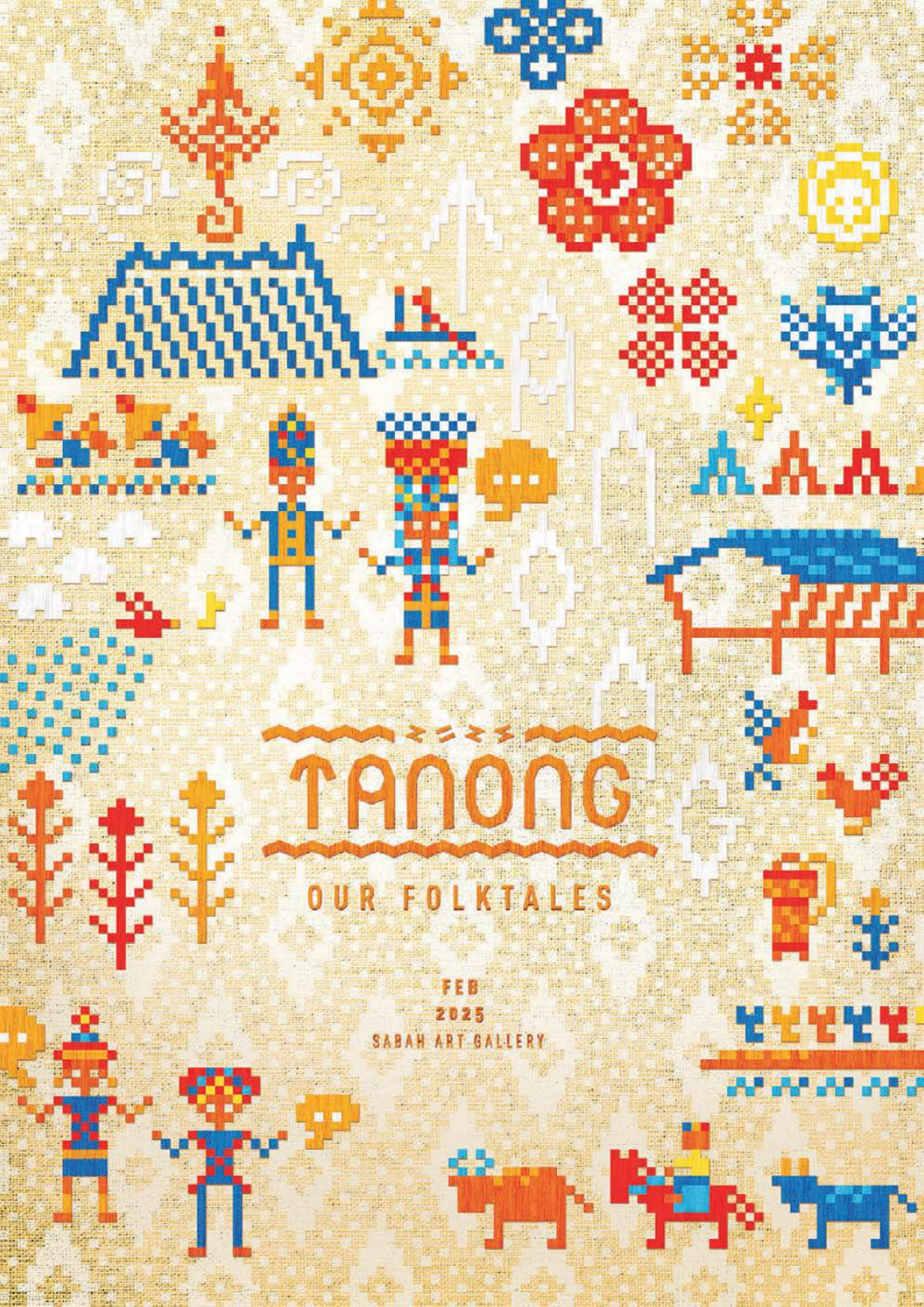




TANONG

OUR FOLKTALES

FEB
2025

SABAH ART GALLERY



BALAI SENI LUKIS SABAH
SABAH ART GALLERY

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ASGARDIAN™

WELCOME

to the Tanong Art Exhibition,

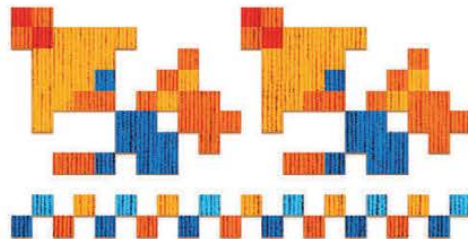
a celebration of our rich cultural heritage.

Tanong, meaning 'story' in Kadazan, invites you to explore folktales brought to life through the creative expressions of our talented participants.

This exhibition is more than an artistic showcase — it is a tribute to the wisdom, values, and traditions that have shaped our communities. We hope it inspires you to rediscover and share the stories that connect us all.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sabah Art Gallery for the wonderful opportunity to collaborate on this meaningful endeavour. To our talented participants and everyone who has supported this initiative, thank you for joining us on this journey to honour and preserve the timeless art of storytelling.

May this exhibition inspire you to cherish and share the stories that define us as a community.
Enjoy!



ASGARDIAN

CONTENTS

06

What is Tanong?

INTRODUCTION

08

Artworks of

ASGARDIAN

Asgardian Junior

Asgardian Art

Asgardian Science

Asgardian Tawau

78

Artworks of

ARTISTS

89

Who are we?

ABOUT US

TANONG

'Tanong' means story in the Kadazan language.

Our 'Tanong' exhibition celebrates and preserves the cultural heritage of our region through the lens of folktales.

Folktales are traditional stories passed down orally from one generation to another, carrying the collective memory, wisdom and lived experiences of a community. These tales reflect the community's history, cultural identity, and core values, making them a meaningful subject for artistic exploration.

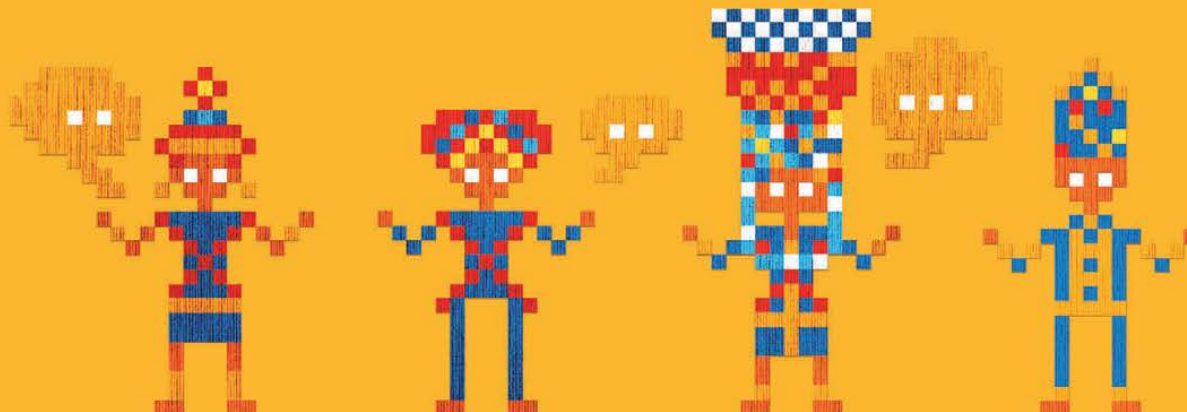
The term 'folktale' literally means 'people-story'; highlighting that these stories are by the people, for the people.

Typically, folktales do not have a single, definitive author; they evolve over time as different individuals tell and retell them. These narratives are often simple yet profound, easily understood, and told in straightforward, relatable language that captures the essence of community's worldview and cultural identity.

Folktales often feature mythical creatures with magical powers, talking animals that exhibit human-like intelligence and emotions, and ordinary humans who encounter extraordinary events that defy the boundaries of the natural world. These timeless stories serve to entertain, educate, and convey moral lessons, often offering imaginative explanations for why things exist as they do or how certain traditions came to be.

Found in every culture around the world, folktales have existed as long as humans have. They play a crucial role in preserving and sharing cultural heritage, reflecting the values, beliefs, and customs of the cultures from which they originate. These tales are not only a form of storytelling but a means of keeping cultural memory alive.

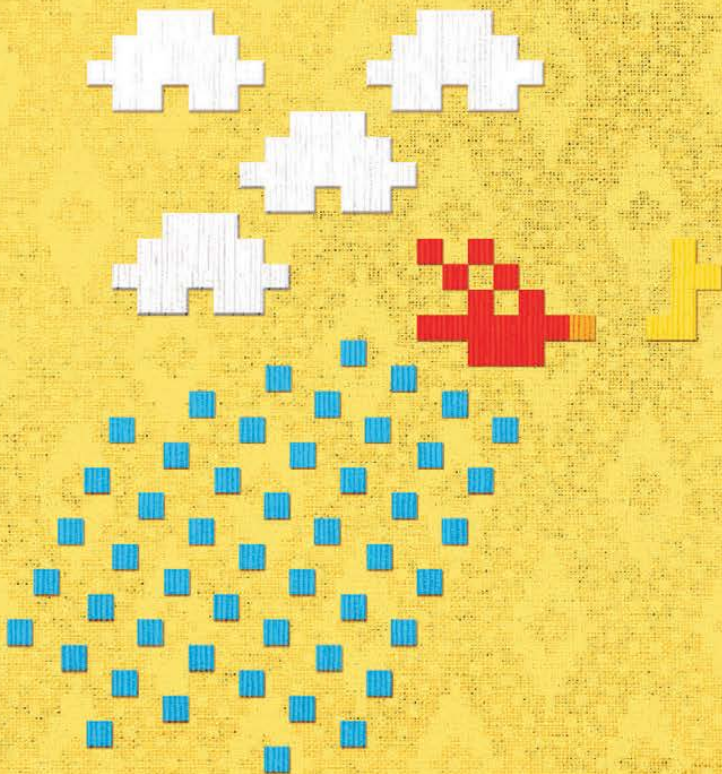
Our exhibition aims to honour this timeless tradition and inspiring a deeper appreciation for our rich cultural stories.



ASGARDIAN JUNIOR

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2024



ADAM WONG 7 yrs old



THE TURTLE AND THE WOMAN WHO WAS BLIND

A blind old woman set out alone to find her son, calling for him but hearing no reply. At a riverbank, A large turtle offered to carry her across the water. In return she promised never to harm its kind. Grateful she was reunited with her family, and she honored her vow.



AIDEN LIEW 8 yrs old



THE VILLAGE OF LUMONDOUN

Once upon a time, there lived a small village that was attacked by an old lion named Mondou. The villagers banded together to fight against the lion. Using sharpened bamboos, they placed them outside their houses and waited for it to return. When the lion returned and jumped into their houses, it got impaled by the bamboos. The people soon named the place as Lumoundou, to remember the lion that was killed there.



AIDEN MATTHEW JOKINOL
10 yrs old



THE TURTLE WHO SAVED MY ANCESTORS

A long time ago, there was a huge flood. Because of the flood waters, my ancestors were trapped on the roof of their houses. They called for help but nobody came. Suddenly, an enormous turtle came and told them to climb on his back. The turtle brought the whole family to safety. In return, the family promised to never harm turtles.



ALAN YEUNG 8 yrs old



THE TALE OF TWO COCONUT PALMS

Once upon a time, a poor man named Dahu went hunting with his dog, Longdu. By chance, he brought back two coconuts and planted them by the river. The coconuts grew into two magical trees—one producing sweet juice and the other bearing coconuts—making him wealthy. However, Dahu became addicted to coconut wine and neglected his family. Angry, his wife cut down the coconut trees.

That night, Dahu dreamed of an old man with seven horns, Kinoingan, who told him that the magical coconut trees had been taken back to the heavens and turned into two constellations—one lush and the other barren. From then on, whenever the “Coconut Stars” appeared, rain would fall. Dahu learned to cherish his blessings and never wasted again.



HOW THE BOY SAVED HIS DAD

A couple lived in a remote land surrounded by seven hills. Before leaving for war, the husband placed an egg and told her wife that if it spun, he was in danger. One day, the egg spun rapidly, but she could not do anything. Years later, their brave son decided to rescue his father. Finding him tied to a pole in a distant village, he got into the village and freed his father. Reunited, they happily returned home.



THE JOURNEY OF THE BLIND WOMAN AND TURTLE

Long ago, a blind old woman's only son moved far away, leaving her alone. Determined to find him, she wandered until she reached a great river, where a giant turtle asked her purpose. Moved by her story, the turtle offered to carry her across. When they arrived, the turtle asked for a promise—neither she nor her descendants would ever harm its kind. Grateful, she vowed to protect turtles and for generations, her promise lived on.



ALINNAH TOH 8 yrs old



BARON HENG 9 yrs old



THE TALE OF BUFFALO AND THE BIRD

Long ago, buffaloes had teeth on both jaws and a small bird called Pimpikau had a long, beautiful tail. One day, a buffalo stepped on the bird's tail while grazing, causing the bird great pain. In its struggle, the bird knocked out the buffalo's upper teeth and lost its tail in the process. Furious, they cursed each other: the buffalo would have no upper teeth and the bird would have no tail. To this day, buffaloes have only lower teeth, and Pimpikau birds are tailless.



THE OWL AND THE MOON

In a small village, a hardworking mother fell ill & before passing, told her son she would watch over him as a silhouette in the moon. It's said the boy became an owl, gazing at the moon every night to stay close to her.



BE CAREFUL OF SI KOKOK!

Si Kokok was a terrifying creature with a grotesque face, human-like body backward facing feet & hair resembling a Pontianak. Rarely see, it was believed to haunt the village of Melegus in Papar, striking fear in villagers, especially children. To drive away, people would create loud, clanging noises to repel the entity.



BRANDELYNN HENG 5 yrs old



CHARLENE CHONG 9 yrs old



GAYO NAKAN, THE GIANT KING

Gayo Nakan, a giant king of Mount Kinabalu, had an insatiable appetite that burdened the locals. To ease their struggle, he ordered himself to be buried alive, but the task proved to be impossible. Impatient, the giant used magic and sank into the rock, cursing the land with drought and famine yet vowing to aid in times of war. To appease him, locals performed sacrificial offerings at his grave's wishing pool.



CHARLOTTE SEO 8 yrs old



THE SCARY SI KOKOK

In many villages, elders would tell children not to wander around at night. They warned of a terrifying entity with a hideous face and a body resembling that of a human, but with backward facing feet! It is said that if it catches you at night, it could trick people into the wrong direction and leading them deeper into the unknown—sometimes never to return! It is cautionary tale for children about the unknown dangers of the dark.



CHIA ZONG HENG 9 yrs old



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

In the beginning, Kinoringan and his wife lived alone in the heavens. They decided that it would be meaningful to have humans on Earth and so they shaped the earth and sky. After that, they created Mount Kinabalu, Mantanani Island, and humans from the soil. Once their work was done, they returned to the heavens and watched over their creations.



CHIN JUN EE 6 yrs old



THE BLIND WOMAN AND THE BIG TURTLE

The story is about an old blind woman who had a son named Kumbir. After he moved away to his new home, the blind woman became worried and decided to go look for him. She soon reached a river where she met a large turtle. The turtle decided to help the blind woman and after they reached her son's house, the turtle made a promise with her to never harm or kill turtles. The blind woman promised the turtle and she finally reunited with her son.



CONNOR GOH 10 yrs old



THE LEGEND OF MONSOPIAD

Monsopiad, a Kadazan warrior from Sabah, became a legend for his bravery in defending his village from enemies. He gained fame by collecting 42 skulls of his foes as trophies. However, his growing pride and aggression lead fear among his people and they ultimately turned against him, ending his life. Today, his story is remembered as a lesson in humanity and balance.



DANIELLE CHONG 7 yrs old



SCARY SI KOKOK

In the village of Melugus in Papar, it is said that there lived a terrifying creature with a hideous face and a body resembling a human, but with backward facing feet, this entity was greatly feared by villagers of old, especially children. In order to save it, people need to create loud clanging noises to repel it.



DARIUS TEO 7 yrs old



THE WOMAN ON THE MOUNTAIN

Once upon a time, there was two China men sailing their boat on the sea. But their boat was blown to Sabah by tsunami. In Sabah, they killed a dragon and got the legendary Dragon Pearl. The elder brother married a local lady. But the brothers miss their hometown. So, they sailed the boat back to China. The wife missed her husband so much. She climbed to the top of mountain everyday until she turned into stone statue.



DARREN WONG 7 yrs old



MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER

My great-great grandfather, Wong Man, was involved in the beginning to build the railway of the North Borneo Railway. The first stretch of the Sabah railway was completed in 1896. It was initially intended to link the port city of Jesselton to the fertile lands of the interior, where resource like timber, rubber, and later oil palm, could be harvested and exported.

His spirit of enduring hardships inspire me and make him become my hero.



DONG XIAO 5 yrs old



THE ORIGINS OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

The origins of the Chinese New Year are steeped in legend. One legend is that thousands of years ago a monster named Nian ("year") would attack villagers at the beginning of each new year. The monster was afraid of loud noises, bright lights, and the color red, so these things were used to chase the beast away. For example, firecrackers, lion dance and red lanterns. Celebrations to usher out the old year and bring forth the luck and prosperity of the new one, therefore, often include firecrackers, fireworks, and red clothes and decorations.



EAN SOO 8 yrs old



THE GUARDIAN DRAGON OF THE PEARL

This story is about a precious pearl that is guarded by a fierce dragon on Mount Kinabalu. The Chinese Emperor has learnt about it & sent many people to retrieve it but couldn't. The Chinese Emperor then sent his two sons, Wee Ping & Wee san to get the pearl.



ELI LAM 8 yrs old



THE LION NAMED MONDOU

Long ago, there was an old lion named Mondou who could no longer hunt in the wild. It decided to go to a small village and started dragging his victims back to the forest every night. Determined to stop the beast, the villagers used sharpened bamboos and placed them within their homes. When Mondou returned, he jumped into the houses and got himself impaled. The villagers celebrated their victory over the fierce beast.



ELISE CHEONG 5 yrs old



THE STORY OF HUMINODUN

There once was a terrible drought and many people in the land suffered. Huminodun, who was loved by many, decided to offer herself as a sacrifice despite her parents wishes. Soon after her sacrifice, the land flourished and harvest came. All the people were grateful to her and they honored Huminodun's selfless act, forever remembering her as the spirit of life and renewal.



EMILY LAO 7 yrs old



THE GHOSTLY MONSTER

In many villages, elders would often tell children to be careful and not to wander off at night otherwise, you might be the next victim of the Si Kokok. A scary and ghostly creature that will haunt people and it would drag you into the dark. If you ever want to escape the Si Kokok, it is said that the best way is to make loud clanging noises which could scare it away.



EVAN LIM 7 yrs old



THE LION AND THE VILLAGERS

Once upon a time, there is an old lion named Mondou who was feared for his attacks at a small village. After wrecking havoc, the villagers worked together to devise a plan and they decided to use sharp bamboos to defend their homes. When the lion returned the next night, he jumped into the village but was stabbed by the bamboos. After that faithful day, the people soon named the place Lumondou to remember the lion that was killed.



GARETH GAN 9 yrs old



GREAT - GREAT GRANDMA

My great-grand parents were living in a water house in a village called "Weston." When they were young, they liked to jump into the river and swim. One day, my great-grandmother was washing clothes at the river side, she didn't notice there was a crocodile swimming towards her. And sadly, she was eaten by the crocodile.



GIANNA CHIN 6 yrs old



KAMPUNG PENDAMA

My father, being a young boy who grew up in Kampung Pendama, Tuaran has had the chance to witness the traditional ritual performed by Kadazan Dusun farmers to seeks for protection over the crops. It was really a unique and once in a life time experience to witness this ritual that is no longer practiced in the present day.



GISELLE VOO 6 yrs old



THE GIRL WHO TURNED INTO AN OWL

The story takes place in a small village where lived a woman and her young child. The woman worked hard everyday but soon she became ill. Before she died from her illness, the mother told her child not to be sad because she will always be there for her as the silhouette of the moon. It is said that the child turned into an owl and continued to watch over the moon every night.



GYSELLE TAN 9 yrs old

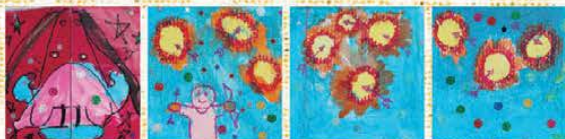


THE SCARY SI KOKOK

There is a story regarding about a peculiar long haired woman named Si Kokok. It is said to have a hideous face and backward facing feet. Her hair is as long and dark like a black ink filled with creepy crawlies and untamed spirit. It is believed that to scare her away, people need to make loud noises in order to repel it.



HANNAH CHUNG 5 yrs old



HOUYI THE ARCHER

There once was a time where the Earth had 10 suns. The world and people could not bear such heat so in order to save the people, Houyi shot down nine of the ten suns, leaving behind one for Earth. Houyi was respected by everyone and they called him a hero. For his deeds, the Queen Mother of the West rewarded him an elixir of immortality.



JADE CHUNG 9 yrs old



ORANG BUNIAN

Legends says that mystical beings called Orang Bunian live deep in the forests. They are known for their beauty, grace and ability to remain invisible to humans. They are guardians of nature that often help lost travelers or those who respect the forests.



HENRY YEUNG 6 yrs old



THE MONSTER BATTLE

Si Kokok, a feared entity from Melugus in Papar, had a hideous face, human-like body with backward feet and hair resembling a Pontianak. Rarely seen, it was especially feared by children. Villagers believed loud clanging noise could repel it.



JANE WONG 4 yrs old



THE RIVER

Legend says that there was a large turtle who helped an old blind woman, by carrying her on its back, to find her son. After it helped her, the turtle made a vow with the blind woman to never hurt turtles and the blind woman, who was very grateful, agreed with the turtle. On that day, many people don't want to harm or kill turtles.



ISSAC CHANG 7 yrs old



THE LION WANT TO ATTACK THE VILLAGE!

A long time ago, there was an old lion who likes to hunt villagers. One night, the lion went into a small village and started hunting people. The villagers decided to make a plan and so they sharpened bamboos and put them around their homes. When the lion came, the villagers were ready and they killed the lion.



JANKA SHAM 6 yrs old



THE DRAGON PROTECT HIS PEARL

It is believed that Mount Kinabalu is home to a mighty dragon. The emperor wanted the pearl it had so he sent 2 brothers to retrieve the pearl. They both traveled across the ocean and came up with a plan. They both waited for the dragon to leave the mountain for food and went into its lair. They seized the pearl and replaced it with a fake one. When they returned home, the emperor rewarded them both and they lived happily ever after.



JEREMIAH TAN 8 yrs old



THE STORY OF THE DRAGON KILLER

During the Ming Dynasty, Admiral Cheng Ho's fleet sought a prized pink pearl atop Mount Kinabalu, guarded by a fierce dragon. After failed attempts, Wee San devised a plan, using a kite to swap the pearl with a lantern. Enraged, the dragon pursued them but was tricked into swallowing a cannonball and perished. Back in China, Wee Ping falsely claimed credit, while Wee San, unwilling to dispute, left for Brunei. There, he gained the Sultan's favor, married his daughter, and became Sultan, while Wee Ping lived in disgrace.



THE STORY OF HUMINODUN

This is the tale of Huminodun, the beautiful and wise daughter of Kinoingan and Suminundu. She was loved by many for her kindness. One day, a terrible drought struck, causing famine across the land. Huminodun was heartbroken by the suffering of her people. To save them, Huminodun decided to sacrifice herself to the earth, hoping it would bring back fertility. Although her parents were deeply saddened, Huminodun was determined to help. After her sacrifice, the sky turned dark with thunder and lightning. That year, the Kadazan people had a bountiful harvest, and they were forever grateful for Huminodun's selfless act.



THE TURTLE STORY

Once, there was an old blind woman. After her son married, he moved far away with his wife, leaving the old blind woman alone at home. She tried calling him, but he didn't answer. So, she decided to look for her son, not knowing where she was going. After walking a long way, she reached a river and met a large turtle. She spoke to the turtle about her son, and feeling sorry for her, the turtle offered to carry her on its back across the river. After a long journey, they reached her son's house. Before letting her off, the turtle asked her to promise never to harm or kill any turtles. The blind woman agreed and thanked the turtle. When she was reunited with her family, she told them about the promise, and they never harm any turtle in their entire lives.



JOSEPH LIAU 5 yrs old



JOSHUA LOONG 6 yrs old



THE BLIND WOMAN'S JOURNEY

An elderly blind woman, abandoned by her son, ventures out and meets a kind turtle. The turtle offers to carry her across the river to her son's home. Grateful, she makes a vow to never harm or kill the turtles. Reunited with her family, she shares her promise, leading many to protect turtles from that day forward.



HOW WE USE TO CARRY THE GOODS

My story is inspired by my trip to the Sabah State Museum. At the museum, I have learned about the steam train of the North Borneo Railway. In the old times, people use the railway to help transport many important and valuable resources from port to port. Today, it operates as a reminder of Sabah's rich and important history!



KAYLEE SOONG 10 yrs old



THE BLIND GRANDMA AND HER JOURNEY TO FIND HER SON

There once was an old blind woman who was searching for her son. She wandered everywhere until she reached a river. There, a turtle came and offered to carry her to find her son. When they arrived, the turtle asked her to promise never to harm or kill turtles. She agreed and she was reunited with her family. She told everyone about her promise and from then on, everyone protected and respected turtles.



KHO JIN SHIANG 8 yrs old



KIP CLAYSON CHIA 7 yrs old



TOMPULALANGOI, THE FOREST SPIRIT

Tompulalangoi is a very well-known spirit among the locals of Sabah. It is a forest guardian that is very tall and skinny and some people say it is friendly while others say we should fear it. It is used as a scary story to frighten children from wandering alone at night in the forest.



LEE KA KEI 7 yrs old



THE FISH VILLAGE

Rokian, a poor but honest boy, lost his axe head in the river. While searching underwater, he discovered a house where an old man rewarded his honesty with treasures and fine clothes, along with his axe head. However, a greedy neighbor decided to do the same thing hoping to get the same reward but instead he was attacked by fishes after he received his prize. This forced him to release all his valuables and left him empty handed.



KYLIE LEE 5 yrs old



MULAN, THE GIRL WARRIOR

The story goes that Mulan took her father's place in the military, pretending to be a man. She trained well and hard to become the hero for her family, protecting her country from invaders. Mulan is brave, smart, and loyal. Always putting her family first.



LIAM CHEE 6 yrs old



THE MONSTER, SI KOKOK

Many children tremble in fear of the name Si Kokok. It is said that it is a horrifying creature that snatches people away at the dead of night. To protect themselves, people believed that making loud, clanging noises could drive away the Si Kokok.



LEANNE HUI 6 yrs old



THE CURSE OF THE BUFFALO AND THE BUTTONQUAIL

Long ago, buffaloes had upper teeth and a bird had long, beautiful tail. One day, a buffalo stepped on the bird's tail while grazing. The bird thrashed to free itself, knocking out the buffalo's upper teeth. When it escaped, it lost its tail feathers. Angry, they cursed at each other - the bird remains tailless and the buffalo to have only lower teeth. To this day, The buffalo and Pimpikau bird bear these marks of their feud.



LOUANNA SHIM 7 yrs old



THE GIRL AND THE TURTLE

There once was a girl who was accidentally left behind by her friends. She cried and felt helpless because she could not join them on the wedding ceremony. Suddenly, a large turtle appeared and decided to help her. After they have crossed the river, the turtle made her promise that her and her descendants must never harm turtles. She made her vow and from then on, people no longer eat turtles.



LOUIS YEAP 9 yrs old



THE BLIND WOMAN AND THE TURTLE

A lonely blind lady set out to find her son. After walking for a long time, she reached a river and met a large turtle. The turtle, feeling sorry for her, offered to carry her on its back to her son's house. After a long journey, they arrived, and before she got off, the turtle asked her to promise that she and her descendants would never harm or kill turtles. The blind woman agreed, and she was reunited with her family.



Lucas Chea 8 yrs old



LUMONDOU VILLAGE

In a small village, peace was shattered when an old lion named Mondou began hunting people at night. Terrified, the villagers devised a plan, sharpening bamboos and planting them around their homes. When Mondou leapt into a house, the spikes pierced him, and the villagers swiftly ended his threat. To commemorate their victory, they named the place "Lumoundou" after the fallen lion.



LUCAS WU 9 yrs old



NOAH'S ARK

Because the world was full of violence, only Noah was righteous, so God chose him to build an ark. When the ark was completed, Noah's family and the animals entered it. God sent heavy rain for 40 days and nights, flooding the earth and destroying all sinners. After the rain stopped, God sent a wind to dry the land. Noah released a dove, which returned with an olive leaf, confirming the waters had receded. Seven days later, the dove did not return, and Noah's family and the animals left the ark. God promised never to destroy the world by flood again and set a rainbow as a sign for all living beings.



LUCAS YEAP 8 yrs old



THE SPINNING EGG

Before leaving to fight in a distant land, a husband placed an egg on the table, telling his wife and son that if it spun, it meant trouble. Years later, their grown-up son saw the egg began to spin faster and faster. He sets out on a long journey and discovered a village where his father was tied to a pole. The son free his father while the villagers slept. Reunited, the father was overjoyed to see his son and they returned home, grateful and happy.



MABEL LIEW 6 yrs old



THE TERRIFYING SI KOKOK

Si Kokok, a fearsome entity with a hideous face, backward feet and hair like a Pontianak, was said to haunt Melugus village in Papar. Feared by villagers, especially children, it was rarely seen. To repel Si Kokok, people would create loud clanging noises.



MACKENZIE TING 9 yrs old



THE LEGEND OF SI KOKOK

Si Kokok, a feared entity from Melugus in Papar, had a hideous face, human-like body with backward feet, & hair resembling a Pontianak. Rarely seen, it was especially feared by children. Villagers believed loud clanging noises could repel it.



MEHMED AATHIF BIN UZAIR

9 yrs old



FRIENDS VS SI KOKOK

This story is based on the legend of Si Kokok. The story begins with a boy who was captured by the monster and was taken to its secret lair. The Si Kokok locked him in a cage where he could never leave but thanks to his friends, they manage to free him and they made a plan to escape. After leaving its lair, the team quickly ran as fast as they could. However, the Si Kokok found out about their escape and immediately gave chase! These friends ran across the beach and all the way back to their house. With the power of teamwork, the group of friends bring out the weapons from their homes and they used them against the Si Kokok and scaring it away forever! The friends celebrated their victory and they all went back home safe and sound. The End!



NATHAN KOH 7 yrs old



SI KOKOK TOWN

A ghostly figure, through rarely seen, the Si Kokok was feared in the village of Papar. People believed that making a loud changing noise could scare the Si Kokok away, especially to protect children. So, if you are wandering in the forest in the middle of the night, make sure to check your back.



MEIRA FERYAL CHEKIMA

9 yrs old



THE BLIND WOMAN AND THE TURTLE

The story is about an old blind woman who went on a journey to find her son after he moved to a new home. She was able to finally be reunited with her son but it was thanks to a large turtle who offered to help her. On that day, she made a promise with the turtle that her and her descendants will never harm or kill turtles ever.



NATHANIEL CHANG 9 yrs old



DAUD AND THE TWO COCONUTS

Daud, a poor man, found two old coconuts while hunting with his dog. He then planted them by the riverbank. As time passed, the two old coconuts grew into tall trees but his wife, frustrated with his obsession with them, cut both of it down. That night, Daud dreamed of a horned figure who revealed he had gifted the coconuts and has now taken them back to the sky. When Daud looked up, he saw 2 new constellations – Masau – Pisau, the celestial coconuts.



**MOHAMED ADEL JIBRIL BIN
MOHAMED HEIKAL**

6 yrs old



THE BUFFALO AND THE SPECIAL BIRD

Long ago, buffaloes had two sets of teeth and the buttonquail had a long beautiful tail. One day, a buffalo accidentally stepped on the tail of a buttonquail, hurting it. The buffalo unknowingly plucked out its feathers while the buttonquail, in a panic, accidentally knocked out its upper teeth. Both angrily cursed one another and their descendants and from then on, buffaloes had only upper teeth while buttonquail no longer had tails.



NITHESH AEDAN THEVAN

7 yrs old



THE DANGEROUS SI KOKOK

Feared for its grotesque face and unnerving, human-like body with feet twisted backward, the Si Kokok is a monstrous entity that was rarely seen in villages. Legends say that they lurk in the shadows and can be driven away using loud clanging noises.



**NUR LAYA KIRANA BINTI
MOHAMED HEIKAL**

9 yrs old



THE LEGEND OF SI KOKOK

The story talks about a hideous creature called the Si Kokok who dwells in the darkness and harms people. The creature was greatly feared by the villagers, especially children. To combat the Si Kokok, it is believed that people need to use loud noises in order to scare it away.



OSCAR LAM 6 yrs old



THE GREAT FLOOD

One night, Sumandak and Rokian dreamed of a man warning them about a great flood and advising them to build a bamboo raft. When they tried to warn the villagers, no one believed them. Fearing the worst, they built the raft anyway. As heavy rains fell and waters rose, they climbed aboard and survived the flood.



RAAGHAV RATHAKRISHNAN

8 yrs old



HANUMAN, THE MONKEY GOD

Indian mythology. When Hanuman was a small boy, he was very naughty. He once saw the sun and thought it was a ripe fruit. So he plucked it out of the sky and swallowed it up. The world became dark and cold. The gods got very worried. They went to Hanuman and begged him to give the sun back to them. Hanuman spat out the sun, and the world became bright again.



ROBIN HUANG 8 yrs old



PEOPLE VS SI KOKOK

Si Kokok is a nightmarish creature with a grotesque, twisted face and a human body, but its feet were turned backward, making its every step unsettling. It has long and wild hair, flowing like a ghost. Dwelling in the dark corners of the village of Melugus in Papar, Si Kokok was rarely seen, but its presence was feared by all. The village elders warned that if you heard its eerie footsteps, you had to make loud, clanging noises to keep it away, for if Si Kokok caught you, it would drag you into the night, never to return.



ROJE LEE 8 yrs old



THE SUN GIRL AND THE MOON BOY

A tiger kills the mother of a brother and sister and dresses up in her clothes to trick them into letting him in. The children escape and climb a tree, where they pray to the heavens for a rope to save them. The tiger also asks for a rope, but the one he receives is rotten and he falls to his death. The children are lifted into the sky, where the brother becomes the moon and the sister becomes the sun.



RUDA LEE 8 yrs old



THE SI KOKOK'S STORY

In the village of Melugus, there was a creature known as Si Kokok, a terrifying being that haunted the darkest corners of the night. It had a twisted, grotesque face, and its human-like body was made even more unnerving by feet that faced backwards, leaving strange tracks behind. Its long wild hair flowed like a ghost's sending chills down anyone who saw it.



RYAN TAN 8 yrs old



HOW BUFFALO LOSS THEIR TEETH

Once, buffaloes had two sets of teeth like humans. While grazing the field, a buffalo accidentally stepped on a bird's tail. The bird struggled, knocking out the buffalo's upper teeth but losing its tail in the process. Furious, the buffalo cursed that the bird's descendants would have no tails, when the bird retaliated, cursing the buffalo to only have lower teeth. From that day on, buffaloes have only lower teeth and the Pimpikau bird has no tail.



RYNA TAN 6 yrs old



BUFFALO AND BIRD

Long ago, buffaloes had teeth like humans and a tiny bird with a stunning tail lived in the grass. One day, A buffalo unknowingly stepped on the bird's tail while grazing. The bird thrashed in pain, breaking the buffalo's upper teeth, while its own tail was ripped off in struggle. Furious, they cursed each other: the buffalo lost its upper teeth forever and the bird lost its tail.



SCARLETT LEE 4 yrs old



HOW PLANET EARTH WAS MADE

In the beginning, 2 deities decided that it would be great to have life on Earth, so, they descended to Earth, creating Mount Kinabalu, Mantanani Island and many beautiful creatures. Once their work was done, they returned to the heavens happily.



SCARLETT WONG 8 yrs old



THE 2 SISTERS AND THE SINISTER ROCK

Two sisters were gathering firewood when it began to rain. Seeking shelter, one found a rock with an opening filled with food and blankets. She rushed inside, calling her sister, but the other sensed danger and stayed outside. When the rain stopped, she called for her sister to leave, but the rock suddenly sealed shut. Desperate, she tried to free her, but her sister's cries slowly faded into silence.



SERENA LIAU 7 yrs old



DO NOT WALK AROUND AT NIGHT!

Why are we told to not walk around at night? Because there is a scary creature called Si Kokok lurking in the darkness! This creature is rarely seen by others and it is believed to lurk in the shadows waiting for unsuspecting travelers who wandered alone at night. To ward off Si Kokok, villagers would create loud clanging noises, believing that it despised the sound of metal striking together. This is why elders warned against walking alone at night—lest you cross paths with Si Kokok and find yourself lost in the darkness, unable to find your way home!



SUMIN LEE 8 yrs old



THE BLIND OLD LADY

The legend talks about why we do not kill or harm turtles. In the story, an old blind lady was helped by a large and kind turtle by carrying and leading her to her son's house. They both made a vow to each other that her and her descendants must never harm its kind and so, the blind lady told everyone about her promise and everyone agreed.



TANG EE TONG 9 yrs old



THE DRAGON OF KINABALU

Once upon a time, there lived a large and ferocious dragon who lived on Mount Kinabalu. The dragon had a shiny pearl which caught the attention of an Emperor in China. The emperor sent his sons to retrieve the pearl and for the one who was successful in their task, will become the next emperor.



THIEN CHU YI 9 yrs old



THE LEGEND OF HUMINODUN

The daughter of Kinoingan and Suminundu, Huminodun, was loved by many for her beauty, kind-hearted and wise nature. One day, there was a terrible drought which caused wide spread famine and despair in the land. To save the people, Huminodun sacrificed herself to the earth. After her sacrifice, the people were met with plentiful harvest and they were grateful for Huminodun's selfless act.



THEA PANG 8 yrs old



THE STORY OF THE SWIRLING EGG

Long ago, a husband left for war. Leaving an egg in a glass, telling his wife that if it spins it means that he is in danger. Days later, the egg trembled and spun but she could do nothing. Years later, their son, now grown, learned of his father's fate and decided to set out to save him. Reaching a distant village, he found his father and freed him from the villagers. Overjoyed, they embraced and journeyed home together.



TIONG YEE XUAN 4 yrs old



MY HERO, MULAN

Mulan, a brave young woman, disguise herself as a man to take her elderly father's place in the Chinese Army. She proves herself a skilled warrior, earning the respect of her comrades. After a victorious battle, Mulan's identity is revealed and she is celebrated for her courage and loyalty. Mulan becomes a hero honored for her selflessness and love for her family and country.



THIEN CHU HUI 6 yrs old



THE STORY OF HARVEST

Long ago, in the time of severe drought and famine, Huminodun chose to sacrifice herself to save her people. Though her parents were heartbroken, her resolve was unshakable. After her sacrifice, the earth became fertile once more. On that day, the people celebrated and are forever grateful for Huminodun.



TRINA CHUNG 7 yrs old



THE OWL AND THE MOON

A widow and her young child lived by the river, but when she gravely ill, she told her child she would always be there, visible in the moon's silhouette. After her passing, the grieving child cried endlessly and eventually transformed in an owl, the villagers often heard its sorrowful cries at night, naming it "Duok" after the sound it makes – a reminder of mother's eternal love.



XAVIER KWANG 6 yrs old



HOW THE BUFFALO LOST HIS UPPER TEETH

Long ago, while grazing in a field, a buffalo accidentally stepped on a tiny buttonquail's long, beautiful tail. The poor bird struggled and screamed, but the buffalo didn't notice. In its frantic attempt to escape, the buttonquail knocked out the buffalo's upper teeth. When the bird finally broke free, its tail feathers were gone, and the buffalo realized it had lost its top teeth. Angry, they cursed each other and that's why, to this day, buffaloes have no upper teeth while the buttonquail has no tail feathers!



ZHANG QIN 4 yrs old



THE CHINESE NEW YEAR STORY

The origin of Chinese New Year comes from the legend of Nian, a fierce monster that terrorized villages every year. To protect themselves, people discovered that loud noises, bright lights, and the color red scared Nian away. They began setting off firecrackers, hanging red decorations, and celebrating with feasts!



YU ASAMI 5 yrs old



THE OLD MAN AND THE ONI

Once upon a time, there was an old man with a large lump on his left cheek. This old man was always smiling and was known by everyone. One day while he was gone to collect firewood, a storm suddenly appeared. The old man quickly took shelter in the mountains. As night soon came, he soon stumbled upon a banquet of ogres dancing, drinking and singing. The old man was scared but as he watched the ogres having fun, he felt like dancing too. Gathering his courage, the old man stepped out in front of the ogres and started dancing along with them. The ogres were delighted by his skills, and as a reward, their chief magically removed his lump. The old man was very grateful to them and after he went home, he told the villagers about the great news. Upon hearing this, another old man with a lump on his cheek tried to do the same trick. However, his dancing was poor, and instead of removing his lump, the ogres mistakenly gave him another one. While he screamed in shock, the ogres simply laughed and continued their celebration. In this way, this old man ended up with a lump on his left cheek as well as his right. The end!



ZOEY HO 8 yrs old



OF COUNTRY, THE FISHES

Once upon a time, Rokian, a poor but honest boy, lost his axe in the river. He dived into the river and found a house, where an old man, impressed by his honesty, rewarded him with riches and returned his axe head. A greedy neighbor tried to imitate him but was attacked by river fishes as he surfaced, forcing him to abandon his rewards. He returned home empty-handed, punished for his greed.



CHONG ZHI YEONG 24 yrs old
Asgardian Junior Tutor



HOW THE WORLD WAS MADE

In the beginning, there was Kinoringan and his wife Yumun. They created the world by making the earth and sky. Then came the mountains, islands and then humans. They could both walk and talk, and thus civilization began. It is believed that when we leave this earth, our spirits will ascend to the Mount Kinabalu or even reincarnate into bird, butterflies or even the wind that blows across the land.



DANIEL BENEDICT YAP 24 yrs old
Asgardian Junior Tutor



THE BLACK HOLE

A hole filled with disease will give sickness towards people who litters in the hole. For this story. There are 4 characters involve in it.



Tsen Yon Sian 42 yrs old
Asgardian Junior Tutor



MIST THAT CAN CARRY THINGS

In the old day, when the Mount Kinabalu still surrounded by a lot of mist. They said the thick mist will bring things and even human to different place. This story is talking a guy who was driving to Mount Kinabalu but the mist bring him back to the starting point.

UNBOXING OUR FOLKTALES

Asgardian Juniors' Collection - Tanong Exhibition

25cm x 25cm x 25cm (72 Boxes) | Mix Media | 4-9 Years Old

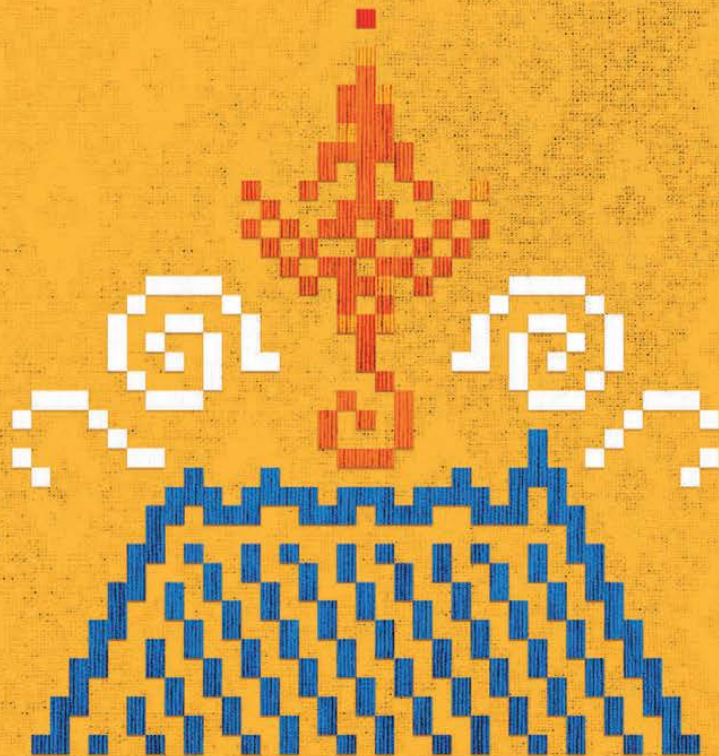
This collection showcases the creative works of Asgardian Juniors, each piece inspired by Sabah's rich folklore. Every box tells a unique tale, inviting visitors to pick it up and explore the story behind it!

This installation brings together all of the students' artworks to form a grand depiction of Mount Kinabalu on the shelf. This symbolizes unity and harmony, showcasing the collective spirit and teamwork of our young artists!



ASGARDIAN ART

/
2024



THE NIAN BEAST



ABIGAIL CHANG 11 yrs old

The Legend of Nian - The Nian is a mythical beast in Chinese mythology that is associated with the Chinese New Year. The beast is said to have a lion-like head and two sharp horns, and live in the mountains or under the sea. The Nian would come ashore on New Year's Eve to eat people, livestock and crops. It is a fearsome creature that represents the danger of the new year and people traditionally take measures to scare it away with loud noises, bright lights and the colour red, which are the core elements of the Chinese New Year celebrations.



PENANGGALAN



ALEXYS TAN 13 yrs old

The Penanggalan is a female spirit who transforms at night, detaching her head with internal organs hanging below. She preys on blood, especially from pregnant women and newborns. She can be killed by trapping her head when it tries to reattach. The Penanggalan symbolizes the dangers of dark magic and greed.



DAUGHTER OF THE RIVER



ALLYSON CHONG 10 yrs old

This tale tells of a giant dragon that lived in the Kinabatangan River. It was a protector of the river and its people. However, when people started disrespecting the river by polluting it, the dragon became angry and disappeared. Some believed that the dragon still watches over the river, and locals sometimes respect the water as sacred.



A MEMORABLE JOURNEY



ALYCIA KONG 13 yrs old

During a wedding, all the villagers crossed a river to attend the celebration, leaving behind a little girl who was accidentally forgotten. As she cried by the riverbank, a giant talking turtle appeared and offered to help. The turtle carried her across the river to the wedding house. Once safely across, the girl thanked the turtle and asked how she could repay it. The turtle then placed a sacred curse on her and her descendants, instructing them never to look at, touch, kill, or eat turtle meat. This promise was to last for generations, ensuring the family would honor the turtle's kindness.



THE OWL AND THE MOON



THE OWL AND THE MOON



ALYSSA WONG 10 yrs old

The owl make friends with the moon.



ANDI FATIMAH 13 yrs old

This tale tells of a giant dragon that lived in the kinabatangan River. It was a protector of the river and its people. However, when people started disrespecting the river by polluting it, the dragon became angry and disappeared. Some believed that the dragon still watches over the river, and locals sometimes to respect the water as sacred.



STONE OF LONGEVITY



ANGELINA TAN 13 yrs old

In Sabah, a young hunter named Jarus sought the «Stone of Longevity» on Mount Kinabalu to save his sick mother. Along the way, he helped an injured bird, shared food with a stranger, and assisted an elder, proving his kindness. His selflessness revealed the stone, which he used to heal his mother. The tale reminds us that true longevity comes from a pure and selfless heart.



THE PERFECT SWAN



ANGUS SOON 12 yrs old

Chinese folk tales often focus on the search for beauty, perfection, or wisdom. Swans and birds represent elegance and purity in Chinese culture. Many stories involve a humble character becoming something great or learning that true beauty is about more than appearance.



SPIRIT IN MOUNT KINABALU



AQEEF HARRAZ 11 yrs old

In Kadazan-Dusun belief, it is considered taboo to pick flowers from Mount Kinabalu, especially the Rafflesia or other native plants. The mountain is regarded as sacred, and taking anything from it is believed to anger the spirits residing there. This cultural practice is rooted in the respect and reverence the Kadazan-Dusun people have for nature and their ancestral lands, as well as the belief that the mountain is the resting place of deities and ancestors. Violating this taboo is thought to bring bad luck or misfortune.



THE CURSED JARS



ARIANA MAYA 12 yrs old

Towadakan, the mischievous son of Kinoringan and Yunun, disobeys his parents by opening seven sacred jars, releasing creatures that disturb humans. As punishment, he is banished to the rivers, bringing illness and stealing Dusun rice harvests. He grows thin when food is plenty and fat when rice is scarce.



TOMPIPII: SAVIOR OF THE VILLAGERS



AURELIA YU 17 yrs old

"Tompipii" tells of a small bird whose song brings rain. Despite mockery and attacks from larger birds, Tompipii sang to end a drought, saving all life. Smaller birds now unite to honor its sacrifice and protect one another.



BIBI AMEENAHJAN 9 yrs old

The story is about a dragon that became the guardian of a river. The dragon disliked people who polluted the river, and it is said that the dragon disappeared; its whereabouts unknown to this day.



SANG KANCIL & SANG BUAYA



BRANSON HENG 11 yrs old

Sang Kancil, the clever mousedeer, tricks Sang Buaya and his crocodile friends into lining up across the river by pretending to count them for a royal feast. He then uses their backs to cross safely, showing that intelligence can outsmart strength.



THE ONE



CHARMAINE MIN 12 yrs old

My artwork is based on the Kadazan folktale of the one-sided fish, also known as flatfish. Flatfish often have both eyes on one side of its head, giving the impression that it was cut in half. The story follows a fisherman who cheats a ghost that frequently steals catches from others by tasking it to find the other side of a flatfish.



**A SAD STORY
(PEOPLE KENA MAKAN)**



CHEAH JEAN ANN 15 yrs old

This story happened in Johor, in 1995. There's a 29 years old man was out at night to find his brother then he accidentally step on a hungry python in the rubber plantation and when the police arrived the python already swallowed the man's head... We feel sad because the man is getting marry soon.

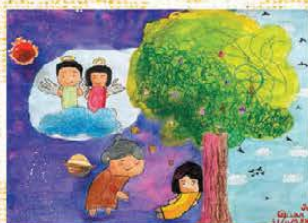


**THE LEGEND OF
JAMBATAN TAMPARULI**



CHIN XYN EE & ASHLEY 11 yrs old

Tamparuli, a peaceful village, faced constant troubles with its bridge over the river, which was repeatedly damaged by floods and storms. Despite their efforts, the villagers couldn't make it last. Desperate, they turned to an old legend requiring a young woman to be offered to the river's dragon for protection. Solungkoi, the village's most beautiful woman, was reluctantly chosen. After her sacrifice, the dragon blessed the bridge, and it stood strong ever since. The villagers remained grateful to Solungkoi for her ultimate act of devotion.



DREAMING TREE



CHIN GUAN YU 10 yrs old

Lui Seng Chun is a three-story historic building located at the intersection of Lai Chi Kok Road and Tong Mi Road in Hong Kong since 1934.



LUI SENG CHUN



CHIN ZI YIN 15 yrs old

Lui Seng Chun is a three-story historic building located at the intersection of Lai Chi Kok Road and Tong Mi Road in Hong Kong since 1934.



**TOMPIPI: GUARDIAN
OF THE RAIN**



CHLOE MOO 16 yrs old

Tompipi, a magical songbird, could summon rain with its beautiful songs, sustaining a land and its people. Jealous birds, envious of its fame, chased it away, causing a devastating drought. The rivers dried up, the crops withered, and suffering spread across the land. Realizing their mistake, the birds and the people sought Tompipi, apologized, and convinced it to return. Forgiving them, Tompipi sang once more, bringing rain and restoring harmony. The story teaches the dangers of jealousy and the value of unity.



CUBE



CHLOE NG 14 yrs old

The One-Sided Fish is a Kadazan-Dusun legend about a fisherman who catches a unique fish with one side. He keeps it a secret, but when a curious friend mocks it, the fish escapes back into the water. The tale teaches respect for the unknown and the consequences of pride.



ECHOES OF KUNLUN



CHLOE YONG 10 yrs old

Houyi, banished to the mortal realm, braved the perils of the Kunlun Mountains, a realm of divine power, to seek the Immortality Fruit from the Queen Mother of the West. He planned to share the fruit with Chang'e, but Peng Meng threatened her. Chang'e swallowed the fruit, gaining immortality and ascending to the moon. Houyi, upon his return, mourned her and honored her on the moon. The Kunlun Mountains, where Houyi sought eternal life, became a symbol of both his longing for Chang'e and the tragic separation that forever bound them to the moon.



**THE ROCK: GIRL
AND THE PRINCE**



URUT TURUT



**THE GOLDEN AXE
AND THE SILVER AXE**



THE GREAT FLOOD



**THE GLOWING
PINK PEARL**



屈原



CHRISTABEL CHIN 13 yrs old

There's a pretty girl inside Sabah. One day, a loyal prince went to her house and start loving each other, and get married. And one day, the prince tell the pretty girl that he need to go into the woods to cut trees, and the princess stands on top of the mountain to wait for her husband's return, but he has never come back, and suddenly one day the spirit went to her body and she becomes a rock.



CLARABELLE CHIN 10 yrs old

Urut Turut" tells of a sacred Kadazan-Dusun ritual performed to restore harmony and balance. A village healer uses chants and symbolic actions to bless and heal individuals or places, ensuring protection from negative forces and fostering peace within the community..



DAJE LEE 10 yrs old

The woodcutter dropped an axe into the pond while woodworking in the mountains. A mountain spirit appeared and asked about the reason why he's crying. When the mountain spirit heard the story, he brought a gold and silver axe and asked if it was this. The woodcutter, however, honestly said that his axe was an old iron axe. The mountain spirit, who was impressed by the woodcutter's honesty, gave him both a gold and silver axe. The greedy person who heard this story deliberately dropped the axe into the pond and the spirit was rather angry at him. This story demonstrates the universal human ethical view that honest people are blessed.



DYLAN YEE 10 yrs old

A great flood was sent to cleanse the world, with only a few chosen survivors finding refuge on a giant tree or sacred mountain. The story teaches respect for nature and balance with the spiritual world.



ELISHA LAU 12 yrs old

An Emperor sent his three sons to retrieve a carbuncle guarded by a dragon atop Mount Kinabalu. The eldest and second sons failed, but the youngest, Kong Wang, cleverly used iron cauldrons to scale the mountain and distracted the dragon to claim the carbuncle. When Kong Wang returned, the eldest son, Kwun Wang, claimed the carbuncle as his own. Kong Wang proved his bravery and loyalty, and the Emperor declared him heir, punishing Kwun Wang for his deceit.



ELSA SOON 10 yrs old

Qu Yuan (屈原) was a loyal poet and statesman of the Chu state during the Warring States period. Exiled due to court intrigue, he drowned himself in the Miluo River in despair when his state fell to the Qin. Villagers tried to save him, leading to traditions like dragon boat races and zongzi offerings, which became the Dragon Boat Festival (端午节). His story symbolizes patriotism, loyalty, and resistance against corruption.



THE LEGENDS OF THE DRAGON OF MOUNT KINABALU



GREAT GRANDPA'S HOME



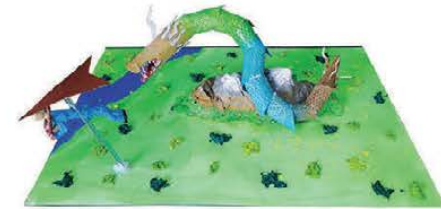
LION DANCE CULTURE



THE MOON GODDESS



THE DRAGON OF MOUNT KINABALU



GUARDIAN OF THE PEARL



ENYA CHAM 12 yrs old

On Mount Kinabalu, a dragon guards a priceless pearl. Wong Tsiang, a clever hero, devises a plan, outsmarts the dragon, steals the pearl, and escapes, symbolizing courage and ingenuity.



ETHAN EVANELLE HO 13 yrs old

As told by my grandma, of his father, my great grandpa, Dullah. This artwork is inspired by his simple life at the foot of Mount Kinabalu. He was a farmer and a porter. As he rests among our ancestors' spirits on the revered Aki Nabalu, he forever watches over us, silent guardian of our heritage and kin.



EUGENE HOO 13 yrs old

Lion dance is a traditional Chinese performance symbolizing luck, prosperity, and warding off evil. Performed during celebrations like Lunar New Year and weddings, it features dancers in lion costumes mimicking the animal's movements to rhythmic drum beats.



EUGENIA HOO 11 yrs old

In Kadazan-Dusun mythology, Huminodun, daughter of the creator god Kinoingan, sacrificed herself to end a famine. From her body grew rice and plants, providing sustenance. Her story is honored during the Kaamatan Harvest Festival, symbolizing fertility and selflessness.



EVA MARIE YOUNG 15 yrs old

Long ago, a kind dragon named Naga watched over Mount Kinabalu. When a drought struck, villagers sought his help. Naga offered to bring rain if they filled a magical jar with things that made their village special. The villagers sang, shared stories, and worked together, causing the jar to glow until it burst open, bringing rain. The villagers learned the power of unity, and ever since, rainfall reminded them of the magic unlocked through cooperation.



EVAN SOO 11 yrs old

Two princes, sent by the emperor of China, sets out to steal the pearl from the dragon of Kinabalu, the guardian of the pearl. One brother manage to get the pearl by flying on a kite and replacing the pink pearl with a chinese lantern



THE LEGENDARY SACRIFICE



EVANA SOO 12 yrs old

Based on the story of Huminodun, who is also called Ponompuan, the daughter of Kinoingan and Suminundu. She sacrifice herself to feed her people who were suffering from a drought.



ORIGIN OF SUN AND MOON



GISELLE CHU 9 yrs old

The Sun and moon were one siblings living together in harmony. However, the Sun intense hit burn the Earth and moon is cool light could not sustain life. To protect earth, they agreed to leave apart, whereby Sun rules morning Moon rules night.



MUSA THE GIANT



HANNAH SORIANAH KOH 11 yrs old

Kinabalu is said to have lived at the top of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo. This dragon owned a grand pearl that the Chinese Emperor desired. He sent many men to retrieve it, but the dragon killed most of them.



THE HIDDEN DRAGON OF MOUNT KINABALU



Hii Yii Teng 12 yrs old

Kinabalu is said to have lived at the top of Mount Kinabalu in Borneo. This dragon owned a grand pearl that the Chinese Emperor desired. He sent many men to retrieve it, but the dragon killed most of them.



FISH



HO YONG QI 14 yrs old

A man got greedy when heard that another guy got goods when he got lost and was invited by this old man to have dinner so he did the same to achieve goods for himself. Not knowing that the old man dislikes anyone who eats fish, the man ate all the fish he could consume and left with goods too after the dinner with the old man, however when he was near a lake, a school of fish and its leader appeared to attack the man for vengeance.



BATTLING BEDBUG



ISAAC LIEW 14 yrs old

The artwork is about a ghost who haunts fisherman, however the ghost was tricked away to get more fish for the fisherman.

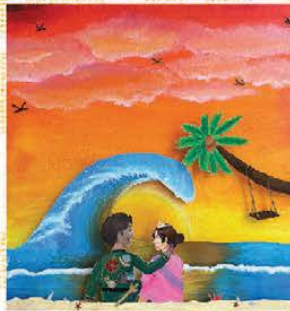


THE GHOST AND THE FISHERMAN



ISABEL HELEN SIOW 10 yrs old

The artwork is about a ghost who haunts fisherman, however the ghost was tricked away to get more fish for the fisherman.



UNDER THE ARU'S SKY



ISABELLE CHONG 11 yrs old

My artwork is based on a folktale from Tanjung Aru Beach in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The story tells of a Prince who fell in love with a beautiful Princess at first sight. To win her heart, he bravely completed a series of challenges, and over time, the Princess fell deeply in love with him. However, their love faced opposition from the King, who refused to approve their union. Faced with no other choice, the couple decided to elope and were eventually led to what is now known as Tanjung Aru Beach. The vibrant sunset in my art reflects the eternal love and longing symbolized in the tale, capturing the emotional essence of their story and the natural beauty of Tanjung Aru.



THE GOLDEN EGG



ISABELLE KWANG 13 yrs old

The story follows a devoted husband whose wife passes away unexpectedly. Unable to bear the loss, he embarks on a perilous journey to find her spirit. Along the way, he was able to meet a guardian who was willing to help him bring his wife back to life. From there on, the guardian informed the young man that his wife's spirit was still around and that she was building a boat by the riverbank to cross over to the afterlife. The young man, not wanting to lose his wife, desperately asked the guardian if she knew how to bring his wife back safe and sound. Feeling sorry for the man, the guardian told him if he wanted his wife back, he would have to do a ritual to restore her life. Determined, the man made sure to complete every single step of the ritual to bring his wife back to life which included throwing a golden egg onto her unfinished boat. Ultimately, his loyalty and courage were rewarded when he was finally able to reunite with his wife.



THE LONELY OWL AND THE MOON



JACEY CHIN 9 yrs old

A dying mother told her son to look at the moon after her death, where her shadow would watch over him. Grief consumed the boy, and he eventually transformed into an owl under the full moon. Villagers believed the shadow was his mother watching over him, and the bird became known as the Duok.



THE GIRL IN THE JAR



JAENNA LO 12 yrs old

The story of the girl in the jar reflects the local community's respect for nature and spiritual beliefs, as well as their willingness to go to great lengths for the survival of their village. It serves as a poignant reminder of how traditional societies often intertwined mythology with real-life events.



ORIGIN



JANA JOY SHAM 9 yrs old

Kadazan Folklore regarding the formation of the world. It tells the story of a man and a woman who came out as small children from a rock that had split. They grew up to become knowledgeable adults and began creating the sky and the land.



**FLAVORS OF THE WORLD:
A CULINARY JOURNEY**



JAVIER TSEU 14 yrs old

Towadakan, the mischievous son of Kinaringan and Yunun, disobeys his parents by opening seven sacred jars, releasing creatures that disturb humans. As punishment, he is banished to the rivers, bringing illness and stealing Dusun rice harvests. He grows thin when food is plenty and fat when rice is scarce.



GUARDIAN OF THE HIDDEN WATERS



HARMONY OF NATURE AND SPIRIT



JAYDEN TAN 11 yrs old

Sabah's sea serpents are woven into local folklore and mythology. Residents and fishermen often report sightings of these large, snake-like creatures in the waters around Sabah, especially in the Sulu Sea. While many hold beliefs in their existence, others view them as legends or misidentifications of marine animals. It's important to note that there is no scientific evidence supporting the existence of sea serpents in Sabah.



JOHNSON PHOON 27 yrs old
Asgardian Art Tutor

The Spirit of Aki Nabalu
The Kadazan-Dusun believe that Mount Kinabalu is the final resting place for the souls of their ancestors. It is said that Aki Nabalu is a powerful spirit who guards the mountain and protects the spirits of the departed who dwell there. The mountain is considered a bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds, where the souls find peace and ascend into the afterlife.



REVENGE OF THE SPIRITS



GIANT OF KINABALU



KANG SIWON 11 yrs old

A legendary giant said to live on Mount Kinabalu. It is known for its great strength and is believed to protect the mountain and its secrets. This mythical figure is an important part of local folklore, symbolizing the power and mystery of nature.



A FREE MOUNTAIN



KARINA MAYA 11 yrs old

Kansuring was a skilled hunter who protected his village from harm. One day, a fearsome giant terrorized the village. Kansuring bravely fought the giant, ultimately sacrificing his own life to defeat it. In honor of his courage, the villagers preserved Kansuring's head as a symbol of his heroism and their gratitude.



KHO JIN SHIN 11 yrs old

The legend of Panggu tells of a brave warrior who, after defeating an evil spirit, requested to be transformed into a mountain to continue protecting his people. His body turned to stone, and he became Mount Kinabalu, a sacred place that symbolizes his enduring spirit and protection over the land.



THE WOMEN AND HER LOST HUSBAND



THE FIREFLIES OF KLIAS RIVER



KHOO XAN IX 13 yrs old

Long ago, a flood swept through the villages along the Klias River, claiming the lives of many children. Heartbroken, the villagers believed the children's soul lingered, transforming into fireflies that light up the mangroves.



LEE JIAEN GLENYS 13 yrs old

A woman in Sabah patiently waits for her husband to return from China, where he had gone to seek his fortune. Years pass, and despite her constant hope, he never returns. Eventually, she transforms into a stone or tree, symbolizing her undying love and the passage of time. The tale reflects themes of loyalty, longing, and the inevitability of time, with a poignant ending that blends love and loss.



HUSBAND- GAZING HILL



LEE JIA XIN NOELLE 10 yrs old

The origin of the story was about a woman turning into stone while waiting for her husband. It is deeply rooted in the oral traditions of Sabah's indigenous communities, particularly the Kadazan-Dusun people. Like many folktales, the story reflects themes of love, loyalty, sacrifice and transformation. Which are common in South east asians mythology.



THE MYSTERIOUS MOSQUITO



GEM GUARDIAN



LEE KA WEI 10 yrs old

Long ago, a fierce dragon guarded a precious pearl atop Mount Kinabalu. Hearing of its value, the Chinese Emperor sent warriors to retrieve it. With the help of a clever local hero, they devised a plan to trick the dragon and steal the pearl. After a daring battle, they succeeded, and the pearl was taken back to China. The tale highlights bravery, wit, and the mythical connection between Mount Kinabalu and legendary creatures.



LEVIELLE KWANG 11 yrs old

A handsome man was hunting in the forest when night fell, and he sought shelter. A mosquito queen disguised herself as a maiden and invited him to her castle. Unbeknownst to him, the castle was full of mosquitoes in disguise as butlers and chefs. After a meal, the man explored the castle and discovered jars of blood in a suspicious room. He stole the maiden's earrings and fled. The next day, the maiden noticed the theft and sent her mosquitoes to search for the man, who remains on the run to this day.



THE SEVEN TALENTED MAIDENS



LING CHEN XI 11 yrs old

This story is about seven talented maidens who were captured by a greedy king and were told to make a magical cloth. They decided to unite and escape the jail made with bamboos. Eventually, they escaped and made a magical barrier to protect their village and the village is safe.



MAHSURI



LING CHEN XIN 12 yrs old

Mahsuri, a virtuous woman from Langkawi, was falsely accused of adultery while her husband was away. Despite her innocence, she was sentenced to death. Before dying, she cursed Langkawi to suffer for seven generations. After her death, the island faced hardships, believed to be caused by her curse.



**DRAGON AND LION,
ENLIGHTENMENT
THROUGH DANCE**



LIOW ZHUO BIN 25 yrs old

The drawing, Dragon and Lion, Enlightenment Through Dance, depicts a Chinese-style dragon circling in a loop with a lion leaping through it, symbolizing resilience and unity. Inspired by a Rungus folktale, the dragon, once bound to guard treasure, is freed by a clever Joker's courage and wit, forming a lasting friendship. The circling dragon represents duty, while the leaping lion reflects fearless determination. The yellow background symbolizes both guarded treasure and newfound freedom. This artwork celebrates friendship, trust, and courage while honoring Sabah's cultural heritage.



GAYO NAKAN



LOUIS SHIM 11 yrs old

There is a Giant King residing in Mount Kinabalu with a big appetite. The people are struggling to satisfy his appetite and the Giant King has requested the people to bury him. Unfortunately, the people find it difficult and failed to bury him. Hence, the Giant King decided to cast a spell to bury himself under ground. Due to the remorseful effort to bury him and the fear of threats by the Giant King with drought and famine, the people began to practice sacrificial offering at the Giant King's grave, also local folks known as Gayo Nakan.



THE PREDICTED FLOOD



LOW CHEYANNE 15 yrs old

Two men shared a vivid dream of a mysterious figure warning them of an impending flood and urging them to prepare. Taking the warning seriously, they alerted their neighbors, but their words were met with disbelief. When the flood came, only those who had heeded the dream survived.



CAT ISLAND



MABEL TAN 10 yrs old

Long ago, Pulau Kucing (Cat Island) in Sabah was protected by a mystical white cat. When pirates arrived to steal its hidden treasures, the cat appeared, and a great storm sank their ships. The villagers were saved, and the cat vanished into the jungle. To this day, fishermen believe that seeing the white cat brings protection and good fortune, while those with bad intentions never return from the sea.



THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD



MARCUS JOHANNE LEONG 11 yrs old

Long ago, a boy and girl emerged from a split rock and decided to create the world. The man formed the sky while the woman shaped the land. The woman worked harder, making the land larger than the sky. To balance it, the man piled the land into hills and mountains so it could fit under the sky.



THE CIRCUIT TRAVELING PELICAN



MAYA BARLOW 10 yrs old

The folktale of the Singing River (Pascagoula, Mississippi) Mississippi is known for fishing, water sports, and Southern cuisine like po'boys, gumbo, and crawfish. The writer's great aunt used to sneak into the house of Walter Anderson, a famous Mississippi artist, to play with his daughter and have tea parties. While there, she admired Anderson's distinct art style, which featured shapes, patterns, and scenes from Horn Island, where he often painted nature, animals, and boats.



NAGA PUTERI SERI GUMUM



MEAGAN JILL VOON 14 yrs old

The Serpent of the Kinabatangan River is a legendary creature in Sabahan folklore, believed to be a giant naga or mystical snake dwelling in the river's depths. Some stories depict it as a guardian spirit protecting nature, while others warn of its wrath against those who disturb the river. Sightings of the serpent are often considered omens, sometimes linked to floods or natural disasters. This legend is deeply rooted in the beliefs of the Kadazan-Dusun and Orang Sungai communities, symbolizing the power and mystery of the Kinabatangan River.

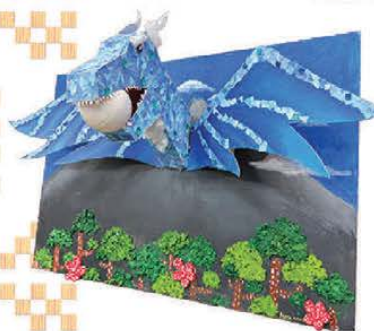


SUN & MOON



MIKAELA SHAINA TEO 10 yrs old

In Kadazan-Dusun folklore, the sun and moon are linked to ancestor spirits. One myth says the sun was created to provide light and the moon to guide people at night. Other versions depict them as siblings or lovers separated due to misunderstandings, with the sun ruling the day and the moon the night.



MT. KINABALU'S DRAGON



MIRA SAVANNAH RAO 10 yrs old

Once upon a time there was a huge magnificent pearl on top of Mt. Kinabalu and the Chinese emperor desired it, however as many men he sent up to retrieve it, they could not as there is a dragon named kinabalu living up there who is protecting the pearl, so the emperor sent two brothers to retrieve it.



THE ORIGIN OF RICE



THE GENERATIONAL PROMISE TO THE RAEs



MOHAMED QALEEF MIKAEL
14 yrs old

The Dusun and Kadazan people celebrate the Modrusung (Harvest Festival) in honor of Bambarazon, the Great Goddess of Mercy, who gave rice to the world. Seeing humans suffer from hunger, she searched for a sustainable food source and found a plant called padi with empty ears. To fill them, Bambarazon squeezed her breasts until milk mixed with blood filled the ears, creating rice so humanity would never go hungry again.



MUHAMMAD ZAIM FARISH
16 yrs old

Folktale from my family about how my ancestor was saved from drowning by big white stingray and were debted to never eat a sting ray again. To me it feels more like a curse, i love seafood but each time i want to eat a sting ray it feels like they pull me back from eating it because it will give me a bad omen.

THE OWL AND THE MOON



THE BIG EATER



NATALIE CHAN 11 yrs old

Long ago, a kind dragon named Naga watched over Mount Kinabalu. When a drought struck, villagers sought his help. Naga offered to bring rain if they filled a magical jar with things that made their village special. The villagers sang, shared stories, and worked together, causing the jar to glow until it burst open, bringing rain. The villagers learned the power of unity, and ever since, rainfall reminded them of the magic unlocked through cooperation.



NATELIE TSEU 13 yrs old

A woman, after losing her husband, felt gravely ill while raising her young son. Before dying, she told him to look at the moon, where her shadow would watch over him. Grieving deeply, the boy cried under the moonlight until he mysteriously transformed into a bird, called the Duok, an owl.



THE HUNTER



NICOLE HUI 16 yrs old

Monsopiad, a warrior from Kuai, was believed to have special powers: after a sacred Bugang bird nested on his parents' roof during his birth. Trained to protect his village from robbers, he succeeded and was celebrated as a hero. However, his thirst for violence grew uncontrollable, leading him to provoke and kill others. The fearful villagers united against him, and without his sacred powers, he was defeated. Despite his downfall, they honored his legacy by renaming the village after him and erecting a monument in his memory.



SANG KANCIL AND THE TIGER



OLIVER HUI 15 yrs old

In this story, the tiger wanted to eat the mouse deer, but the mouse deer cleverly used wit and lies to deceive the tiger and ultimately escaped.



THE LITTLE BOY AND THE MAN



PEPPER PANG 10 yrs old

The "Fish Country" tale from Sabah tells of a man who visits a magical land where fish are abundant and revered. Greedy, he takes more fish than needed, and the fish refuse to let him leave. The story teaches lessons about greed, balance in nature, and respecting the gifts of the sea.



VARANASI HOLY CITY ON THE BANKS OF RIVER GANGES



PERUMAL DEIVANAI 53 yrs old

The artwork is based on a sacred oldest city called Varanasi on the banks of the river Ganges in India which is significant for its religious and cultural heritage. The Ghats or the steps leading down to the river are the heart of the city and are the site of the daily rituals and final rites of life's passage. Pilgrims visit Varanasi to bathe in Ganges river to purify themselves. Hindus believe that by doing final rites here liberates them from endless cycle of death and rebirth.



THE POCONG



REAYANNA WONG 19 yrs old

The Pocong is a ghost from Islamic folklore, resembling a corpse wrapped in a funeral shroud called 'kain kafan'. The shroud is tied at the head, feet, and neck during burial. If the knots are not untied after burial, the body is believed to be reanimated as a Pocong, also called Hantu Bungkus in Malaysia.



SEA BEAST



SAMPAPING TONINI (LITTLE HALF BOY)



RURI LEE 10 yrs old

Long ago, a sea beast demanded the village's most beautiful girl, Chun Hang, who cared for her blind father. She offered herself but asked the villagers to give her father rice. Seeing her tears, the beast, touched by her kindness, spared her. Chun Hang and her father lived happily ever after.



SAMUEL T. CYRIL 17 yrs old

"Little One-Side" is a collection of Dusun folk tales from Kota Belud, Sabah, compiled by D.C. Holland and published by the Borneo Literature Bureau in 1962. These stories are retold for primary schools, aiming to preserve and share the rich cultural heritage of the Dusun people.



THE WINGS OF THE MOON



SARA LIEW 10 yrs old

A Sabah tale tells of a mother who comforts her adventurous son by saying the moon will watch over him when she cannot. As he grows and journeys far from home, the moon's light reminds him of her love and guidance, eventually leading him back to her.



MONSOPAD



SEAN LONG 14 yrs old

Kizabon and Dunggou's son, Monsopiad, was believed to have special powers after a sacred Bugang bird nested on their roof during his birth. Trained as a warrior, he defended his village from robbers, returning with their heads as trophies and earning a hero's welcome. Over time, his thirst for violence grew uncontrollable, provoking fights to behead more people. The villagers, once grateful, united against him. Stripped of his powers, he was defeated. Despite his downfall, the village was renamed in his honor.



THE SHIP SURGE



SENYA LIM 14 yrs old

The Legend of the Lost River tells of a river that vanished as punishment for human greed, flowing underground for those who respect nature. In the Tale of the Prince of China and the Murut People, a shipwrecked prince marries a Murut maiden, symbolizing unity and cultural exchange between their peoples.



GANESHA AND THE MOON



SESHRI NAGARAJ 12 yrs old

Hindu Mythology – story of Ganesha's birthday. The moon mocked Ganesha for riding on a small mouse despite his huge size. Ganesha became angry and cursed the moon to never be looked at on his birthday.



MAINSRING



SOONG JUN TING 18 yrs old

Through generations of story telling, it is known throughout the land below the wind that it is customary to not pick a lone standing flower in the fields. It is often said that the flower is a maiden, waiting for her husband to return, and anyone who dares to disturb the flower will have their loved ones harmed.



THE FAIRY SERPENT



SOPHIE YONG 13 yrs old

Based on Teochew folklore, a man with three daughters entered a fairy serpent's garden while gathering flowers. The snake trapped him and demanded one daughter as his bride in exchange for release. The eldest two daughters refused, but the youngest agreed to save her father. The snake sent wasps to summon her, and she followed them to his luxurious palace. Though repulsed by his appearance, she dutifully cared for him and grew fond of his kind nature. One day, she saved the thirsty snake by immersing him in water, breaking a curse and transforming him into a handsome man. They lived happily, often visiting her family and helping others.



**THE CARBUNCLE QUEST:
TALES OF THE DRAGON OF KINABALU**



SURI SAFIYYA 11 yrs old

The Carbuncle Quest: Tales of the Dragon of Kinabalu is a captivating Malaysian folklore about a mighty dragon dwelling in the majestic mountains of Kinabalu, Borneo. This formidable creature, renowned for its extraordinary power and ancient wisdom, guards a rare and mystical treasure—a luminous carbuncle jewel embedded in its forehead. The glowing gem is said to be the source of the dragon's unparalleled strength and magical abilities. One fateful day, a band of treasure hunters, driven by greed, sets out to capture the dragon and claim the prized carbuncle. However, their ambitions are met with a harsh lesson as they come face-to-face with the dragon's overwhelming power. The tale carries a profound moral, serving as a cautionary reminder of the perils of unchecked greed and the importance of honoring the powerful forces of nature and legend.



BABALAN



SWAN LIBERTY GOH 13 yrs old

Babalan refers to a shaman or spiritual guide in Borneo's indigenous cultures, such as the Kadazan-Dusun and Murut, who communicates with the spirit world for healing, guidance, and protection, playing a vital role in rituals and preserving traditional beliefs.



THE ABUNDANCE



TAVIE CHIN 10 yrs old

My father, being a little boy in Kg. Pendamai, Tuaran, my father witnessed a Kadazan-Dusun farming ritual seeking protection and blessings for a plentiful padi harvest. Farmers, dressed in traditional attire, chanted and sang in Dusun, accompanied by the "Kulintangan" and gongs. Offerings of rice, coconut wine ("Bahar"), and fresh poultry were made to the goddess Huminodun during the planting season. This unique tradition, no longer practiced today, was an unforgettable experience.



GAYO NAKAN THE GIANT KING



TOMPIPI



TAYLOR VOON 15 yrs old

The Tompipi bird is a mystical creature in Sabahan folklore, believed to have the power to sing and summon rain. Revered by the Kadazan-Dusun people, its melodic calls are thought to bring much-needed rainfall, symbolizing nature's balance and harmony. This legend reflects the deep spiritual connection between humans and the environment, reminding people of the importance of respecting nature's gifts.



THEA ROZELYNDA NATHAN
11 yrs old

Gayo Nakan, the Giant King, was a powerful and feared ruler in Sabah folklore. Known for his strength and appetite, his legend reflects themes of power, greed, and balance in Kadazandusun mythology.



THE GODDESS OF THE MOON



TISYA HUEY THEVARA JAH
15 yrs old

Hou Yi, a great archer, shot down nine of the ten suns that scorched the earth. As a reward, he was given an immortality potion, but he hid it because he did not want to be separated from his wife, Chang'e. One day, his enemy Fengmeng tried to steal the potion, and Chang'e had no choice but to drink it, becoming trapped on the Moon. The gods eventually allowed her pet rabbit to accompany her on the Moon, and Hou Yi forgave her.



THE GIRL OF KADAZANDUSUN



TRISHANNA CHAN 11 yrs old

Huminodun, the only daughter of divine beings Kinoingan and Suminundu, sacrificed herself to save her people from famine. Her body was sown into the earth, giving rise to rice, the lifeblood of the Kadazan-Dusun people. Her spirit, Bambarayon, resides in the rice, symbolizing life and abundance. Her sacrifice is honored during the Kaamatan Festival, celebrating gratitude and her enduring legacy.



NIAN



TIEW PAUL WAYNE 9 yrs old

The Nian is a fearsome beast in Chinese mythology that lived in the mountains or under the sea. Every Lunar New Year, it would emerge to terrorize villages, eating livestock and even people. The villagers discovered the Nian feared loud noises, bright lights, and the color red. To protect themselves, they began lighting firecrackers, hanging red decorations, and wearing red clothing during its attacks. Eventually, these traditions scared the Nian away for good, and they became part of the Chinese New Year traditions.



LABI-LABI



TIEW PEARL AIME 12 yrs old

A clever labi-labi (softshell turtle) falls in love with a princess and, despite his humble appearance, uses his wit to overcome challenges set by the princess's father. Impressed by his determination and intelligence, the princess eventually accepts him, highlighting the importance of inner beauty and perseverance.



THE LEGEND OF MAHSURI



THE DAY "NIAN" WAS CHASED AWAY



SUN WUKONG



TSEN KAY FUNG 15 yrs old

Long ago in ancient China, a fierce beast called Nian would emerge from the sea on the last day of the lunar year to attack people and livestock. To stay safe, villagers would flee to the mountains each year. One year, an old man promised to drive Nian away. When the beast arrived, firecrackers and bright flares scared it, and the old man, dressed in red, frightened it further, causing Nian to flee in terror.



TSEN SZE MAN 14 yrs old

A beautiful lady got accused from having an affair when she had a husband and she was executed but before she passed away she cursed the island for the next few generations.

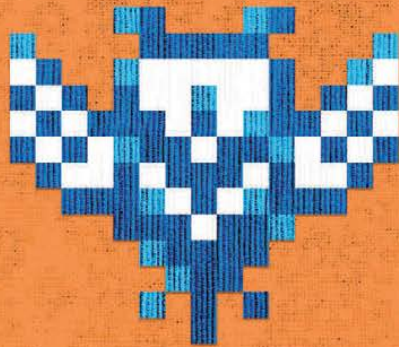
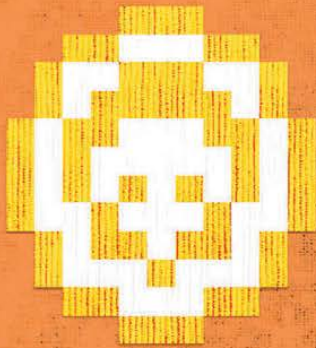


VERNICE GAN 14 yrs old

Sun Wukong, born from a magical stone, gained incredible powers through training and defied heaven's authority with his strength and cunning. After wreaking havoc in the heavens, he was subdued by Buddha and imprisoned under a mountain for 500 years. Later, he was freed to assist the monk Tang Sanzang on a journey to retrieve sacred scriptures. Alongside his companions, Sun Wukong used his strength and wit to overcome countless trials, ultimately achieving enlightenment and redemption.

ASGARDIAN SCIENCE

/
2024



THE PEARL GUARDIAN



ADAM BIN SUHAIMI 11 yrs old

The Kinabalu Dragon Pearl legend tells of a mighty dragon living atop Mount Kinabalu, guarding a magical pearl. A Chinese prince climbs the mountain, battles the dragon, and steals the pearl. The dragon chases him, but he escapes, bringing the pearl home as a symbol of bravery and triumph.



THE LEGEND OF THE WHITE CROCODILE



JOELLE KIU 12 yrs old

The legend of Terrunggari and Berlintang comes from the Orang Sungai of Sabah. Terrunggari, a wise white crocodile and guardian of the Kinabatangan River, faces Berlintang, a fierce saltwater crocodile seeking to take over his territory. To settle the dispute, they battle, with a young boy as a witness. Terrunggari instructs the boy to warn villagers if white blood (his defeat) surfaces. The fight ends with Berlintang's defeat (red blood), ensuring peace along the river.



鳄鱼的传说



TASHA TAN 10 yrs old

The legend of Terrunggari and Berlintang comes from the Orang Sungai of Sabah. Terrunggari, a wise white crocodile and guardian of the Kinabatangan River, faces Berlintang, a fierce saltwater crocodile seeking to take over his territory. To settle the dispute, they battle, with a young boy as a witness. Terrunggari instructs the boy to warn villagers if white blood (his defeat) surfaces. The fight ends with Berlintang's defeat (red blood), ensuring peace along the river.



THE ROCK WITH A SECRET DOOR

THE HUGE ROCK (PAMPANG)

THE ENCHANTED ROCK GATE



AASHIKA SIYA PILLAI 7 yrs old

My project is based on The Huge Rock (Pampang) story. I made a big rock with a door that I can control using a remote. I added LED lights like spotlights, which make the rock shine even more because I used glitter on it. The lights make the glitter sparkle, and it looks really pretty! I also put clouds on the rock to make it look magical and special. In my version of the story, I don't want the sister to get trapped inside the huge rock, so I made a door that can open and close. This way, everyone can stay safe and come out whenever they want!



ADAM NORMAN WONG 7 yrs old

My project is about The Huge Rock (Pampang). In the story, a sister gets trapped inside the rock, but I didn't want that to happen in mine. So, I made up three new characters: Cindy, Candy, and Cutie. They find the rock, but they don't get trapped. I added a rabbit that moves up and down to make it fun, and I put a cloud on the rock using cotton balls to make it look magical. My version of the story is happier, and I like imagining new adventures with my characters.



ARFA NUR MUHAMMAD 8 yrs old

My project is based on The Huge Rock (Pampang). In the story, someone gets trapped inside the rock. I made a big rock with a door that can open and close, like in the story. I added a man outside the rock and also made a sea with fish, seaweed, and an octopus.



PAMPANG'S SPONGE BOB UNDER THE SEA

FOREST



B KUASA 2



ARTHUR VOO 6 yrs old

My project is based on the Huge Rock (Pampang) story, where two sisters find a big rock, and one gets stuck inside it. But in my version, the rock is like SpongeBob's house underwater! I made the rock look like it's from Bikini Bottom, with jellyfish that move up and down, and the sisters wear air tanks because they are underwater. I also made a pretend self-destruct button with clay, just for fun! My project is special because it mixes an old story with SpongeBob's world, which I think is really cool!



OWEN JEREMIAH JOKINOL 7 yrs old

My project is based on the Tompipii folktale. In my artwork, Tompipii can move up and down, just like how the bird in the story brings rain to the land. There's also a butterfly that moves up and down, representing the small creatures that support Tompipii. I made a bridge over a river, with a pumpkin and a snake in the scene to make it more interesting. My art shows how Tompipii and the animals work together to bring life and hope to the land, just like in the folktale.



FAIRUZ FAZILAH 32 yrs old
Asgardian Science (E&R) Tutor

The Balan-Balan is a ghostly entity from Sabah's folklore, particularly in Kota Belud, rooted in the mystical beliefs of the indigenous communities. Similar to the Penanggal of West Malaysia, it is often portrayed as a woman practicing black magic who can detach her head and organs to hunt for blood, especially from pregnant women and infants. The legend warns against speaking its name to avoid summoning it. Neutralizing the Balan-Balan involves rituals like soaking its entrails in vinegar, but stopping it is considered difficult and dangerous. This myth underscores themes of fear and dark magic in Sabah's cultural stories.

ASGARDIAN TAWAU

/
2024



MOUNT KINABALU SAD STORY



ANGEL SOO 9 yrs old

One day ,the princess saw a cruise in the sea.Prince fell one day,the girl help him.After girl help Prince and they married. They had a child. One day the princess go,he promise will come back.The girl wait at Mount Kinabalu at the top.The prince was forced to married another girl.The girl died waiting at the mountain.



HOMINODUN



CHARISMA LEE 11 yrs old

The Unduk Ngadau beauty pageant is based on the Kadazan Dusun legend of Huminodun, the daughter of Kinoingan and Suminundu, who sacrificed herself to save her people from famine. When famine struck, Suminundu suggested that sacrificing Huminodun was the only way. After Huminodun was sacrificed, her body transformed into various sources of food: her head became coconuts, her flesh and blood turned into rice, her fingers became bananas, her teeth and hair became corn, her toes turned into ginger, her bones became sugar canes, her heart became fruits, and her ears became vegetables, symbolizing her sacrifice for the well-being of her people.



ALKISAH CINTA PUTERI KADAZAN BUNIAN



FALISHA BINTI MUFASAL HAMES
11 yrs old

Once upon a time, a Kadazan Bunian princess was hunted by villains who wanted to kill her. She fell into the sea and was saved by a man who lived in a nearby village. Over time, they fell in love and got married. One day, the group of villains discovered the princess's whereabouts and attacked their home, intending to kill her. However, her husband told the villains to take his life in exchange for his wife's, and he urged her to flee back to her homeland. In the end, the husband was killed by the villains.



GADIS LUNDAYEH



LAGENDA SUNDAL BOLONG



THE TALE OF THE TOOTH MOUSE



SI KANGKANG KIRUT



**A HORRIBLE CURSE,
SI TANGGANG**



嫦娥与后羿



FARIDAH IZATUL ADAWIYAH
11 yrs old

A brave Lundayeh girl was walking alone at night, without feeling any fear or dread of the obstacles that came her way, whether it be ghosts or evil people.



JASMIN HANIE 11 yrs old

According to the story from the Javanese community, Sundal Bolong was killed by robbers while she was pregnant with her first child, and her body was buried behind her house. She gave birth to her child in the grave and swore to take revenge on the robbers who had killed her.



JUWITA YUHANIS 12 yrs old

Everytime a child lost a tooth, a mouse will come to take the tooth and trade it with its own tooth. According to the Banjar people's belief that a mouse has a very strong tooth.



LATIFAH BINTI MONNAS 55 yrs old

This story base from Bajau Ethnic, settlement East Coast Sabah (Semporna, Tawau, Lahad Datuk, Kunak, Sandakan). This story tell us a folklore of a beautiful girl in an Island in Semporna who turns into a ghost call Kangkang Kirut. The story of Kangkang Kirut happened because this girl had violated the taboo by eating Basung Fish. Because of this curse, this beautiful young girl has turned into ghosts called Kangkang Kirut. Every time it come to disturb the villagers she will multiply and cry out kirut² sadly because she's wanna return back to is originally, nevertheless, the oath of violating taboo has been eternal and she's only come during night time and because of that all villagers became afraid coming out during night time too. through the time this story told by generations and become one of folklore in Bajau Ethnic.



VIENNA CHONG 12 yrs old

A very long time ago, there was a boy who was poor, but he knew how to sail a boat. One day, he became rich and started ignoring his mother. And then, he had to go to another island. When his mother waved him goodbye, he ignored her. That's where he himself and his boat turned into stone.

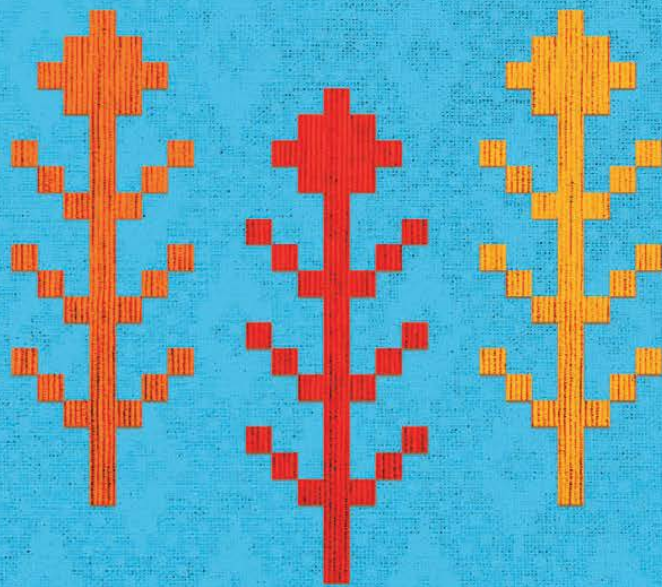


WONG KE XIN 11 yrs old

In Kadazan-Dusun belief, it is considered taboo to pick flowers from Mount Kinabalu, especially the Rafflesia or other native plants. The mountain is regarded as sacred, and taking anything from it is believed to anger the spirits residing there. This cultural practice is rooted in the respect and reverence the Kadazan-Dusun people have for nature and their ancestral lands, as well as the belief that the mountain is the resting place of deities and ancestors. Violating this taboo is thought to bring bad luck or misfortune.

ARTISTS

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2024



HUMINODUN



ALIAH DANIELLA 18 yrs old

Huminodun is a Kadazan-Dusun legend about a girl who sacrificed herself to save her people from famine. After her sacrifice, her body transformed into various sources of food such as rice, coconuts, and corn, symbolizing fertility and life.



THE DRAGON OF KINABALU



AROSA CHUNG 18 yrs old

Between 1405 and 1431, Admiral Cheng Ho made several voyages between China and the Indian Ocean. It was during one such voyage that Cheng Ho visited Borneo and learned of the fierce dragon that lived on top of the high mountain. The dragon was said to be the guardian of a very precious pink pearl.



**HUMINODUN,
IN DIGITAL PAINT**



BELLA AURELIA LATISYAH 9 yrs old

This tale tells of a giant dragon that lived in the kinabatangan River. It was a protector of the river and its people. However, when people started disrespecting the river by polluting it, the dragon became angry and disappeared. Some believed that the dragon still watches over the river, and locals sometimes to respect the water as sacred.



MITOS NAGA DI GUNUNG KINABALU



FORBIDDEN LOVE : SOLUNGKOI



BELLE ETHEL YAP 22 yrs old

This story was told to me by my grandmother when I was a child, it said that there lived a fierce dragon on the Mount Kinabalu, the fierce dragon would protect a precious treasure from greedy people who wished to obtain it.



CHONG HENG FUNG 20 yrs old

Solungkoi. The Tamparuli Bridge Legend made me choose to draw this for this competition. After reading many resources from the Internet. Different sources have different interpretation on this myth. For my final conclusion of this myth/legend, it is in my understanding that Solungkoi and Robinson have a hidden love interest between them, but this love is forbidden for that time, since a love between a coloniser and a person who is colonised is judged by many locals. Robinson loves Solungkoi, so does she, but he chose his status and sacrificed Solungkoi to Tombuakar (River Spirit). After he came into his senses, he felt great guilt, buried Solungkoi, his love of his life and sacrifices himself to Tombuakar out of the request of it.



ENTERTAIN US



EZRA SELZIE SELDIUS 18 yrs old

The anger of the gods was caused by the inhuman treatment of animals by humans. The villagers held a celebration where they forced a cat and a monkey to drink alcohol and made them dance. This turned the animals into a joke for the villagers to laugh at, and the sound of the gongs grew louder. As a result, the gods sent heavy rain and storms for a week, causing the village to be flooded.



**DRAGON /
PEARL /
MOUNT KINABALU**



FOONG CHUN CHIEW 53 yrs old

Story of dragon staying on top of Mount Kinabalu that guarding a pearl.



**TUDIGONG AND TUDIPO
(GUARDIAN DEITIES OF LAND)**



HOO KA SENG 32 yrs old

They are based on Chinese Taoism Mythology. They protect land, bring in good fortune and maintaining harmony within their guarding area. Here, I am illustrating what I would imagine encountering their manifestation in a household. Plants turned greener, home pets became relaxed and the kid just sitting there witnessing their magical presence gracing his home.



BATU LUANG



ISAAC JACKRY KITINGON

12 yrs old

Batu Luang tells the story of a bride who was trapped inside a cave. This happened when the bridal procession stopped to rest in a cave due to heavy rain and strong winds while on their way back to the groom's house. Suddenly, the cave collapsed, and everyone managed to escape, but unfortunately, the bride could not get out in time, and the cave closed. Various attempts were made to rescue the bride, but none were successful. It is said that during the effort to open the rocks, only a small hole was found that could fit the bride's hand. She handed her wedding ring to the groom and asked him to forget her. After seven days and seven nights of trying, but failing, they gave up. And so, the bride remained in the cave. According to the elders, the bride's name was Kasum, and she had married a supernatural being, the guardian of Batu Luang cave.



THE MONDOU



JUAITA BINTI ANTHONY KINGAN

41 yrs old

This artwork tells the story of the mystical creature, Mondou, which is popular in folklore from Tambunan, Keningau, and Papar. The story was obtained from Herry Jas, who had an extraordinary encounter with his father at the age of 14. Mondou is said to fear fire as well as the smell of seashells and horseshoe crab shells. This creature is described as having thick fur, a large muscular body with sharp teeth, red eyes, bat-like wings, and the ability to roar like a tiger. Mondou is also believed to have two fierce dogs named Paragasu. It resides in dark caves in the Kimanis Range and can transform into eight different animals. This artwork uses mixed media such as acrylic, mica powder, and silicone to portray a mysterious atmosphere. The fiery background symbolizes Mondou's fear, while dark colors reflect its nocturnal nature. The artist hopes this piece will revive the legend of Mondou so that it is not lost to time.



**'GEGEJANJI GUNAI BOYA
PERJANJIAN DENGAN BUAYA**



JULIAN ABAN

52 yrs old

The story of "Janji with the Crocodile" or "Gegejanji Gunai Boya" in the Sungai language originates from the Kinabatangan and Segama Rivers, areas inhabited by the Orang Sungai community. It tells of a crocodile king named Aki Torunggari who sought the help of the Orang Sungai ancestors, specifically a shaman named Odu Sebulig-bulig. Aki Torunggari had been wounded by a prince named Tadtak, who was angry after the crocodile took his sister, Darupak, with the intention of marrying her. Odu Sebulig-bulig agreed to treat Aki Torunggari under one condition: the descendants of the Orang Sungai would never be harmed.



BATIK IBUNDA



LUQMAN HAKIM

16 yrs old

It's not very like folktales actually. It's about my mom.



THE LUCKY SUMANDAK



MOHD EFENDI AWANG DAMIT

32 yrs old

Kadazan-dusun girl being lucky in her world



TEMBUAKAR



MUHAMAD EIMAN

18 yrs old

A water dragon that lives in rivers and oceans..



Langit Yang Tak Lagi Sama



THE TALE OF SENGUGUD LIU -
THE MOSQUITO KING



SUPIRAK: KEPULANGAN
YANG TERHENTI



SUNDUAN DO HUMINODUN



PELIHARA MONDOU



THE SPIRIT OF BATU BERUKIR LUMUYU



NICHELLYE EVARALLY 18 yrs old

A married couple lived together. One morning, the wife had to go out to dry rice from the rice barn. At the same time, two suns rose and emitted the same amount of heat, causing the woman to suffer a stroke. Suddenly, her stomach burst, and blood splattered all over her body, leading to her death. The husband saw his beloved wife's body. The following morning, the husband took a pair of chopsticks and aimed them directly at the sun. Since then, the blind sun would appear at night.



NUR NIZAM 46 yrs old

'Senggugud Liou, the Mosquito King' - My favourite 'peteraan' (Bajau's word for orally narrated folktale) told by my mom when I was a kid. It's a tale about two sisters, daughters of a poor firewood gatherer - the elder was rotten and the younger had a heart of gold. One day, the elder sister let her baby sister get abducted by Senggugud Liou and made her a slave. Baby sister was so patient and obedient with Senggugud Liou's every requests and antics (including cooking rice that were actually worms, using haircombs made out of bones and household items made from skulls and such). At the end she got released and gifted a trunk as compensation for her service, but with one condition that it can only be opened once she reached home. The trunk turned out to contain a load full of precious treasures which made the elder sister so terribly jealous. She went back to Senggugud Liou's lair, got herself kidnapped and made a slave as well. But her attitude was so horrible that even Senggugud Liou found it unbearable. The Mosquito King sent her back with a trunk and the exact same instruction to only open it once she reached home. But the greedy sister immediately popped the trunk open only to find a brimful of poisonous snakes inside and she ended up bitten to death.



NURAIRIN ARDILLA 18 yrs old

Supirak Island in Pitas, Sabah is said to have originated from a tragic story of a son who was ashamed to acknowledge his mother after returning home and becoming wealthy. In her disappointment, the mother cursed the ship, and those aboard the ship turned to stone. Today, the ship is believed to have become a tourist spot in Pitas, Sabah, known as "Pulau Batu Supirak" (Supirak Stone Island).



PANGROK SULAP 14 yrs old

Sunduan do Huminodun is a popular Kadazan-Dusun folktale from Sabah, Borneo, that revolves around themes of sacrifice, love, and the origins of rice, a staple crop for the indigenous people. The story is deeply embedded in the culture and traditions of the Kadazan-Dusun people, who believe that the tale explains the origins of rice and its significance in their daily lives. The tale begins with a beautiful young woman named Huminodun, the daughter of the great creator God, Kionoingan. Huminodun is loved by her people, who live peacefully and prosperously under Kionoingan's protection. However, a terrible famine strikes the land, causing crops to fail, and the people begin to suffer. In desperation, the people appeal to Kionoingan, who, seeing their suffering, decides to offer a solution.



RICCO RICARDO LIM 18 yrs old

The legend of Paragasu, according to the beliefs of some Dusun people, describes Paragasu as a large creature resembling a dog, with a long tongue that is red on its underside. Not only that, this creature also takes human souls to be offered to Korombuam (evil spirits). Some Dusun people also believe that Paragasu is a creature that lives alongside tigers and serves as the keeper of Mondou.



RISHYA ROSLAN 28 yrs old

In Kampung Salilir, the Batu Berukir Lumuyu, discovered in 1971, is believed to be over 150 years old. Legend speaks of Tuluh Sangakak, seven strong siblings who helped level a hill. The youngest, the most skilled, became the target of jealousy from Kelawon Kelala, who tricked him into lending his poisoned blowpipe and used it to attack him. Despite being wounded, the youngest fought back, injuring Kelawon and splitting a large rock still visible today. Before dying, he requested to be buried at Mount Lumaku. On the way, his coffin turned into stone, known as Batu Namalunganan. His grieving brothers carved stones, now called Batu Binakan/Batu Berukir, before finally burying him at Mount Lumaku. These stones remain as evidence of the legend.



A SOUL'S PATH TO THE FIELDS OF LIFE



KISAH DUA MATAHARI



AVARICE



KODUO-DUO SIRI I



KODUO-DUO SIRI II



AKINABALU



S NARTY BINTI RAITOM
40 yrs old

In ancient times, there were two suns in the sky, both scorching the earth with intense heat. A woman, drying rice at the barn, died from a heatstroke. Her husband, finding her body, believed the two suns were to blame. He vowed to take revenge and shot one of the suns with his bow, causing the earth's temperature to cool. From then on, the wounded sun became the moon, while the remaining sun continued to rise during the day.



SITI NAZARATUL AINUL ULA
20 yrs old

Huminodun, the only daughter of Kinoingan and Suminundu, sacrificed herself to save the people from famine, and her body was sown into the earth, eventually producing rice, the source of life for the Kadazan-Dusun people.



SYLVINNIE CHONG 18 yrs old

This story tells of a dragon on Mount Kinabalu guarding a precious pearl. Two men from China who tried to steal the pearl were cursed and perished due to their greed.



VALERINA GEORGE 30 yrs old

This painting is based on the legend of departed spirits (Koduo-duo) returning to 'Gayo Ngaran', which is now known as Mount Kinabalu. (Video Teaser: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jb3b_72lmFrAGcYN-WBPRUh8tgLKb1da9/view?usp=drivesdk)

Note: Buyers of this artwork will receive a link (QR code) to download a short introductory video about this piece..



AWAD BIN ALI BAJERAI 53 yrs old

It is believed that all the departed souls of the Kadazan people are under his watch and will reside at Mount Kinabalu. Mount Kinabalu is said to have seven heavens.



LAGENDA MONDOU



AKTIVITI RAKYAT DI PASAR TAMU



WHISPERS OF THE JUNGLE



KINORINGAN TERTIDUR



BORNEO HEADHUNTER



AZLAN DULIKAB 44 yrs old

In the hills of Telipok, a mysterious creature known as the Cave Guardian watches over a shadowy cave. With glowing eyes, it protects the sacred ground, warding off intruders and guarding ancient secrets. Locals speak of its deep connection to the spirits of the land, though its true nature remains a mystery. The creature, known as Mondou, and the nearby village now has come to be known as Luang Mondou, named after both the cave and its mystical protector.



CHERYL WONG 18 yrs old

Various vendors sell vegetables, fruits, meat, chicken and more. Many people visit the stalls to buy daily food.



MICHAEL TSEN 54 yrs old

Extracted from the book Sabah by Robert Hoebel. In the dense jungle, where the Dusun man gathers forest treasures, every sound carries meaning. A single woodpecker call spells death, but the Muruts counter it with an antuka, a Y-shaped palm leaf stalk planted to ward off misfortune. Conversely, four woodpecker calls, especially if answered by another, bring good fortune. The jungle's omens are ever-present; a flying swarm of bees warns of bad luck, urging farmers to abandon their fields for the day to avoid a poor harvest. For the Dusun and Murut people, the forest is alive with whispers of mystique, guiding and guarding their daily lives.



MUHAMMAD ANAS KHALIDUN 42 yrs old

The artwork is inspired by the tale of Kinoringan creating the world, where a knotted rope represents the lifespan of a person, and each knot symbolizes one year of life. The more knots there are, the longer a person's life.

In this piece, Kinoringan is asleep, and as a result, one's life will not last long.



NELLY CLARE BAINON 19 yrs old

Murut were the last ethnic groups in Sabah to renounce headhunting. They collect heads to protect their village from potential enemies.

CONTACTS



Sabah Art Gallery

Established in 1984, Sabah Art Gallery promotes visual arts in an eco-friendly landmark in Kota Kinabalu, hosting diverse exhibitions that showcase local and international talent.

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Together, Sabah Art Gallery and Asgardian present the Tanong Art Exhibition, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the region through folktales and artistic expression.



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