

Name: **Ping Lian Yeak**  
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## Profile/ Education

Ping Lian Yeak is an autistic savant artist, with severe limitations in social, behavioral and communication skills. He was born in Malaysia in 1993. In February of 2004, Ping Lian's father passed away due to a sudden heart attack. Ping Lian not only lost his dad, but his only male friend. In May of 2006, Ping Lian's family uprooted and moved to Sydney. There, Ping Lian attended the Aspect Vern Barnett School and the Cromehurst School for Special Needs. He became an Australian citizen in 2013. Ping Lian continues his education at Studio Artes with Principal Artist and six time Archibald Prize finalist Greg Warburton and is also taking pottery at Dulkara Center For Life Skills and Art.

Initially, Ping Lian was hyperactive, living in his own world, not showing affection or awareness of danger, unable to hold a pencil to write and possessed very limited ability to speak. In order to strengthen and develop Ping Lian's fine motor skills, his home program focused on tracing and coloring activities. After many years of hard work on exercises that focused on developing Ping Lian's fine motor skills; at the age of 8, Ping Lian out-grew tracing and seemed to suddenly acquire an obsession for drawing. He has not stopped drawing since then and art has provided him with an outlet of expression.

When Ping Lian was around 9 years old, his Mum employed three art teachers to instruct and coach him. Ping Lian is now an internationally recognized artist. Ping Lian's art has been featured in New York, Australia, Germany, Japan, UK, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia. Ping Lian continues to be deficient in socialization, verbal communication and intellectual ability. However, given the many years of nurturance and perseverance provided by Ping Lian's mother, Ping Lian has grown to be a calm, responsive and hardworking young man, full of love and gratitude. Ping Lian continues to create magnificent works of art using charcoal, acrylic, watercolor, ink and oil. He continues to donate his art to national and international organizations and charities; including Malaysia, USA, Australia and Thailand.

Ping Lian has been identified as one of the few "prodigious" autistic savants in the world by renowned expert [Dr. Darold Treffert](#), Clinical Professor, University of Wisconsin Medical School-Madison, Behavioral Health Department, St. Agnes Hospital. Dr. Treffert is the author of "Extraordinary People: Understanding the savant syndrome" and "Islands of GENIUS", and has been studying autism and savant syndrome for more than 50 years. He also served as a consultant to the award winning movie Rain Man. Ping Lian is prominently listed on the Agnesian Health Care Foundations [Savant Profiles](#) alongside the only other twenty two identified savants; which include world renowned Temple Grandin, Kim Peek (the real Rainman), Stephen Wiltshire and Kodi Lee.

However, as a way of connecting with people and communities, Ping Lian continues to set up his own exhibition stall with his mother at [The Rocks Market](#) in Sydney every weekend (but not since COVID), where he enjoys engaging with interested people as crowds gather to watch him draw (<https://www.weekendnotes.com/ping-lian-yeak-the-rocks-markets/>). This grassroots interaction is enormously beneficial on many levels to Ping Lian and his audience while improving Ping Lian's life skills and the public understanding of autism. Sharing Ping Lian's journey and his art has proven to be very inspirational while impacting citizens and tourists from around the world.

*Additional news including national and international contributions may be accessed by using Google to search Ping Lian Yeak .*

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 [“The Saturated Palette”](#) Agora Gallery; New York City.  
2017 [Agnesian HealthCare at 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Marian University](#) , Treffert Lecture series exhibition, presentation and live painting at the lecture, Wisconsin, U.S.A.  
2016 [“Out From Down Under & Beyond: Fine Art From Australia & New Zealand”](#) Agora Gallery  
2009 “Heroes for Autism” Avalon Hollywood, California, U.S.A  
2008 “Don’t ‘dis’ the Ability; United Nation Headquarters, New York in recognition of the inaugural World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) April 2, 2008.  
2007 “Windows of Genius - Artworks of the Prodigious Savant” Windhover Center for the Arts, Wisconsin, USA, Sept 2007  
2006 “Don’t ‘dis’ the ability” New York 2006 Art Exhibition Tour, Henry Gregg Gallery Brooklyn, New York and The Great Hall Gallery@ Cooper Union, New York, NY.  
2003 & 2004 “Different Strokes: Diversity Through Art” National Art Gallery Malaysia.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

Current (prior to COVID 19 pandemic) : Weekend exhibitions at The Rocks Market stall, Sydney

- 2014 “Architectural Impressions” Port Authority, New York City  
2010 “ Savant Art @ MaTic” The Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTic) Kuala Lumpur  
2009 Official opening of ‘Ping Lian @ The Art Commune’ featuring a permanent showcase of his works in Malaysia, established by The Art Commune and supported by JPMorgan Chase Foundation (for 2009) in collaboration with ABWM. In 2014 gallery relocated to “Ping Lian Gallery @ The Settlement Hotel”, Melaka. In 2020 the gallery closed (hotel was sold).  
2008 “ My Journey.. Artworks of 14 year Prodigious Savant” The Art Commune, Malaysia.  
2007 “12-years old Autistic Savant Artist- Ping Lian” CCC Art Gallery, Sydney.  
2005 & 2007 “Art Exhibition- Yeak Ping Lian” British Women Association Malaysia (ABWM) House, KL.

## Selected Awards/Grants/Sponsorship

- 2009 “Christ Church Malacca IV” – First Prize “ArtFirst” Princeton University Medical Center at Princeton, New Jersey, USA  
2009 “KEK Lok Si, Penang” – Merit Award – Asia Para Art Tokyo  
2008 JP Morgan Chase Foundation, New York, NY, grant to the Association of British Women in Malaysia (ABWM). “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 Yeak”.  
2008 National Disability Awards, Australia – Young community Contribution Award Finalist  
2006 & 2007 Malaysia Airlines full sponsorship on air tickets to USA for exhibition  
2006 Crown Relocation full sponsorship to transport family belongings to Sydney  
2005 DHL Malaysia Sponsorship to transport 2 large crates of framed artworks from Kuala Lumpur to New York for 2006 exhibition

## Selected Collections

- Utah State University (2018) acquired 6 large original paintings, inclusive of two Sydney Opera House Watercolors
- AmBank Group (2008)
- Shell Malaysia (2007)
- HSBC Bank Malaysia (2005)
- Reckitt Benckiser Malaysia (2005)
- University of Malaya, Malaysia (2004)

## Selected Publications

- ["I Want To Be Artist: An Autistic Savant's Voice and A Mother's Dream Transformed onto Canvas" \(2017\)](#) serves as an inspiration not only to the autistic community, but also to the art world at large. Written by Ping Lian's mother, Sarah SH Lee, Edited by Dr Rosa C. Martinez, [forewords by Dr Darold Treffert and art critic John McDonald.](#) (paperback, colour, 486 pages, 121 images). Available on [Amazon](#), [Book Depository](#) and more (ISBN 9780648035411) Ebook EPUB format available on [Booktopia](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [Kobo](#) (ISBN 9780648035428)
- 'Knowledge- e6' by EBS (2011) published in Korea, Ping Lian Yeak included amongst the Real Rain Man (Kim Peek), Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Warren Edward Buffett etc.
- ["Savant artist to visit Fond du Lac"](#) FDL Reporter, USA 2017
- [ARTisSpectrum, Contemporary fine art Magazine Vol 37](#) , New York, NY, 2017
- ["Ping Lian Yeak, Artist: A fresh perspective on an experienced artist"](#), USA Psychology Today 2016
- Clark, T. (2016). [Exploring Giftedness and Autism: A study of a differentiated educational program for autistic savants.](#) Routledge. ISBN: 978-1138839540
- Ruthsatz, J. & Stephens, K. (2016). [The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent.](#)
- ["Ping Lian Yeak- The autistic savant who is a prodigious artist"](#); The Sydney Morning Herald (GOOD WEEKEND) 2014
- ['Real Reading 3: Creating an Authentic Reading Experience \(2011\)](#)– English textbook published by PEARSON Longman (included one chapter about Ping Lian)
- [Islands of Genius: The Bountiful Mind of the Autistic, Acquired, and Sudden Savant, \(2010\)](#) by Darold Treffert ISBN 13:9780857003188
- Going Places, the inflight magazine for Malaysia Airlines: August 2009 issue -Ping Lian Yeak Gallery Opening, Jan 2011 issue – Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTIC) exhibition; Sept 2011 issue – The Rocks POP-UP Project Exhibition at Sydney
- ["Ping Lian, 12 is autistic and a hit in NY"](#) The Star Jan.6, 2006 by Johan Fernandez

## Selected Television

- Featured in [Korea Broadcasting System's 60-minutes "Savant Syndrome"](#) documentary with Kim Peek (real Rain Man) and Kodi Lee. 2005
- 2006 Focus Productions from UK, filmed Ping Lian at Henry Gregg Gallery, Brooklyn, New York for a documentary ['Painting the Mind'](#) for Channel 4, that also aired on Four Corners, ABC TV Australia.
- ["Uncovering the Secrets of Childhood"](#) Documentary - EBS Korea during the "Windows of Genius: Artworks of the Prodigious Savant" art exhibition in Wisconsin, USA. 2007
- ['Asia's Wonder Kids'](#) for Channel News Asia (CNA International and CNA Singapore), 2009.
- ["Very Inspiring People"](#) Mandarin Documentary - RTM (Radio Television Malaysia), 2017.
- [FIERCE LOVE and ART](#), Documentary, 2020 in progress; [Trailer narrated by Temple Grandin](#)

## Representation

Current Argyle Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney

## Selected Organizations/Charity Affiliations

Current Strokes of Genius, Inc; USA  
2010 Autism Speaks (donation) New York City  
2007 Autism Queensland (donation), Australia  
2004 "Ubudiah Mosque 1" Grand Auction of the RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association, Malaysia) Charity Ball raised RM 100,000.00, 100% of proceeds were donated for RDA, KL