

Ibrahim Hussein Art Museum

This starkly modern building, which perches dramatically on a cliff overlooking the Andaman Sea on the hill slopes of Mat Cincang Forest Reserve, is a magnificent setting for the works of one of Malaysia's best known artist - Datuk Ibrahim Hussein. Established in 1991 - the foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promote and develop art and culture.

The museum, built on the edge of the rainforest, is a beautiful place and is the perfect home for the works of this world-renowned Malaysian artist. The centre is also the Langkawi retreat for "Ib" - as he is fondly called among his closed friends and the international art circle. It is where he would disappear with his wife and muse, Sim, when he cannot be found at his home in Kuala Lumpur's exclusive Pantai Hills.

The idea for the museum and cultural foundation came to him like a bolt of lightning one day many years ago. While languishing in his swimming pool he reflected the path he had taken through the years to establish a name. From poverty-stricken roots in Yan, Kedah, Ib realized he could make use of his success to help others and create a living centre for the arts. He wanted to show the world that art is the most important unifying force - a celebration of life that can help nations, races, and religions come together as one.

Inside the gallery is white and spacious, built over two floors. Immediately upon entering it, you can see Ib's signature style lines. Scattered all over the upper floor of the gallery is tree branches, giant pea pods and gnarled tree trunks that he had collected around his property - all dressed in colours. The door to the washroom has a poster promoting his paintings that were inspired by the literature of a female poet who wrote "Give me the paradise of the end of the spring.. and I'll wrap for you an endless summer." Perhaps Ib has found his paradise in this little cove by Pasir Tengkorak Beach and this is the endless summer he promised in return.