

PING LIAN YEAK (Autistic Savant Artist)

www.pinglian.com

Born 1993, Malaysia

Based in Sydney, Australia since 2006

Professional Profile

Ping Lian Yeak is an internationally recognised autistic savant artist who lives with severe social, behavioural, and communication challenges, yet has developed a distinctive and powerful artistic voice. Recognised as one of the few prodigious savant artists, Ping Lian Yeak's practice spans architectural landscapes, animals, florals, and imaginative compositions, reflecting both close observation and an intuitive sense of transformation. Working across ink, watercolour, acrylic, and oil, his artworks are distinguished by layered line work, strong structural form, and vibrant colour, reconfiguring observed subjects into intricate and expressive visual compositions. His art reveals an unusual ability to organise complexity into images of rhythm, structure, and emotion. His work and story have been featured in 16 books in English, Chinese, Korean, and Dutch, and have also been widely featured in international documentaries and media. His artworks have also been exhibited internationally at major cultural and academic venues, including the United Nations Headquarters (New York), and in galleries and institutions in the USA, UK, Germany, Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Korea) and Australia.

Selected Awards, Grants & Finalist Recognition

2025 – Finalist, Fisher's Ghost Art Award (Open Category)

Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW; Artwork: *24401 My Only Friend — Juno (Shiba Inu)*

2025 – Finalist, Korea–Australia Arts Foundation (KAAF) Art Prize

Exhibited at Korean Cultural Centre Australia, Sydney

Artwork: *24001 Sydney Opera House*

2009 – ParaArt Award, Asia ParaArt Tokyo Exhibition

2009 – 1st Prize, ArtFirst, Princeton University Medical Center, USA

2008 – Grant Support, JPMorgan Chase Foundation (New York)

Grant awarded to the Association of British Women in Malaysia (ABWM) to establish and support a gallery initiative exhibiting Ping Lian Yeak's artworks, with the purpose of raising awareness and hope around autism through art.

“Grant Purpose: The Grant shall be exclusively used to support the Ping Lian gallery, for the purpose of raising awareness and hope around autism by exhibiting the art of the autistic savant artist Ping Lian” — extract from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation (New York) letter to ABWM, 2008.

2008 – Finalist, Young Community Contribution Award, National Disability Awards (Australia)

2004 – Charity Auction Achievement, Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA)

Malaysia. At age 11, a donated artwork achieved the highest auction price at the charity auction, raising RM100,000 for RDA Malaysia.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2014 – *Architectural Impressions*, Port Authority, New York City, USA

2010 – *Savant Art @ MaTic*, Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTic), Kuala Lumpur

2009 – Official Opening, “Ping Lian @ The Art Commune”, Malaysia — permanent showcase of Ping Lian Yeak's artworks, established and supported by The Art Commune, with support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation (for 2009) in collaboration with ABWM. In 2014, the gallery relocated to “Ping Lian Gallery @ The Settlement Hotel”, Melaka (closed in 2020 following the hotel's sale).

Public Art Practice & Community Engagement

Current – Since 2009, Ping Lian has exhibited and drawn live most weekends at The Rocks Market, Sydney, where local and international visitors regularly gather to watch

him work and gain a rare insight into abilities seldom associated with severe autism and intellectual disability.

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 – *Visual Voices*, Positive Exposure Gallery, New York, USA
 2025 – *Perceptions of Sentience*, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
 2025 – DAPA Inclusive Art Exhibition, NSW Parliament House, Sydney
 2023 – *A Night at the Gallery*, Art Gallery of NSW (Aspect)
 2018 – Utah State University Exhibition and Permanent Collection, USA
 2018 – World Autism Awareness Exhibition, Chashama Gallery, New York
 2017 – *The Saturated Palette*, Agora Gallery, New York
 2016 – *Out From Down Under & Beyond*, Agora Gallery, New York
 2014 – AUTISTAR International Art Exhibition, Ewha Womans University, Korea
 2008 – Special Savant Exhibition, Museum Tower of Senses, Nuremberg, Germany
 2008 – *Don't 'dis' the Ability*, World Autism Awareness Day Exhibition, United Nations Headquarters, New York
 2007 – *Windows of Genius*, Wisconsin, USA
 2006 – *Don't 'dis' the Ability* New York Exhibition Tour, Henry Gregg Gallery (Brooklyn) & Cooper Union Great Hall Gallery, New York

Selected Collections

- Utah State University, USA (2018) – Six original works acquired, including two Sydney Opera House paintings
- Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim (Founder & Chairman Emeritus, AmBank Group) Collection, Malaysia; HSBC Bank Malaysia; Shell Malaysia

Selected Publications & Media

International Books Featuring Ping Lian Yeak — featured in 16 books in English, Chinese, Korean, and Dutch, published across Australia, the USA, Mexico, China, Taiwan, Korea and the Netherlands. Selected examples include:

2021 – *The Covid Canvas*, Rosa C. Martinez (USA)
 2021 – *The Savant Syndrome*, Osvaldo Cairó Battistutti (Mexico)
 2017 – “*I Want To Be ARTIST*”: An Autistic Savant’s Voice and a Mother’s Dream Transformed Onto Canvas, Sarah SH Lee (Ed. Dr Rosa C. Martinez)
 2016 – *The Prodigy’s Cousin*, Ruthsatz & Stephens (USA)
 2016 – *Exploring Giftedness and Autism*, Trevor Clark (Australia)
 2011 – Featured in *Real Reading 3*, Pearson Longman English Textbook (dedicated chapter)
 2011 – Featured in *Knowledge e6*, EBS Korea (alongside Kim Peek, Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin)
 2010 – *Islands of Genius*, Darold A. Treffert (USA)
 2014 – “Ping Lian Yeak: The Autistic Savant Who Is a Prodigious Artist,” *The Sydney Morning Herald (Good Weekend)*
 2009 – “Fate & Destiny,” *Marie Claire (Malaysia)*

Selected Television & Documentary Features

2021 – *FIERCE LOVE and ART*, Documentary (USA)
 2017 – *Very Inspiring People*, RTM Malaysia
 2009 – *Asia’s Wonder Kids*, Channel News Asia and CNA Singapore
 2007 – *Uncovering the Secrets of Childhood*, EBS Korea
 2006 – *Painting the Mind*, Focus Productions (UK / ABC Australia)
 2005 – Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) “Savant Syndrome” Documentary (also featuring Kim Peek, the real “Rain Man”, and Kodi Lee).