



2015

nature's yield and wonders of art





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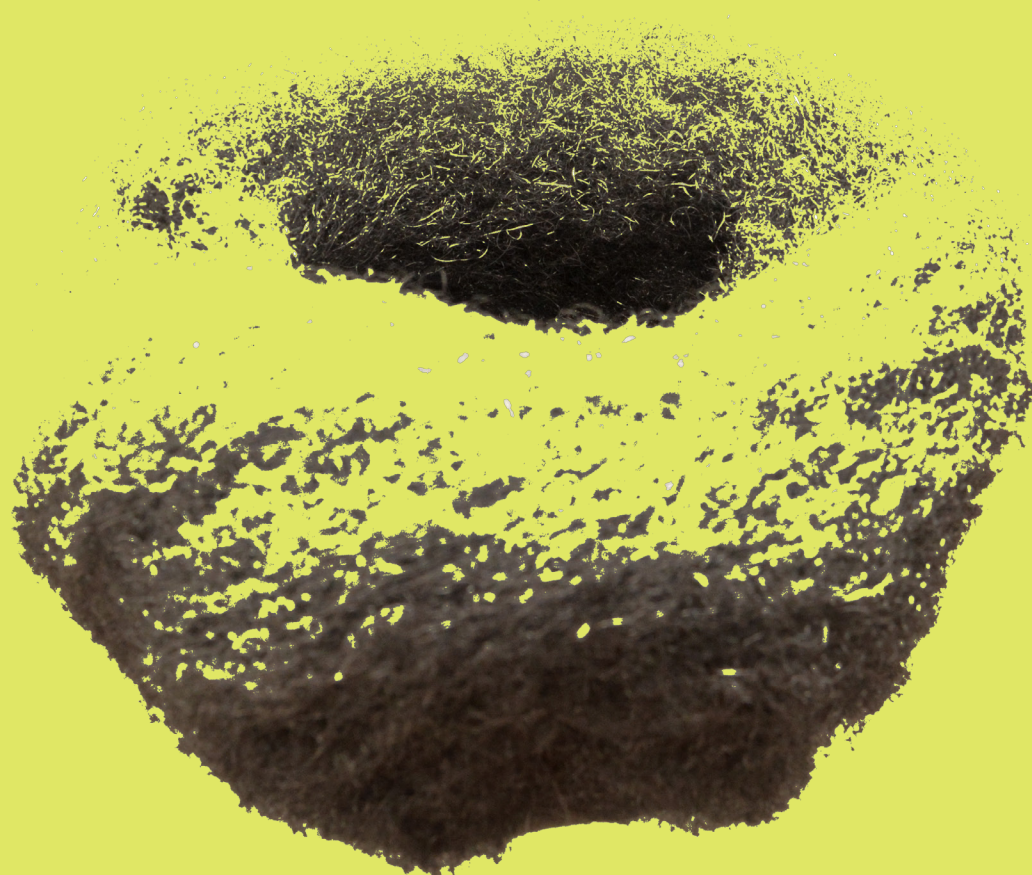
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preface

Shureen Faris A. Shukor

Time flies. The NYAWA series has entered its fourth instalment. Starting in 2012 with NYAWA : FRUIT, NYAWA '13 : INSECT and NYAWA '14 : MICROBE, the series continue this year with another exciting theme which is 'BIRD'.

The words of the Roman Philosopher Seneca 'All Art is but Imitation of Nature' can be seen to relate to the aim of the NYAWA which is to gather scientists and artists towards a common goal which is to portray scientific findings through the work of Art. NYAWA which stands for Nature's Yield and Wonders of ART shares the scientific findings from UPM's members and have since opens its door to the public who shares the same passion and interest related to the study of Science and Art.

The theme 'Bird' was embraced with much anticipation and excitement as the winged creature has given so much inspiration to those in many fields, ranging from architects, inventors, artists, scientists, and many more. This year's exhibition has seen more participants from various disciplines from the Faculty of Design and Architecture (4), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (4), Faculty of Food Science and Technology (3), Putra Science Park (2), Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences (2), Faculty of Forestry (2), Faculty of Science (1), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (1), Institute of Bioscience (1), Putra Science Park (2), and also participation from two independent artists and the Natural History Museum, Malaysia. NYAWA '15 consists of 24 artefacts in 5 chapters: 'Life Science', 'Culture', 'Therapy', 'Design' and 'Innovation'. The NYAWA '15 exhibition is being held at one of the

locations under the eDU-PARK®'s edu-tourism programme which is the Galeri Serdang. The art gallery is located at the Faculty of Design and Architecture. Galeri Serdang has started to gain recognitions nationally and internationally through its activities and the latest was when it hosted the longest abstract painting in Malaysia and the event was inducted in the Malaysia Book of Records in September 2015.

The NYAWA '15 : BIRD exhibition will run for two months from 19th October to 8th. December 2015. It was officiated by Madam Nor Yahati Awang, Under Secretary of the Tourism Licensing Division, to represent the Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz on 27th. October 2015.

The success of NYAWA is the product of close collaboration of its participating members who share the same fierce passion and excitement in the project. Alas, it was also during the completion of NYAWA '15 that the team was tested with the demise of two of its participating members, one was a brilliant scientist and another was a very passionate artist.

It is with a great hope that NYAWA will continue in years to come and keeps contributing to new knowledge and ideas. Borrowing the words of an author, Henry Van Dyke: "Use what talents you possess, the woods would be silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best".

Fly High NYAWA!



editorial

Tengku Rinalfi Putra Tengku Azizan

In terms of functionality, while very different, artists and scientists, work on the very same platform that makes us view the world as exciting as it is. The NYAWA exhibition promotes a merger between the two functionalities. If one can find the world exciting from each view, the arts and the science, then one would surely be fascinated if the two views were combined in a single form, where arts and science meet.

This year's NYAWA theme could not have been a better example where arts can be combined with science. Birds have been the source of inspiration of many artworks and have been the subject of numerous scientific observations. The grace of its flight and the beauty of its slender form portray symbols of strength and freedom as well as adaptability.

The earliest painting of birds came in the form of an ancient species of flightless birds found in Australia, the Geniyornis, thought to be from 40,000 years ago. Since then birds were depicted in many forms of arts and culture, bearing symbols of freedom and peace, as well as strength and power. Countries and states adopted bird species to become their insignia such as the Bald Eagle of USA, the Garuda of Indonesia and nearer to home, the Kenyalang of Sarawak. Some bird species were adopted as symbols of a nation merely due to biogeographic reasons, such as the kiwi in New Zealand.

This year's NYAWA exhibition seeks to entice our minds with unique artefacts made up of several working chapters.

Chapter 1 contains introductory information on birds. Chapter 2: Magnificent Life of Birds, presents works related to life sciences with artefacts highlighting the uniqueness of birds from the perspective of its biological importance. Chapter 3: Culture Stimuli, touches the cultural aspect of birds and its subtle yet significant influence in traditional and contemporary works of art. Chapter 4: Soul Treatment brings about the therapeutic values brought on by birds either from the perspective of medicine and surgery, food therapy, and artistic therapy in hospice care. Chapter 5: Avian-centric Design embraces the significance of birds in design where elements of a graceful bird are incorporated in the physical form of a structure and built up. Finally, in Chapter 6: Innovative Visualization Practice, bird themed artefacts are made and displayed innovatively either by using recyclable materials, novel methods in design, unique brush strokes and onto another level of conscience, innovative visualization.

Birds have affected us in different aspects of our lives. In many ways, our perception of birds is rather diabolical. Birds are eaten as a form of delicacy or treated as generic food. Birds are kept as pets but sometimes abhorred as pests. Birds have been in our lives for as long as human history. The aura of birds have permeated in many of our poetry, and glorified in many of our songs. In this many years also, birds have celebrated protection as well as endured extinction. It is without doubt that the adoption of Bird as this year's NYAWA theme would further enhance our curious minds to embrace and explore the special world of birds.



curator's note

Nasir Baharuddin

Now NYAWA has come to its fourth edition, where BIRD is the chosen theme. For this year, the exhibition tries to expose the nature and behavior of a bird from various forms of interpretation. The intention is to conjure up and stimulate another aspect of discovery in natural sciences which will try to educate the hidden part of this creature. Normally when someone thinks about bird it is always associated with the idea of 'flying'. But it is more than that where it also can relate to medication, colours, language, performance, home, and garden.

Most products presented for this year try to enhance the creative and scientific processes as sources of representation according to individual disciplines. Even so, the selection of the exhibition is based on certain seriousness of intent to persist in the production of practise and research process, hence, it gives the opportunity to show and encourage more research forms that can build an interesting approach, and can open a new platform for the public to know and learn.

In this vein, I have also decided to angle and allow more on practice development rather than the background of any specific skill or field. NYAWA '15 even brings the public to participate by creating individual sensitivities in capturing the beautiful side of a bird with 'instagram' as a way to engage through the lenses of photography. The exhibition also inspires people to make a spiritual connection with themselves and the world around them, to reach beyond the things that are binding within our society, to liberate. By this exhibition, the curator also intended to break down the barrier of academia to make the research accessible to the laymen. Here the products which were selected are mainly

to extend the discourse beyond the gallery and university, hoping to create a dialogue among academicians and the general public.

Those of us who have been privileged to be involved with this exhibition year after year have seen it develop from what was a very modest show in 2012 to a more important event which can attract more people to participate and learn, that raises awareness and appreciation of beauty in the context of natural sciences. The success of the exhibition has allowed it to continue each year, with different themes and different researchers and designers featured, but always with the same commitment to giving visitors the opportunity to see innovative works of artistic setting and presentation. In creating the production, these exhibitors continue to propose and explore new and exciting directions. Can continuous questioning a subject matter so deeply ever truly be exhausted? The freshness and potency of these productions are testament to the production process and leads in the practice of visual and scientific communications different from normal academic process.

This year we welcome new researchers as well as those who have exhibited in previous years. In particular, visitors can expect an exciting range of research products to enjoy, expressed in many ways with a variety of materials and approaches. NYAWA continues its commitment to artistic expression, craftsmanship and a desire to communicate through scientific and artistic products, a direct and fundamental physical experience and interpretation of the BIRDS around us that are a part of our lives.