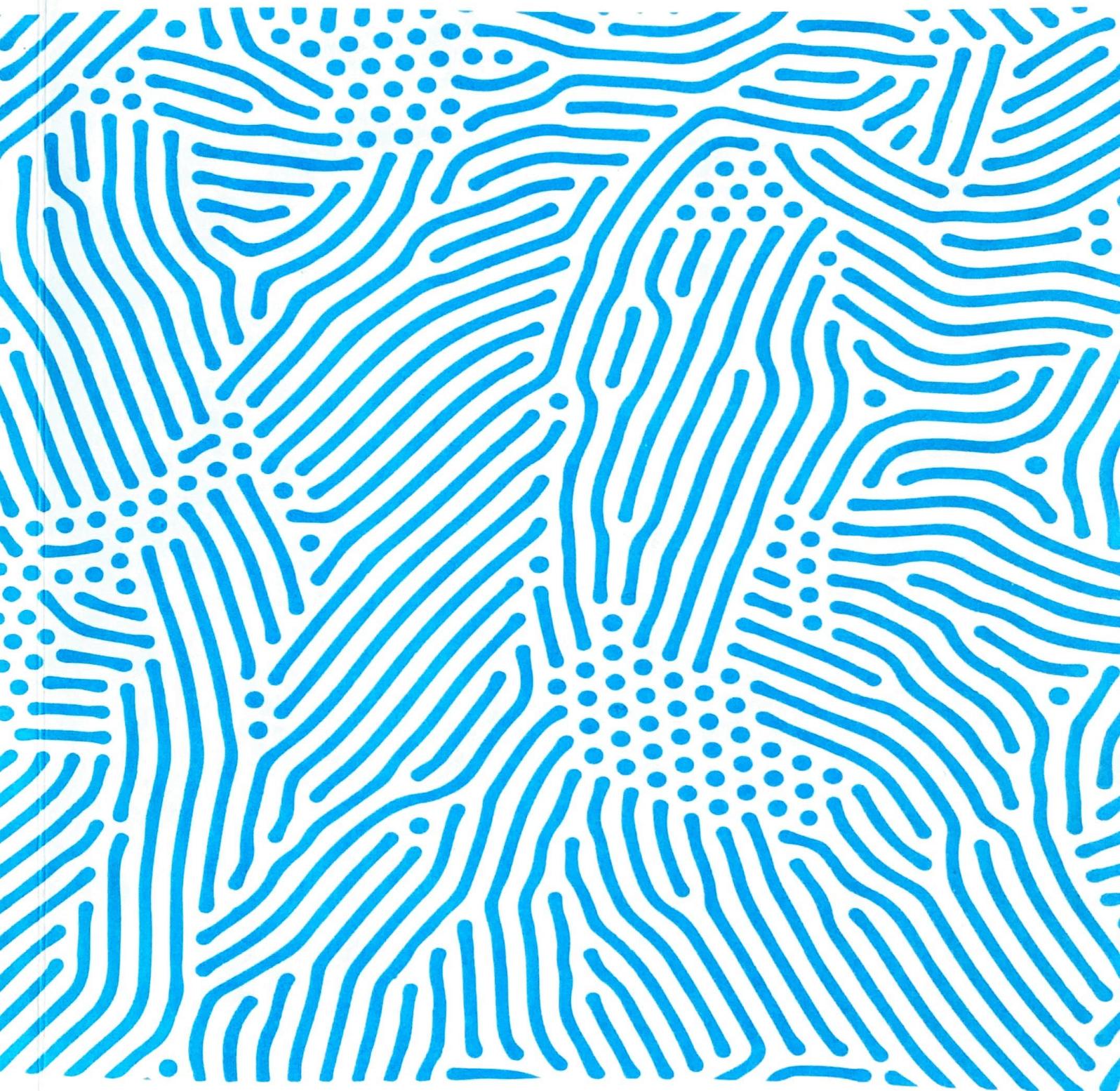


# BREATHING **the waves**



# BREATHING the w a v e s

Virtual Art Exhibition  
at the Academy of Fine Arts,  
Gdansk, Poland

# BREATHING **the waves**

Editor-in-Chief  
Shureen Faris Abd. Shukor

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## MESSAGE BY THE MINISTER



PATRON  
YB DATUK SERI DR. NORAINI AHMAD  
Minister of Higher Education  
Malaysia

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations on the launching of the art exhibition called "Breathing the Waves" at the Academy of Fine Arts, Gdansk, Poland.

The art exhibition is the epitome of earnest diligence and highly driven collaboration between researchers from several universities in Malaysia together with their counterparts in Gdansk.

I applaud the efforts of Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi MARA, and Universiti Tenaga Nasional in establishing a channel to showcase their talent to those outside Malaysia.

Art can be a strong medium in uniting communities and nations. Unity has become the main pillar during the formation of Malaysia and is part of the education agenda since 1956. It functions in closing the gap between races, religions, and even distances.

On behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, I hope that the collaboration between Malaysian higher education institutions and the Academy of Fine Arts in Poland will continue in the years to come as we sculpt achievements in cultural understanding and knowledge exchange experiences.

In line with the mission of the Ministry "Sustaining a quality higher education ecosystem to develop the potential of individuals to meet national aspirations", I hope that this exhibition will spark the passion and the longing for new knowledge among researchers in both countries.

Congratulations once again to all who have made this exhibition a success.

## FOREWORD



VICE CHANCELLOR  
YH. PROF. DATO' DR. MOHD. ROSLAN SULAIMAN  
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

Alhamdulillah, praise to ALLAH SWT, with His grace and permission, we have been blessed with many proud achievements despite our situation of dealing with the new norms. On that note, I would like to congratulate Universiti Putra Malaysia and the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk on the launch of the art exhibition called *Breathing the Waves*, held at the Academy of Fine Arts, Gdansk, Poland on 21 January 2022.

The success of the exhibition goes to the researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia, together with fellow researchers from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi MARA, and Universiti Tenaga Nasional. The Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk should be highly praised for providing the venue and expertise in jointly curating the work at the Academy's gallery.

Indeed, this success is our success together in line with the call of *Al-Falah*. Therefore, I humbly call and hope that the commitment of all in UPM can continue to be maintained to ensure that UPM's role as a Tower of Knowledge continues to be preserved.

The collaboration between UPM and the Academy of Fine Arts in Poland is in line with UPM's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which functions as the anchor that affirms the university's commitment in achieving its vision and mission by upholding knowledge for the progress of the country and the well-being of the people.

On this occasion, I would like to once again record my congratulations to all parties who have worked hard for this exhibition.

## INTRODUCTION

### BREATHING the waves

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to live in an ambiguous norm situation. People today are either searching to recover or are found to be recorded with uncertainty while fitting the new norm of living amidst the pandemic into their daily schedule. People are hoping to survive and feel secure within their own space. Additionally, many people are also hoping to search for a new form of energy to build the 'self' in situations of coping with uncertain information reflected from the digital media environment, along with a manner that is provocative, slandering and, full of comical parody. Yet the information is slowly shifting into a language of order and disorder, between the believed and disbelieved, discomfort and fear moving towards situations that have affected the normal behaviour. The exhibition 'Breathing the Waves' focuses on the idea of distance. It tries to cross a new cultural border about imagination and spatial representation between two places in re-locating the visual image to a different setting. The exhibition is a suggestion on how breathing the waves will be presented and speculates a new distance within artistic creation, which might construct interrelation, communication, and the discovery of various deliberate meanings. The artists are portraying the passion of the imaginary and how to put in place a new fiction of thought. The Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk provides a destination in relating the imagination of place as a reality and is brought together to relocate the artwork to different readers.

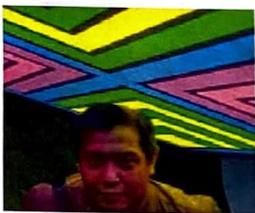


## Pakai Lavli

Hakimi Halim

Pakai Lavli was the artist personal experience that he encountered. He saw many Bajau Laut applied on their face a kind of traditional cosmetic mask to protect their face from the sun. It is like sun block for them. He asked, "Apa di muka kau tu?" (What is on your face). They responded "Lavli". From that the artist can related the mask that they use with the popular cosmetic mask in Malaysia "Fair and Lovely". The series of the artworks emphasize the face of the sea people. It was recorded to represent the struggle of these sea people that depend their life on the sea, far from civilization, keep themselves isolated from society and globalization. The Bajau Laut are stateless, living without system of life and free from civilization structure. Subconsciously it makes them unique. Some people see this as a problem, political problematic, humanity challenging and etc. but the artist gave them voice through their powerful face and expression.





### Hakimi Halim

Hakimi bin Halim is a lecturer at the Faculty of Applied and Creative Art (FACA) Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). As a photographer, and visual artist, Hakimi is a serious practitioner in the art field especially fine art, photography, and digital media.



### Muhammad Hafiz Mastro

Muhammad Hafiz Mastro currently works as a Senior Embedded/Firmware Engineer. His work experience includes electronics engineering, hardware, and technical requirements, firmware specifications, electronics schematic, and system design. Previously, as a freelancer engineer, Hafiz has design and developed PCBs and IoT systems used in interactive arts using Arduino, Raspberry Pi, PIC Microcontroller and Phyton

### Hishamuddin Siri

Hishamuddin is a lecturer at the university of Malaysia Sarawak's fine arts programme. His expertise is in visual ethnography and digital visual culture research. He has also experimented with the creation of works of art using new media aimed at the rural population of Sarawak/Borneo.



### Mohamad Zamhari Abol Hassan

Mohamad Zamhari bin Abol Hassan is a lecturer teaching Fine Art Programme, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. His area of expertise includes ceramics, fine art, photography (aerial) and current technology practices. He is also involved with many physical, digital and hybrid art exhibitions. As an art practitioner, he also involved in various form of visual arts, video productions and book publications.



We would like to extend our deepest thanks to the following, without whom this project would not have been possible:

YB. Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad

YH. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd. Roslan Sulaiman

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Assoc. Prof. LAr. Dr. Suhardi Maulan

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The artist whose works are included in the exhibition and the writers who have contributed to this publication.

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