods proving central to the ability of land-based polities to generate wealth, by providing valuable maritime commodities, facilitating trade, forming a naval force to secure and protect vital sea lanes and providing crucial connectivity. They have existed in complex, codified relations with different sedentary populations, as pirates, guardians of the sea-lanes, merchants and explorers. Paradoxically, as modern states emerged, the sea nomads became progressively marginalized and impoverished. For many years, the sea nomads were assumed to be without history, and even without archaeology. This has proven far from the case, and recent archaeological findings allow us to more closely describe sea nomadism from the Pleistocene through the early Holocene up to the present. Integrating these findings with the latest in historical research, linguistics, ethnography and historical genetics allows us to better understand sea-nomad ways of life over a scale of millennia and to appreciate the diversity and flexibility of this sea-nomad world. This in turn enriches our understanding of nomadism and mobility as a way of life, and the sea not only as a landscape of resources, but as a home and spiritual landscape as well.

\*\*\*

*"An ambitious and provocative book. Relying on new archaeological, genetic, linguistic, historical and social science evidence, it traces the story of sea nomadism in Asia from the late Pleistocene to the modern period. It forces scholars to re-examine the role of sea nomads, particularly in the history of Southeast Asia."* – Leonard Y. Andaya, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774463>

---

## **Literature**

The Elephant Trophy and Other Stories / Paul Gnanaselva  
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021

252p.

9789814914017

\$ 21.90 / PB

205gm.

*The Elephant Trophy and Other Stories* is a collection of 18 slice-of-life short stories featuring nuanced and diverse depictions of the Indian community in Malaysia. The overall theme of this collection echoes the outer and inner demons that possess the Malaysian Indian community. Specifically, the stories dictate the outlook of their lives as both Indians and Malaysians. The collection covers themes such as socio-politics, socio-economic imbalance, gender issues, social class juxtaposed to community values.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=765769>

---

Racket and Other Stories / Vicky Chong  
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021  
240p.

9789814914062  
\$ 21.90 / PB  
232gm.

This collection of short stories exposes the minuscule rebels trapped inside many of us – the obedient, law-abiding tenants – living in Singapore who are trying to break out of conforming to the country’s conservative social norms, risking stigma and gossip. On one extreme, a minority of us have the courage to let the recalcitrant rebels take charge from the beginning in order to live as we wish. Others may require some external nudging to act, yet some may ultimately still retreat to the status quo, to a prescribed acceptable social behaviour, instead of risking any fracas.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775711>

---

Orchids of the Rainforest : A Novel / Ram Anand  
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021  
304p.  
9789814914031  
\$ 23.90 / PB  
290gm.

Six Indians strive to embrace their sexuality and their own notions of relationships in a conservative yet urban Asian metropolis.

Orchids of the Rainforest explores the lives of six urban Malaysian Indians who have unconventional relationships in an increasingly modern yet fundamentally conservative Malaysian society. Geetha, a lawyer, has her world rocked by the death of her wealthy husband and later by an encounter with a romantic pursuer, Anand. Sabitha, her much younger cousin sister is trying to come out of the closet to her family. Anu, a writer and Yuvaraj’s Malayali partner, has differing views on sexuality from her husband. Yuvaraj, a traveling

engineer, grew up with latent chauvinism ingrained in his lifestyle, thoughts and in his treatment of women. He expresses his 'disagreement' with the sexuality of Sabitha and attempts to 'cure' her. He reacts negatively to Anu developing her own independent opinion about sexual minorities. Karthiga Murugesan is facing displacement for coming out of the closet about her sexual orientation. The story attempts to capture the essence of contemporary urban Malaysian living. It illustrates the larger diversity that exists in Malaysia, and how the cosmopolitan convergence and ideological clash play out in modern Malaysia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775713>

---

Song of the Sacred Mountain / William James

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA),  
2021

viii, 240p.

9789814882088

\$ 25.00 / PB

242gm.

A touching and powerfully original father-daughter story set amid the seismic landscape of Central Java, *Song of the Sacred Mountain* dares not to answer but to ask timeless and universal questions about faith, tradition, and familial love. A seventeen-year-old academic prodigy from a small village in central Java, Lestari wants nothing more than to become a modern, self-determined woman. But she swims against powerful currents. Raised by her father, the revered guardian of an active volcano, she joins the many offerings to the sacred mountain yet begins to question their effectiveness. The more Lestari learns about science and geology, it seems, the less she believes in ritual.

When a young Dutch entrepreneur arrives in their village to explore Indonesia's potential for geothermal energy, Lestari befriends and falls for the charming stranger, and the rift

between father and daughter widens. In the weeks leading up to her high school graduation, the volcano begins to erupt, blanketing the village in ash. Shockingly, a set of tiger prints is discovered in the dust, sending villagers into a panic. What follows is the haunting, unforgettable story of a daughter's search for truth and a father's unyielding loyalty. It is about the courage to question tradition, the faith to uphold it, and the love that ultimately binds them together. An impressive debut novel, *Song of the Sacred Mountain* is nothing short of a triumph, an enduring, cautionary tale of a daughter's doubt, a father's faith, and a love that refuses to die.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775714>

---

## **Politics**

*Reaching for the Crescent: Aspirations of Singapore Islamic Studies Graduates and the Challenges* / Norshahril Saat, Azhar Ibrahim, Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

224p.

9789814951371

\$ 29.90 / HB

Islamic religious teachers (asatizah) and scholars (ulama) play a significant role in providing spiritual leadership for the Singapore Malay/Muslim community. Lately, the group has been cast under the spotlight over a range of issues, from underperformance in the national examination, their ability to integrate into the broader society, exposure to radical and conservative ideas such as Salafism from the Middle East, and unemployment. *Reaching for the Crescent* examines a growing segment within the group, namely Islamic studies graduates, who obtained their degrees from universities in the Middle East and neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia. It identifies factors that condition the proliferation of Islamic studies

graduates in Singapore, examine the dominant religious institutions they attend, the nature of Islamic education they received, and their challenges. It tackles the impact of their religious education on the spiritual life and well-being of the community. Based on qualitative and quantitative data collected, the book calls for a rethinking of a prevailing discourse of Arabization of Singapore Muslims and academic approaches that focus on madrasah education and Islam through the security lens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775715>

---

Naquib Al-Attas' Islamization of Knowledge: Its Impact on Malay Religious Life, Literature, Language and Culture / Mohd Faizal Musa, author

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

32p.

Trends in Southeast Asia 16/2021

9789815011081

\$ 9.00 / PB

The concept of the Islamization of knowledge was introduced by Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas in the late 1970s. It aimed to detach knowledge from Western culture and civilization in order to replace it with Islamic concepts, frameworks and values.

The Islamization of knowledge was to occur in the fields of education and culture, manifesting in changes to the syllabus in institutions of higher learning and niche areas of interest in selected research institutes. In the field of culture, however, it resulted in an unintended consequence of Malay literature being heavily characterized by Islamic elements.

Over the years, proponents of the Islamization of knowledge in Malaysia have moved beyond the fields of education and

culture. They have entered the mainstream and become part of the state machinery, thus possibly impacting national policies.

The concept has also evolved and arguably led to the strengthening of Islamic conservatism among Malaysian intellectual and cultural elites.

More specifically, its exclusivist thinking does not augur well for intra- and intercommunal relations in the country.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775716>

---

The Riau Islands: Setting Sail / Francis E Hutchinson, Siwage Dharma Negara, editors

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

466p.

9789814951050

\$ 29.90 / PB

To Singapore's immediate south, Indonesia's Riau Islands has a population of 2 million and a land area of 8,200 sq. km scattered across some 2,000 islands. The better-known islands include: Batam, the province's economic motor; Bintan, the area's cultural heartland and site of the provincial capital, Tanjungpinang; and Karimun, a ship-building hub strategically located near the Straits of Malacca.

Leveraging on its proximity to Singapore, the Riau Islands—and particularly Batam—have been a key part of Indonesia's strategy to develop its manufacturing sector since the 1990s. In addition to generating a large number of formal sector jobs and earning foreign exchange, this reorientation opened the way for a number of far-reaching political and social developments. Key among them has been: large-scale migration from other parts of the country; the secession of the Riau Islands from the larger Riau Province; and the creation of a new provincial government.

Building on earlier work by the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on the SIJORI Cross-Border Region, spanning Singapore, the Malaysian state of Johor, and the Riau Islands, and a second volume looking specifically at Johor, the third volume in this series explores the key challenges facing this fledgling Indonesian province.

Adopting a multidisciplinary framework, this book explores three issues: what have been the social, political, and environmental effects of the rapid economic change set in motion in the Riau Islands; to what extent can or should the province seek to reconfigure its manufacturing-based economy; and how have the decentralization reforms implemented across Indonesia affected the Riau Islands.

"The Riau Islands: Setting Sail, edited by Francis. E. Hutchinson and Siwage Dharma Negara completes the SIJORI series, following the publications of earlier studies on the Singapore Cross-Border Region and Johor. The book comprises a rich collection of essays covering: the economic development challenges faced by Batam and the other islands; the political setting which highlights centre-periphery dynamics and issues related to the governance of the new province; as well as the social-cultural impacts of economic development which has attracted migration from other parts of Indonesia. This book provides valuable contributions to the study on Cross-Border Regions, enhances our understanding about the dynamics of the SIJORI Growth Triangle, and last but not least fills a gap in knowledge about the Riau Islands which, as the book says, is regarded as marginal from the perspective of Jakarta, but is central in its relation to Singapore as the subregional metropolis."

-- Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Research Professor at the Research Center for Politics, Indonesian Institute of Sciences; Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Habibie Center, Jakarta

"This edited volume provides a very comprehensive assessment of the Riau Islands Province, an area that promises to become a new frontier for the economic development of archipelagic Indonesia. Building on its history as a hub for manufacturing, this province now is a growth centre for tourism and the IT business. This in turn creates challenges for policymakers as the province's population grows rapidly, stressing urban areas, changing communities, and placing stress on the environment. In addition, the Riau Islands Province is an interesting subregional arrangement, including another subnational territory, the Malaysian state of Johor, and a nation-state, Singapore. This area is a new frontier in terms of its place and role in global and regional supply chains, and is key for regional development in Asia, as well as the mega-regional arrangements of the CPTPP and RCEP. This volume is an enriching addition to the literature on Indonesian economic development, and will be a reference for central and local government officials, researchers and students, members of the business community, as well as the public."

-- J.S. Djiwandono, Faculty of Economics and Business  
Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, and S. Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies, Nanyang Technological University,  
Singapore

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775717>

-----

The Forests for the Palms: Essays on the Politics of Haze and  
the Environment in Southeast Asia / Helena Varkkey, author  
Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

117p.

9789814881869

\$ 16.90 / PB

Transboundary haze has been a recurring problem in the  
Southeast Asian region since at least 1982. Why does this toxic

form of air pollution still persist? Helena Varkkey, a Malaysian political scientist, has been studying this multifaceted problem for more than fifteen years. This book provides an ideal collection for those who want a clear but concise introduction to this complex issue. Its commentaries explore how often sensitive matters of ASEAN diplomacy, national interest or political patronage continue to stand in the way of clear skies in the region.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775718>

---

The Unrealized Mahathir-Anwar Transitions: Social Divides and Political Consequences / Khoo Boo Teik, author  
Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021  
36p.  
9789815011005  
Trends in Southeast Asia 15/2021  
\$ 9.00 / PB

The failure of two expected transitions of leadership from Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Anwar Ibrahim (in 1998 and 2020) are traceable beyond their personal entanglements to the social divides and political currents of their time.

The unrealized transitions are symptomatic of UMNO's dynamic of "dysfunctional succession". Under Mahathir, the party split. Under Najib, it was defeated. The condition persists as the current prime minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, has not even appointed a deputy prime minister after being in power for fifteen months.

The unrealized transitions were a setback for a "reform agenda", which Anwar Ibrahim articulated, but which emerged from dissident movements for diverse reforms. These movements helped the multiethnic, socially inclusive, opposition to win the 14th General Election. They are only seemingly dormant because of the pandemic.

The Pakatan Harapan regime had the best chance to supply a fresh vision, deeper social understanding, and commitment to reform. The present Perikatan Nasional regime's fixation on "Malayness" overlooks twenty years of intense intra-Malay conflicts that began with the failure of the first transition.

As the "7th Prime Minister", Mahathir had a rare chance to redeem himself from major errors of his first twenty-two-year tenure. He squandered his chance by not honouring the Pakatan Harapan transition plan.

Anwar Ibrahim's opponents mock him for being obsessed with wanting to be prime minister. Yet they obsessively fear his becoming prime minister. Anwar may be twice loser in political succession but "the spectre of Anwar" still haunts Malaysian political consciousness.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775720>

-----  
30 Years On: A Reflection on Southeast Asia's Fight Against Communism During the Cold War Years / Daljit Singh, Lye Liang Fook, authors

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

16p.

Trends in Southeast Asia 14/2021

9789814951951

\$ 9.00 / PB

The year 2021 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Cambodian Peace Agreements which ended the Cambodian conflict and the Cold War in Southeast Asia.

Communism was a perennial concern in Singapore and Malaya (later Malaysia) from 1948 into the 1980s -- a concern which younger generations may not appreciate. The threat came

largely from the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) supported by China, and from Vietnam.

The CPM waged a guerrilla war in Malaya. They were defeated by 1960 but tried to revive the insurgency in the 1970s. In Singapore they attempted to attain political power through a united front with the People's Action Party during the 1950s.

The victory of the communists in the Vietnam War in 1975 alarmed non-communist Southeast Asia. The concern was aggravated by Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978.

ASEAN states strongly opposed Vietnam's action on the grounds that the invasion and occupation of a sovereign country violated a fundamental principle of international law. Successive UN General Assembly resolutions supported the ASEAN position with significant majorities.

Thailand was pivotal to the security of the rest of non-communist Southeast Asia. Had it succumbed to Vietnam's pressures and reached an accommodation with Hanoi, the security of the rest of Southeast Asia would have been endangered. Thailand stood firm. Had it not done so, the people of Southeast Asia would be living in a different world today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=775721>

-----  
Widodo's Employment Creation Law, 2020: What Its Journey Tells Us about Indonesian Politics / Max Lane  
Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021  
23p.

Trends in Southeast Asia 13/2021

9789814951913

\$ 9.00 / PB

During 2020, the Widodo government introduced a new Bill for parliamentary consideration. This was the Employment Creation Law. It was also known as the Omnibus Law as it introduced amendments to seventy-four other existing laws on a wide range of matters.

The Bill provoked considerable controversy, especially provisions reducing protection of labour rights and weakening environmental protection laws. Several provisions introducing further deregulation of a range of activities also attracted criticism. The labour and environmental issues were the basis for a series of street protest mobilizations during the year. These also involved mobilizations where university students participated.

The Law was justified by the government in its supplementary material to the legislation as a strategy to attain a specific growth rate in the gross domestic product and arguing that the revisions in the Law were necessary to substantially improve what was described as Ease of Doing Business.

Despite the protests and criticism, the law was passed by a big majority in Parliament on 5 October 2020. All member parties of the governing coalition voted for the Bill, and it was signed into law by President Joko Widodo on 2 November 2020.

The political journey of this Bill into Law revealed very clearly the homogeneity of the Indonesian political elite, represented by the parliamentary parties, all of whom either supported or acquiesced to the Law. It was also revealed that sustained and mobilized opposition to the Law was basically confined to a section of civil society, with some sections, including important large trade unions, campaigning in only a moderate and constrained way.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768927>

From Pakatan Harapan to Perikatan Nasional: A Missed Opportunity for Reforms for East Malaysia? / Anantha Raman Govindasamy, author  
Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021  
30p.  
Trends in Southeast Asia 12/2021  
9789814951920  
\$ 9.00 / PB

The Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) brought together Peninsular Malaya with the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. This Agreement afforded certain rights and obligations to these two states, notably in areas such as religion and language, financial autonomy, immigration, judicial autonomy, and finance and tax issues.

However, since the signing of this foundational treaty, East Malaysians have become discontented. Key frustrations include a gradual erosion of the stipulated privileges by the federal government, persistent underdevelopment, as well as the perceived unequal distribution of petroleum revenue earned from these states.

When Pakatan Harapan came to power in 2018, there were expectations from Sabah and Sarawak that the new administration would be committed to the restoration of East Malaysia's special position within the Malaysian Federation.

In order to address long-standing tensions, Pakatan Harapan established a Special Cabinet Committee on MA63 to look for new ways of restoring East Malaysia's prerogatives.

The Special Cabinet Committee managed to resolve seventeen out of twenty-one issues pertaining to the economy, finance and the judiciary.

However, the most complex issues pertaining to the sharing of oil revenue were outstanding. One key outcome was that the Committee proposed a constitutional amendment to recognize Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia as equal partners in the Federation. However, the proposed amendment did not garner the necessary two-thirds majority in parliament. A bloc of parliamentarians allied with the Gabungan Parti Sarawak—a coalition of Sarawak-based parties formerly aligned with ousted national coalition Barisan Nasional—abstained from voting.

Since the advent of the Perikatan Nasional administration, the broader issue of East Malaysian rights has received little attention. It is likely that, rather than seeking to address the fundamental tensions between the Peninsula and East Malaysia, the current administration will seek to offer targeted benefits to elites from the region.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768929>

-----  
The Growing Salience of Online Vietnamese Nationalism /

Dien Nguyen An Luong, author

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

41p.

Trends in Southeast Asia 11/2021

9789814951890

\$ 9.00 / PB

Vietnamese nationalism has a strong undercurrent of anti-China sentiments, and Vietnam's leaders have regularly tapped into such sentiments to shore up their legitimacy and boost Vietnamese nationalism.

Over the last decade, the helter-skelter growth of social media has bred new popular actors in Vietnamese cybersphere, who are deeply nationalistic but who pursue entirely different political and social agendas. In sum, they give rise to a new

nationalistic narrative, one that paints the Vietnam Communist Party as being often too meek and subservient to China, and calls for drastic reforms to the political system—regime change not excluded—to deal with Chinese threats.

An examination of prominent cases of online Vietnamese nationalism shows that anti-China sentiments have been a recurrent theme and a consistent trigger. The online nationalistic movements have been mostly instigated by popular figures, with state actors playing a facilitating role in stoking and harnessing them for their own ends.

Manifestations of online nationalism, especially those centred on anti-China and sovereignty issues, may hold serious consequences, including violence and deadly riots. In some instances, online nationalistic campaigns both galvanize and dissipate relatively quickly once state and popular actors have somehow managed to achieve their aims.

The growing salience of online Vietnamese nationalism has posed serious challenges and dilemmas for the regime. The authorities have had to encourage nationalistic patriotism without letting Sinophobia spiral out of control or turn against the regime

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768930>

-----  
Digital Mediatization and the Sharpening of Malaysian Political Contests / Pauline Pooi Yin Leong, author

Singapore : ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2021

30p.

Trends in Southeast Asia 10/2021

9789814951876

\$ 9.00 / PB

The introduction of the Multimedia Super Corridor in 1996 was due to the Malaysian government's initiative to tap into

the ICT sector. While this move spearheaded Malaysia into the knowledge economy, digital media enabled the opposition and civil society to compete and break the government's monopoly over information flows.

Digital mediatization of politics in Malaysia encouraged cyberattacks such as DDoS attacks, hacking and spamming. Cyberbullying on social media is also on the rise.

Information warfare is being perpetuated by organized teams of cybertroopers who disseminate propaganda, fake news, and disinformation in order to influence public opinion.

Digital mediatization of politics has opened up the public sphere and given ordinary citizens, especially youths, the opportunity to voice their opinions on the issues of the day. Social media campaigns, especially on Twitter, discuss the trending issues through the use of hashtags.

PN component parties have the incumbency advantage going into the next election. Its narrative is likely to be ethno-religious. The challenge for the opposition PH, therefore, is to provide an alternative message of inclusivity, unity and acceptance of diversity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768936>

---