

An abstract painting with a complex composition. The background is a mix of warm, earthy tones including ochre, terracotta, and burnt sienna. A prominent vertical element in the center-left is a textured, blue-grey wash that appears to be layered over other colors. The overall effect is one of organic, fluid movement and rich color palette.

# *4 Elements*

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY WONG SIEW LEE

**Galeri Seni Mutiara**  
Penang

# 四大元素

许多古典文化的智慧包括中国、希腊、西藏、印度教、佛教等，都谈及《四大元素》。元素思想是构成世界上所有物质包括自我和环境的基本思维结构。

这四种元素是地、水、火和风。它们的性质分别为坚固性或惯性（地），流动性或内聚力（水），温度或能量（火）和移动或扩展（风），也是大自然存在的基本要素；与自然界共存及不断进行交互。

这个古老的智慧往往在现代高科技研发之余被忽略了。我们经常为了利益和生活舒适而破坏了生态系统的平衡，导致自然界的灾害，是人类为“进步”必须支付的代价。

借于《四大元素》系列，我想提倡这四种元素在我们的自然环境中的重要性，并维护地球生态之微妙性质。

龙于此系列的出现纯粹为了增添一份喜悦。根据古老的传说，龙就是宇宙间强大的守护者。

黄秀丽 于 2014  
傅芝妮 译



**My Landscape II.** Oil on canvas. 30cm x 30cm. 2014

## *4 Elements*

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY WONG SIEW LEE

August 10-24, 2014

**GALERI SENI MUTIARA**

118, Lebuh Armenian, 10200 Penang

# Foreword

## We Need To Live in Harmony With Nature **Person, Civilisation & Biosphere**

An Artist awakens our consciousness.  
Makes us see with our inner eye.  
Find our passion.

In the **4 Elements Exhibition**, Siew Lee explores our link to the four elements of the natural world. A world which spawned us, but which we are doing terrible things to — like stripping fish from the ocean till we have deserts of seawater with no fish, like polluting our rivers and streams till nothing can breathe in them, like poisoning our air with fumes till it rains acid, and stripping our life-rich forests to bare earth.

Malaysia now has the world's highest rate of deforestation. In two years we lost 14.4 percent of our forest cover, that is 47,278 sq km (18,244 sq miles), or 66 times the size of Singapore.

There is an urgent need for us to return to the way we were, when we were people who understood and lived in harmony with ourselves, with our natural energies, and our natural environment. We need to rediscover our true selves. As individual persons, as a society, and as a civilisation of humankind all over the world. There are 7 billion of us now, living in 196 countries, speaking 6,500 languages, each with its own value-system and worldview. Despite this diversity, we are the same human inside, and share the same world outside.

We hope this exhibition could, in some way, contribute towards our return to our true selves and our harmonious relationship with our planet. Our only home in the endless, endless dark of the universe.

Enjoy the exhibition!

*SK Wong*

Director  
Information Designers

### REFERENCE:

*Malaysia has the world's highest deforestation rate, reveals Google forest map, Rhett A. Butler, mongabay.com, Nov 15, 2013.*  
Source: <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/1115-worlds-highest-deforestation-rate.html>

## *4 Elements*

### Artist Statement

Contemplation upon the four elements is to be found in many ancient cultures be they Chinese, Greek, Tibetan, Hindu, or Buddhist. The four elements were seen as the basis for our understanding of our physical environment and ourselves.

These four elements are earth, water, fire and air. Their properties are solidity or inertia (earth), fluidity or cohesion (water), temperature or energy content (fire) and mobility or expansion (air/wind). They form the essential elements of all existence; and coexist and constantly interact in the natural world.

Modern development and progress tends to overlook this ancient wisdom. We disturb the equilibrium in our ecological system for financial gain and comfort. This, in turn causes natural calamities and is the price humanity has to pay for "progress."

In the "4 Elements" series, I would like to raise awareness of the necessity of maintaining the importance of these four elements in our natural environment, and appreciating the gifts of Mother Earth.

A dragon appears in this series for the sheer delight of embellishing the content. According to ancient legend a Dragon is the Cosmos Protector, the mighty Guardian of the Universe.

*Siew Lee*  
July 2014



**Oneness.** Oil on canvas. 92cm x 122cm. 2014



**Landscape Sentiment.** Oil on canvas. 92cm x 122cm. 2014



**Surging Up.** Oil & acrylic on canvas. 92cm x 122cm (diptych). 2014



**It's a New Day.** Oil on canvas. 61cm x 122cm (diptych). 2013



**Talking to the Moon.** Acrylic on canvas. 120.5cm x 120.5cm. 2014



**A Blaze of Romance.** Oil & acrylic on canvas. 91.5cm x 91.5cm. 2014



**The Summit.**  
Oil & acrylic on canvas.  
90cm x 150cm.  
2012



**Semporna Impression.** Oil, acrylic & gold dust on canvas. 61cm x 122cm(diptych). 2013

**Water & Air.**  
Oil & acrylic on canvas.  
102cm x 70cm (diptych).  
2014

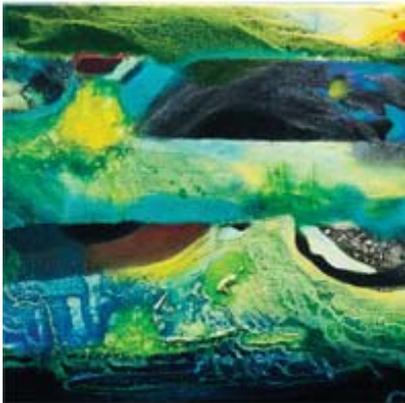




**Brighter Tomorrow.** Oil & acrylic on canvas. 61.5cm x 76.5cm. 2014



**Transience.** Oil on canvas. 48.5cm x 59cm. 2012



**My Landscape III.**  
Silk screen print, acrylic & oil on canvas.  
90cm x 30cm (triptych). 2014

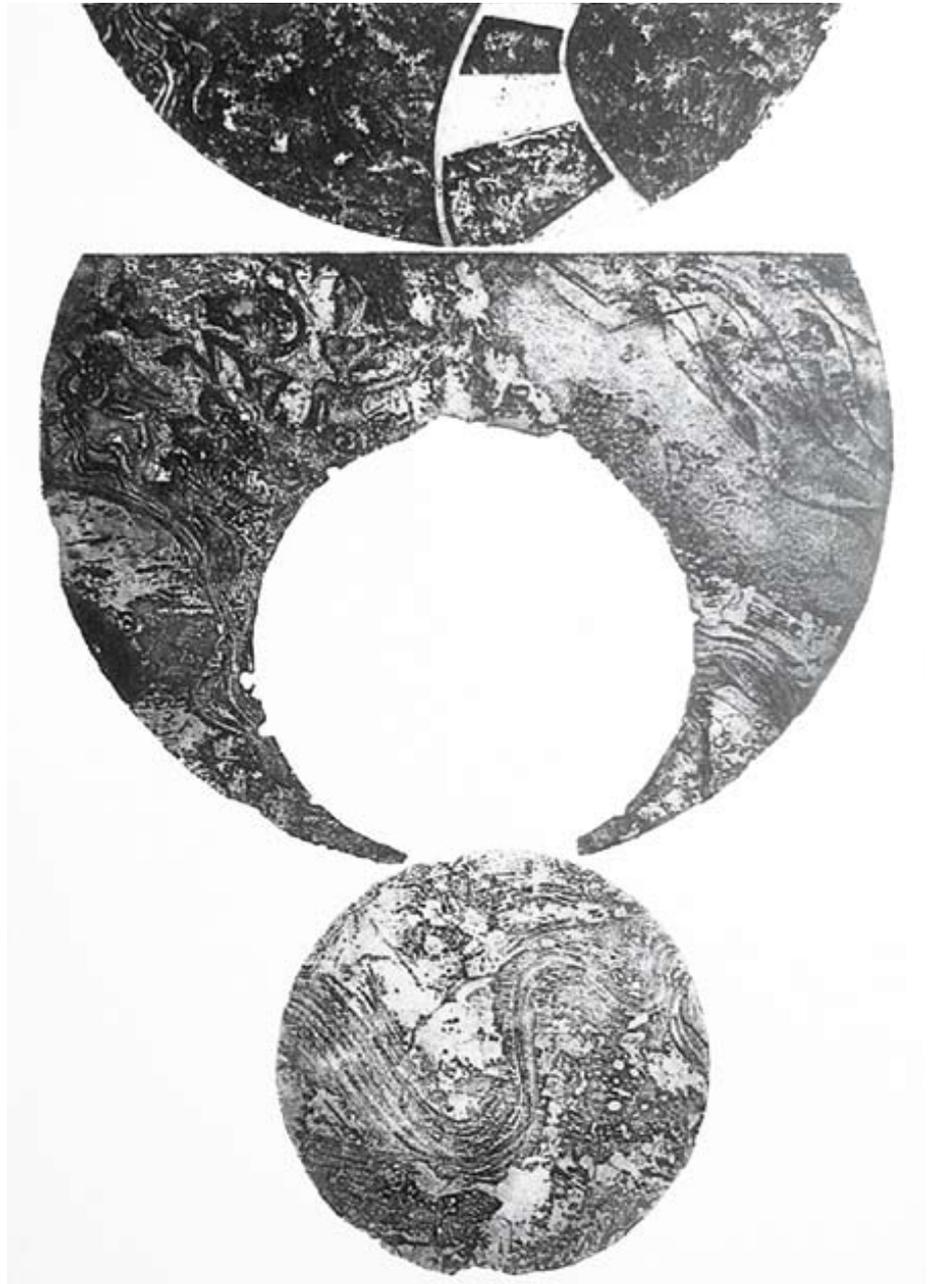
**wsl. My Landscape II.**

Oil on canvas. 90cm x 30cm (triptych).  
2014

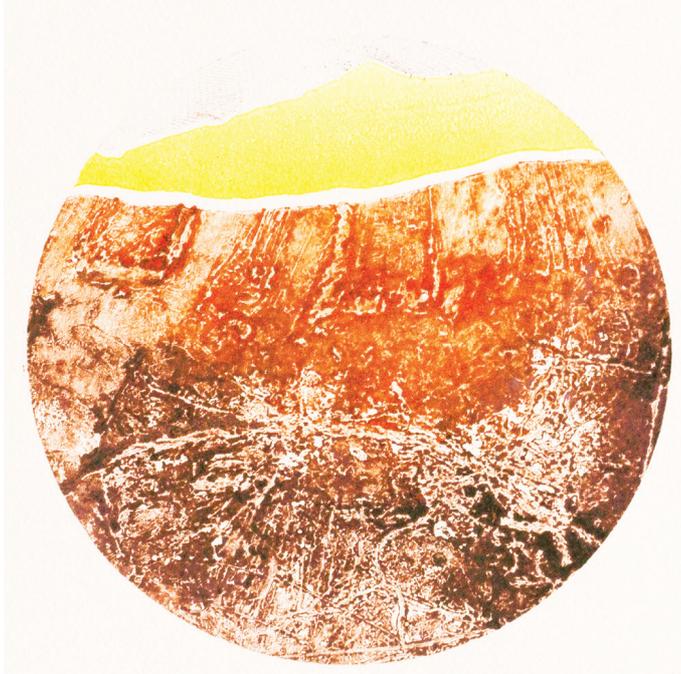




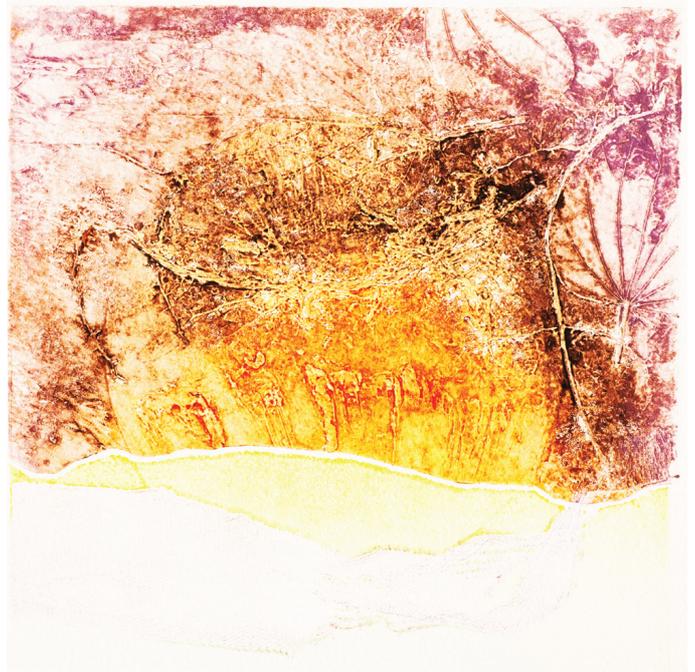
**Guardian of Cosmos.** Acrylic & charcoal on canvas.150cm x 150cm. 2014



**We are One.**  
Etching.  
60cm x 39.5cm.  
2012. ed5



**Earth.**  
Monoprint.  
29.5cm x 29.5cm.  
2014



**Water.**  
Monoprint.  
29.5cm x 29.5cm.  
2014



**Fire.**  
Monoprint.  
29.5cm x 29.5cm.  
2014



**Air.**  
Monoprint.  
29.5cm x 29.5cm.  
2014



**Rising Sun 7.00am.** Monoprint. 9.5cm x 20.5cm (diptych). 2008



**Rising Sun 7.05am.** Monoprint. 9.5cm x 20.5cm (diptych). 2008



**Rising Sun 7.20am.** Monoprint. 9.5cm x 20.5cm (diptych). 2008



**Rising Sun 7.30am.** Monoprint. 9.5cm x 20.5cm (diptych). 2008



*Wong Siew Lee* with artwork **The Summit**.

## **BORN**

1959 Bukit Mertajam, Penang.

## **ARTIST RESIDENCY**

2013 - 2014 University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

## **EDUCATION**

2002 Advanced Diploma in Visual Arts (Printmaking), Central Academy of Arts (CAA), Kuala Lumpur.  
1984 Diploma in Technology (Building), Tunku Abdul Rahman College, Kuala Lumpur.

## **AWARDS**

2012 Finalist, Business as Un-Usual. Penang Art Open.  
2009 Asia-Pacific Art Honourable Award. The Committee of the Achievement of Asia Pacific Cultural Industry Exhibition & Awards.  
2004 Consolation Prize. Pertandingan Melukis Bangunan Bersejarah Johor.  
2003 Jury Award. SAKSI (Suatu Apresiasi Kisah Sejarah melalui Seni). National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.  
2002 Third Prize. Tanjung Heritage Art Competition.  
2001 Consolation Prize. Johore Khat Calligraphy, Sculpture and Painting Open.

## **SOLO EXHIBITION**

2011 "A Matter of Mind", Balai Berita, The New Straits Times Press, Kuala Lumpur.

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2005 "The 5th International Mini Print Biennial", Cluj, Romania.  
2005 "In Print", Contemporary print in Malaysia & British, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.  
2008 "The 13th International Triennial of Small Graphic Forms", Lodz, Poland.  
2009 "The 7th Foot Bridge, Asia & Africa Modern Art Exhibition", Hangzhou, China.  
2010 "Ketumbukan-Seni Cetak Alternatif", Muzium & Galleri Tuanku Fauziah, USM. Penang.  
2012 "2012 Taiwan International Invitation Mini-Prints Exhibition and Symposium", Taiwan.  
2012 "1st Macau Printmaking Triennial", Macau.  
2012 "Tanpa Nama/Anonymous Exhibition", Muzium dan Galeri Seni Bank Negara Malaysia.  
2012 "Kuasa, Harapan dan Tanah", Balai Seni Visual Negara, Kuala Lumpur.  
2012 "Essence, Element & New Drawings", TJ Fine Art, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.  
2013 "The 2nd Impression of Malaysia Contemporary Art Exhibition", Xiamen, China.  
2013 "Malaysian Eye", Noliart Art Gallery, London, UK.  
2013 "16th Biennale internationale de Gravure de Sarcelles", Village de la Gravure, Sarcelles, France.  
2013 "Artist's Favourite II", Penang State Art Gallery, Penang.  
2013 "Collection of Perlis State Art Gallery", City Gallery, Kuala Lumpur.  
2013 "5+1 The Art of Life", SEED Sentul East Design Centre, Kuala Lumpur.  
2014 "1 CARES", The KL and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH), Kuala Lumpur.  
2014 "Kali Ini Kita Bersama", Women Art Exhibition, Morne Art Gallery. Kuala Lumpur.

## **CONTACT**

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## **4 Elements**

ISBN 978-967-10673-2-1

The eBook version is available at [www.siewlee.net](http://www.siewlee.net)

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*Front Cover*

**Emerging**, Oil & acrylic on Canvas,  
61cm x 61cm, 2014

*Title Page*

**My Landscape II (Panel 1)**. Oil on Canvas,  
30cm x 30cm, 2014

*Back Cover*

**My Landscape I (Panel 1)**. Oil & silk screen on canvas,  
30cm x 30cm, 2014

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*Printed by*

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## *Acknowledgement*

The artist would like to express her utmost appreciation and gratitude to the following individuals for their generous contributions and support.

**Dr Venessa Khoo**

**Mr Koay Soo Kau**

**Mr Wong Siew Kok**

**Mr Robert Andre Clement**

**Mr Loo Foh Sang**

**Dr Jolly Koh**

**En Abd Aziz Abdul Rashid**

**Pn Hazlin Anita Zainal Abidin**

**Mr Liew Kian Yap**

**Ms Ruby Tan**

**Mr Poh Swee Hiang**

**Ms Poh Zhiling**

**Mr Poh Ziyang**

**Mr Poh Zijie**

**Ms Poh Zhini**

and all those who have contributed in one way or another.



**My landscape I (Panel 1).** Oil & silk screen on canvas. 30cm x 30 cm. 2014

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