
iNVENTX Creative Exhibition

SUSTAINAISSANCE IN PRACTICE: Quiet Materials, Loud Meaning

Yang Last Sapa? (Who's the Last?)

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Abstract

“Yang Last Sapa?” is a digital collage parodying Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper, reflecting Malaysia’s political crisis from 2019 to 2021. The artwork captures the instability of coalitions such as Pakatan Harapan, Muafakat Nasional, and Perikatan Nasional, presenting key political figures in a casual yet satirical setting. Symbolic elements such as teh tarik, cigarettes, and political folders highlight the culture of opportunism and hidden negotiations that defined Malaysia’s post-GE14 political landscape.

Keywords: Satire; Malaysian politics; Coalition; Power; Parody; Collage

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Artist Statement

Concept and Theme

The core theme of this artwork is political instability and the theatrical struggle for power in Malaysia. Inspired by the compositional structure of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* (Figure 2), the composition mirrors the chaos and drama surrounding the collapse of political alliances and fragile leadership.

Approach and Process

The collage was developed using digital photo manipulation techniques. Archival images of political figures were carefully selected and rearranged within a single visual frame. Spatial composition and facial expressions were analysed to reflect each character's public role and legacy. The collage employs publicly circulated photographic images as satirical quotation for the purpose of political commentary.



Figure 1. *Yang Last Sapa? (Who's the Last?)*, Digital Photo Collage, 2020
Courtesy of Mohammad Amirul Shafiq Sajali

Meaning and Impact

This piece questions the sincerity and sustainability of Malaysian political coalitions while portraying public fatigue with ongoing political theatrics. The title “Yang Last Sapa?” (Who’s the Last?) serves as a rhetorical provocation on leadership endurance, trust, and betrayal.

Materials and Techniques

Materials used include selected digital photographs, layered digital painting, and composite textures via Adobe Photoshop. The technique merges realism with symbolism to create a staged yet recognisable political tableau.

Artistic and Design Influences

This work draws conceptual inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci’s *The Last Supper* (Figure 2) and the tradition of political satire in Western and Southeast Asian art. Its thematic direction is informed by the turbulent political developments in Malaysia, with stylistic references to artists such as Hannah Höch and contemporary satirical designers.

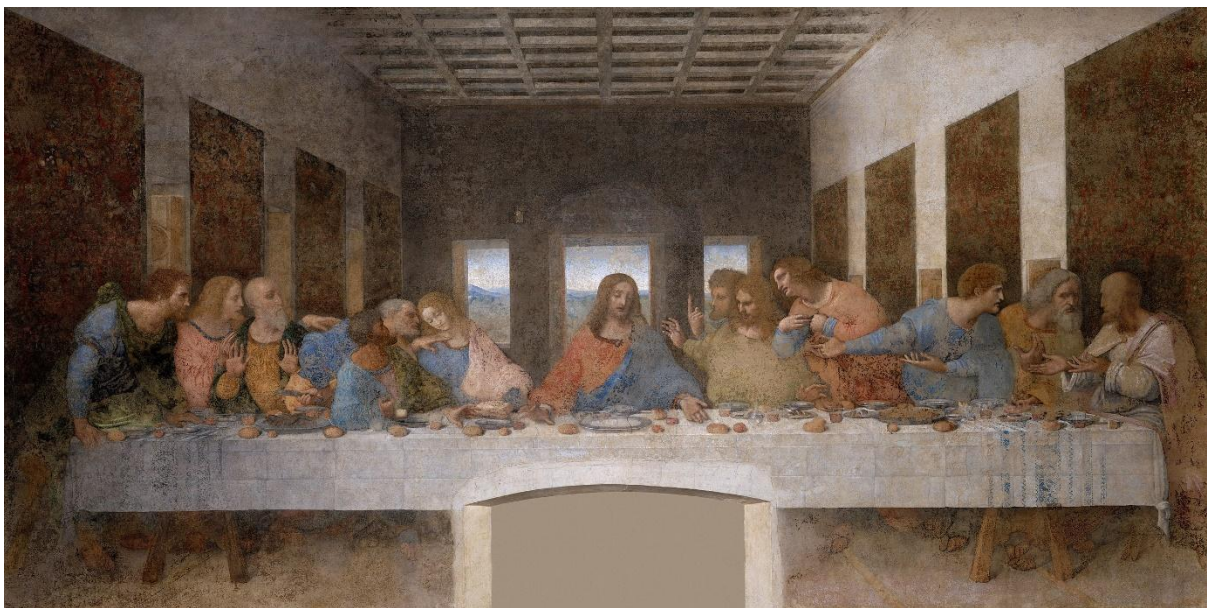


Figure 2. Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper*, c.1495–1498, Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan.

Conclusion

“Yang Last Sapa?” serves as a commentary on Malaysia’s recurring political instability and performative power dynamics. It aims to provoke public reflection and critique, encouraging deeper thought on leadership, coalition-building, and the people’s hope for genuine reform.

References

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Authors’ Bio

Mohammad Amirul Shafiq is a Malaysian-based Creative Designer and Visual Artist with a foundation in architecture and over a decade of experience spanning architectural design, interior development, and conceptual visual art. Trained as an architect, his creative journey blends-built environment knowledge with contemporary artistic practice, often engaging with themes of cultural memory, reinterpretation, and philosophical inquiry. He holds a Master of Design Technology and Bachelor Science of Architecture from UiTM Shah Alam, where his research focuses on the intersection of visual deconstruction in modern art. His work explores how identity, authorship, and originality intersect across disciplines.