

PRESS RELEASE

Dr Iskandar Jalil

PARADOX

Japan Creative Centre
(3 - 30 November 2018)

15 November 2018—In partnership with Japan Creative Centre (JCC), Embassy of Japan, Mulan Gallery proudly presents *Dr Iskandar Jalil: Paradox*, a solo exhibition of over 65 works by Dr Iskandar Jalil, recipient of Singapore's *Cultural Medallion* and Japan's *Order of the Rising Sun (Gold Rays with Rosette)* will be presented at the Japan Creative Centre from 3 November to 30 November 2018.

The exhibition affirms the breadth and richness of the Master Potter's practice through an extraordinary range of wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramic works. With works produced at the Temasek Potters kiln facility founded by Dr. Iskandar in 2010, this exhibition revisits familiar forms and signature glazes as well as introduces recent ceramic works with sculptural qualities and new dynamic glazes.

The exhibited works are presented through the frameworks of his philosophy (Perfect Flaws), his travels (Beyond Borders) as well as his bonds and kinship with others (Same Difference). Alongside tea-pots and functional vessels are ceramic pieces bearing evocative forms. A special feature of texts by the Master Potter's daughter Elena Iskandar, throws light on her Iskandar's philosophy - suggesting that his convictions are not confined to the making of a pot but to a way of life.

Theme & Frameworks

The central theme of paradox relates to how paradoxical elements frequently appear in Iskandar's practice and philosophy. The paradox refers to an apparent contradiction that appears intriguing, even absurd and perplexing but which challenge us to think and appreciate certain wisdoms.

In much of Iskandar's works, the Master Potter would emphasize that in his own ceramics aesthetics 'less is more', or that there is power in the small or beauty in deformity, and that the test of a master potter lies not in complicated, monumental pieces but in the simplicity of the humble chawan (tea bowl).

The exhibition proposes 3 frameworks that elaborate on this core concept through his philosophy, his travels and his relationships. Perfect Flaw is a contradictory phrase that captures the approach in Iskandar's practice where he allows certain imperfections or 'flaws' to be retained to enable the natural character of the clay and kiln process to come through. Beyond Borders brings to the fore how travel and interactions with other cultures are the impetus for Iskandar's practice and strengthening his own cultural and aesthetic identity; and Same Difference highlights his bonds and kinships.

DR ISKANDAR JALIL

b. 1940, Singapore

Dr. Iskandar Jalil (b. 1940, Singapore) is Singapore's Master Potter, celebrated for his distinctive pottery creations and ceramic art works. He is the recipient of the nation's highest cultural honours, the Cultural Medallion as well as Japan's Order of the Rising Sun (Gold Rays with Rosette) in 2015.

In recognition of his immense contribution to Singapore's cultural development as a ceramist and educator, he was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2016 with an accompanying exhibition was presented at the National Institute of Education (NIE). He was also honoured with a tribute exhibition Iskandar Jalil: Kembara Tanah Liat (Clay Travels) at the National Gallery Singapore in 2016.

Iskandar had received two Colombo Plan Scholarships to study textiles in India (1966) and ceramics in Japan (1972). He forged a strong foundation in ceramic skills and techniques in Tajimi, Japan. Thereafter he evolved a philosophy and practice that encompassed a deep understanding of diverse pottery traditions, systems and aesthetics from over the world including Southeast Asia. Emerging with his unique 'pottery voice' and identity, Iskandar Jalil has become an iconic figure in Singapore's art development

Exhibition Details

Title of Exhibition : DR ISKANDAR JALIL: PARADOX
Exhibition Period : 3 – 30 November 2018
Exhibition Venue : Japan Creative Centre
4 Nassim Road
Singapore 258372

About Japan Creative Centre



Japan Creative Centre (JCC) was established on November 14, 2009, based on an agreement in 2007 between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Taking Japanese tradition and innovation as its theme, JCC disseminates information on the creative side of Japan to people in Singapore and neighboring countries and regions. JCC has five primary fields of focus: i) Fine Arts and Tradition, ii) Pop Culture and Lifestyle, iii) Design, iv) Science and Technology, and v) Food Culture. It is widely recognised as a centre for the projection of Japan's soft power.

JCC website: <http://www.sg.emb-japan.go.jp/JCC/>
JCC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JCCEOJ/>

ARTWORKS



...my foot!, 2018
H 35.5 x 29 x 15.5 cm



Feminine, Masculine, 2018
H 44 x 11 x 11 cm (left)
H 44.5 x 11 x 11 cm (right)



Prickly, 2017
H 22.5 x 21 x 21 cm



We turn the Cube and it twists us, 2018
H 33 x 23 x 19 cm (green/blue)
H 44 x 14.5 x 13 cm (purple)



Autumn in Kyoto, 2018
H 31.5 x 32 x 21 cm



Samurai, 2018
H 38.5 x 31.5 x 13.5 cm



Thought versus Reality, 2018
H 56 x 41 x 14 cm



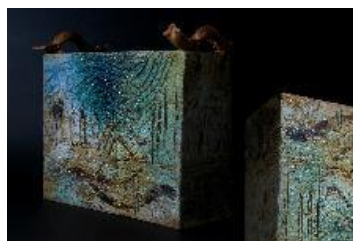
Unhinged, 2018
H 35.5 x 49 x 18 cm



Back to Basics, 2018
H 15 x 11 x 5 cm (left)
H 32 x 10 x 12 cm (right)



Queue and Wait, 2017
H 21.5 x 33 x 21 cm (left)
H 18 x 8 x 7 cm (right)



The Water Way Leading to the Mermaid, 2017
H 29 x 31 x 16 cm



The View from Manazuru (Yokohama), 2017
H 30 x 44.5 x 13 cm