

“ **DONGENG** ”

solo exhibition by
ANIS CHE MAT



Dongeng: Of Myth and Self-Discovery

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A Solo Exhibition By Anis Che Mat

Folktales have long been a wellspring of artistic inspiration, carrying within them the echoes of cultural memory, moral lessons, and deeply rooted fears and desires. These stories, passed down through generations, mirror our identities while tracing the complexities of power, transformation, and belonging. For artists, these age-old myths become fertile ground for reinvention, where the past and present intertwine. By drawing from these narratives, they reinterpret ancient myths through a contemporary lens, questioning how these tales continue to shape our perceptions of self and society. Myth, after all, is not static; it flows like water, shifting with each retelling, adapting to new voices and new worlds.

A figure both pervasive and enigmatic, the mermaid has long captivated folklore—existing between two worlds, at once enticing and perilous, liberated yet bound by the ocean’s depths. Across cultures, merfolk appear in various forms: the sirens of Greek mythology, whose voices lured sailors to their doom; the benevolent ningyo of Japan, said to bring wisdom or misfortune; and the Malay duyung, often depicted as an ethereal guardian of the sea. These creatures embody the tension between the known and the unknown, the human and the otherworldly. They capture our paradox—an insatiable curiosity for the unknown, tempered by the fear of its mysteries.

In Dongeng, Anis Che Mat does not merely revisit mythology, he engages with it, not as a distant observer but as an active participant. Bringing together these varied interpretations, he conjures a contemporary reimagining of the mermaid, one that extends beyond legend and moves through the currents of personal identity. In a bold act of self-exploration, Anis casts himself as the merman, navigating the shifting tides of selfhood.

His works ripple with the fluidity of myth, with layered textures and movements that echo the ever-shifting nature of storytelling, where tales glimmer, distort, and take new shape like light refracted on water. The mermaid, and by extension the merman, is not merely a figure of fantasy but a vessel for human contradictions, balancing desire and danger, freedom and restraint, transformation and permanence. Here, the mermaid is no longer just a symbol; it becomes a reflection of Anis’ own metamorphosis, his search for belonging within the vast expanse of artistic expression.

In revisiting these age-old myths, what meanings do we carry forward, and what new narratives do we create in their wake? And in their evolution, how do they shape our understanding of ourselves?

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“The Survival (i)”

Oil paint on stainless steel

245 cm x 122.5 cm

2016 - 2025

RM19000

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“Poseidon”

Tyre tube, wire & metal rod

370 cm x 130 cm x 60 cm

2025

RM18000

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“Thalassa”

Oil paint on aluminium

183 cm x 123 cm

2025

RM14800

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“Waiting....”

Photo, acrylic & colour pencils

72.5 cm x 52.5 cm

2025

RM5000

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“Triton”

Oil paint on boardroom

122 cm x 72 cm

2025

RM6500

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“Terdampar”

Photo, acrylic & colour pencils

72.5 cm x 52.5 cm

2025

RM4000

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“The Survival (ii)”

Acrylic, fabric and Shell

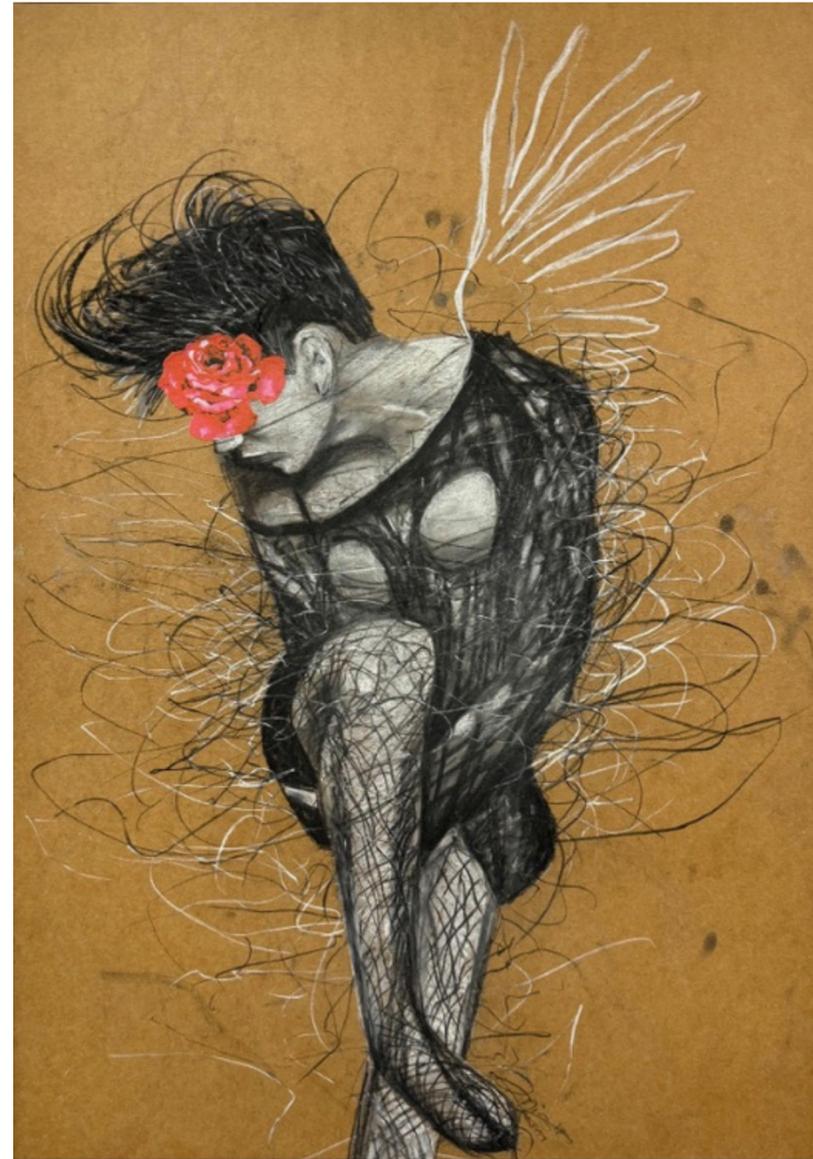
70 cm x 70 cm x 25 cm

2025

RM4000

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“Pendamping”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

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“Siang Malam”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

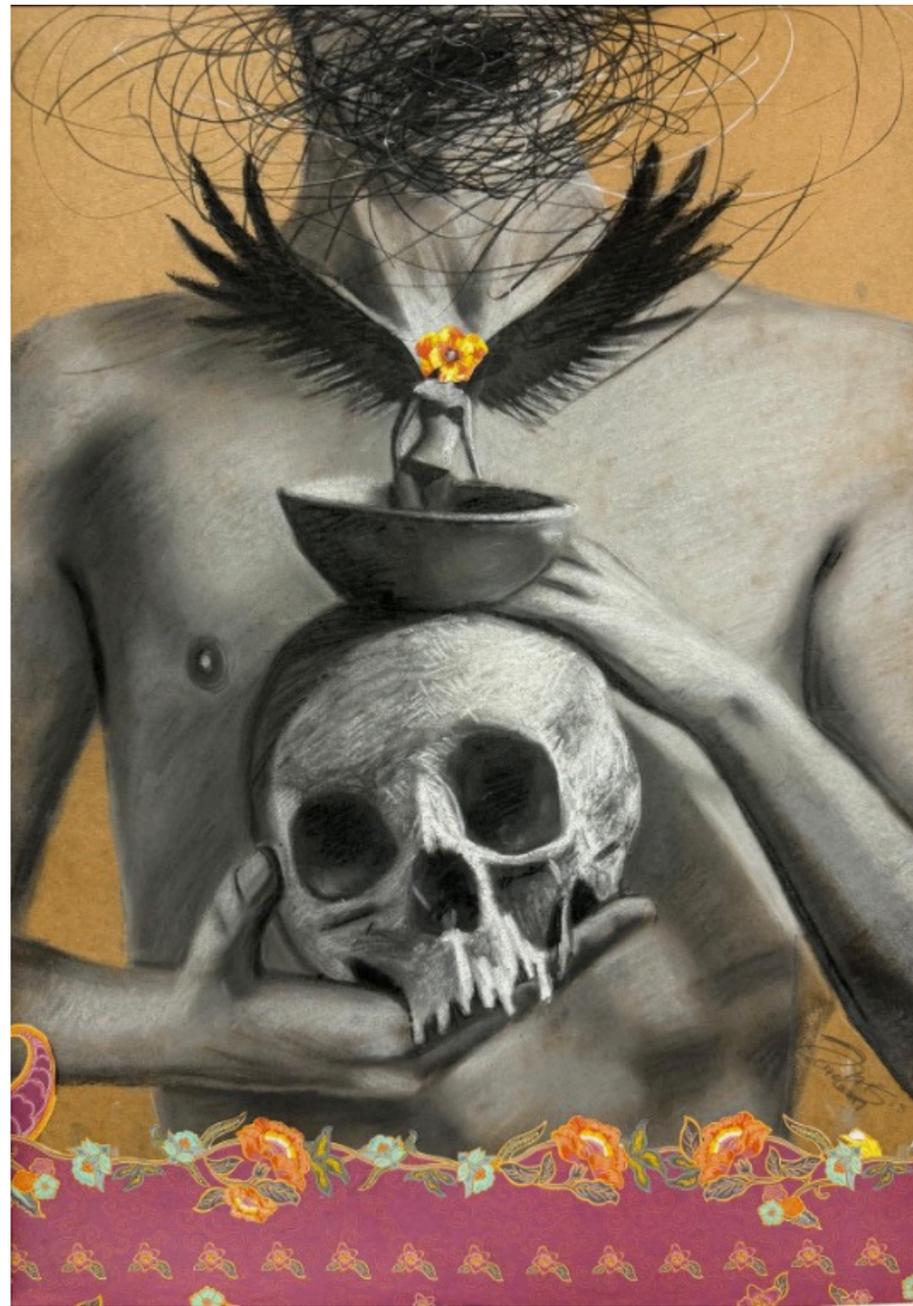
93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

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“Mandi Bunga”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

“ DONGENG “

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“In between”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

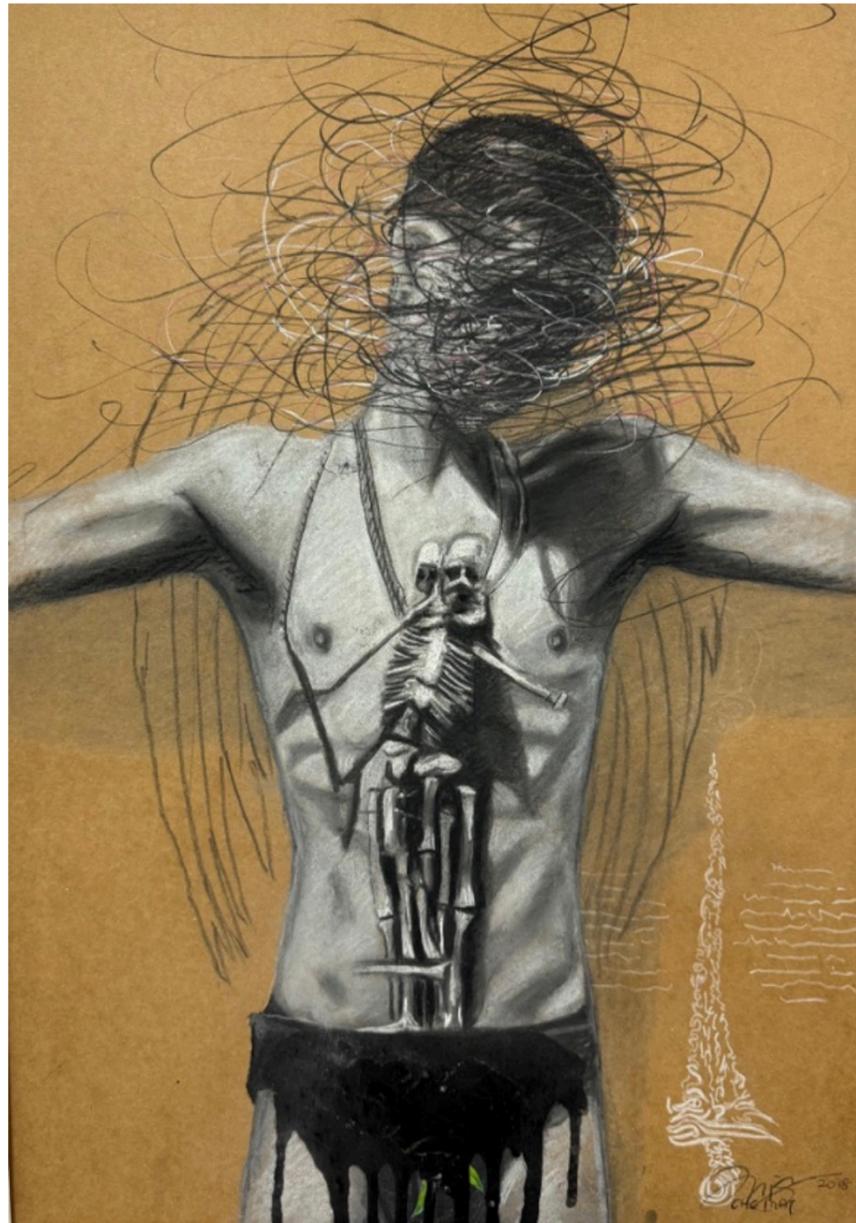
93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

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“Pengabdi”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

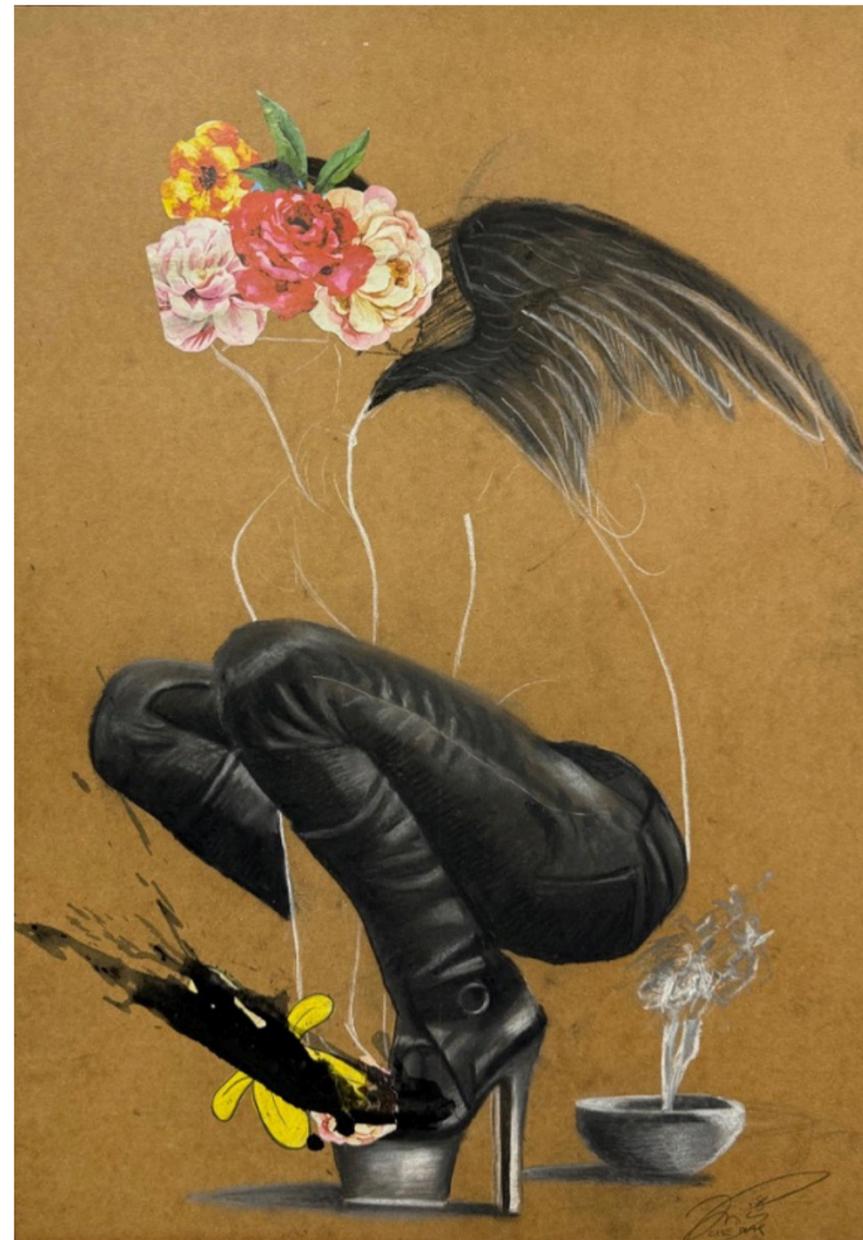
93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

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“Mentera”

Charcoal & Acrylic on Craft Board

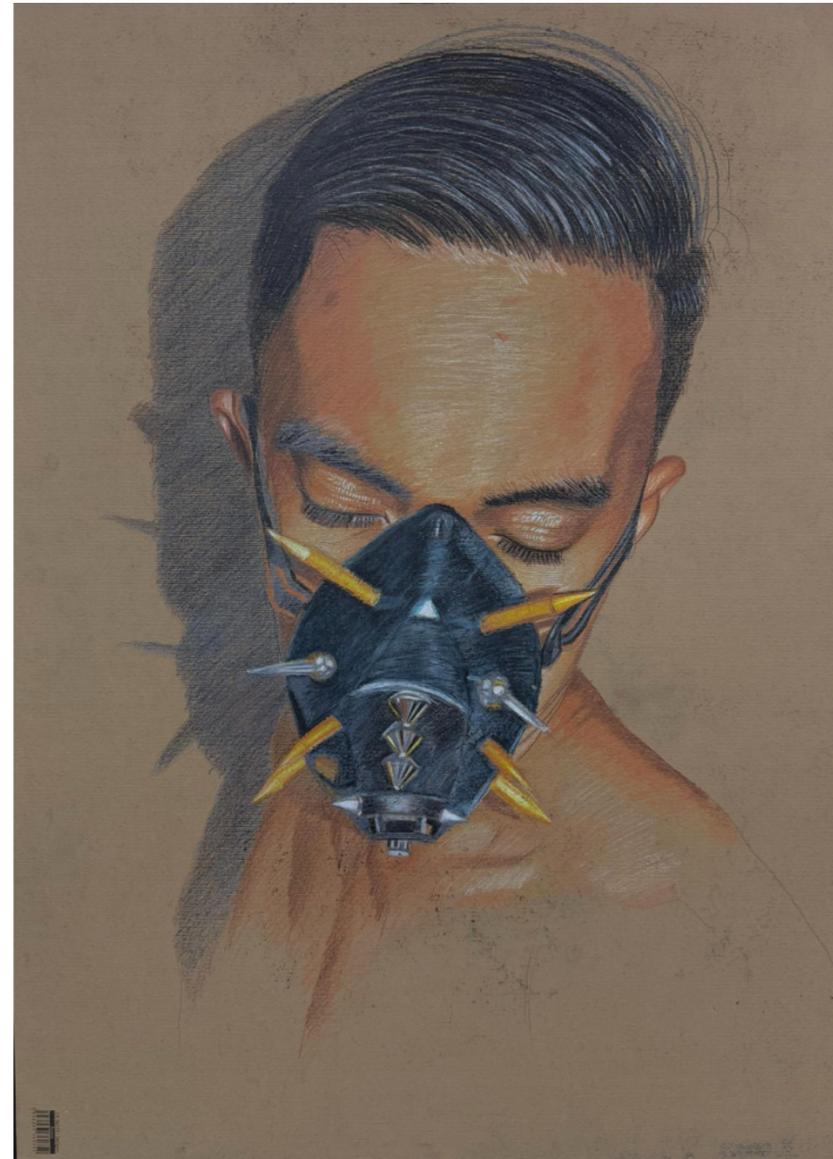
93 cm x 63 cm

2020

RM4000

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“Trans-(form)”

Color Pencils on Craft Board

93 cm x 63 cm

2025

RM 4000

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“The Guardian (ii)”

66 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm

Mixed media

2025

RM 3500

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After “Medusa”

55 cm x 20 cm x 26 cm

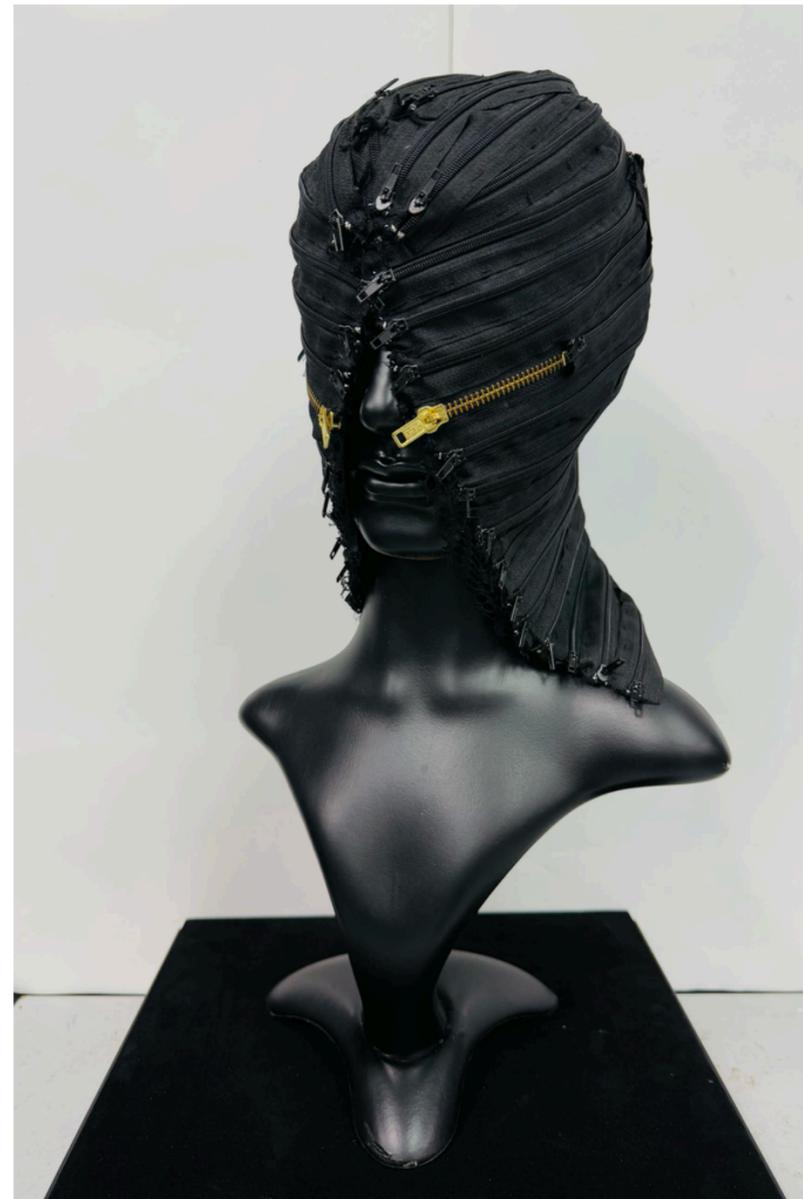
Mixed media

2025

RM 3500

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“Revelation”

59 cm x 28 cm x 22 cm

Mixed media

2025

RM 3500

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“Study of Mermaid tapes”

Marker & pen on paper

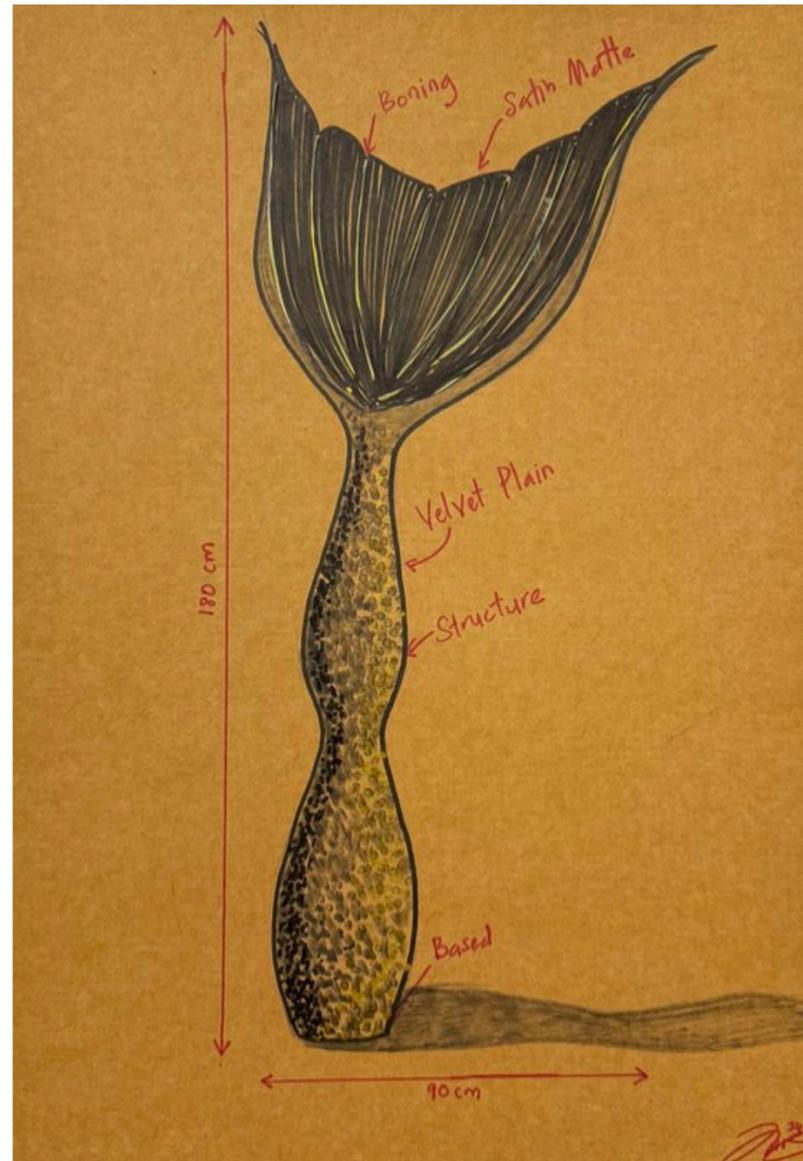
94 cm x 63.5 cm

2025

RM4000

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“Installation (i)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

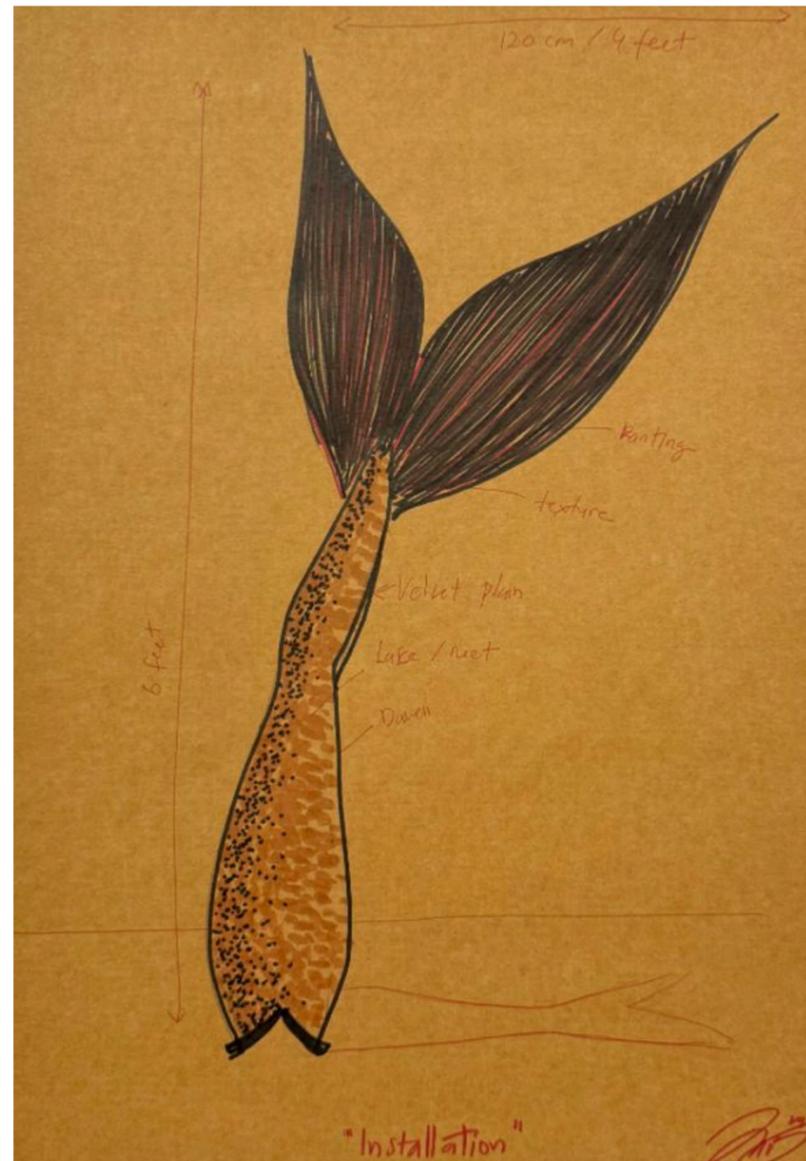
53 cm x 43 cm

2025

RM600

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“Installation (ii)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

53 cm x 43 cm

2025

RM600

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“Installation (iii)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

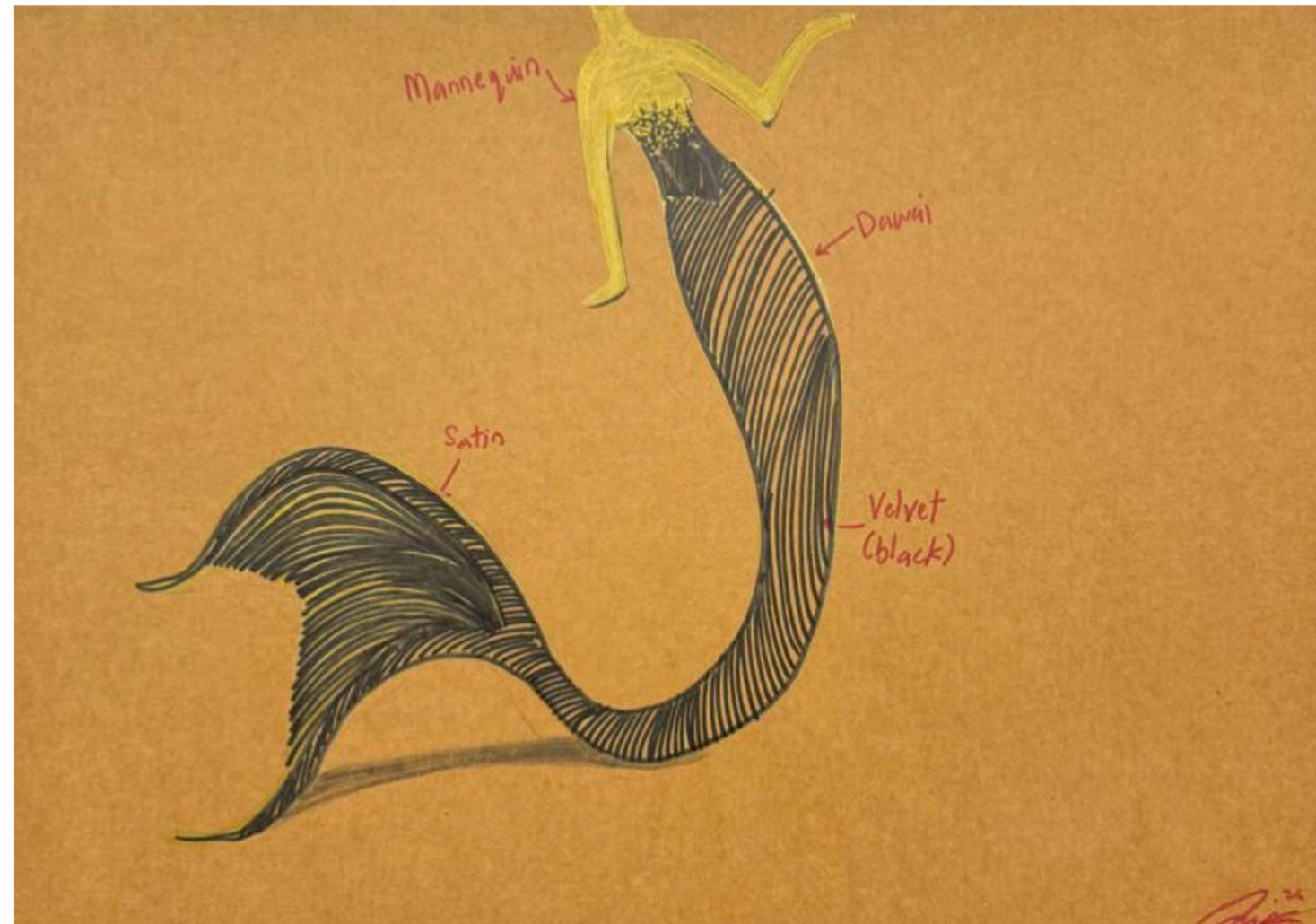
53 cm x 43 cm

2025

RM600

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“Installation (iv)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

53 cm x 43 cm

2025

RM600

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“Sketch (i)”

Charcoal & pen on Craft Board

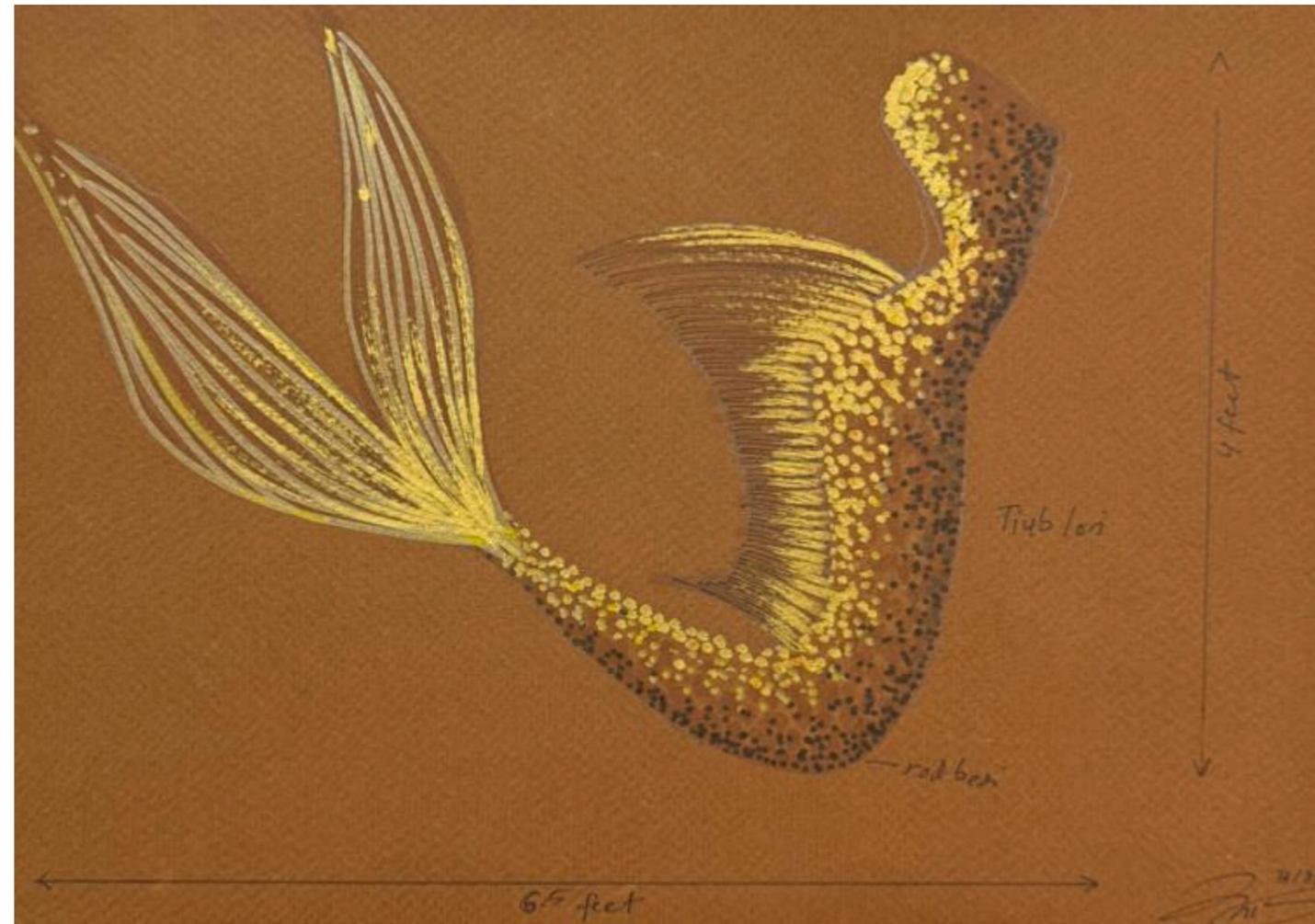
45 cm x 32.5 cm

2025

RM600

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“Sketch (ii)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

45 cm x 32.5 cm

2025

RM600

“DONGENG”

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“Sketch (iii)”

Marker & pen on Craft Board

45 cm x 32.5 cm

2025

RM600

Education

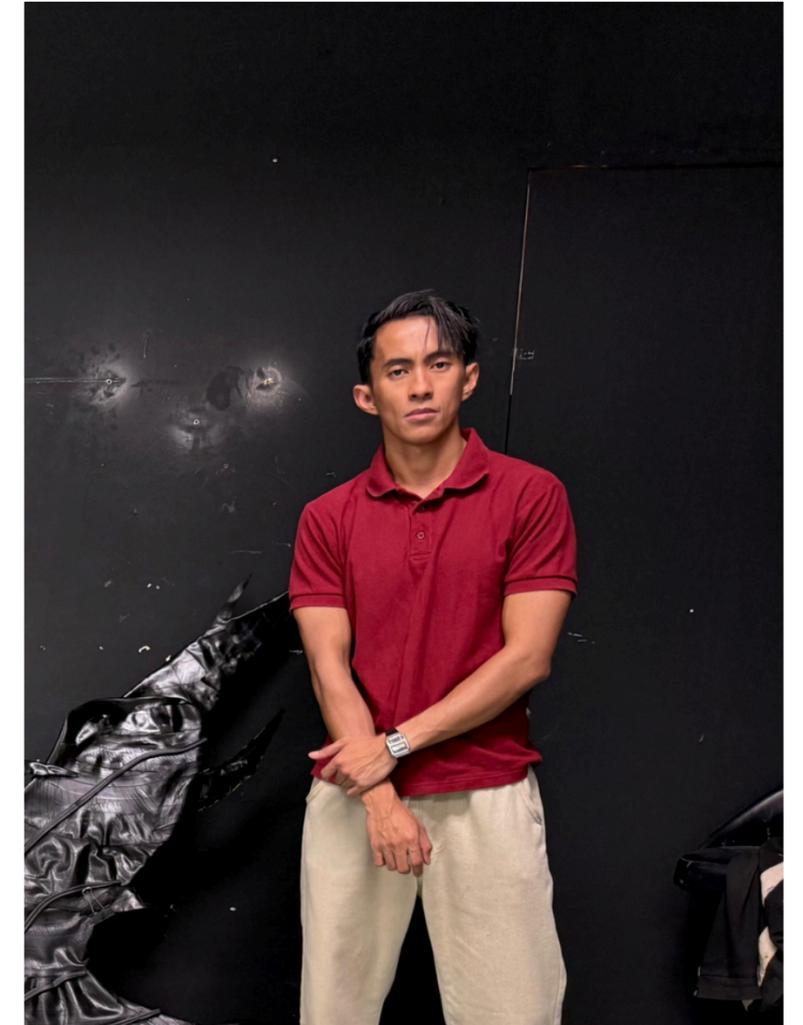
- 2017 • MA Fine of Technology, Uitm Jalan Othman. Petaling Jaya,.
- 2014 • BA (Hons) in Art and Design (Fine Art), Uitm Seri Iskandar, Perak.
- 2010 • Diploma in Art and Design (Fine Art), Uitm Seri Iskandar, Perak.

Awards: :

- 1) Shortlisted - Bakat Muda Sezaman 2020
- Shortlisted - Open Show Galeri Shah Alam 2016
- 2) Shortlisted - Penang Art Competition "Hope" 2015
- 3) Dean's list - Uitm Seri Iskandar, Perak. 2015
- 4) Major- Art Competition Black White (Pulau Penang Museum, Malaysia) 2015
- 5) 1st- Competition in Flying Flag Lendu International Art Camp (Melaka, Malaysia) 2014
- 6) Shortlisted - Competition French Malaysian Young Artist Award (BSVN) 2015
- 7) Dean's list- Uitm Seri Iskandar, Perak. 2014
- 8) Shortlisted- Nandos Competition "Alive" 2014
- 9) Consolation- Competition "Citra Terengganu" 2014
- 10) 2nd & Consolation- Art Competition IMCAT (Futuristic) 2013
- 11) Shortlisted- Art Competition "Ubah"
 - Muzium Penang 2013
- 12) Consolation- Art Competition IMCAT (1 Malaysia) 2012
- 13) 2nd- Art Competition "Melukis Batik" (Balai Seni lukis Kelantan) 2010
- 14) Finalist- Pertandingan Melukis Alam Sekitar (MRCB) - (peringkat kebangsaan) 2009
 - 1st- Art Competion "Bulan Merdeka"

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Thank You
Terima Kasih
谢谢
Nandri

ARTAS
galeri

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