

Recent Books from Singapore - Nov 2023

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Art

Yong Mun Sen in Nanyang = 杨曼生与南洋 / Yong Mun Seng
Singapore: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, 2023
224p. ; 29.5 cm (L) x 23 cm (W)
In English & Chinese
9789811863806
\$ 104.00 / PB
112gm.

Yong Mun Sen is one of the most iconic Southeast Asian artists of the 20th century, Yong Mun Sen (1896-1962), also an instrumental figure in the academy's founding history. Yong Mun Sen in Nanyang 楊曼生與南洋 traces Yong's story and role as a visionary artmaker and educator. A luminary who took life as a source of daily inspiration, he was keenly observant of his surroundings, and acknowledged the beauty of where he dwelled through his practice. His works display technical finesse, compellingly reflecting the cultural, societal, and economic progress of his time. This book is a 224-page publication with over 100 full-colour images of the works and accompanying essays that provide insights into the life and work of Yong Mun Sen. Articulated through a collaborative effort that is both about art and education, the research, reflections and thoughts by Southeast Asian art historians and academics including Yeo Mang Thong, Simon Soon, Bridget Tracy Tan, and Lok Tok feature in this seminal tome.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857756>

Reverie / Tay Bak Koi
Singapore: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, 2023
162p.
9789811877223
\$ 78.00 / PB
626gm.

A visual journey into the mind and soul of one of Singapore's most celebrated artists, this book features paintings of Tay Bak Koi's in oil, watercolour and ink, from his early works from 1960s to 2000s; each one a unique and personal expression of his artistic vision on themes of nature, spirituality, and the human condition. His work is characterised by its dreamlike quality and its celebration of the beauty of the world around us.

Tracing his artistic development from his student days at NAFA to his career as a painter, the accompanying essay by art historian and curator, Dr Bridget Tracy Tan provides a deeper understanding of Tay's works and place in the history of Singapore art.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857759>

Mapping Bali: Island. Culture. People / Bruce Granquist (Text & Illustration)
Singapore: Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd., 2023

192p. ; 240X280mm.
9789811450594
\$ 69.00 / HB
1324gm.

Mapping Bali is the creation of artist Bruce Granquist to record his visual relationship to the island which has been his home for over 30 years. Originally conceived as a straightforward mapping project which produced a detailed large-format topographic of the island, the scope of the project soon dived deep into the essence of the Balinese island soul. This homage to Balinese people and culture encompasses the unique characteristics that makes the island so special; topography, architecture, heritage sites, unusual landscapes, cultural traditions and spirits. Through shared stories with the people he meets in villages throughout the island, this original and intriguing book describes through images and words a personal and deeply felt celebration of the Balinese people.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857341>

Heroes, Gods and Guardians – Hilts and Keris of Indonesia: Huntington Miller Collection/ Bruce W. Carpenter (Ed-in-Chief) Vaishali Iyer (Photographer) Charla Thompson
Singapore: Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd., 2021

166p.

Includes Bibliography

9789811482960

\$ 65.00 / HB

954gm.

Put together over a period of twenty years, the Huntington Miller Collection of Keris and Keris Hilts is a tour de force. The emphasis here is on the sculptural aesthetic and historical importance of this unique art form from throughout Indonesia—Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Bali, Lombok, Sulawesi—and beyond. It is a story that spans centuries and the rise and fall of countless kingdoms and polities. The hilts range from minimalistic forms to the abstract to opulent royal weapons beautifully crafted to project prestige and wealth. So, too, they carry with them the aura of mystery and magic of the exotic tropical islands of Southeast Asia, which captured the imagination of foreigners even before the beginning of the Age of Spices, when the perilous journey from Europe to Indonesia took a year to complete. With a terse and informative text written by Indonesian art expert, Bruce W. Carpenter, this is a cultural and artistic voyage that delights the eye and stimulates the mind.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857344>

Vietnam Documented: The British Library's Vietnamese Collection / Sud Chonchirdsin
Singapore: Ridge Books (NUS Press), 2024

136p.

Includes Bibliography

9789813251885

\$ 32.00 / PB

402gm.

Vietnam has a strong literary culture that dates back to Confucian influence and has remained important today. Using Vietnamese books, documents, and manuscripts from the collection of the British Library, *Vietnam Documented* gives a window into that heritage and represents key incidents in Vietnamese social, cultural, and political history. It also highlights the visual sophistication of Vietnamese design, drawing on Chinese and French models and socialist styles in art and design. An informative text by the long-time Keeper of the Vietnamese collection, Sud Chonchirdsin, introduces the book. Among the earliest documents in the Library's collection is a 17th-century royal letter to the English East India Company. Other highlights include a travel diary of a member of one of the last of Vietnam's tribute missions to the Imperial court in China (1880)

and a beautifully illustrated manuscript of the classic Tale of Kiê`u. The strength of the collection lies in materials collected during Vietnam's twentieth-century struggle for independence—including rare periodicals from North Vietnam—that show how artists were mobilized in wartime. This accessible, full-color introduction to an under-appreciated design heritage is a welcome view into a beautiful culture.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857280>

The Field Beyond: Works by Contemporary Malaysian Artists / Ivan Lam, Choy Chun Wei & Yau Bee Ling

Singapore: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, 2021

60p.

9789811822407

\$ 46.80 / PB

236gm.

The Field Beyond: works by contemporary Malaysian artists accompanies the exhibition of the same name that was held at Lim Hak Tai Gallery. Featuring 28 works by four Malaysian artists, the book documents the artists' artmaking and thought processes as they reflect on their personal experiences leading them to create their pieces. A short introduction by Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Art Galleries and Academic Advisor (Southeast Asian Arts), NAFA, elaborates the practice of each artist and their presentation in exhibition at NAFA.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857763>

XEMX: 5 Friends 10 Years Art Infinite / Hoang Duong Cam (et al.)

Singapore: Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, 2023

104p.

9789811883385

\$ 52.00 / PB

392gm.

Quang, Nguyễn Thanh Trúc, Hoàng Dương Cầm, Quang Lâm, and Ưu Đàm Trần Nguyễn who started publishing an art magazine as friends, connecting with the public through their art. With their diverse backgrounds, XEM as a collective, showcased their work, according to their own expertise within a shared space, bringing what was in several editions of the magazine over the decade, to realising it as a seminal exhibition by group beyond the shores of Saigon.

Through a wide selection of videos, photo images, gaming sets, multimedia projections as well as found objection installation, and an inflatable sculpture, the exhibition XEMX reorientates us to converse without speaking directly, creating room to contemplate on the carousel of meanings that surround things; reflect on what we see, who we are and how we make sense of things as we encounter them in our visual field.

XEMX: 5 Friends 10 Years Art Infinite was conceptualised and presented in Singapore in September 2023 in conjunction with NAFA's Southeast Asian Art Clinic, each celebrating its 10th anniversary of being.

The book features a key essay by the exhibition curator, Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, who sheds fresh insight into XEM's practice and its significance within the context of contemporary art in Southeast Asia, as well as an interview of the artists by independent writer Dương Mạnh Hùng in Vietnamese (translation in English) and full-colour spreads of the exhibition presented in NAFA, Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857765>

Check-In 2023 / (Eds) Nadya Wang & Ian Tee

Singapore: Art & Market Publication, 2023

250p.

9789811876936

\$ 75.00 / PB
438gm.

CHECK-IN is an annual publication by Art & Market (A&M), a multimedia platform presenting specialist content on Southeast Asian art, with a focus on its community's artistic, curatorial and business practices.

This limited print edition, which is also available in full online, serves as a mid-year review of developments, shifts and trends in the Southeast Asian art scene. Featuring first-hand accounts, dialogues, observations and analyses, CHECK-IN 2023, the third in the series, is an inclusive anthology of voices from the region.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857551>

Science of the Secondary – An Atlas of the Everyday: T-Shirt, No. 14 / Atelier HOKO

Singapore: Atelier HOKO, 2023

60p. ; 175x250mm.

9789811866852

\$ 25.00 / PB

114gm.

"What happens when a plain T-shirt is worn? What kind of hyper-awareness is produced in the wearer? How are the sensory organs roused and poised to ensure that no foreign substances of any form shall stain the pristine white fabric of the plain T-shirt? While some will find this super-sensitivity brought on by a humble piece of clothing refreshing, others consider it unnecessary paranoia and would rather not wear plain, light-colored T-shirts at all. Those who do have probably come to terms with the fact that with great plain-ness, comes great responsibility..."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858513>

Corpus (How Do You Kill. What Does Not (Need) Bleed?) / Darius Ou

Singapore: Temporary Press, 2023

72p. ; ills colour & bw, 15x21cm

9789811883033

\$ 45.00 / PB

126gm.

CORPUS is a 3D-printed work that takes the form of a single-edition book, conceptualised, designed, and printed by graphic designer Darius Ou. This eponymous publication is a publication of that original work — a photocopied, bootleg-like reproduction that is also designed on its own terms. As a word that means both a dead body and also a body of text, CORPUS is a response to the overmentioned "print is dead" catchphrase and questions what this means for non-traditional printing practices like 3D printing. Does "print" here refer to the method or material? Would a 3D-printed book be considered dead even before it has a chance to live?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857654>

Rearrange the World / Lai Yu Tong (Ed) Renee Ting

Singapore: Thumb Books, 2023

64p. ; 105x155x9mm.

9789811866418

\$ 50.00 / HB

112gm.

A bottle, a can, and a cup move about on a table. With each arrangement, the objects take on different meanings. They tumble, balance, overturn, and roll around one another. If we can't change the world, let's rearrange it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858514>

Biography/Memoirs

Stateless / Chen Tienshi Lara; (Translator) Louis Carlet
Singapore: NUS Press, 2024
xvi, 236p.
Includes Index; Bibliography
9789813252325
\$ 34.00 / PB
382gm.

*"In the springtime of the year that I was twenty-one, I found myself stuck at the border between two familiar countries, unable to enter either. I had never felt my statelessness so keenly." ****
Japan's 1972 termination of diplomatic ties with the Republic of China left 9,200 Chinese residents stateless. Tienshi "Lara" Chen was one of them, born to Chinese parents in Yokohama's Chinatown. What does it mean to be stateless? What does it feel like? In a lively blend of life writing, auto-ethnography, and study of stateless communities around Asia, this book unpacks the idea of citizenship by showing the hidden everyday narratives and lived experiences of stateless persons who have no legal ties to any nation state. Originally published in Japanese, this adapted and updated English edition critically engages with questions of borders, mobility, belonging, and identity. We follow Chen's engaging autobiographical account of her bi-cultural upbringing and Japanese education, and how her experience of statelessness eventually led her into a career spanning academia and activism. Across different levels of analysis, the author points out the contradictions inherent in the concepts of nationality, nation-state and citizenship, in a world where individual nationality, identity and experience are increasingly complex. She concludes that the current system of regulating individuals with citizenship is unworkable in the long run. *Stateless* is a fascinating read on borders, states and identities.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858515>

Drawn to Satire: Sketches of Cartoonists in Singapore / CT Lim (Art) Koh
Hong Teng (Ed) Heidi Yeo
Singapore: Pause Narratives, 2023
144p.
9789811880919
\$ 40.00 / PB
412gm.

Eight cartoonists. Eight lives of indomitable spirit. Artists who pursued their vocations, drawing the cartoons of our lives, and becoming the mirrors of our times.
Eight stories of creative non-fiction. A journey into the comics worlds of our cartooning heritage. The untold stories, the unheard secrets of the cartoons that you have seen in books but cartoonists you have not met.
Eight stories of their trials, tribulations, struggles and history.
A comic book about our pioneering cartoonists.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858517>

Beacons of the Ummah: Tracing The Footsteps of Singapore's Islamic Religious Leaders / Pergas
Singapore: Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association (Pergas), 2023
192p.
9789811868191
Beacons of the Ummah, 3rd Series

\$ 35.00 / PB
502gm

A record of the vast contributions of Islamic religious leaders in Singapore, who consist of religious teachers (asatizah), scholars, and Muslim leaders. They helped in spreading the message of Islam, served as beacons of knowledge and were at the heart of the development of Islam in Singapore from as early as the 15th Century.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858518>

Business

Light The Way: The Secrets of Successful Agency Leaders Revealed / Benjamin Ang (et al.)
Singapore: AuthorRise Media Pte Ltd, 2023

208p.

9789811880209

\$ 40.00 / PB

332gm.

Light The Way is an exceptional book that unites five accomplished leaders from the insurance sector to share their invaluable knowledge on effective leadership. These co-authors boast extensive, decades-long careers in the insurance industry, and together, they unveil the fundamental principles and strategies that have propelled them to the zenith of their professions. In this enlightening book, readers are invited on a captivating expedition through the intricate realm of insurance, gaining profound insights into how leadership principles can be applied in this dynamic and ever-evolving field. Each co-author offers a distinctive viewpoint, drawing from their diverse backgrounds, areas of expertise, and unique leadership approaches. Through a collection of perceptive essays and real-world case studies, they provide pragmatic guidance, real-life anecdotes, and actionable strategies that are relevant not only to aspiring and seasoned insurance professionals but also to anyone seeking to lead and build teams in any industry.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857675>

Communication/Journalism

Indonesia's Moderate Muslim Websites and Their Fight Against Online Islamic Extremism / A'an Suryana

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023

25p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104837

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 15, 2023

\$ 12.00 / PB

200gm.

It is worrying that, in many cases in Indonesia, exposure to the Internet, especially social media, increases knowledge seekers' religious radicalism. This exposure has not only resulted in increased radicalism but also compelled some individuals to turn to violence in the name of Islam.

Moderate online media institutions have not been effective in counteracting the online dissemination of extremist religious content. The content disseminated by radical websites is still being popularly consumed, albeit those moderate Muslim websites have put in considerable effort to counteract radical narratives.

This report argues that this ineffectiveness is due to structural and cultural challenges. The structural challenges include limited funding and sensitivity towards the policy of umbrella organizations. Cultural challenges include passiveness in corporate culture, alongside the “ivory tower” traditions among journalists which leaves them out of touch with Muslim communities. The government of Indonesia can assist moderate Muslim media websites in fighting radical narratives, for example, through better funding to them.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858519>

Economics

Global Methane Pledge: A Review of Data, Policy and Transparency in Reducing Methane Emissions in Malaysia / Matthew Ashfold (et al.)

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023

54p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104790

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 13, 2023

\$ 12.00 / PB

200gm.

Malaysia is a signatory of the Global Methane Pledge, but the implications for national action on methane emissions remain unclear. We reviewed publicly available literature and data, arriving at the following key findings:

1. There is no clear national plan for methane action yet. Since signing the Pledge in 2021, there has been no demonstrable government initiative focusing on joined-up methane action at the national level. Malaysia does not have a methane strategy or policy, and sector-specific regulations focusing on methane emissions are either not present, vague, or publicly inaccessible.
2. There are indications emissions are falling due to positive corporate action. Effective methane reduction initiatives exist in Malaysia’s top two methane-emitting sectors, oil and gas and palm oil, and key players have committed to net zero pathways with methane reductions central to progress to 2030. Emissions should be expected to rapidly fall further if action can be scaled across all industry players.
3. Quantifying reductions with confidence remains challenging. Different reporting approaches and incomplete information on assumptions and uncertainties in quantification approaches, make independent analyses of reported emissions challenging. Wider deployment of measurement-based emission quantification is a key option to improve confidence in progress.
4. Improvements in corporate Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) in the coming years are expected. While some corporate standards remain confidential, key companies have joined international frameworks featuring transparency and MRV measures like the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 and, in a broader climate context, the evolving Science Based Targets initiative. Improved corporate MRV should enable improved national emissions reporting.
5. Methane reduction is a “low-hanging fruit”. Methane is a major initial lever to reduce greenhouse gas emissions up to 2030 in the climate plans of leading Malaysian industry players. Action to improve methane-related processes in the key oil and gas and palm oil sectors thus presents a valuable opportunity for Malaysia to contribute to global climate mitigation within its long-term national interests. Therefore, decisive methane action is needed even while plans for further crucial greenhouse gas emission reductions are developed and articulated in more detail.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858520>

The Labour Politics of App-Based Driving in Vietnam / Joe Buckley

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023

36p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104851

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 16, 2023
\$ 12.00 / PB
200gm.

Over the past decade, app-based driving services like ride-hailing and delivery have become an integral part of business, employment and daily life in Vietnam. This growth, however, has been accompanied by tensions and conflicts between ride-hailing platforms and traditional taxi companies, *xe ôm* (motorbike taxi drivers), the authorities and the drivers working for these platforms.

Most drivers on these services are male and work long hours for low wages. Their working conditions are precarious because platforms classify them as partners rather than employees, denying them basic rights and benefits. Although platforms offer bonuses, organize events to celebrate drivers' contributions, and provide training courses, these do not address the fundamental exploitation in the employment relationship.

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has not taken sufficient action to protect drivers or taken a stance on whether they should be classified as contractors or employees. The Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) is working towards securing social protection for drivers and increasing their representation in labour associations. While some members of the VGCL have argued that app-based drivers are actually workers and should be afforded the same rights and benefits as all workers, this is as yet not the formal position of the confederation. Drivers have taken to organizing strikes and protests to demand better treatment from the platforms. Their methods of activism are rooted in both traditional Vietnamese labour activism and global trends of platform protest.

The emergence of the gig economy in Vietnam is a challenge to sustainable development. Policymakers and practitioners are called upon to ensure that platform work contributes to improved livelihoods and decent lifestyles for all.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858521>

Law

Legal Professional Privilege / Colin Liew
Second Edition
Singapore: SAL-Singapore Academy of Law, 2023
lxxxii, 665p.
Includes Index
Monograph Series
9789811878213
\$ 195.00 / PB
1124gm.

Legal professional privilege is of fundamental importance to both providers and users of legal services, but remains in many respects a technical and often overlooked area of law. The comprehensive treatment afforded to the subject in this book makes it a valuable resource for all practising lawyers, in-house counsel, courts and arbitrators, both in Singapore and in other common law jurisdictions.

This second edition is revised and updated to reflect the 2020 Revised Edition of Acts, the new Rules of Court 2021 and the Singapore International Commercial Court Rules 2021, as well as a number of important local and international judgments handed down since the publication of the first edition.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858522>

Singapore Academy of Law: Annual Review of Singapore Cases 2022, Volume 23 (2022) / (Ed) Teo Keang Sood (et al.),
Singapore: SAL-Singapore Academy of Law, 2023
1v.
ISSN: 0219-6638; 9770219663006
\$ 120.00 / PB
1248gm.

The Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases ("SAL Ann Rev") is an annual conspectus that encapsulates and evaluates decisions of the Singapore courts in the preceding year. Selected cases from other jurisdictions impacting local law are also discussed. Leading practitioners and academics contribute on their areas of specialty by way of comment, analyses and criticisms.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858523>

Singapore Academy of Law Journal: Volume 35 September 2023 ((2023) 35 SAclJ) / (Ed) Elizabeth Sheares (et al.)
Singapore: SAL-Singapore Academy of Law, 2023
1v.
ISSN: 0218-2009; 9770218200004
\$ 50.00 / PB
380gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858524>

Politics/Current Affairs

Indonesia's COVID-19 Infodemic : A Battle for Truth or Trust? / Yatun Sastramidjaja
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023
26p.
ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104684
Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 12, 2023
\$ 12.00 / PB
200gm.

Besides being one of the countries most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia also experienced a severe "infodemic": an overabundance of contradictory information—including misinformation and disinformation—on COVID-19. This infodemic hampered pandemic mitigation efforts, resulting in non-compliance with public health measures and delays to the national vaccination programme in the first six months of the pandemic due to widespread vaccine hesitancy or vaccine refusal. Furthermore, it fomented public distrust of the government and other institutions.

On Indonesian social media, this infodemic engendered a peculiar type of hybrid narrative, combining global conspiracy theories with local moral economies and religious sentiments. Religious micro-influencers were particularly influential in spreading the narrative that the government's COVID-19 policies could not be trusted, and that COVID-19 vaccines were dangerous and haram. Such posts were often removed in line with the social media platforms' policies to combat false information on COVID-19, and the individuals who created such content risked prosecution in line with the government's punitive approach to "hoaxes". However, this did not lessen the prevalence of anti-vaccine narratives, nor did it mitigate public distrust of the government.

The government also contributed to the spiral of distrust through its inconsistent policies, lack of transparency, and mixed messages. Especially in the pandemic's early phases, government officials

themselves were found spreading misleading information, first to downplay the severity and risk of COVID-19 in order to avoid social unrest, and subsequently to push for a quick reopening of the economy. In prioritizing the economy over public health, considerable resources were spent on influence campaigns to persuade the public to continue business as normal.

The influence campaigns appeared to succeed in persuading people to return to work and to get vaccinated eventually. However, public distrust remained and was easily reactivated on social media in response to inconsistencies and double standards in the government's enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858525>

Terrorism in Indonesia and the Perceived Oppression of Muslims Worldwide / Prakoso Permono & A'an Suryana

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023

22p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104813

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 14, 2023

\$ 12.00 / PB

200gm.

Various motivations underlying terrorism uncovered by recent scholarship include the radicals' desire for Muslim unity, political interest, yearning to correct social and economic deprivation in the Muslim world, and simply anti-Westernism.

This article focuses on the radicals' call for Muslim solidarity and how this tends towards becoming their primary motivation for perpetrating terrorism. It discusses how radical groups and individuals exaggerate the perceived oppression of Muslims worldwide and how this encourages their sympathizers in planning, fundraising and/or executing terrorist attacks.

The so-called ummah *solidarity* discourse is coupled with the prevalence of the dogma that Muslims are targets of Western or foreign oppression. This has legitimized jihadist terrorists' use of violence and facilitated the recruitment of new terrorists.

Besides regular crackdowns on terrorists and putting limitations on access to radical websites and other Internet sources, this article contends that the Indonesian security apparatuses and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must work with the embassies from India, China and Myanmar based in Jakarta to nullify any likelihood of terror attacks on their embassy compounds or their citizens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858526>

Post-Islamism Battles Political Islam in Malaysia / Mohd Faizal Musa

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2023

40p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104875

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 17, 2023

\$ 12.00/ PB

250gm.

During the 15th general election (GE15) in 2022 and the state elections in 2023, the clash between Anwar Ibrahim and PAS reached new heights. This can be viewed as a battle between political Islam and post-Islamism.

Political Islam as embodied by PAS pursues the establishment of an Islamic state, while post-Islamism as represented by Anwar Ibrahim is a way of balancing the ambitions of Islam with secular approaches.

While PAS has been consistent in espousing political Islam since its establishment, Anwar Ibrahim's approach to the role of Islam in politics has changed since his early days in UMNO. Evolving from an Islamist involved in state-led Islamization to a post-Islamist, he now espouses democratic values and multiculturalism.

GE15 and the 2023 state elections witnessed fierce competition between PAS and Anwar Ibrahim. Both sides either escalated or downplayed crucial topics such as the implementation of *hudud* law and RUU355, the myth of Islam and Malays being under threat, the claim that states under PAS are discriminated against, and the *takfiri* denouncements of non-Muslims as election candidates or potential leaders of the country.

The results of GE15 and the 2023 state elections between PAS and Anwar Ibrahim, who is now prime minister, show that there will certainly be sequels to come. The elections illustrate that political Islam is growing in strength. This is most evident in the fact that PAS currently has a whopping forty-three seats in the Malaysian parliament, and controls four states. The only way Anwar Ibrahim can remain in power is through assistance from PAS' old nemesis, UMNO, a party heavily tainted by corruption.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858527>

The Evolution of Madani: How Is 2.0 Different from 1.0? / Mohd Faizal Musa
Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023
40p.

ISSN: 0219-3213; 9789815104899

Trends in Southeast Asia, Issue No. 18, 2023

\$ 12.00 / PB

250gm.

In 1995, then Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim introduced “Masyarakat Madani” as his proposed economic framework for Malaysia. The term was heavily debated among scholars and politicians across all parties and ideologies. It was often argued that Madani was an effort to limit the rise of political Islam.

Following Anwar Ibrahim’s dismissal from government in 1998, Madani came to be more narrowly redefined as “civil society”. However, Anwar’s supporters, known as the “Anwarinas”, strove to keep the spirit of Madani alive and continued to promote its ideals of social justice, democratic values and inclusivity. They were encouraged further by the fall of Barisan Nasional from federal power in the 14th General Election in 2018.

After Anwar Ibrahim became Malaysia’s tenth Prime Minister in 2022, he reintroduced Madani as a framework for the country, to be implemented in various sectors. Anwar Ibrahim likely received help from scholars such as Ziauddin Sardar, as reflected in his election manifesto, Script for a Better Malaysia. This time around, the core component of Madani is Maqasid Al-Shariah, or the higher objectives of sharia.

In that sense, Madani is now arguably more an expression of what may be called post-Islamism. For it to succeed, however, it will have to counteract the growing power of the conservatives and Islamists. This may be an uphill battle, given that a key component party of the unity government—UMNO—is facing several allegations of corruption.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858528>

Religion – Islam

Trending Islam: Cases from Southeast Asia / (Eds) Norshahril Saat, A'an Suryana & Mohd Faizal Musa

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute), 2023

232p.

Includes Index

9789815104332

\$ 29.90 / PB

400gm.

What are trending Islamic ideas in Southeast Asia; how are they transmitted and who transmits them? These are questions that linger among the minds of policymakers, diplomats and scholars interested in Islam in Southeast Asia. Trending Islam maps and discusses key personalities, groups or institutions that influence Muslims in the region. This book dedicates more space to discuss the role of the Internet in disseminating religious discourses. Internet's role, in particular the use of social media either to advance interpretations of Islamic ideas or to gain influence in the public sphere, is becoming more significant as it allows information to spread faster and wider. While not discounting traditional issues such as extremism and terrorism, matters that continue to affect many people's lives in the region, the book delves into the interaction between violent and non-violent extremism and the liberal and progressive responses to them. Trending Islam covers the transmission of Islam in several countries and some case studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858529>

Sociology

The Birthday Book: Unmasking (2023 volume) / Aaron Maniam (et al.)

Singapore: The Birthday Collective, 2023

276p.

9789811879739

\$ 30.00 / PB

496gm.

As Singaporeans removed their masks over the past year, following the COVID-19 pandemic, 58 writers contemplated the significance of unmaskings, both literal and metaphorical, personal and collective. From stories of individual self-disclosure to episodes that reveal wider truths about our society, the essays in this volume peer beyond and pry apart the obvious to illuminate underlying forces at play as Singapore enters its fifty-eighth year. Serious, playful, reflective and analytical - the diversity of essays reflects the range of perspectives found on the island we call home.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=858530>
