

## YAVUZ GALLERY OPENS NEW SPACE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Yavuz Gallery is proud to announce the opening of its second permanent space.

The first gallery from Southeast Asia with a permanent presence in Australia, Yavuz Gallery Sydney will continue the strong curatorial program established by the gallery in Asia since 2010.



This new chapter aims to provide a platform to showcase Southeast Asian artists while broadening and continuing the gallery's existing ties to Australia and New Zealand.

Yavuz Gallery Sydney represents the fulfilment of the long-held dream of founder Can Yavuz to return to the city that has inspired him for more than twenty years. Since late 2013, the gallery has participated in every edition of Sydney Contemporary, Australia's premier art fair, building and widening its network across Australia and New Zealand. Over the past six years, the gallery has showcased art from Asia in Australia and vice versa — presenting Australian and New Zealand artists across numerous exhibitions in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Jakarta and Shanghai. Yavuz Gallery now represents leading Antipodean artists such as Abdul Abdullah, André Hemer, Julian Meagher and Caroline Rothwell in Asia.

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Yavuz Gallery Sydney's inaugural exhibition, which opened on 14 September, presents new works by critically-acclaimed artist **Abdul Abdullah**. Entitled *Contested Territories*, the solo exhibition presents large-scale paintings and embroideries that examine the concept of 'the journey' as an obstacle to be overcome on the way to an ultimate destination. This new body of work explores the aspirations of those traversing from where they are to where they want to be, and speak to an imagined utopia and the difficulties and challenges the disenfranchised face along the way. Whether a journey of personal or societal development, or the physical journey of a boat across an ocean, *Contested Territories* examines the shared resilience and common desire to live a fulfilled life. The exhibition is on view until 31 October 2019.

As a seventh-generation Muslim Australian of mixed ethnicity who grew up in suburban Perth, Abdullah's multi-disciplinary practice is motivated by a longstanding concern with the complex feelings of displacement and alienation associated with histories of diaspora and migration. Providing a voice to these often overlooked topics, he creates carefully crafted political commentaries that speak of the 'Other' and the experiences of marginalised communities. While the fraught dynamic of Muslim experiences has provided the initial framework, Abdullah has consciously expanded his practice to include a broader sense of marginalisation. Intersecting between popular culture, contemporary conflicts and personal experience, *Contested Territories* embodies the trajectory of his works that renegotiate histories and create space for alternative possibilities and new conversations. Grounding his outlook with an expansive cultural geography that belies reductive boundaries of nationality, Abdullah represents a new face of emerging artists from the Asia-Pacific region.

Abdullah was recently awarded the inaugural 2019 Australian Muslim Artists Art Prize, supported by the Islamic Museum of Australia and La Trobe University. He will also be participating in the 2020 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, titled *Monster Theatres*, at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

## YAVUZ GALLERY

SINGAPORE | 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore 108937 | tel: +65 6734 3262  
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## ABOUT THE GALLERY

Established in June 2010 in Singapore, Yavuz Gallery is dedicated to promoting contemporary art, predominantly from the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception, the gallery has established itself as a key destination for showcasing a diverse group of both established and emerging artists. It is focused on presenting a strong curatorial program, guided by the social significance of the artworks and the perception that within their chosen field of endeavour, the artists are among those leading their field.

Yavuz Gallery Sydney is located at 86 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016, Australia.

The Gallery acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country on which it stands, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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### Image Captions

<sup>1</sup> Can Yavuz, Founder and Managing Director of Yavuz Gallery

<sup>2</sup> Installation view of Yavuz Gallery Sydney and its inaugural exhibition *Contested Territories* by Abdul Abdullah

<sup>3</sup> Abdul Abdullah in front of his painting *Contested territory*, 2019, oil on linen, 161 x 480 cm

<sup>4</sup> Installation view of Abdul Abdullah, (Left) *Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens*; (Middle) *Where the clouds are far behind me*; (Right) *Where trouble melts like lemon drops*, 2019, manual embroidery made with the assistance of DGTMB Studios, 150 x 120 cm (each)

### For inquiries and more information, please contact:

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