

NEWSLETTER

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CREATIONS ON DRIED CALABASH (GOURD)

Have you ever seen creations on dried calabash (Gourd), an artistic medium beyond just being a simple natural material? In Kalaw, there's an artist known as **Ko Thay**, who creates artworks on dried calabash (known locally as Buu Thee Chouk) using his own tools and techniques. He's one of the intriguing artists from Kalaw and began his artistic journey at the age of 18.

Working as a tattoo artist, he brings about his artistic journey through painting portraits, artworks with various mediums and themes, as well as crafting souvenirs with Kalaw's signature pine cones as recycled materials, and wooden pieces for decoration and signboards with engraved letters. He ensures that each piece is meticulously crafted with attention to detail and is made accessible to local buyers at fair prices.



*Artist
Ko Thay's
Unique
Creations*

One of his unique creations is painting on dried calabash. He developed his own tools for drawing lines on dried calabash. For the creation of each piece, it took many hours and detailed work, testing their durability over time for long-lasting results. Despite the relatively small local demand for his creations on dried calabash, he remains dedicated to this art form, continuously creating and believing in his artworks. As a full-time artist, continuously exploring new avenues of creativity.

If you ever find yourself in Kalaw, don't miss the opportunity to visit his studio and engage with his creations in person.

RACK AID'S ARTWORKS AT SUPPER CLUB EVENT

In the last week of May, we had the pleasure of joining the SUPPER CLUB Event organized by Sampan Travel in collaboration with DOh Eain. The theme of the event is promoting Southern Shan State culture through delicious food, art, and social enterprise initiatives.

As CFK, we are committed to promoting the Southern Shan Art community, in alignment with our mission.



We introduced the unique artworks of the Artist **Rack Aid @Gu Gu**, whose creations reflect his conceptual art styles. Last October, CFK had the opportunity to curate Gu Gu's artwork titled as the "Age OFF" solo exhibition.

We extend our thanks to everyone who joined the event and showed interest in experiencing Southern Shan's cultures. It was truly an honour to be part of this event and have the opportunity to display Rack Aid @Gu Gu's art.



ARTIST MYINT SWE REMEMBRANCE

When delving into the art scene of Inle Lake, one cannot forget Artist Myint Swe. Renowned for his colorful paintings of the Southern Shan landscape and Inle Lake, Myint Swe was born in 1952 in Nyaung Shwe, and passed away on April 2, 2024.

As a local artist, he intimately captured the landscapes, mountains, and livelihoods of his homeland. His vibrant use of color reflected the serene beauty of the Shan landscape and Inle Lake, portraying his unique perspective on canvas throughout his life.



Many years ago, he opened his own gallery, also as his studio, named "**Myint Swe Gallery**," in Nyaung Shwe, where he warmly welcomed visitors and travelers, inviting them to engage with his artworks and experience the subjects of Inle Lake through his creations.

Earlier this year, we visited his gallery, not expecting his prolonged absence. We found him outside, sketching with wet brushes, his creative corner brimming with life. His passing is a significant loss for the Southern Shan State artistic community. However, we believe that his presence, creations and "**Myint Swe Gallery**" will continue to thrive in our hearts.

POPULARITY OF KALAW PINK RAIN LILIES

During Kalaw's blooming floral season, an abundance of pink rain lilies emerges, symbolizing renewal and fresh beginnings as the rainy season begins. These delicate flowers not only attract girls posing for photos in matching pink attire but also create a picturesque scene, often immortalized by local artists.

The burst of pink rain lilies adorning Kalaw's landscape serves as a magnet for visitors seeking the beauty of the

pink carpet. As you explore Kalaw, pause to admire the blooming pink rain lilies, a poignant reminder of nature's enduring beauty.



EXCURSION TO THU YE OO MIN CAVE

In April 2024, the CFK_Art Fund team arranged a trip to **Thu Ye Oo Min** for 90 children who finished our 3-month PILOT 2 art course (February 10th - May 5th, 2024).

The excursion aimed to expand their understanding of the environment, participate in a painting session, and discover the history of the village, focusing on the background of the limestone cave.



The day ended with a group activity, a tour of the limestone cave, and a drawing skills session. Senior students supervised the groups, encouraging leadership and mutual respect among children as young as six.



SUMMER WORKSHOP PROGRAM

This summer, we've arranged four intensive workshops, each spanning four days, tailored for children aged 10 to 16 years old. Our goal is to broaden their understanding of various art forms. The workshops feature a mix of activities, including sessions led by visiting artists from Yangon.

1. Watercolour painting (Artist D Kyaw)
2. Pencil Drawing (Artist Kyaw Myo Han)
3. Making Animated Storyboard (Ko Thid Dhi (Filmmaker & Cinematographer) and His wife Ma Thu Thu Shein)
4. Shibori Dye or Basic Batik (Thae Darli)
5. Performance Art (Artist Htein Lin)

The Summer Workshop Program's five short courses concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation and impressive final artworks.

CFK_Art Fund extends special thanks to all donors, artists, volunteers, and teachers whose contributions made this workshop a success.



GRADUATION CEREMONY (EXCURSION VIDEO+ WORKSHOPS RESULT + PILOT-2 ARTWORKS)

On May 25, CFK_Art Fund held a 'Summer Kids' Art Exhibition' at Dhammayana Youth Development Center, along with the first graduation ceremony of the CFK_Art Fund.

At the graduation ceremony, students of the Pilot 2 Basic Kids' Art Classes were given completion certificates and evaluation report cards. Additionally, students who completed the three-month classes with full attendance were awarded art materials to stimulate their participation in upcoming art classes.

The role plays practiced during the Performance Art Workshop were also performed on stage, receiving overwhelming support from parents and guest artists. After the ceremony, watercolor paintings, pencil drawings, shibori dye and flower pounding fabrics, and animated short stories created in the four-day summer

workshops program were exhibited, and an excursion video was also displayed.

The event created an environment where students and guests could exchange art experiences and participate in painting sessions together, bringing positive changes to this year's CFK_Art Fund graduation ceremony and 'Summer Kids' Art Exhibition,' and inspiring enthusiasm for future classes.



**AVAILABLE ARTWORKS
FOR SALES**

Artist -U Than Maung

Size - 11" x 15"

Medium - Charcoal on paper

Price - 300,000 MMK

