

Umibaizurah Mahir

Full name: Umibaizurah Mahir @ Ismail

Born: 1975 in Johor, Malaysia

Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Art and Design (Ceramics), Faculty of Art & Design, MARA University of Technology (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia

Diploma in Education (Art), Faculty of Art & Design MARA University of Technology (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia

When the word “ceramics” is mentioned, what most people imagine would likely be ornate traditional household objects and tableware. Any association with, or notion of, contemporary art might just be furthest from what one’s mind may typically conjure. Until, of course, they become acquainted with the clay and ceramics artworks by Umibaizurah Mahir @ Ismail, or Umi for short.

Seeing her work, the idea that Umi pushes the traditional boundaries of ceramics would be an understatement. Over the many years that she has been active, ceramics has successfully been used as a medium to address and tackle many contemporary issues, occurring both domestically and globally. Among them are unfettered development at the expense of the environment, the state of the nation, and humanity through the lenses of economics and politics.

The seriousness of her subject matter is camouflaged by the playful visual quality of her ceramic sculptures and assemblages. Many of her works are imagined hybrids of species, objects and machinery, linking the multitude of issues concerning the modern world we live in.

As sublimely toy-like as they may appear, these works of contemporary art are certainly not items for child play, but instead are deeply rooted in meaning and aesthetic, as can be surmised from the intricate surface imagery each *objet d’art* possesses.

I regard clay as a form of vehicle for communication between religion, people, and across the cultures. For me, it provides a means for constantly evaluating our place in our time.

Umibaizurah Mahir @ Ismail

extracted from artist’s profile at Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale website

(<https://jakartacontemporaryceramic.wordpress.com/history-of-the-jccb/jccb1-2009-2010/artists-2/umibaizurah-mahirismail/> - accessed on March 12, 2017)

Awards (selected)

- 2010 **Top Under 40**, Prestige Malaysia – Poised For Power 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2007 **Top 10 Winners**, The Young Contemporaries '06, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Consolation Prize, Mekar Citra 2007, Galeri Shah Alam, Malaysia
- 2005 National Arts Council Arts Grant, Singapore
- 2004 **Top Five Winners**, Clay Sculpture, Collaboration with Children, Tokoname City Culture Hall, Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Grant for IWCAT Japan Workshop, awarded by MARA (UiTM), Selangor, Malaysia
- 1999 **Finalist**, Nokia Arts Awards – Asia Pacific, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Honourable Mention, Philip Morris Malaysian Art Awards '99, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
First Prize, Johor Art Competition '99, Yayasan Warisan Johor, Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia
- 1998 **Dean's List (Ceramics)**, School of Art & Design, MARA University of Technology, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
- 1995 **Consolation Award**, National Day Competition, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 **Fragile** The Edge Galerie, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2012 **Tag** Wei Ling Contemporary, The Gardens Mall, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2009 **Hybrid** Wei Ling Gallery, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2017	Art Jakarta 2017	Ritz-Carlton Jakarta Pacific Place, Jakarta, Indonesia
	Belantara	Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2016	Bye Bye 2016	Musee Maenaka, Miyagi, Japan.
	Art AID 16: Love For Sale	White Box, MAP@Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Art Expo Malaysia 2016	MATRADE Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (with Segaris Art Center)
	Breathe	Galeri Chandan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Transit A2	HOM Art Trans, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Art Stage 2016	Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore (with Taksu Gallery)
	Chanpuru 3-Man Show	Mominoki Gallery, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan
2015	Start Art Fair: A Door Ajar	Saatchi Gallery, London (with Galeri Chandan)
	Chanpuru	Echigo-Tsumari Niigata, Japan

2015 (cont.)	
Art Expo Malaysia 2015	MATRADE Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (with Segaris Art Center)
Art Aid 2015 Charity Show	Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Kita 3-Man Show	T&S Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
The Space Between	Wei Ling Contemporary, The Gardens Mall, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2014	
Diversity: Malaysian Arts	La Galleria Pall Mall, Central London, London
Art Bazaar Berlin 2014	Messe Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Route 19 International Exchange Exhibition, Malaysia & Holland	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Art Expo Malaysia 2014	MATRADE Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (with Artcube Gallery)
Samsung Masterpieces Malaysia	Galeri Petronas, Suria KLCC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Köelner Liste The Fair for Contemporary Art	Cologne, Germany
Malaysian Eye Project Exhibition and book launch of <i>Prudential Malaysian Eye: Contemporary Malaysian Art</i>	White Box, MAP@Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tomorrow's Land 3-Man Show	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.
2013	
The Opening	Art Cube Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia..
Kembara Jiwa Fukuoka: Expanded Passion	Galeri Chandan, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
Natural Theatre	Annendaelse Hoeve 107, by artists KC61, Echt, Netherland
Bridge: Dari Utara ke Selatan Project Installation	Esplanade Concourse, Esplanade, Singapore
5 Seasons	Norbert Dabekausen Kunst Gallery, Sittard, Netherland.
Century of The East	Silpakorn University, Thailand.
SEKAKI	Segaris Art Center, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Spice 2013	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
2012	
Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale #2	Indonesia Visual Art & Ceramic Museum and North Art Space Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Nam Yi Seom International Ceramics Festival	Incheon, Korea
Conception in Reconciliation Kembara Jiwa Project 2012	Selasar Sunaryo, Bandung and Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
TRANSIT A4	House of MATAHATI, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art for Nature	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia

2012 (cont.)		
	Suarasa	Segaris Art Centre, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Songsang	Galeri Chandan, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2011	World Travel Market 2011	ExCel London, London
	Cheongju International Craft Biennale 2011	Cheongju, South Korea
	Refreshingly Different	Taksu Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
	The Malaysian Rice Plates Project	KL Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Manifestasi Merdeka	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Art For Nature: Here Today Gone Tomorrow	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
	Cage / Uncage	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	New Painting and Sculpture	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
	Women and Their Landscapes	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
	LOCALS ONLY!	Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Rogue Wave! Art Stage Singapore Fringe Project	Taksu Gallery, Singapore
2010	The Young Contemporaries '10	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	TIANG SERI Two-Man Show	Ernst & Young, Singapore.
	Art For Nature: Survivor	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
	Paperworks: Marks and Trails of Artistic Minds	Galeri Chandan, Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Thou Art Women 2010 World Expo Shanghai	Shanghai, China
	Five	Jiyugaoka Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	Boleh!	Taksu Gallery, Singapore
	3-Man Show	Azabujuban Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
	International Exchange Residency: Tanah Timur	Kyouei-gama Gallery, Tokoname, Japan
	The Tiger Show	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	TAKSU Singapore's New Space Opening	Taksu Gallery, Singapore
LOCALS ONLY!	Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
2009	Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale #1	North Art Space, Jakarta, Indonesia
	1 Malaysia, Beyond The Canvas 18@8	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Tanah Timur: International Exchange Residency (Malaysia & Japan)	Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Contemporary Malaysia Art	Gallery Archana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2009 (cont.)	
<i>Tanah Air</i>	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Malaysia Services Exhibition 2009 (MSE 2009)	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
The Contemporary Ceramic Asia Ceramic Network 09	Penang State Art Gallery, George Town, Penang, Malaysia
Asia Ceramics Network 08 Cyber & Catalog Exhibition	Seoul, South Korea
2008	
Cabinet	Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Vice and Versus 18@8	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Emerging Asia 2008 Asia Arts Network	KEPCO Gallery Seoul, South Korea
Art Triangle 2008	Sokka Gakkai, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Wet Seasons	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Art For Nature: Shifting Boundaries	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Mind, Body, and Soul	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Out Of The Mould – The Age Of Statement	Malmo Art Museum, Malmo, Sweden
2007	
Mapped	Jendela Visual Arts Space, Esplanade, Singapore
International Contemporary Ceramic: Asia Ceramics Network & Selsius	National Art Gallery Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The Young Contemporaries 2006	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Out Of The Mould – The Age Of Statement	Petronas Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Jejak	Galeri Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia
Exhibition	Pace Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Warning! Tapir Crossing Two-Man Show with Ahmad Shukri Mohamed	Grand Opening of Patisatu Studio, Puncak Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Ceramic and Textile	Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Kunang- Kunang III	Studio-Gallery Kunang-Kunang, Selangor, Malaysia
Open House	Kebun Mimpi Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Mekar Citra 2007	Galeri Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Virtuosity Women's Show	Galeri Seni Johor, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
Matahati Fund-Raising	Sokka Gakkai, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art For Nature: '00.15 Superstar'	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Setahun Bersama	The Weld, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2006	
18@8 Contemporary Artists from Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur & Karachi, Pakistan
Art Invitational	Bank Negara Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Open House	Gema Rimba, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

2006 (cont.)	
Sculpture Show	Gema Rimba, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art For Nature: Feed Me! An Exploration of Appetites	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Tabik/Salute A tribute Exhibition for Jeri Azhari	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Arts @ Earth	XOAS Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
Arts @ Earth	KL Performing Arts Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art Salon Show	XOAS Gallery, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
TOYS Two-man Show with Ahmad Shukri Mohamed	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2005	
Pop Culture	Maya Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art For Nature: Taman Sari WWF	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Grand Opening	Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Takung	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Form-ing Materials and Processes Two-Man Show with Ahmad Abu Bakar	Sculpture Square, Singapore
2004	
Fifth teen	Darling Muse Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Art For Nature: Paradise Lost/Paradise Found	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Young Contemporary Award 2004	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
IWCAT, JULY - AUGUST '04	The International Workshop of Ceramic Art in Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Tokoname City Culture Hall	Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
INAX	Togaku Kobo Gallery, Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
The World Children's Painting	Tokoname City Library, Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Clay Design – Collaboration with Children	Tokoname City Culture Hall, Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Symposium: Brush Calligraphy	Tokoname Higashi Elementary School, Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Yakimono, Tokoname Ceramic Festival	Tokoname, Aichi, Japan
Immersion	Maya Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2003	
Wahana Collaboration Exhibition, Singapore and Malaysian	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Games People Play	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
Formalisma Tampak Dalam Seni Khat & Seni Tampak Malaysia	Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka , Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia
Virus joint exhibition with Ahmad Shukri Mohamed	Art Season Gallery, Singapore.
Impressions	Shah Alam Gallery, Selangor. Malaysia.

2003 (cont.)		
	Incubator series Collaboration work with artist Ahmad Shukri Mohamed	Rimbun Dahan, Selangor, Malaysia
2001	OPEN SHOW 2001	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Phillip Morris Malaysian Art Awards '01	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1999	Johor Exhibition	Yayasan Warisan Johor, Johor Bahru, Malaysia
	Nokia Arts Awards – Asia Pacific	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Philip Morris Malaysian Art Awards '99	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	The Malaysian Insurance Institute	Mandarin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1998	Degree Show	School of Art & Design, MARA University of Technology, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
1997	Young Contemporary '97	National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Workshops, Residencies & Projects

2015	International Exchange Residency , Doronco Studio, Kamariyahigashi, Yokohama, Japan
2014	Art In The Park 'Public Art', Perdana Botanical Gardens, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
	Route 19 International Exchange Residency , Patisatustudio, Selangor, Malaysia
	Samsung Masterpieces Digital Art Project by Samsung
2013	Bridge: <i>Dari Utara ke Selatan</i> , Project Installation, Esplanade Concourse, Esplanade, Singapore
	5 Seasons , International Exchange Residency, Echt, the Netherlands
2012	International workshop , Century of The East, Silpakorn University, Thailand
	Nami Seom International Ceramics Festival , South Korea
2009	Tanah Timur International Exchange Residency , Tokoname, Japan
2004	IWCAT (International Workshop of Ceramic Art in Tokoname), Tokoname, Aichi, Japan

In The Media (selected)

2016	"Seni ukiran seramik tanah liat" – Kosmo!, October 10 2016 (http://www.kosmo.com.my/kosmo/content.asp?y=2016&dt=1010&pub=Kosmo&sec=Varia&pg=va_01.htm)
	"Artists who 'bake' with clay" – The Star, October 9 2016 (http://www.star2.com/culture/arts/2016/10/09/artists-who-bake-with-clay/)
	"Fired by the Charm of Ceramics" – Penang Monthly, October 2016 (http://penangmonthly.com/article.aspx?pageid=1340&name=fired_by_the_charm_of_ceramics)
	"Keeper of Fragile Things" – The New Straits Times, July 24 2016 (https://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/07/160362/keeper-fragile-things)
	"Her Fragile Heart" – The Peak, June 30 2016 (http://thepeak.com.my/events/umbaizurah-fragile/)

- 2014** “Three artists’ idea of what tomorrow brings” – The Star, January 25 2014
(<http://www.star2.com/culture/arts/2014/01/25/three-artists-idea-of-what-tomorrow-brings/>)
- 2012** “TAG’ Exhibition By Umibaizurah Mahir At Wei-Ling Contemporary” – Lipstiq Malaysia, February 2012
(<https://www.lipstiq.com/2012/18264/tag-exhibition-by-umibaizurah-mahir-at-wei-ling-contemporary>)
- 2009** “*Menjenguk arca seramik kontemporari*” – Utusan Malaysia, November 15 2009
(http://ww1.utusan.com.my/utusan/info.asp?y=2009&dt=1115&sec=Hiburan&pg=hi_17.htm)
- “Porcelain Poems: Tanah Timur @ The Japan Foundation” – Arteri, July 12 2009
(<http://arteri.search-art.asia/2009/07/12/porcelain-poems-tanah-timur-the-japan-foundation/>)

Private and Public Collections

Asia Arts Network, Seoul, South Korea
Consulate General Of Malaysia, Songkhla, Thailand
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
IWCAT (International Workshop Of Ceramic Art In Tokoname), Japan
MARA University Of Technology (UiTM), Selangor, Malaysia
Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia
Nami Island, South Korea
National Visual Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Petronas Gallery, KLCC Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Shilpakorn University, Thailand
Yayasan Warisan Johor, Johor, Malaysia
Prominent Private Collections in Australia & Malaysia