



Middle East Institute



PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW

By Laudi Abilama

Exhibition from 06 March 2015 to 26 April 2015 at
Sana Gallery

Talk at the **ARTS HOUSE** on
02 March 2015

Sana Gallery and the **Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore** are delighted to invite you to the artist talk at the **ARTS HOUSE** on **Monday 2 March** from 7:30 to 8:15 pm followed by an evening of cocktail, art and conversation.

The talk by artist **Laudi Abilama** will be moderated by **Charlotte Schriwer**, Deputy Director of the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore.

Kindly RSVP to Ophélie Guillerot, Gallery Manager, at ophelie.guillerot@sanagallery.com.

Best wishes,
Sana Gallery



In honor of Singapore 50th anniversary of independence, Sana Gallery has invited **Laudi Abilama**, a Lebanese artist, to exhibit 11 portraits of **Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW** from 6 March to 26 April 2015.

Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW spent his life carving a nation, Singapore, together with its incredible success story.

This achievement is striking by any global standard but especially so when seen with Arab eyes, contrasted and compared against the systemic failures of Arab leaders to build a successful, democratic, and stable society over the same period as **PM LKY's** career.

In 2010, Lebanese artist **Laudi Abilama** commenced a series of artworks that portrayed the most prominent leaders of the Middle East.

Following an artists residence in Singapore in 2011, she was inspired to continue her leaders' portraits by focusing on **Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW**.

Abilama's Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW series is an artistic commentary on how **PM LKY** worked closely within a multicultural society, embracing the colourful makeup of Singapore and its people's potential to the fullest.

Abilama uses a screen printing technique (a stencil method of print making in which a design is imposed) on paper and linen, with blank areas coated with an impermeable substance.

She mixes her own pigment and forces it into the mesh openings by the fill blade or squeegee and onto the printing surface during the squeegee stroke, printing one colour at a time, which makes each piece unique.

Integrated into her images of the **Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW** are spontaneous, un-calculated traces of Islamic geometric forms, created much in the same way they were hundreds of years ago.

Each circle is drawn at random and the lines that emerge from them determine the continuation of the composition.

There is no set start or end point for each line, but rather a link between them and a silent potential for forms and compositions to emerge, in much the same way as **PM LKY** steered his nation to prosperity.

Abilama's portraits of **Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW** equally probe and celebrate the life of a man with conviction who crafted an incredibly successful vision for his country.

Caption: *Minister Mentor*, 110 x 80 cm, Mother of Pearl and Pigment on Black paper, 2014