

**RBS-Malihom 'AiR' Program of the Wawasan Open University
Penang, Malaysia 2011
Daniel Brinsmead**

Event Brief

After exhibiting throughout Australia, in both commercial and government institutions, Daniel felt it was time to venture further abroad and seek opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. In 2011 he applied for the RBS-Malihom "Artist in Residency" Program of the Wawasan Open University, Penang, which he was granted. This was six-month residency which extended into a longer stay of ten months. One of the resulting outcomes was a body of artwork completed during the residency period at Malihom, and presented in an exhibition at the Royal Bank of Scotland House, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.

Residency Exhibition

Daniel Brinsmead

MELAKA DREAMS

RBS – Royal Bank of Scotland House, Penang

13 to 24 June 2011

My work examines human nature in relation to contemporary culture. I like to question the way we think, feel and behave, and explore how we act and react to our social and physical environments.

I am inspired by the way children approach art. It is direct and honest, an immediate interpretation of life as they know it. My personal search within myself as an artist and how I want express my creativity has taken me to a kind of simple and direct way of being in my art. I am constantly looking for the way to paint and work where I am energized and excited by what I am doing. I then take this simplicity and combine it with the knowledge and perspective of an adult to explore and question who I am and the world around me.

Being in a new country and culture, and here on the residency the uncomplicated way of life, has given me the time to reflect and to pursue these more basic elements in my artwork, being able to go through a kind of deconstructing of the art process where unnecessary elements are eliminated and only the real aspects of interest are left.

All around us in everyday life are objects or moments that can be a 'trigger' or 'doorway' into another reality. These doorways are a kind of 'worm hole' that can let us slip out of our normal

reality, the time and responsibility constraints, and allow us to briefly drift spaciouly, enjoying a sense of timelessness. My artwork is about the things, places and events I have encountered during the residency, that have allowed me to be transported into these dream-like moments, where often I am reminded of nostalgic times of the past that have this sense of timelessness and simplicity. I seek to combine these realities and the qualities of these moments; past cultures with new cultures, myths, legends and history with modern times, dreams and reality - to bring those qualities from the 'unreal' into the real.

Although there appears to be 3 different distinct styles of artwork within the exhibition, they all refer to these timeless moments in our reality where the constructs of everyday living fall away, past, present and future merge together - this is my Melaka, these are my dreams.

Community Project

**Asia Community Services – Stepping Stone Work Centre
Balik Pulau, Penang**

Event Brief

As part of the Artist in Residency program, was encouragement to engage with the local community with some sort of art project. Not far from my studio in the local village was a community creative work centre for intellectually disabled and special needs adults. I would volunteer at this centre once a week and participate with the members in a wide variety of creative activities, including various painting and drawing approach, weaving, batik, ceramics, soap making, cooking and preparing their own daily meals, games and even a village recycling collection initiative. Eventually focusing my guidance with two members, to produce a series of paintings to be included in the final residency exhibition.



Wawasan Open University (WOU)

PRESS RELEASE

1 June 2011

Charity Auction in aid of Stepping Stone Work Centre

PENANG: The Painting Project artworks created by two members of the Stepping Stone Work Centre will be sold to the highest bidder during a charity auction on June 17th to raise funds for the centre.

A total of 24 paintings – divided into two groups of 12 – were produced by Ang Hock Bin, 37, and Azril Kamaruddin, 31, under the guidance of Daniel Brinsmead, the resident artist in the six-month RBS-Malihom Artist in Residence (AiR) Program of Wawasan Open University (WOU).

The paintings will be on display as part of the Artist in Residency Exhibition, and the auction will take place during the exhibition opening. All proceeds from the charity auction will be channeled to Stepping Stone, an Asia Community Service (ACS)-supported community living project to provide a workplace and work opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.

Brinsmead, an Australian, said that the theme of the artworks was 'Life as the members see it' and he was happy to work with Ang and Azril over a three-month period to produce the paintings.