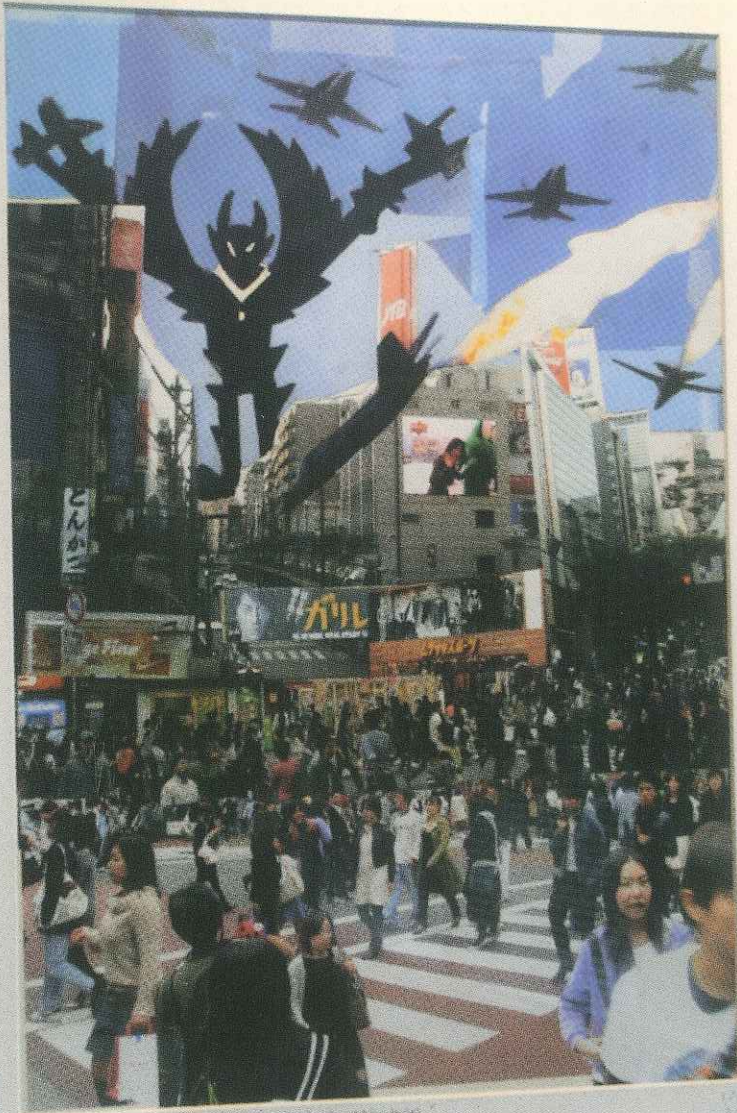


Teman Baru



'SUPER FICTION' Exhibition
by Roslisham Ismail @ ISE



'SUPER FICTION' Exhibition

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) proudly presents "Super Fiction", a solo exhibition by Roslisham Ismail aka ISE from 11th March to 3rd May 2008 at JFKL Gallery.

ISE was invited to Japan for two weeks in October 2007, under The Japan Foundation Short-Term Visitors Program. His 30-year of experience and knowledge on Japan materialized in the big city of Tokyo! At this exhibition, 25 experimental photographs are exhibited together with an experimental video project collaborated with Perez and photo slides 16 days in 2 minutes 33 seconds, all inspired by his visit to Japan.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience this super fictional world at "Super Fiction" exhibition.

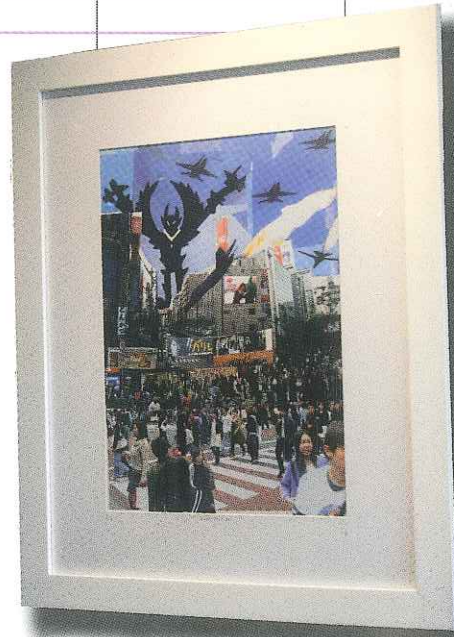
Duration : 11 March (Tue) - 3 May (Sat) 2008

Venue : JFKL Gallery

Suite 30.01, Level 30, Menara Citibank

165, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur

Inquiry : 03-2161 2104



Opening Hours:-

Mon : 10:30am - 4:30pm

Tue-Fri : 10:30am - 6:30pm

Sat : 10am - 6pm

Closed on Sundays, Public holidays and JFKL holidays

Admission:

FREE



The Weekend Japanese Film Show

In this May, our Weekend Japanese Film Show is moving to the new venue, FINAS (National Film Development Corporation Malaysia), for better screening conditions.

Venue : Pawagam Mini P. Ramlee
Kompleks Studio Merdeka, FINAS (next to Zoo Negara)
Lot 1662, Bt.8, Jalan Hulu Kelang,
68000 Ampang, Selangor

Date : Every 1st & 3rd Saturday

Time : 3pm

Admission : FREE

Transportation : RapidKL Bus No. T305, U34 (from Wangsa Maju), U23 (from Titiwangsa), Metro Bus No. 16 (from Pasar Seni)

* Light refreshment will be served after the screenings



April ---> at Malaysia Tourism Centre



"The Faze of Jizo" Saturday, 19 April starting 4:30pm

Directed by KUROKI Kazuo, 2004, 99min, Colour

In Hiroshima in 1948, memories of the atomic bombing three years earlier are still fresh in the minds of the people. Mitsue works at a library where she meets Mr. Kinoshita, a shy young man researching the disaster. They grow close, and Mr. Kinoshita eventually asks for her hand in marriage. However, Mitsue is troubled by her memories of the bombing when she was unable to save her father Takezo and her closest friends, as well as the many other who lost their lives, and doubts whether she deserves to have survived. Then the spirit of her father appears before her, and asserts that she should be happy.



May ---> at FINAS



"Rashomon" Saturday, 3 May starting 3pm

Directed by KUROSAWA AKIRA, 19501, 88min, Black & White

In the 10th Century, a samurai traveling through the country side is found in the shrubs. The reconstruction of what happened as witnessed by Tajomaru (robber), Masago (the samurai's wife), a miko (spiritualistic medium) speaking on behalf of the deceased samurai and a woodcutter. Only two things about the incident seem to be clear, which the samurai's wife was raped and her husband is now dead. However, the other elements radically differ as the four participants or witnesses relate their own stories and no one knows if anyone is lying.

"Stray Dog" Saturday, 17 May starting 3pm

Directed by KUROSAWA Akira, 1949, 117min, Black & White

When rookie detective Murakami has his pistol stolen from his pocket while on a bus, his frantic attempts to track down the thief lead him to an illegal weapons market in the Tokyo underworld. But the gun has already passed from the pickpocket to a young gangster, and Murakami's gun is identified as the weapon in the shooting of a woman.

Murakami, overwhelmed with remorse, turns for help to his older and more experienced senior, Sato. The race is on to find the shooter before he can strike again...





Japanese Books

Fiction



『東京タワー〜オカンとボクと、時々、オトン〜』

リリー・フランキー 著 扶桑社 2005年

Library call number: 913.6

この本は、イラストレーター・コラムニスト・構成作家・カメラマンなど多くの分野で活躍するリリー・フランキーが初めて書いた長編小説であり、亡くなったオカン(母)や自分の家族について書いた「ノンフィクション」小説でもあります。九州の田舎から東京へ出た息子を、いつも支えるオカン、そしてそこに時々現れるオトン(父)。そこに書かれている親子関係や夫婦関係、友情や青春に、読む人はきっと涙を流すでしょう。

日本での反響もとても大きく、ドラマや映画にもなりました。

Culture



『グレッグ・アーウィン の英語で歌う、日本の童謡』

グレッグ・アーウィン 訳、歌 雨宮知子 歌 ランダムハウス講談社 2007年

Library call number: 767.7

日本の大正時代(1912年から1926年)に作られた童謡(子どものための歌)の優しさや美しさ、芸術性を愛し、自分で英語訳をつけて歌うグレッグ・アーウィンと、童謡歌手の雨宮知子のCDが付いた歌集です。日本の心を、英語で歌ってみませんか？



『和食と日本文化-日本料理の社会史-』

原田信男 著 小学館 2005年

Library call number: 383.81

野菜や魚が中心の「和食」(日本料理)は、栄養のバランスも良く、健康や美容にも良いと言われています。

この本では、周りの国との関係や生活の変化の影響を考えながら、「和食」の歴史について書かれています。日本の食文化の教科書とも言える本です。

Cooking



『料理ならおまかせ 定番おすしと飾り寿司』

世界文化社 2007年

Library call number: 596.21

お祝いやパーティーの時の人気メニューといえばお寿司。季節の食べ物を豊富に使ったお寿司の献立や、いろいろな種類のお寿司が、この本で紹介されています。

初めて作る人にも、ちょっと本格的なお寿司を作りたい人にも役立つ、作り方のコツ(hint)やアイデアもたくさん載っています。

Craft



『ちりめん と 押絵 と つり雛 と てまり』

弓岡勝美 著 日本ヴォーグ社 2002年

Library call number: 594.9

「ちりめん」とは、絹を独特の方法で織った織物です。その「ちりめん」を使って、日本の伝統的な技術で作る細工物(handiwork)、「押絵」や「つり雛」、「てまり」等を紹介した本です。刺繍(embroidery)のデザインにも使える図案が102点載せられています。

English Books

Novel

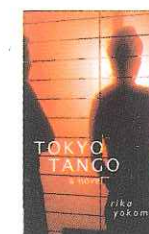


Bedtime Eyes

[Amy Yamada. New York: St. Martin Press, 2006]

Library call number: 895.635 YAM

"Bedtime Eyes", "The Piano Player's Fingers" and "Jesse." While all are centered around the relationship between a Japanese woman and a black American man, each explores love, sex, and the vast gulf between their different and equally revealing viewpoints. Starkly imagined and sharply observed, "Bedtime Eyes" introduces to the English language some of Yamada's best known and most influential work.



Tokyo Tango

[Rika Yokomori. New York: Duckworth Overlook, 2006]

Saya is a blissfully feather-headed Tokyo college girl, talented at doing just enough work to pass the exams at a top-flight university, but ultimately "without a thought in her head." She worked as a hostess in a local bar at night, mindlessly turning tricks with aging businessmen to bring in enough cash to support her addiction to shopping and clubbing. Her freewheeling lifestyle takes an unexpected turn one night when she meets Bogey, a mysterious outsider and gambler who seems to be riding the crest of the wave that is Japan's economic boom.

Animation



Anime

[Susan J. Napier. New York: Palgrave, 2000]

Library call number: 791.433 NAP

Susan J. Napier goes inside the world of anime to explore how it reflects and colors both Japanese society and growing global culture. Topics include the apocalyptic visions in Akira, Nausicaa of the valley of the wind, and Neon Genesis Evangelion and many more.



The Country of the Raising Silence

by Hishamuddin bin Md. Rais

Mr. Hishamuddin bin Md. Rais is currently teaching at Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) in Film, TV & Video Department. He was selected to represent Malaysia in Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP), an annual program organized by The Japan Foundation and International House of Japan.



When I reached Tokyo in September 2007, it was a public holiday-the day when the Japanese were celebrating the arrival of Autumn season. I arrived early morning at the new airport – the infamous Narita. This was my second trip to Tokyo. The first was in August 1974, I arrived at Haneda the old airport. Then, I was young, cool and looking for adventure.

Japan is not strange nation to me, unlike Belgium or Luxembourg or Paraguay. My late mother, a school teacher was 'forced' to study Japanese during the Japanese occupation in 1941. She narrated to me a million of one stories about the occupation. Those stories are still fresh moving from one frame to another waiting to be put into writing.

One of them narrated by my mum was the day the Japanese army arrived at her school. This was before I was born. This

was before any cars ever arrived at our kampong. The school was deep into the Negeri Sembilan's interior – a cul de sac village – real 'pendalaman'.

According to my mother on that historical afternoon suddenly as she glanced across the class room's windows and she saw a platoon of Japanese soldiers. Some were walking and some came on bicycles. One of the soldiers without any permission from anyone climbed up a coconut tree not too far away from the school compound. Within minutes the platoon were having fun *minum air kelapa*. Then, to my mum surprised one of the soldiers stood up next to the coconut palm and unbutton his trousers (zip is yet to be invented), peeing probably the coconut water with a mixture of sake.

Actually, that peeing incident under the coconut tree was not her first encounter with the Japanese. Just before the war, she was teaching in a school in Kuala Pilah town. Here, her immediate neighbor was a Japanese couple who ran a family business selling pinggan mangkuk. This is the famous and legendry *Kedai Jepun* in Kuala Pilah.

As a school teacher my mum was invited several time to their house. According to my mum the Japanese couple were very polite and could speak Malay well. It was here that my mum saw her first futon or tatami mat. She was surprised as to why the family has to put all their bedding into the cupboard during the day and take them out again in the evening. A very strange habit according to my mother.

The couple owned a beautiful camera, the first camera ever seen by my mother. A rare possession at that period. Sometime my mother took them for a walk at around the town. With the camera they took load of photographs of Kuala Pilah.

I am sure those photographs are now kept in the military museum. After the war it was known that the *Kedai Jepun* Kuala Pilah was actually a listening post for the military. No wonder the chinaware from the shop were sold cheaply.

When I arrived in on that autumn morning in Tokyo there was no *pokok kelapa* and no Japanese man standing peeing in the street. Tokyo is now one of the cleanest city in the world that I have ever visited. It was madly clean. It was so clean that I hate it because it makes my life miserable while I was there. I felt the cleanliness was so regimented and so sanitized.

On my first visit in 1974 I encountered an incident that always reminds me of Japan – the toilet. I was then an

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invited guest attending an Asian Solidarity Conference Against the Vietnam War. I was staying in a studio flat with another Hong Kong student somewhere in the suburb of Tokyo. To my surprise there was no bathroom in the flat and we have to share our toilet with the next door neighbors.

Funny enough, one late afternoon the cop came to visit us. One of our immediate neighbor has complained to the local cop. Our shared toilet was not spit and span or slight wet. To me it was not a serious matter but it was to my new Japanese neighbors. I had a great laugh because none of us were able to communicate – neither the neighbor nor the police could speak English.

Like my late mother who was surprised to see the Japanese futon in 1939, I was also surprised to see the Japanese public toilet in 2008. It was so clean that I kept on wondering as to how they managed it. There are no Banglas or *Mak Cik Indon* waiting at the door to do the cleaning up. No messy pocket of water on the floor. No dead turd floating in the bowl. No flying tissues. No cover charge. The only drawback about Japanese public toilet, I think, there is no phone number written on the wall for making sexual contact or some funny graphic that one could laugh while taking a pee.

Japan as a fully industrialized nation does not impressed me at all. I do not really fancy those superb modern gadgets. I must admit, their public toilet impressed me. I kept on wondering how did the Japanese able to develop such a clean habit. After all my late mother saw one of them stood up peeing under a *pokok kelapa* 67 years ago.

Deep in my heart I thought, if there is something extra one could learn from Japan, it would be their public toilets. There should be toilet lesson from primary school until SPM. If one is seriously wanting to look East while peeing at the West one must have a superb clean public toilets.

For detailed information of ALFP: www.i-house.or.jp/en/index/html



Conference Trip to Japan - under JENESYS Program

by Azmyl Yunor

Mr. Azmyl Yunor, a lecturer cum musician was invited to Japan together with Ms. Jacqueline Ann Surin (Journalist) under The Japan Foundation - JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) Program, this program initiated by the former prime minister in the effort to encourage more youngsters to get closer to Japan through conferences and other programs of benefit to their home countries.



Azmyl (left) & Jacqueline (right) from Malaysia attended the JENESYS Program

When I got the news that I was selected as one of the two Malaysian representatives to Tokyo for the JENESYS program in December 2007, I was determined to make the most of 10-day stay. My previous visit to Japan was a seven year old kid whose highlight was Disneyland. Being a musician and an academic in the field of communication and cultural studies, I have always been intrigued and at Japan's place in popular culture (especially film and music) and also its balance of the traditional and the modern.

On the first morning prior to the initial meetings and discussions, I took an early morning walk from the hotel we were at near Tokyo Tower to the docks at Tokyo Bay. Walking along the World Trade

Centre, I noticed the details that peppered the sidewalk - the ever-present vending machines, the polished fire-hydrant, the precise and well-laid construction sites, and the fashionable ladies that contrasted the mostly mono-colored suits worn by the men.

Back indoors, the interesting outcome of the discussion in my dialogue group (Inter-cultural) was the agreement that despite the unique cultural make-up our the individual participating East Asian countries, we shared many rituals, habits and beliefs that have been invariably been (and will always be) reconstructed or reshaped by

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local politics and sensibilities on top of the overreaching arms of globalization. Culture itself is a reflection the ways of living of peoples of any epoch and is a journey that should not be dictated by a destination.

In light of the interesting cultural discussion, two places of interest in Tokyo were highlights which best describe the spectrum of my Japanese experience: the city of Kamakura, with its beautiful historical Buddhist temples and serene Zen gardens, steeped in tradition and quietude; and the Harajuku area, where youth subcultures personified by street performers and strangely dressed youths express themselves and congregate amongst the crowded streets on weekends.

What fascinates me about Tokyo is that despite its sheer population density and urban sprawl, there are gardens and promenades where one can step back and move away from the maddening rush and crowds. One morning, I noticed a saxophonist playing (or practicing) to no one in particular in Shiba Park, his melody echoing through the leafy greens, while in a distance, several men and women were painting portraits of Tokyo Tower and its vistas in their own corners of the park.



I could go on but words would not do justice to the experience. What Tokyo, as a city, had taught me was that the truth is in the details. As a Zen proverb goes: *Though the bamboo forest is dense, water flows through it freely.* Tokyo's vibrant and diverse inhabitants and cultures personify this succinctly.

The 5th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools

Don't miss the opportunity to see how the contestants compete to qualify themselves to Japan!

This event is organized by the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, The Japanese Chamber of Trade & Industry, Malaysia (JACTIM), The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur and in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Malaysia, sponsored by Panasonic (M) Sdn Bhd & Kokuyo International (M) Sdn Bhd.

Date : 27 (Sun) April 2008
Time : 1pm
Venue : The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur

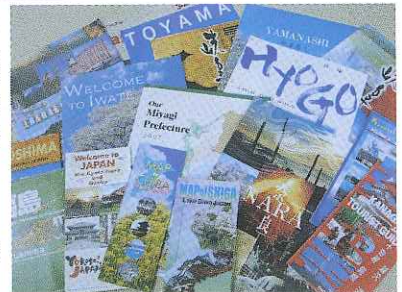
Please log on to www.jfkl.org.my for more details.

Notice

CLAIR (The Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, Singapore) donated variety of directories, maps, brochures of various places in Japan to JFKL library. If you would like to visit Japan and have no idea where is the best destination for your occasion, perhaps these materials could help you.

Many thanks to CLAIR for providing the materials.

***Note: The materials are for reference only. Please consult with the librarian for assistance.**



JAPAN FOUNDATION

"TEMAN BARU" is distributed to JFKL members.
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