

# NEWSLETTER

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## COMING FROM KALAW CELEBRATES ITS 2ND ANNIVERSARY!

On January 28th, Coming From Kalaw celebrated its 2nd anniversary, reflecting on a journey of growth, transformation, and exciting new beginnings. With a strong belief in 'Community Change Through the Arts,' we've strengthened our team, developed strategies for upcoming projects, expanded our online presence with a new website [www.comingfromkalaw.com](http://www.comingfromkalaw.com), and launched the 'CFK\_Art Space' in Kalaw.

Meanwhile, the CFK\_Art Fund has focused on internal training, revising lesson plans, and the upcoming 'Mobile Art Program,' while the CFK\_Art Platform has grown into a commercial arm, promoting local artists through community-based projects.

We are deeply grateful to everyone

who has supported our exhibitions and projects along the way. To our employees, partners, donors, and the incredible artists who collaborate with us, thank you for being part of our journey!





## ARTIST THAN KYAW HTAY'S ARTWORKS

One of the four Myanmar artists in Resilience in Shadow: Art Amidst Adversity, an exhibition presented in collaboration with CFK and A+ Works Of Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2024, where he showcased his "Mapstract" series. Now, we are proud to present his another "Silent Series" collection.

*Silent Lives on the Mountain* - Inspired by his 2022 visit to Shan State, Than Kyaw Htay reflects on the stark contrast between its breathtaking beautiful landscapes and the struggles of farmers surviving on terraced fields.



Their uncertain futures, lack of communication, and isolated existence deeply moved the artist. Unlike his earlier visits, he sensed their lives felt small and unnoticed in this world.

*Silent Steps* - Set in his native Rakhine, this series captures endless movement and quiet struggles. Women figures carrying zinc water pots walk toward the fading temples of Mrauk-U, symbolizing generations bound to the same fate. "Nothing has changed," he states, emphasizing the continued marginalization of Rakhine women, reflected in their small figures in his paintings.

*Silent Moves & Silent Souls Series* - This series explores migration, resilience, and the loss of identity, capturing the emotional weight of displacement. Though created before the Rakhine exodus, the works remain deeply relevant today. Using gold and handmade Shan paper, he introduces a sense of hope amid adversity. His art reflects Myanmar's isolation and humanitarian struggles, offering a poignant glimpse into these realities through his evocative compositions.



## OPENING LAUNCH OF CFK\_ART SPACE IN KALAW

Our Coming From Kalaw team was excited to announce the launch of CFK\_Art Space, a new art and community hub in Kalaw!

More than just an exhibition space, CFK\_Art Space serves as a dynamic center for exhibitions, workshops, events, and children's art classes under the CFK\_Art Fund's projects. It also hosts a variety of community-centered programs to foster creativity and local engagement.

To celebrate the opening launch on March 8th, we curated "Me", the largest group exhibition yet, featuring 24 artists from Southern Shan State. This exhibition showcases a diverse range of art styles, mediums, background stories, and subject matter, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience different artistic expressions, cultural narratives, and innovative creations all in one place.

At the opening event, Kyel Sin Lin, curator and founder of Coming From



Kalaw, delivered an opening speech and guided tour, while participating artists shared insights into their works. Visitors also had the chance to explore the artists' creative journeys through the exhibition guidebook, available on our website.

We invite you to visit CFK\_Art Space and explore the "Me" exhibition, which will be open until 23rd April. Bring your friends and family to experience this unique collection of artworks!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the artists who collaborated with us, everyone who attended the exhibition, Kalaw Cafe Yard for their delicious beverage sponsorship, and all those who contributed to making this exhibition a success.



## "LADIES IN LEGEND" ARTIST WIN PHYO'S FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION

From February 17 to 19, artist Win Phyo from AungBan held his first solo exhibition, "Ladies in Legend," at Siripaccaya Art Gallery in Mandalay. The exhibition featured 36 acrylic paintings, showcasing his evolving style that blends modern and traditional in images of women.

Win Phyo, known for portraits and landscapes, explores a new approach with this series in 2022, experimenting with vibrant color tones and personal storytelling to bring his own imagination to canvas. The paintings enhance women's figures with traditional elements like head coverings, jewelry, hairstyles, costumes, and Burmese motifs such as lotus stems and blossoms.

The inspiration came from a visit to BawHseng Monastery, where he experienced the traditional Buddhist practice of sharing one's meritorious deeds with spirits. At that moment, he envisioned the spirit of women as "Mother" from past lives. This vision

became the foundation for the series, portrayed in various symbolic forms such as angels, queens, musicians, and spiritual beings.

Also, influenced by his experiences teaching art classes in BawHseng and Kalaw, he was inspired by children's simplicity, creativity, and freedom of expression. This influence is evident in this series' facial features and the imaginative portrayal of legendary women with limitless imagination.





## **MOBILE ART PROGRAM UPDATE: CLASSES NOW OPEN IN TWO AREAS!**

The CFK\_Art Fund's Mobile Art Education Program has successfully launched at St. Francis Xavier's Convent and Dhamma Cakkyar Monastery in Kalaw. Held weekly, senior classes (10+ years) have two 1.5-hour sessions, while junior classes (6–10 years) have one.

### **1) Saint Francis Xavier's Convent, Kalaw**

The free kids' classes, which began on January 11, 2025, has now reached its final class week. A total of 55 students participated, and up until now, the children have been actively and enthusiastically engaged in learning art.

### **2) Dhamma Cakkyar Monastery**

As an extension of the Mobile Art Program, the free kids' art classes were expanded to the Monestry on February 8, 2025. Currently, there are over 80 students participating, including alumni students who are willing to continue their art education and new students.

Since there are still children asking about the free art painting classes after missing out on the announcement, we will soon continue offering new classes at our new location, CFK\_Art Space.





## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CFK\_ART FUND

First and foremost, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organizations that generously contributed to launching the initial three-month free art classes as part of the Mobile Art Program at two locations. Additionally, we sincerely appreciate Flex Office for providing basic stationery supplies such as books, pencils, erasers, and pens.

Thanks to the financial support from various donors, we were able to exceed our initial estimate of 110 students and successfully teach over 130 children. This achievement brought joy not only to the children but also to all of us on the team through your support.



## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS: JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER ART WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR!

We are excited to share that our **CFK\_Art Fund** warmly welcomes support from individuals and organizations interested in contributing to our **free kids' art workshops**. While **CFK\_Art Fund** has been actively organizing art classes to keep children engaged with creative expression, we believe there is still a need to provide a **variety of workshops** to enhance their creativity and critical thinking skills.

If you are passionate about sharing your skills and would like to **host an art workshop for children**, we can provide the necessary space and coordinate with the children. Feel free to reach out to us for more details. We would love to have you join us in making a difference through art!





## AVAILABLE ARTWORKS FOR SALES



Title - Pig and Human  
Artist - Mhn Dei  
Size - 134 x 104 cm  
Medium - Acrylic on Canvas



Title - Strugglymily  
Artist - Khine Mye  
Size - 60 x 60 cm  
Medium - Acrylic on Canvas



Title - Psyche  
Artist - Sai Moon  
Size - 40 x 40 cm  
Medium - Acrylic on Canvas



Title - Peace Pattern  
Artist - Ko So  
Size - 25 x 50 cm  
Medium - Mixed Media