

Coming From Kalaw promotes Southern Shan State Artists, their artworks, lifestyles and other unique activities in Shan State. We curate exhibitions and engage with the local art community through artists workshops and gatherings, and children's art classes and trips at our small gallery in Kalaw "HtinShuuYeik" (Shadow of the Pine).

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Newsletter

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• Painting Jute Hats at HtinShuuYeik Class



CFK's workshop on "Painting Jute Hats" aimed to use local materials to create artwork to raise awareness that self-representation art could be created on any 'canvas' and with any materials. Although the students from rural areas were not used to such as learning style, their eyes were opened and artistic senses stimulated by the workshop. As they went about the activity, we saw their hands move freely to depict what was on their mind, and they created their own artwork proudly. The final product of these future artists can be seen in the photos, all coming from Kalaw!

• Award ceremony at Baw Hseng Class

Seven weeks into the Baw Hseng kids' art class, the volunteer teachers introduced the kids to the "Line, Tone, Scale", which is one of the basic elements of drawing, as well as details of "Colour Theory". After that session, the kids created some artwork based on what they had learned, using their own ideas. The ones who tried their best were awarded art stationery to encourage everyone to create even better works in upcoming weeks.



□ Babylon Camp Day Trip



On 12 April 2023, the Htin Shuu Yeik Kids' Art Class went on its first outdoor painting day trip to Babylon Campsite on Mae Nal Taung (mountain) in Pindaya Township, organised by the CFK team. It began with an hour long bus ride from Kalaw to Pindaya, full of laughing, music and chatting along the way.

Since CFK aims to develop the kids' intrapersonal as well as interpersonal skills, we divided them into small groups and let them interpret their experience with their classmates. On the way to the campsite, we stopped for a quick visit to Grace Estate and Cottage east of Pindaya town so that they could experience the authentic art of nature in the gardens.



The 45 minute hike up the trail to the campsite was what the kids enjoyed most. After we had arrived, the kids were encouraged to freely decide their favourite viewpoint, and then we saw their creativity started to flow through onto the paper. In addition to the art activity, they enjoyed a Q&A session with Ko Aung Soe Htike, the founder of Babylon Camp who shared his general knowledge about the area. Babylon Camp welcomes overnight local and foreign visitors during the dry season.



As time was flying by, a big outdoor painting was co-created by the children who all painted together on a plywood sheet, and presented it as a gift to Aung Soe Htike and Babylon Camp. After their long exciting day, the CFK team and kids happily walked down to the bottom of the hill and headed back down the mountain via Pindaya to Kalaw.



• Visiting “Yoma Art Space”

As the CFK team never ceases to search for new galleries with whom we can collaborate on future projects, we recently checked out “Yoma Art Space” cafe and restaurant in Taunggyi. Although the space is small, it unites local artists from many different places. A handmade food menu has even been drawn by visiting artists. The gallery owners chatted with us about the local art community and their hopes for local artwork. Yoma Art Space feels like a kind of art studio that connects the dots of different artists and artforms.



• Time City Art Fair

As the art fair at Times City was a highlight of Yangon that week, the CFK team couldn't miss the show. There were many artworks by both famous and emerging artists, exhibited in different rooms and galleries. It was great to see a wide range of visitors coming together to share their thoughts on the paintings.



• Hippy Birthday Art Exhibition

A very talented Yangon based female artist, Thyitar exhibited her solo show "Hippy Birthday". Her visual artworks reflect the feeling of suffocation, the acceptance of her current surroundings and moving on.



• Artist Kyawt Shin at Home

During April, the CFK team visited the home of one of the artists whom we often collaborate with, Kyawt Shin, a well known artist from Kalaw. He shared with us his thoughts on his previous artwork, his current health and recovery, and his plans for painting in the future. It is a great honour to work with him and we welcome his strong desire to sharpen our vision for Coming from Kalaw (CFK) so that it can be a supportive organization for local artists like him.



▣ Highlights Of The Month

• A Visit to Mawmai



The CFK team was invited to participate in a novitiation ceremony (shin-byu) in Mawmai, Loilem District, Southern Shan State. Mawmai (Mauk Mai), capital of the historical Mawmai State is five hours drive south east of Taunggyi and we made an overnight trip to fully experience the culture of this small Shan town. We enjoyed the cultural rituals, the night market and the nightlife. And we were grateful for the hospitality the people of Mawmai showed us, and the opportunity we had to dress up in traditional Shan costume.



What Else Have We Been Up To?

If you want to know more about the activities of Team CFK, please subscribe to our new YouTube channel. We look forward to seeing you on our new social media platform.

Top Tip

Are you looking for a cozy spot for local, home cooked, authentic Shan food? Then “Kalaw Sisters”, a well-established family restaurant, is the perfect choice for you!



Artworks for SALE

ARTIST MYINT SWE, Once said “ The most satisfying thing in my life is being an artist”. He promotes Inle culture through paintings at his small art gallery “Myint Swe” in Nyaung Shwe where he also lives. The gallery and studio is always open to the public.



11" x 15"
Watercolor on canvas
260,000 MMK



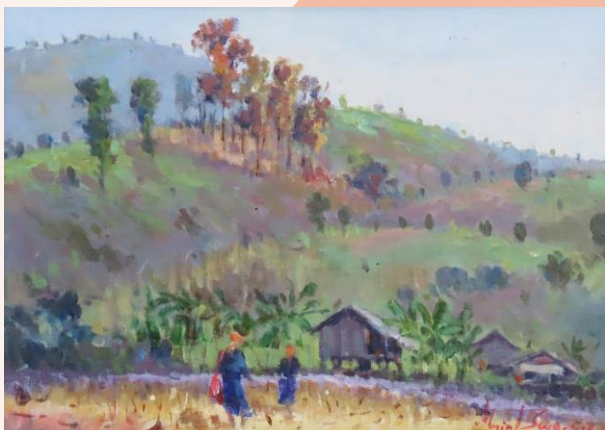
11" x 15"
Watercolor on canvas
260,000 MMK



11" x 15"
Acrylic on canvas
650,000 MMK



10" x 12"
Acrylic on canvas
650,000 MMK



10" x 14"
Acrylic on canvas
650,000 MMK



10" x 12"
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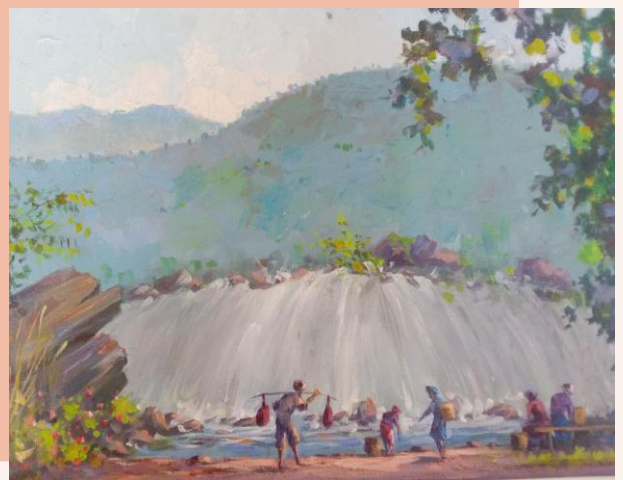
11" x 18"
Acrylic on canvas
650,000 MMK



14" x 18"
Acrylic on canvas
910,000 MMK



10" x 12"
Acrylic on canvas
650,000 MMK



14" x 18"
Acrylic on canvas
910,000 MMK

If any of these paintings speak to you... don't miss your chance!