

From The Sea To The Mountain

A watercolour exhibition of birds in Malaysia,

by Choo Beng Teong



Asian Fairy Bluebird

Choo Beng Teong



Great Mormon

Moy Siew Ting

Delicate Colours

A collection of butterfly and beetle paintings,

by Moy Siew Ting

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One of Malaysia's best-kept secrets is that it truly is a paradise for birds; a sanctuary for some of the world's rarest, most exotic species.

In this unique exhibition, Choo Beng Teong, Malaysia's leading bird artist, takes nature and art lovers on a virtual tour of the country, giving them an extraordinary visual treat of these 'jewels' of the sky.

What makes this exhibition special is that it showcases Malaysian birds from diverse terrain and habitats. Weaving a tapestry of colours on canvas with his trademark watercolours and ultra fine, meticulous brush strokes, Choo depicts birds from the seashore and mangrove swamps, to those in the open country, dense rainforests and all the way up to the hills and mountains. Hence, the exhibition title, *From The Sea To The Mountain*.

"These paintings represent years of extensive fieldwork across different terrain in both East and West Malaysia," said the Penang born self-taught wildlife artist. In his quest to paint birds strictly in their natural habitats and



Indian Cuckoo

ot mock set-ups, Choo ventures out into the wilds, sometimes for weeks on end with a heavy arsenal of photographic gear to faithfully capture on film the birds he is so passionate about.

Over 15 years of observing and photographing these creatures in the wild has honed him into a truly accomplished birder and photographer. As birds are usually very shy, even photographing them is a highly specialised skill that requires powerful super telephoto lenses and stealthy stalking techniques. It is from these photographs that Choo painstakingly creates his masterpieces.

"There is something special about birds; a natural grace and delicate beauty which I try to capture in my paintings. You see it in their movement, their posture, the rich, vibrant colours of their plumage," he explained, adding that he never jeopardises the safety and well being of the birds he photographs, even for the sake of art.

"What makes this collection special is not only the wide variety of birds showcased, but the different natural environments where they are found. Never before have I held an exhibition where I showcased birds from such diverse terrain."

The collection includes birds such as the shore-based Common Sandpiper, Goldenback Woodpeckers found in mangrove swamps, Fairy Bluebirds and Pink-necked Pigeons in rainforests to the Silver-eared Mesia and Fire-tufted Barbet in montane rainforests - well over 20 masterpieces in all.



Olive - backed Sunbird



Oriental Pratincole (Juvenile)

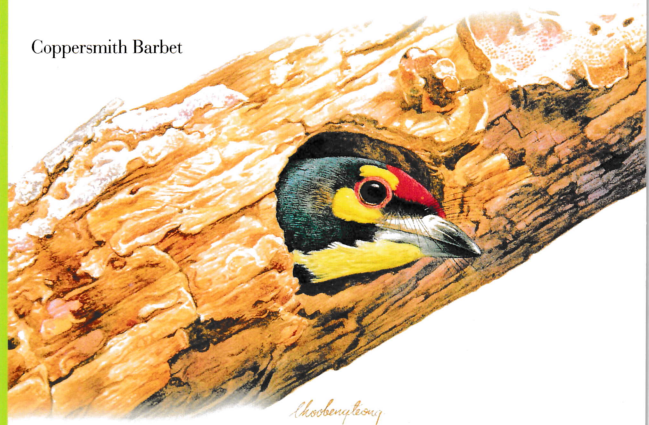


Stripe - throated Bulbul

While paintings are generally viewed and appreciated from a distance, Choo's watercolour creations beckon you to do the exact opposite. Come up close...very close and you will discover why his work has gained such critical acclaim. Detail within details; delicate colours and textures on each feather, dew drops on a leaf, an ant scurrying away on a twig, the subtle interplay of light and shadow - all recorded with excruciating depth and clarity.

Take your time to enjoy the exhibition. You will realise that Choo's work is an exuberant celebration of life. Each painting is not only a tribute to Malaysia's natural heritage, but also a quiet and fascinating discovery of nature itself.

Coppersmith Barbet



Delicate Colours

A collection of butterfly and beetle paintings,

by Moy Siew Ting

Artist Moy Siew Ting may be young, being only in her mid twenties, but her outstanding paintings of butterflies and beetles have already garnered recognition from the local art circle.

A reflection of her quiet, gentle nature, Moy's paintings portray an appreciation for simple delicate beauty and a sharp eye for details. Preferring to work mostly with watercolours, the hallmark of her work is her ability to capture the intricacy and exquisite details of butterflies and beetles amidst nature. With the subjects usually painted in actual size, her paintings feature bold, vivid use of colours that flaunt nature's splendour.

Fuelled by her passion for these winged beauties, especially many endangered species facing possible extinction; Moy hopes to heighten public awareness and nature conservation through her paintings.

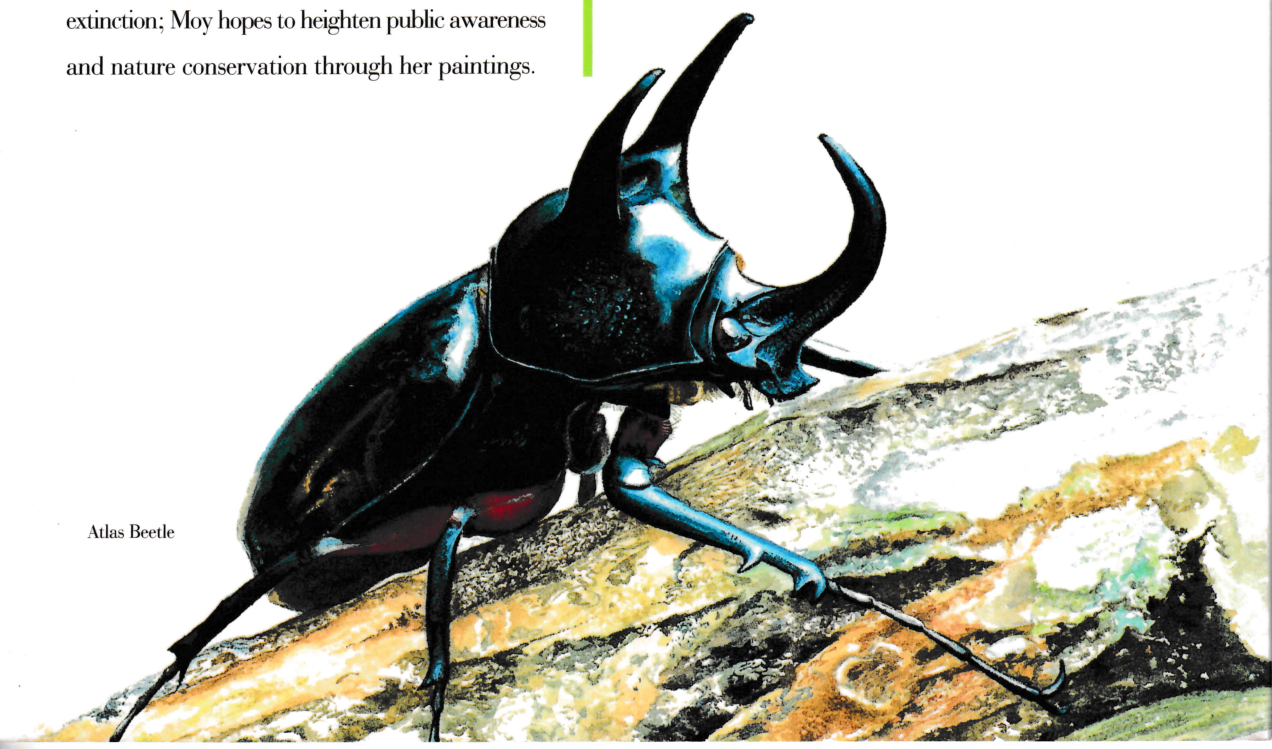


Moy Siew Ting

Common Mormon

A graduate from the Equator Academy of Art in Penang, her work started getting noticed when she won an award in the Penang Young Talent Open Art Exhibition in 1995. Several competition awards followed suit and she recently participated in the Fluttering Jewels art exhibition with fellow wildlife artist Choo Beng Teong. She is now a full-time artist and art educator based in Butterworth.

Atlas Beetle



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