

# INTRODUCTION

In an initiative to physically brand the George Town UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Penang State Government opened an international pitch for "Marking George Town - An Idea Competition for a UNESCO World Heritage Site" in 2009. The winning idea culminated in a unique series of steel-rod caricatures which retells the history of the streets and stories of its communities in a local voice.

Sculpture at Work with the creative direction of local artist Tang Mun Kian won the commission with the theme "Voices of the People", a deserving retelling of Penang history by Penang characters with their own peculiar brand of wit and humour; in effect, marking and relating stories

of key heritage sites of the city in a unique and timeless way.

In 2010, work started and to date, there are 52 steel-rod sculptures. This unprecedented project also opened the door for new public art forms in Penang. Among the more popular are wall murals by Ernest Zacharevic for Mirrors George Town and wall murals by visiting foreign artists invited by Urban Xchange. The Marking George Town project has inadvertently changed the landscape of George Town through art and created a whole new category of attractions.

These pieces, like most public art, were not officially named; hence they are titled here according to subject matter or as they are popularly known.



9 Spy

# THE ARTISTS



Lefty

Lefty is a comic-book creator and the co-founder of Gilamon Studio where he gave life to the popular Major Zombie and Jimi Germ series. He also once dealt in dark themes and black humour in the wholly-Southeast Asian, Eisner-nominated Liquid City graphic novels.



Baba Chuah

Baba Chuah made his debut in the cartoon scene in 1991 when his work first published in Falsafah Batu Api. This led to the cult anthology series Fantasi. Some of his most elaborate work to date was for Dark Horse Comics and the Eisner-nominated Liquid City.



Reggie Lee

Known for his mischievous characters, Reggie Lee's cartoon style and humour is the most recognisable in Malaysia next to Datuk Lat's. He has become a household name after decades as a syndicated cartoonist for the largest Malaysian daily, The Star. His work is also seen on billboards, commercials and animated films.

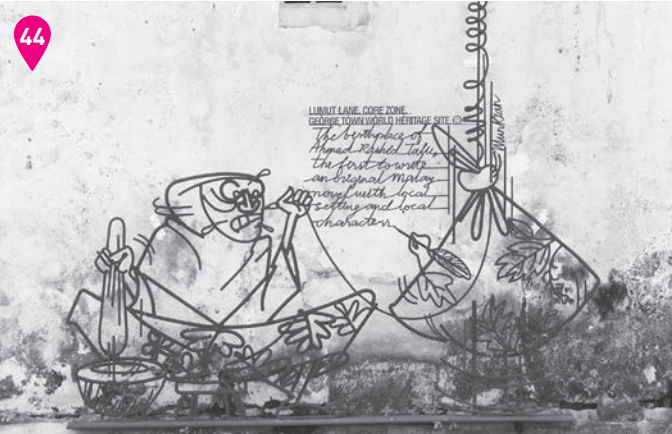


Tang Mun Kian

A graduate of the renowned Malaysian Institute of Art, Tang Mun Kian is first an artist, as well as an established art director and designer. Typically unassuming and low profile, it is often his work that speaks volumes.

# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ONE?

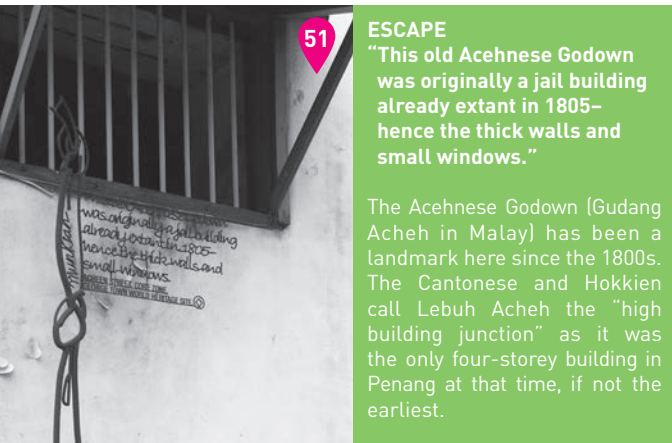
Explore off the main tourist routes and you'll find some of the best pieces. Hidden at the end of Lumut Lane and gracing a simple house is a clever piece by artist Tang Mun Kian introducing Ahmad Rashid Talu, the first to write an original Malay novel based on the local setting and characters. Here, the famous author is depicted as a baby writing from his cradle.



BORN NOVELIST

In 1927, Ahmad Rashid Talu wrote Kawan Benar or "true friend", the first novel using Malay characters in the local setting of Penang. His second novel lakah Salmah? is revered for its protagonist Salmah, a Malay woman of progressive thinking in colonial times.

Another economically-simple steel-rod sculpture depicts an escape from the window of a warehouse building that was once a prison on Lebu Acheh. One should also look out for the steel-rod sculpture at an actual rattan-making shop on Chulia Street - to tell its story, this piece uses real rattan whips as part of the sculpture!



ESCAPE  
"This old Acehnese Godown was originally a jail building already extant in 1805- hence the thick walls and small windows."

The Acehnese Godown (Gudang Acheh in Malay) has been a landmark here since the 1800s. The Cantonese and Hokkien call Lebu Acheh the "high building junction" as it was the only four-storey building in Penang at that time, if not the earliest.

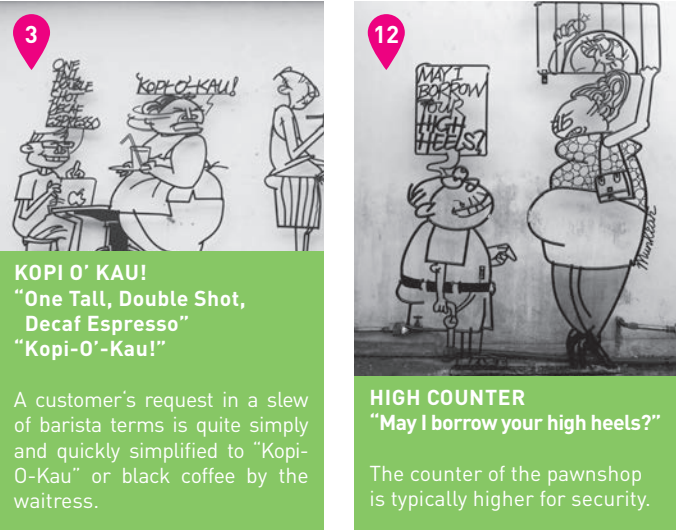


ROTAN  
"Thick, Medium or Thin?"

The rattan whip or Rotan used to be the "light but memorable" punishment for children. At an actual rattan shop on Chulia Street, a mother teases his boy with a choice of thick, medium or thin whips before even looking at his school report card, but the boy has already fled into the bushes. Can you spot him?

Certainly, there are some pieces which can make you laugh even after seeing them countless times. Located at the side wall of an actual pawnshop on Chulia Street, a steel-rod sculpture tells the story of a short man at a high counter of a pawnshop.

Another hilariously straight-faced piece sits above a local coffeeshop at the corner of Kimberley Street and Penang Road. It celebrates the amazingly simple, straight-up way of communicating that Penangites are known for. Marking George Town sculptures are unique in its local-accented wit and humour.



KOPI O' KAU!  
"One Tall, Double Shot, Decaf Espresso"  
"Kopi-O'-Kau!"

A customer's request in a slew of barista terms is quite simply and quickly simplified to "Kopi-O-Kau" or black coffee by the waitress.



HIGH COUNTER  
"May I borrow your high heels?"  
The counter of the pawnshop is typically higher for security.

# LIGHT UP YOUR EVENINGS

For a little entertainment after dinner, try exploring the Marking George Town sculptures to indulge in some local wit and humour, or simply to take photos.

The Marking George Town steel-rod sculptures are purposefully-lit for night-time photo-taking. And because they are located at key areas, the Marking George Town sculptures also become your location markers when exploring the city. If you choose to start from the Pier, you

might also want to stop by the Esplanade for a walk along the waterfront. In the vicinity, prominent British-era buildings such as the Courthouse and the St. George's Church are lit up in full splendour.

The nights are more cooling at around 26°C with an occasional strong breeze coming in from the sea and road traffic slows down after 8pm, making it perfect for walkabouts.



9 Mr Five Foot Way



29 Mahjong

# LEGEND HAS IT THAT...

Early astrologers from South India used green parakeets to foretell the future, according to a steel-rod sculpture in Little India. Another piece tells us how the paper oblation business on Lebu Carnarvon thrived on the Chinese belief that all pleasures of the material world, even bungalows and cars, could be sent to the hereafter by reproducing them in paper and burning them.

The Marking George Town sculptures not only tell stories of the place, they introduce the traditions, beliefs, practices and industries at key areas of the heritage city.



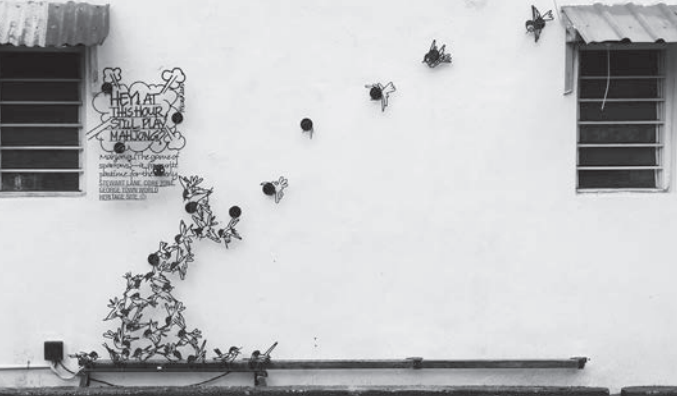
39 Untrained Parakeet



36 "Yeoh" Only



45 Limousine



29 Mahjong

# HISTORY, HERITAGE, HUMOUR

To fully understand and appreciate each piece, it is important to read the accompanying descriptors - they briefly explain the history of the place and the people who worked and lived there. The Marking George Town sculptures carry the theme "Voices of the People", and is meant to retell the history of each part of George Town in the way that the locals would; with their own peculiar brand of wit, humour and language.

May term for the five-foot ways of Penang. Another piece called "Mahjong" at Stewart Lane has neighbours shout in local English accent "Hey! At this hour, still play Mahjong?" in response to the noisy shuffling of Mahjong tiles; Mahjong being the favourite pastime in this mainly Cantonese quarter. It is also no coincidence that the artists who created these pieces are local Malaysians and Penangites. All these makes Marking George Town a fun and interesting way to discover the local heritage.

A steel-rod sculpture at Transfer Road, for example, uses the word "Goh Ka Ki", the local Hokkien-

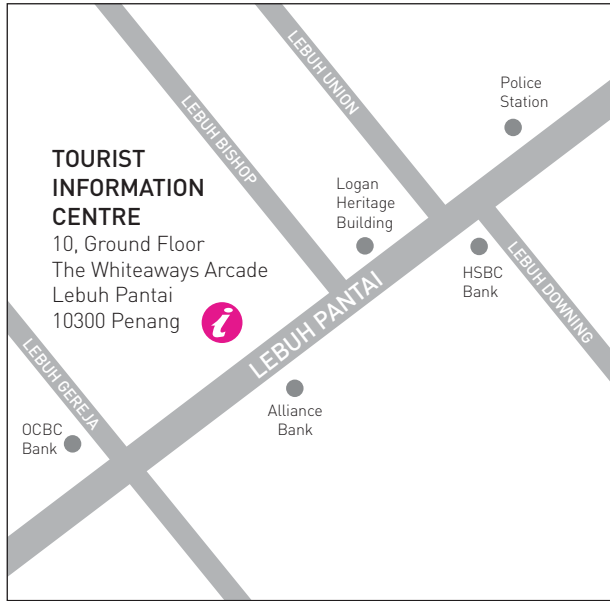
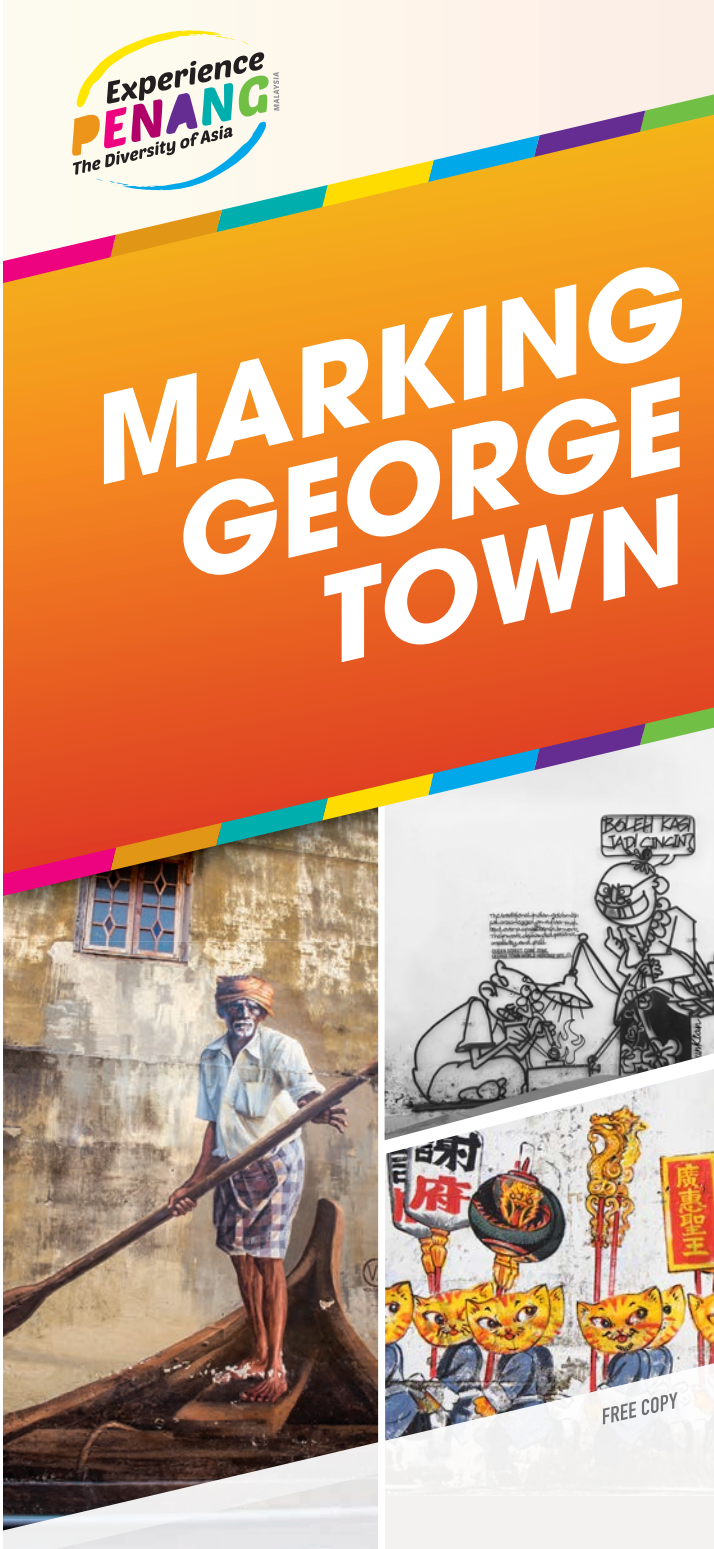


# GEORGE TOWN AS AN ARTS & CULTURE HUB

Soon after George Town was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008, the Penang state government started capitalising on world interest and branding itself through the arts. This is evident from festivals like the annual George Town Festival that have veritably turned Penang into the region's arts and culture hub.

artists are seeing the opportunity to perform independently and gain recognition for their craft. The heritage city also attracts visiting artists, bringing interesting collaborations and a competitive spirit into the local art scene, pushing standards higher.

The Marking George Town project was one of the first initiatives to brand and define Penang and the stories that it tells are just as fresh today as when they first graced Penang's walls. Like subway art is to New York and Paris, and Cosplay is to Harajuku, George Town has today become well-known for its beautiful wall art.



The Tourist Information Centre in George Town handles enquiries, provides brochures and directional maps as well as highlights the latest events and happenings in Penang.

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

**Mondays - Fridays**  
9.00am to 5.00pm

**Sundays & Certain Public Holidays**  
9.00am to 1.00pm

**Web** : mypenang.gov.my  
**Facebook** : Penang Global Tourism  
**Instagram** : penang.experience  
**LinkedIn** : Penang Global Tourism  
**Tiktok** : experiencepenang  
**Email** : info@penangglobaltourism.com  
**Tel** : +604 263 1166



\* All information is correct at time of print and subject to change without prior notice.  
\* All visitors must adhere to the rules and regulations of the featured events and exercise caution at all times.



STARTING FROM KOMTAR



1 SHORN HAIR  
Location: Jalan Sungai Ujong



2 LABOURER TO TRADER  
Location: Jalan Chowrasta



3 KOPI O' KAU!  
Location: Lebuh Kimberley



4 HAPPY HOUR  
Location: Jalan Transfer



5 MR FIVE FOOT WAY  
Location: Jalan Transfer



6 SPY  
Location: Lorong Kampung Malabar



7 SAME TASTE, SAME LOOK  
Location: Lebuh Cintra



8 THREE GENERATIONS  
Location: Jalan Sungai Ujong



9 ROPE STYLE  
Location: Jalan Pintal Tali



10 RETAIL PARADISE  
Location: Lebuh Campbell



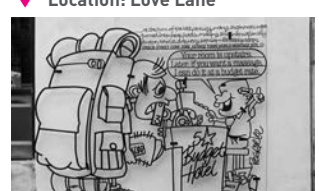
11 TING TING THONG  
Location: Lorong Seck Chuan



12 HIGH COUNTER  
Location: Lebuh Carnarvon



13 CHEATING HUSBAND  
Location: Love Lane



14 BUDGET HOTELS  
Location: Love Lane



15 ROTAN  
Location: Lebuh Chulia



16 JIMMY CHOO  
Location: Lebuh Leith



17 WIN WIN SITUATION  
Location: Lebuh Muntri



18 ONE LEG KICKS ALL  
Location: Lebuh Muntri



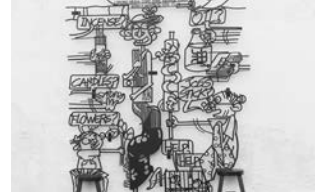
19 NARROWEST FIVE FOOT WAY  
Location: Lorong Stewart



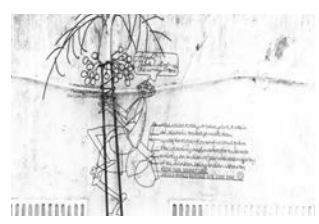
20 BECA  
Location: Lorong Chulia



21 MAHJONG  
Location: Lorong Stewart



22 TEMPLE DAY  
Location: Lorong Muda



23 WRONG TREE  
Location: Lorong Pasar



24 TRADITIONAL SONGKOK MAKER  
Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling



ZONE IDENTIFICATION

**Core Zone ~ 109.38ha**  
The Historic City of George Town covers an area of 109.38 hectares bounded by the Straits of Melaka on the north-eastern cape of Penang Island, Lorong Love (Love Lane) to the north-west and Gat Lebuh Melayu, Lorong Carnarvon and Lebuh Carnarvon to the south-west corner. There are more than 1,700 historic buildings within this Core Zone aligned on four main streets of Pengkalen Weld, Lebuh Pantai, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lorong Love, as well as several perpendicular streets of Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, Lebuh Light, Lebuh Bishop, Lebuh Gereja, Lebuh China, Lebuh Pasar, Lebuh Chulia, Lebuh Armenian and Lebuh Acheh.

**Buffer Zone ~ 150.04ha**  
The Core Zone is protected by 150.04 hectares of Buffer Zone (not including sea buffer), bounded by a stretch of sea area around the harbour, Jalan Lim Chwee Leong and Jalan Gat Prangin to the south-west corner and Jalan Transfer to the north-west corner.

Marking George Town Steel-Rod Sculptures

Other Popular Street Art

★ Lorong Che Em   ★ Lorong Lumut   ★ Lorong Toh Aka

**Public Toilets**

**LinkBike docking station**

Bus stops from Jetty Terminal (Pengkalen Weld) to KOMTAR

Bus stops from KOMTAR to Jetty Terminal (Pengkalen Weld)

No stops made at this bus stop.

Penang State Museum is closed. Targeted to open in 2023.

\* Map is not drawn to scale and is for illustrative purposes only.

\* All information stated in this brochure is correct at time of print and subject to changes without prior notice.

\* The producer of this brochure shall not be held liable for any damages or losses, whether direct, indirect or consequential, which may arise from the use of this brochure by any persons or entities.

\* The boundaries and names shown and the landmarks used on this brochure do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Penang Global Tourism.

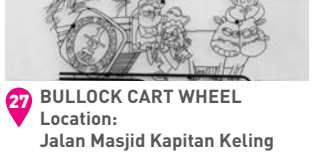
STARTING FROM WELD QUAY



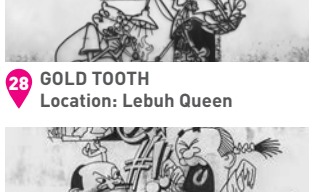
25 TOO HOT  
Location: Pengkalen Weld



26 TOO SALTY  
Location: Jalan Green Hall



27 BULLOCK CART WHEEL  
Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling



28 GOLD TOOTH  
Location: Lebuh Queen



29 QUIET PLEASE  
Location: Lebuh Gereja



30 UNTRAINED PARAKEET  
Location: Lebuh King



31 GEDUNG RUMPUT  
Location: Lebuh Queen



32 TOK TOK MEE  
Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling / Lebuh China



33 ROTI BENGGALI  
Location: Lebuh King



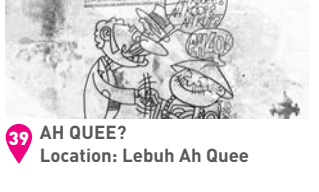
34 "YEOH" ONLY  
Location: Gat Lebuh Chulia



35 PROPERTY  
Location: Lebuh Victoria



36 MAIN STREET  
Location: Lebuh Chulia



37 AH QUEE?  
Location: Lebuh Ah Quee



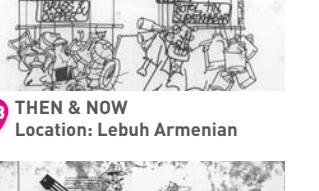
40 KANDAR  
Location: Lebuh Ah Quee



41 TOO NARROW  
Location: Lorong Soo Hong



42 PROCESSION  
Location: Lebuh Armenian



43 THEN & NOW  
Location: Lebuh Armenian



44 CANNON HOLE  
Location: Lebuh Cannon



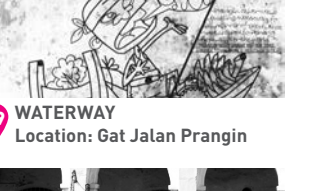
45 BORN NOVELIST  
Location: Lorong Lumut



46 LIMOUSINE  
Location: Lorong Carnarvon



47 COW & FISH  
Location: Lebuh Melayu / Lorong Ikan



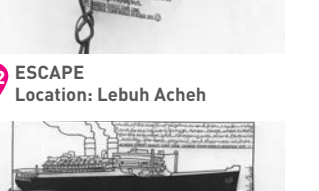
48 NO PLASTIC BAG  
Location: Lebuh Prangin



49 WATERWAY  
Location: Gat Jalan Prangin



50 CHINGAY  
Location: Gat Jalan Prangin



51 IRONSMITH  
Location: Lorong Toh Aka



52 ESCAPE  
Location: Lebuh Acheh



53 HAJ PILGRIMAGE  
Location: Gat Lebuh Acheh