



Ping Lian Yeak

www.pinglian.com

Born in Malaysia – 18 November 1993
Residing in Sydney, Australia, since May 2006



Prodigious savant artist (Autistic)

Initially Ping Lian was hyperactive, living in his own world, not showing affection or awareness of danger, unable to hold a pencil to write or use scissors to cut. In order to strengthen and develop Ping Lian's fine motor skills, his home program focused on tracing and coloring activities. These activities also served as a way for Ping Lian to occupy himself, given his inability to appropriately engage in any leisure or socialization skills. Ping Lian also had very poor imitation skills. Guiding him through tracing and drawing activities, stroke by stroke, was also one of the ways to develop his imitation skills. Ultimately, tracing became a catalyst for discovering his exceptional artistic talent.

At the age of 8 (mid-2002), Ping Lian out-grew tracing and seemed to suddenly acquire an obsession for drawing. The transition from tracing to drawing happened almost instantly. One day after he had finished eating an ice-cream cone, he just started drawing the pictures that were printed on the ice cream wrapper. He has not stopped drawing since then...Art has provided him with an outlet of expression ever since.....

He is now an internationally recognized artist. His art works have been featured in exhibitions in the United States, UK, Australia, Germany, Japan, Korea Singapore and Malaysia. Due to his mother's perseverance he has also matured into an obedient, hardworking, and a grateful "boy", full of love and affection. He still has limited communication and social skills. Ping Lian continues to create magnificent works of art using charcoal, acrylic, water color, ink and oil. He also continues to donate his works to organizations and charities.

- **March 2003** - Ping Lian's mother wrote in her diary "I want to develop Ping Lian to be an Artist..... I got Ping Lian to say "I Want to be an Artist" every day..... I know he will be an Artist one day..... "
- **Feb 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.
- **May 2006** - Ping Lian's family moved to Sydney.
- **April 2012** - Sarah Lee received the "Parent's Certificate of Recognition" from Temple Grandin, for her pioneering efforts in **Training The Talent** and nurturing the artistic abilities and interest of her son.

"Ping Lian's artwork stands on its own demonstrating a remarkable artistic ability. His artworks take on an added significance when one sees such ABILITY CO-EXIST with DIS- ABILITY. He is a natural artist whose work draws immediate attention, and appreciation. His works are a spark of joy and flame, talent and enthusiasm."... 2008

Darold A. Treffert, MD, author of "Extraordinary People: Understanding the savant syndrome" and "Islands of GENIUS", has been studying savant syndrome for the last 45 years, and was a consultant to the award winning movie Rain Man.

"... Although speech may not come easily to Ping Lian his works testify to a lively imagination and a vibrant inner life. In many pieces he is not simply recording, but inventing. This ability to transform the everyday into the marvellous is a sign of the true artist. Technical ability can be learned, but imagination comes from deep within...."

John McDonald (Art critic for the Sydney Morning Herald)

To view Ping Lian's artwork painted from age 10 to 20 –

In Malaysia, visit **Ping Lian Gallery @ The Settlement Hotel, Historic Melaka, Malaysia**. Address: No 63, Jalan Ujong Pasir, World UNESCO Heritage City Melaka, 75050, Melaka, Malaysia. Tel: +606-2921133 www.thesettlementhotel.com

In Sydney – **Argyle Gallery**, Playfair St, The Rocks, Tel: (02)92474427 (Monday - Sunday) or **The Rocks Market** (Saturday and Sunday only)

"Let us celebrate and focus on what autistic people can do, not what they can't do, and not label them as DISABLED."

In April 2017, the book about Ping Lian's very personal journey; **"I Want To Be Artist": An Autistic Savant's Voice and a Mother's Dream Transformed Onto Canvas** premiered in the U.S. at the 10th Annual Treffert Lecture series hosted by Marian University and the Treffert Center located on the Agnesian Healthcare campus. **The Treffert Center is the only savant institute in the world.** (paperback, colour, 486 pages, 121 images, written by Ping Lian's mom, edited by Dr Rosa C. Martinez, forewords by Dr Darold Treffert and John McDonald).

TV coverage, exhibitions and books:

- **At age 11** (2005) – Artwork, "Ubudiah Mosque 1" was donated to Riding for the Disabled Association, Malaysia for charity auction. It sold for MYR100,000.00 (100% of the proceeds were donated). Documentary - Korea Broadcasting System's 60-minutes savant syndrome documentary with Kim Peek (real Rain Man) and Kodi Lee. 'Eve's Diary' (TV8 – Malaysia) solo exhibition at ABWM House.
- **At age 12** – Focus Productions from UK, filmed Ping Lian at his exhibition 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 (April 2007), and in Scandinavia.
- **At age 13** – Documentary - EBS Korea "Uncovering the Secret of Childhood" during the "Windows of Genius: Artworks of the Prodigious Savant" art exhibition in Wisconsin, USA.
- **At age 14** – (April 2008) 'Don't 'dis' the ability' – artworks featured at NYC UN Headquarters for inauguration of World Autism Awareness Day in perpetuity.
- **At age 15** – Official opening of his personal gallery in Malaysia – '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. Ping Lian was filmed at the official opening of the gallery for a documentary, 'Asia's Wonder Kids' for Channel News Asia (CNA International and CNA Singapore).
- **At age 16** – Featured in three books that were published in the USA – 'Islands of Genius' by Dr. Darold Treffert, 'Real Reading 3' – English textbook published by PEARSON Longman (one chapter about Ping Lian), and 'Drawing Autism' by Jill Mullin. Solo art exhibition at The Malaysia Tourism Centre (Matic).
- **At age 17** – Featured in the book published in Korea, titled 'Knowledge', which also included the Real Rain Man (Kim Peek), Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, Warren Edward Buffett, William H. Gate, etc.; featured in the book "Artism: The Art of Autism"; Participated in exhibitions "The Genius of Autism" at Carnegie Hall (New York), "Strokes of Genius" at The Salmagundi Art Society, New York and "Savant Art" at The Rocks Pop - Up Project, Sydney.
- **At age 18** – Chapter featuring Ping Lian's story in the book "Adventures in Autism" by the master of motivation, Peter A. LaPorta (USA).
- **At age 20 and 21** – "Ping Lian @ The Art Commune" relocated to "Ping Lian Gallery @ The Settlement Hotel", Melaka. Dec 2014- **"Architectural Impressions"**, a two month long art exhibition of Ping Lian's Architectural Landscapes artworks at Port Authority, New York City.
- **At age 22**- Exhibited at Agora Gallery; a contemporary fine art gallery in New York's Chelsea art district. Featured in the book "The Prodigy's Cousin" by Joanne Ruthsatz n Kimberly Stephens and "Exploring Giftedness and Autism" by Trevor Clark.
- **At age 23**- "I Want To Be Artist" **An Autistic Savant's Voice and a Mother's Dream Transformed Onto Canvas** released.

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