



ART REPUBLIK COMMENDS THE YOUNG TALENT PROGRAMME WINNERS 2014.

BY NADYA WANG

Young Gems

In 2012, Affordable Art Fair Singapore launched the Young Talent Programme together with ION Art to provide a platform for young Southeast Asian artists to be introduced to galleries, art institutions and the general public.

In the 2013/14 edition of the two-part award programme, eight artists were shortlisted from 78 applicants to showcase their works at the Affordable Art Fair that took place from 21 to 24 November 2013 at the F1 Pit Building. The finalists were Abednego Trianto Kurniawan, Eunice Lim, Hazel Huang, Hilmi Johandi, Lennard Ong, Noor Iskandar, Wilfred Lim and Willis Turner Henry.

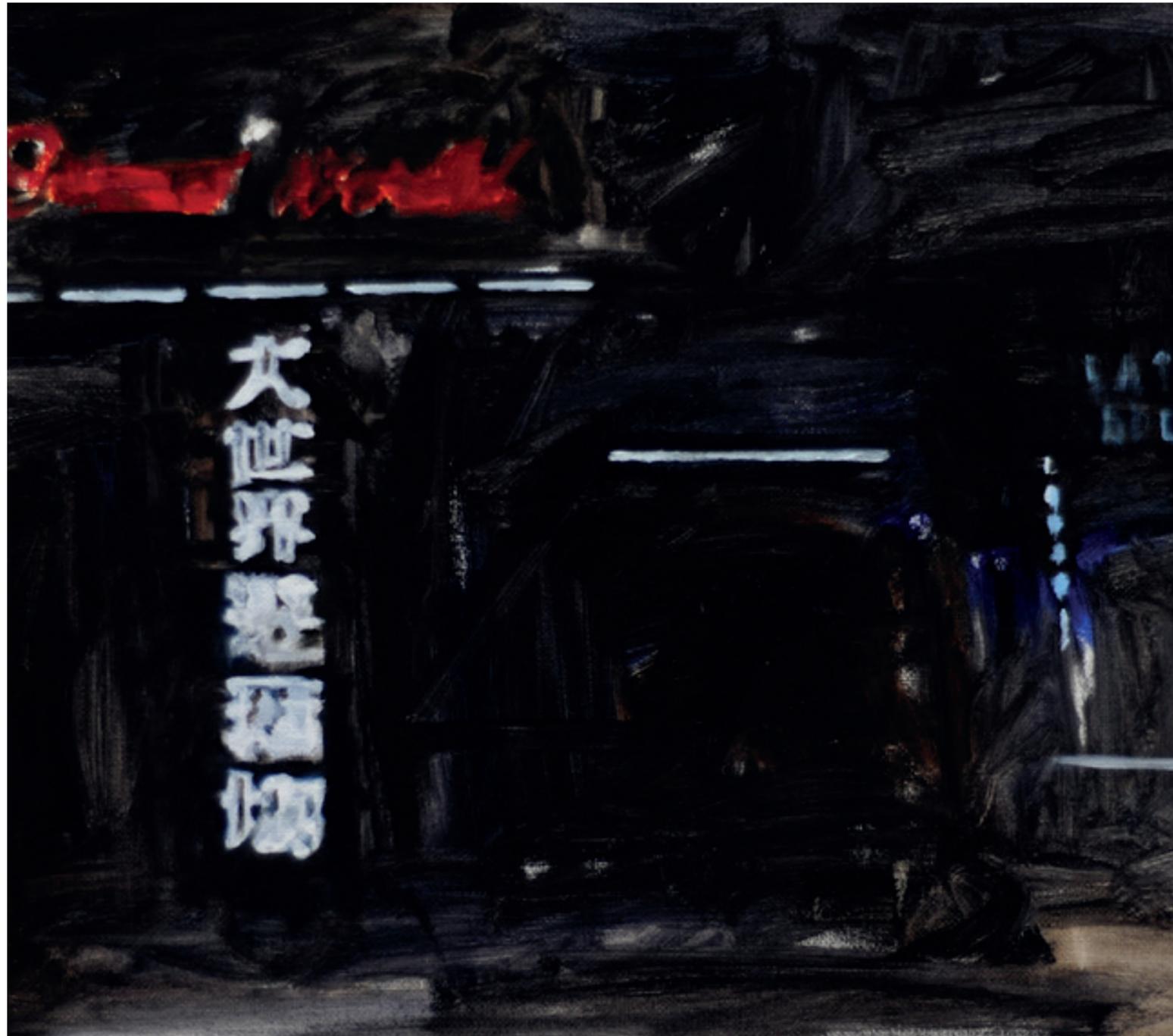
Hilmi, Lennard and Noor were named the eventual winners. Working with the programme curator Seah Tzi-Yan over a nine-month period, they further developed the work they had individually presented at the Affordable Art Fair for their solo exhibitions.

Art Republik takes a closer look at the exhibitions of these three promising young talents.

HILMI JOHANDI

Hilmi's 'Framing Camellia: Fragmentation of Frames' features a 4.8-metre wide three-panel oil on canvas work and a series of animated paintings in a video installation, showing vignettes of life in the modern city. These revolve around the imagined life of 'Camellia', a character inspired by Singapore pioneer realist painter Chua Mia Tee's iconic 1959 painting 'National Language Class', which depicted a co-educational class learning Malay, then the newly designated national language.

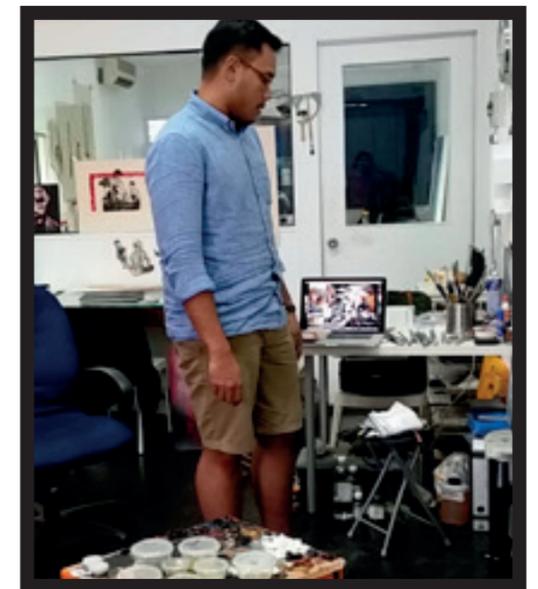
In his work, Hilmi looks to answer the nationalist questions that Chua had put on the blackboard in his painting: "Siapa nama kamu? Dimana awak tinggal? What is your name? Where do you live?" By putting together a series of paintings into four short stop-motion type sequences, the figures and objects – Camellia in a cheongsam, the neon-signed façade of the Odeon Cinema, the entrance to Great World Amusement Park and a moving car on the street – come to life against a



This page, top left: *Fragmentation of Frames* (detailed view), 2014, Hilmi Johandi.

Above: *Fragmentation of Frames* installation (detailed view), 2014, Hilmi Johandi.

Facing page, clockwise from top right: *Fragmentation of Frames* (detailed view), 2014, Hilmi Johandi; Hilmi Johandi in his studio.



soundtrack featuring a lone female singer and city sounds. These moving images surround and draw the audience into a darkly intriguing world that evokes an atmosphere of urbanity and loneliness in equal parts, and questions the human experience that is coloured by fragmented consciousness.

In the artist statement, Hilmi reveals his interest in the passing of time in paintings and films expressed through the moving image, and of his ongoing research in and experimentation with the meeting of the two visual narrative mediums.

Hilmi was born in 1987 in Singapore, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree with First Class Honours in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts – Goldsmiths University of London in 2013. This is Hilmi's second solo exhibition. His first was 'Dusk to Dawn | Fajar ke Senja' at the OCBC Artspace in June this year. He has also taken part in several group exhibitions, including 'Flux – City of Change' in 2013, curated by Griselda Bear and Joleen Loh for Strarta Art Fair at Saatchi Gallery, London.