

SILVANA S. FOUNDATION

IAN TEH

RENEWABLE COEXISTENCE

17 SEPT - 9 OCT 2022

COMMISSION AWARD 2ND EDITION

Renewable Coexistence

Introduction

Featured at the Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) for the second time, the Silvana S. Foundation Commission Award recognizes artists' ability to interweave environmental, wildlife preservation, and humanitarian concerns into their photography. The winner of this edition's Silvana S. Foundation Commission Award is Ian Teh, a British-Malaysian documentary photographer whose works are motivated by the environmental issues of urbanization and development.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted widespread, collective reflections on the changes that are needed for a more equitable and sustainable world. With our human lives intrinsically intertwined with other animals, how can we coexist in sustainable ways that benefit human beings and the planet? This second edition of the commission award welcomes explorations of renewal, regeneration, and synergistic co-existence with a sensitivity toward the conditions needed for our shared survival for generations to come.

Renewable Coexistence features new commissions by Ian Teh, *The Line of Least Resistance*, alongside selected works by Silvana Sutanto presented by Silvana S. Foundation. A special mention is awarded to Farzana Akhtar to highlight her project, *A Litany for Survival*, and the importance of her social message to the public at large. Her works will be presented as a digital showcase at Mizuma Gallery.

Renewable Coexistence is jointly organised by Silvana S. Foundation, Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), and Mizuma Gallery. Part of the proceeds from this exhibition will go towards Make-A-Wish Singapore.

Ian Teh



Winner of the Silvana S. Foundation Commission Award,
2nd Edition

Ian Teh (b. 1971 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) is a British documentary photographer whose work is motivated by environmental and social issues. In an era of continuous urbanisation and development, at its roots, his work explores the underlying dreams and desires in society and the individual, and the sacrifices often made to realise them. In the age of the selfie, Teh has returned to the classical monumental landscape. His panoramic series, *Traces: Landscapes in Transition on the Yellow River*, is an alarm, an announcement of terrible beauty, heralding the advancing threat we pose to our planet. Ian has published three books, *Undercurrents* (2008), *Traces* (2011), and *Confluence* (2014). His work is part of the permanent collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), and the Hood Museum in the USA. He has received several honours, including a grant from the Pulitzer Center in 2018 and presented his work on climate change at the 2018 National Geographic Photography Seminar. Ian Teh currently lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Line of Least Resistance

Ian Teh

East of Kuala Lumpur stands the lush verdant hills of the Titiwangsa range, significantly bio-diverse with areas of primary forest and a critical water catchment area for the city's population. At the edge of the woodland is Klang Valley, or Greater Kuala Lumpur, an urban conglomeration of adjoining towns connecting to the capital, stretching westwards towards the coastline by the Malacca Straits. In between are pockets of forested greenery. Their edges, usually frayed, are threatened by the endless expanse of encroaching concrete and tarmac —materials synonymous with modernity.

Compared to other South East Asian metropolises, Greater Kuala Lumpur is uniquely green. Its forests are biodiversity hot spots where researchers continue to make scientific discoveries. Forests within cities are an essential offset to the urban sprawl. They provide oxygen, capture greenhouse gases, filter water supplies, mitigate erosion and floods, and cool built-up areas while sustaining biodiversity. They bestow residents with opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural enrichment. Indeed, the city's green spaces boast an outstanding network of many community-maintained trails, crags and waterfalls that are little known. These are priceless ecological and cultural services unaccounted for in GDP reports and, perhaps, because of it, undervalued by the state. In an era of climate change where recent years have made explicit how much our homes and lives are at risk, Klang Valley's ability to re-evaluate the importance of its remaining forested lands will determine its long-term survival.

Greater Kuala Lumpur is the eighth largest metropolis in South East Asia, according to a 2010 World Bank report. It describes its urban sprawl as more extensive than megacities like Jakarta, Manila, and Seoul. In contrast, its low population density ranks it 22nd. Presently, unoccupied homes are at their peak in the Klang Valley. This data indicates longer work commutes, especially on the city's extensive highways. Traffic jams abound. State authorities raise funds by selling government-controlled forested land, and banks provide free services for buying new properties compared to existing ones. It makes for ineffective city planning, more pollution and loss of woodlands. The addiction to the current model of continual development needs new land; too often, the path of least resistance is in clearing forests.



Klang Gates Dam was completed in 1958 and was the first dam built for water supply in Malaysia. The reservoir impounded by the dam is one of the primary drinking water sources for Klang Valley residents. Beside the dam is Klang Gate Ridge, the biggest quartz ridge in the world. The spine is 200m wide and stretches 22km. The ridge is rich in vegetation, supporting at least 265 plant species, including 5 endemic ones.

Ian Teh
Klang Gates Dam
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



A view of the Kuala Lumpur cityscape from the edge of the Titiwangsa range. From the horizon, Kuala Lumpur's skyscrapers connect to other districts by unfolding into an urban sprawl of low and mid-rise buildings deep into the Klang Valley, Selangor, Malaysia.

Ian Teh
Kuala Lumpur Cityscape
August 2022
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



This area was recently cleared of woodland to allow for the construction of a new luxury residential development. Many of Greater Kuala Lumpur's remaining greenery are continually threatened by further growth. Forests not cleared and built on are usually steep hills, swamps and mangroves -- terrain that is traditionally more challenging to build on.

Ian Teh
A New Luxury Residential Development
August 2022
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Locals fishing by the Klang River in the city centre. The Klang River is too polluted for practical or recreational use. The Dutch non-profit, The Ocean Cleanup (TOC), identified the river as one of the 50 most polluted rivers in the world. Since 2021, Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) has improved water quality to class III (moderately good) or better for almost six months of the year.

Ian Teh
Fishing by the Klang River
August 2022
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



A view of the new expressway, the East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE), currently under construction. The road cuts through and segments the Ulu Gombak and Ampang forests. These biodiverse woodlands are vital carbon sinks and water catchment areas. The destruction of even a part of these forests will result in more dry spells and poorer water and air quality for Selangor residents. Villages and townships near the construction have reported more severe floods caused by the road construction that has damaged the area's natural hydrology systems.

Ian Teh
The East Klang Valley Expressway
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Ian Teh
Quarry
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

Hanson Quarry, on the eastern edge of the forested hills of Greater Kuala Lumpur. This region of forests connects to the central spine of Peninsula Malaysia. The company is the largest producer of aggregates and asphalt nationwide.

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Various expressways converge at an interchange. Greater Kuala Lumpur highways are extensive and more developed than its public transportation systems. Large profits are made by building highways and levying tolls in large cities. In 2014, the annual revenue for the toll roads in existence at that time was RM 5.42 billion.

Ian Teh
Highway Interchange
August 2022
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Ian Teh
A Village in the City
August 2022
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kampung Palimbayan has seen extensive development in the adjacent unprotected forests. The village has recently suffered from landslides caused by heavy rain and flooding.

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



A view of an interchange and the new expressway, the East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE), currently under construction. The road cuts through and segments the Ulu Gombak and Ampang forests. These biodiverse woodlands are vital carbon sinks and water catchment areas. The destruction of even a part of these forests will result in more dry spells and poorer water and air quality for Selangor residents. Villages and townships near the construction have reported more severe floods caused by the road construction that has damaged the area's natural hydrology systems.

Ian Teh
The East Klang Valley Expressway Construction
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



The Chung family goes out on a day trip to Jeram Kubang Gajah, also affectionately known as Sofea Jane waterfalls. The family love the outdoors and wants their children to grow up with a keen appreciation for nature. They believe in its ability to educate and be a source of wonder. The new EKVE construction is located in the forests nearby, endangering large tracts of this healthy and biodiverse woodland for further development.

Ian Teh
The Chung Family at Jeram Kubang Gajah
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Dr Dzaeman Dzulkipli uses a machete to hack away at overgrown foliage on a trail he built and maintains on the Titiwangsa Range. Trail building is a conservation strategy that helps communities enjoy and feel invested in the threatened woodlands in the Klang Valley area.

Ian Teh
Dr Dzaeman in the Titiwangsa Range
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP



Trees and plants on a trail in the Ampang forest area. These forests start at the city's edge and connect to the Titiwangsa range. The region is a biodiversity hotspot and is an important water catchment area for the Greater Kuala Lumpur population.

Ian Teh
Ampang Forest
August 2022
Selangor, Malaysia

pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl
Size A: 111 × 74 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
Size B: 60 × 40 cm, edition of 8 + 1 AP

Silvana Sutanto



Indonesia-born Silvana Sutanto (1957 – 2016) spent most of her adult life in Singapore. As she discovered her voice through the photographic medium, and joy in conveying stories through images, she set out on a dedicated path to deepen her practice. She undertook an apprenticeship with a professional photographer in Hong Kong that spanned several years, and later travelled to remote regions such as Kenya, Papua New Guinea, and Alaska. These expeditions allowed her to engage with the natural world through the lens of her camera. Silvana was fearless in her pursuit of the perfect shot, stepping out bravely into untrodden terrain and often braving the wild in harsh conditions. Her keen eye was recognised with numerous exhibitions and awards.

Renewable Coexistence

Works by Silvana Sutanto

Text by Silvana Foundation

Agats Budaya Festival, West Papua

Agats, West Papua, is home to the Asmat people in Indonesia. Despite not being as developed as other modern cities, they live a simple and sustainable life with their natural environment, a rarity in this rapidly modernising world. This series was taken during the Agats Budaya Festival, an annual celebration of Asmat culture and tradition. Silvana saw their lifestyle as something to aspire to achieve balance between modernity and Mother Nature.

Silvana also explored similar sustainable festivals and societies in Indonesia, such as the Pacu Jawi festival in Padang, where the locals celebrate the end of the rice harvest by holding bull races across the paddy fields, and the Tenggerese horsemen in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park, who live sustainably with the local flora and fauna in a nationally conserved, active volcanic area.

Silvana Sutanto
Renewable Coexistence
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1AP



Agats lies in the mangrove area in West Papua. Protected by mountains and ocean, the Agats people have been able to preserve their culture for many generations. Their houses are built on stilts to withstand the natural forces in the area, and the people have learnt to coexist sustainably with their surrounding environment.

Silvana Sutanto
To the Great Race
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Men prepare for the boat competition in the Asmat Cultural Festival. The festival has been going on for more than 40 years, and it aims to preserve the noble values of the Asmat culture for the sake of their children and grandchildren.

Silvana Sutanto
Gathering for the Festival
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



The local Agats people gather for the start of the Agats Cultural Festival. The festival lasts for 3 days every October, and it begins with the local people gathering at the main square dressed in their traditional clothings before the festivities begins.

Silvana Sutanto
Unity in Diversity
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Senior Asmat men gather in the square before the start of the festivities. The festival celebrates the traditional family values of the Asmat cultures with all the people of different backgrounds. Family links are especially important in Asmat society, to be passed down from present to future generations.

Silvana Sutanto
Seeds for the Future
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Asmat children prepare mangrove seedlings for planting under the stilt houses for natural support. These children are the true treasures for the future of Asmat society in maintaining their traditional values and advancing their society into the future.



Silvana Sutanto
Parade Around Agats
October 2013
Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
40 × 60 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP

Asmat men play their drum instruments while they parade around the town square. The festival gathers all the Asmat people for 3 days with cultural activities such as wood carving demonstrations, boat competitions, and auction of artworks.

Silvana Sutanto

Facing the Future

October 2013

Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
40 × 60 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP

A second generation Papuan native in traditional costume ponders the future of his people. One day he will be amongst the leader of his people, and he carries the burden of maintaining the traditional value of his people, as well as embracing future ideas to bring his people forward.



Silvana Sutanto

Best Friends

October 2013

Agats, Papua, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper

60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Two children found some quiet time to connect with each other in the midst of the festivities. Special connections like this are important to maintain the fabric as future generations mature to lead into the unknown.

Silvana Sutanto

In Control

September 2009

Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
60 × 40 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Pacu Jawi is a traditional bull race in Padang, where the jockey stands on a wooden plough while the bull runs over a muddy rice field. The aim of the race is to see the bulls' ability to run straight across the field. The local people - the people of Tanah Datar - hold this race annually to celebrate the end of the rice harvest.

Silvana Sutanto
Adventurous Spirit
September 2009
Bromo, East Java, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
45 × 30 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Horsemen from the Tengger Tribe in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park race across the plains. The Tenggerese people are indigenous to the area and adhere to ancient Hindu beliefs.



Silvana Sutanto

Returning Home

September 2009

Bromo, East Java, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
45 × 30 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP

Horsemen from the Tengger Tribe ride across the sand sea in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park. The national park is the only conservation area in Indonesia with a sand sea, the Tengger sand sea.

Silvana Sutanto
Sunrise over Bromo
September 2009
Bromo, East Java, Indonesia

pigment print on FineArt Baryta paper
100 × 67 cm, edition of 10 + 1 AP



Located in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park, East Java, is an active volcanic area, with more than 3,500 locals living around the area. This area is also home to about 137 species of birds, 22 species of mammals, and 4 species of reptiles.

About Silvana S. Foundation

Silvana S. Foundation is a non-profit organization which builds upon the legacy of Silvana Regina Sutanto, an award winning photographer who supported underprivileged children and environmental conservation throughout her life. The foundation continues her life's work through initiatives which unite photography and philanthropy to bring hope to children and wildlife in the Asia Pacific region. The foundation's first exhibition, *Wild and Free*, was held in August 2017 at the Visual Arts Centre, Singapore.

For more information: <https://silvanasfoundation.sg>

About Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF)

SIPF is the longest-running photography festival in Southeast Asia which aims to advance the art and appreciation of photography. SIPF functions as a key platform to discover, nurture and propel Southeast Asian photographers onto the international stage. Through its associate programmes, the festival hopes to engage the public and raise levels of visual literacy, with its firm belief that photography can be enjoyed by all.

For more information: <https://sipf.sg>

About Mizuma Gallery

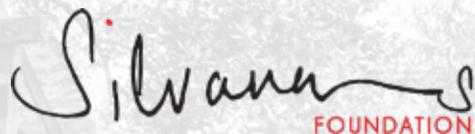
Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion of East Asian artists in the region as well as the introduction of Southeast Asian artists to the international art scene. From 2014 to 2019, the artist residency space *Rumah Kijang Mizuma* opened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to create a new platform for dialogue by supporting exchanges between East Asia and Southeast Asia. Later in 2018, *Mizuma & Kips* in New York, USA, as a shared collaboration between Mizuma Gallery from Tokyo and Singapore and Kips Gallery from New York.

For more information: <https://mizuma.sg>

About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond.

Renewable Coexistence: Silvana S. Foundation Commission Award Exhibition, 2nd Edition is jointly organised by



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Sun: 11am - 6pm
Closed on Mondays and Public
Holidays

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