



Alya Hatta
Slow Paradise

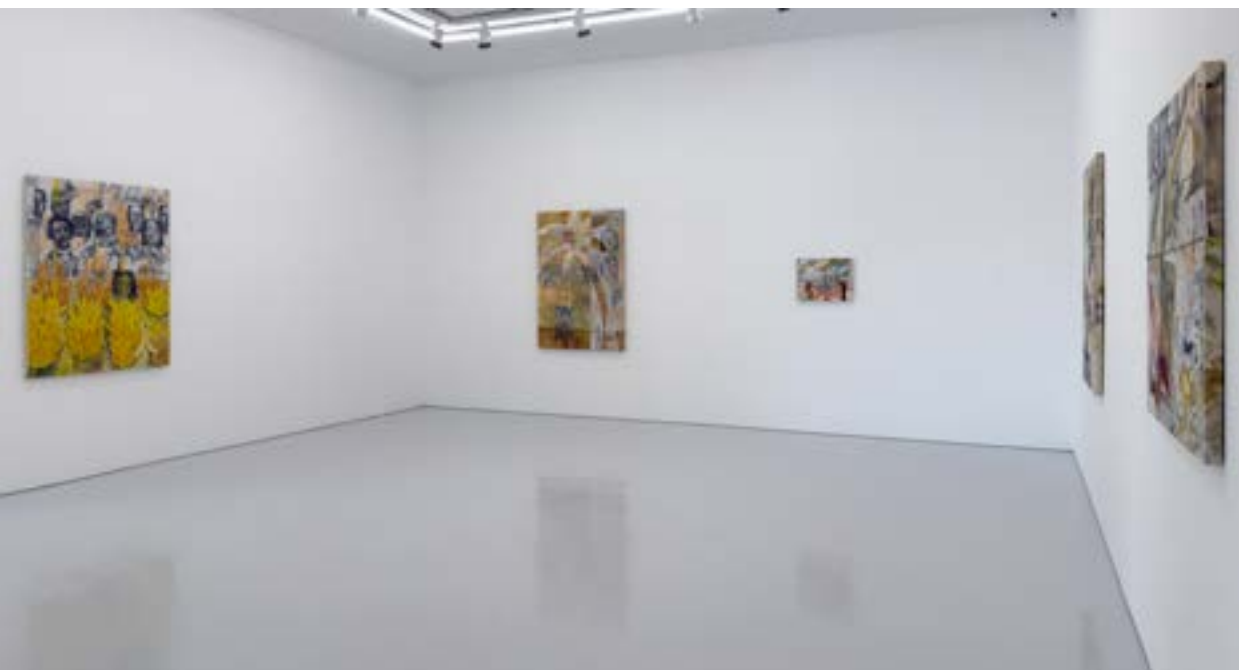
Slow Paradise explores the passage of time through daily life, focusing on how meaning is gradually produced through repetition, routine and sustained attention.

Developed through a year-long diaristic process, the works begin with ongoing drawings, writings, photographs, and observations gathered from everyday experience, personal archives, family, and friends. These materials are later transferred onto canvas as layered foundations, embedding duration and lived time directly into the paintings.

The practice centres on repeated daily gestures: observing, recording, revisiting, and returning to familiar moments over extended periods of time. Through this process, ordinary images and encounters slowly accumulate emotional and symbolic weight. Layering functions both visually and conceptually, reflecting the way memory, experience, and meaning build gradually through repetition and repeated encounters. The paintings operate as accumulations of moments rather than fixed depictions of singular events.

Installation view, *Slow Paradise*, a solo exhibition by Alya Hatta, 25 July - 22 August 2026, at Richard Koh Fine Art, Gillman Barracks, Singapore.





Installation view, *Slow Paradise*, a solo exhibition by Alya Hatta, 25 July - 22 August 2026, at Richard Koh Fine Art, Gillman Barracks, Singapore.

The exhibition moves away from the single anchored narrative of previous work, instead embracing a continuous and durational approach to image-making, where images evolve slowly through ongoing acts of recording and return. Palm trees appear repeatedly throughout the work as recurring visual motifs, emerging naturally through the diaristic process and becoming symbolic images of tropical paradise. Carrying associations of warmth, familiarity, desire, leisure, and imagined escape, the palm tree operates as both an ordinary image and an emotional marker within the paintings.

Central to the exhibition is a tension between longing and belonging: between constructing a sense of home through repetition, intimacy, and daily rituals, while simultaneously yearning toward an imagined paradise that remains partly intangible and emotionally projected. Paradise is approached as an emotional and psychological condition formed through memory, repetition, fantasy, and sustained attention to everyday life. The worlds constructed within the paintings become spaces where ordinary experience and imagined utopia begin to overlap.

Ultimately, the exhibition considers the relationship between documentation and lived experience, questioning how the repeated act of recording daily life may alter perception, transform memory, and produce meaning through ongoing processes of attention and return.





Paradise II
2026

Oil, acrylic, pastel, colour pencil, graphite and image transfer on canvas
150 x 100 cm



H House
2025

Oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, leather and mixed media on canvas
130 x 100 cm

Banana Split

Mornings on the overground train, Sydenham to West Croydon - packed like sardines, I look up through a sea of armpits onto the upper walls of the carriage: "NO PRESSING". I sigh into the neck of the man in-front of me, I shuffle and feel the woman against my back behind me. My arms sandwiched between a group of twenty-somethings. Our hips sway in unison with the bends of the train track like slow jazz. But this is not slow jazz and I am in fact suffocating.

My hand grips the pole, but it sweats and so slides down somewhat unenthusiastically. As my hand lowers the smooth yellow metal becomes rough and segmented - it becomes a thick stalk. I look down. My body is quickly yellowing. I am turning into a banana. WE ARE ALL turning into bananas. A bunch of bananas on the way to West Croydon.





Banana Split
2025

Oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, leather and mixed media on canvas
145 x 110 cm



Paradise I
2026

Oil, acrylic, pastel, colour pencil, graphite and image transfer on canvas
150 x 100 cm



Chandle Way
2025

Oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, image transfer, and mixed media on canvas
40 x 50 cm

Dada
2025
Oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, image transfer and mixed media on canvas
140 x 100 cm





Nothings Changed
2025

Oil, acrylic, pastel, graphite, image transfer and mixed media on canvas
101 x 101 cm



Alya Hatta

(b. 1999, Selangor, Malaysia)



Alya Hatta is an interdisciplinary artist based between London and Kuala Lumpur. She graduated from Goldsmiths University with the Neville Burston Award for Painting before completing the MA Painting Course at Royal College of Art in 2023.

Drawing on personal and historical archives, the work Hatta makes explores her Southeast Asian identity, and portrays the colourful intimacies of the diasporic human condition. Community and ecology are key influences in Hatta's work. The foundation of these crafted realities are framed by ecologies that bridge Southeast Asia and Europe, often including imagery of flora and fauna native to each location, attempting to collage together differing realities that create new definitions of the word 'home'.

Hatta's practice centres on an intensified daily diaristic process. Ongoing scrolls of drawings and writings are transferred onto canvas, forming layered backgrounds through which fragments of the diary emerge.

The work draws on moments of family and community life, alongside symbols from her immediate ecology. Imagery is sourced from a combination of archival photographs and casually taken iPhone images shared online - one of the artist's primary modes of connection with family. Through layering, distortion, and accumulation, these ordinary moments, unaware of their own significance, shift over time, existing in an in-between space where past, present, and memory converge.

Education

- 2023 MA Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2021 BA (Hons) Fine Art, Goldsmiths University of London, UK
- 2018 Foundation in Art & Design, Loughborough University, England, UK
- 2017 Alice Smith School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Slow Paradise*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
The Afterlife of Ordinary Things, Galeri Sasha, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2024 *A Soft Place To Land*, Pi Artworks, London, UK
Some Seeds Are Still Bitter, Setareh, Berlin, Germany
- 2023 *Playing Chopsticks*, S.E.A. FOCUS 2023 (with Yavuz Gallery)
- 2022 *Up On Stilts*, The Room, London
Ida, Lupo Gallery, Milano
- 2020 *Up on Stilts*, Hew Hood Gallery, London
Playground, Zhan Art Space, Selangor, Malaysia

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2026 *The stairway that separates my room from my memory*, Nicoletta Fiorucci Foundation, London (curated by Courtauld MA Curating Cohort)
To Ebb Is To Flow, Friday Lates, The Victoria and Albert Museum, UK
ART SG, Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Singapore. (with Richard Koh Fine Art)
- 2025 HSBC Beyond Emerging Artists, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *White Lodge*, Island 83 Gallery, New York, USA
Future Fair With Eve Leibe Gallery, New York, USA
Playing Chopsticks, S.E.A. FOCUS, Singapore. (with Yavuz Gallery)
Eve Presents 3, Eve Leibe Gallery, Rome

- New Origins, Andrea Festa, Rome
- New Now, ART SG, Singapore (with Pi Artworks)
- Friends And Family Ii, Pi Artworks, London
- 2022 Well Cold, Moosey Gallery, Norwich
- Ingram Prize Exhibition, Unit 1 Gallery, London
- Mmg X Studio Chapple Start Art, Saatchi Gallery, London
- Group Presentation, Yavuz Gallery, Asia Now, Paris
- Group Presentation, Yavuz Gallery, Sydney Contemporary
- Fragments, Omer Tiroche Gallery, London
- There Goes The Neighbourhood, Indigo + Madder, London
- Trickster, Apt Gallery, London
- Play/Pause, Chisenhale Project Space, London
- Unnamed Collective: A Tea Party, Huxley Parlour, London
- Friends And Family, Pi Artworks, London
- Finding Home, Tate Britain, London
- 2021 Young Artist Incurator Show, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Anthology Of Metaverses 1.0, Online Show
- In Other Company, Deptford X Festival, London
- Unity, We Are Filamen, KongsikL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 100 Pieces: Art For All, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2020 2020 Rrrawrrr!!! Women Artist Exhibition, Maybank Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2019 Sh/Ft, Blackbox Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Generate! Festival, Tubingen, Germany

Awards & Residences

- 2022 The Ingram Prize Shortlist
- 2021 Neville Burston Award For Painting
- Goldsmiths CCA Residents Programme
- 2020 Dazed Magazine New Gen GAP Award

Collaborations / Prizes

- 2022 MMG X Start Art Fair Shortlist
- Ingram Prize Shortlist
- 2021 Custom Footwear Collaboration, JW Anderson
- 2020 New Gen Gap Video Commission, Dazed Magazine
- 2017 Neville Burston Award For Painting, Goldsmiths University

Published by

Richard Koh Fine Art Pte. Ltd. © 2026

Blk 47, Malan Road, #01-26 Gillman Barracks, Singapore 109444

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronically, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior consent from the artist and gallery.

"Slow Paradise",

A Solo Exhibition by Alya Hatta

25 July - 22 August 2026

Richard Koh Fine Art

Blk 47 Malan Road, #01-26 Gillman Barracks,
Singapore 109444

All artwork images courtesy of Richard Koh Fine Art and Alya Hatta

Text by Alya Hatta

Artist portrait credited to Alya Hatta

Design by Nor Harith

Front cover page: *Detail of Banana Split* (2025)



www.rkfineart.com



info@rkfineart.com

SINGAPORE

Blk 47 Malan Road, #01-26 Gillman Barracks,
Singapore 109444

Open Tuesday – Saturday: 11 am – 7 pm

 +65 6513 2640  +65 9626 1670

THAILAND

Peterson Building, 712/1, 9th Floor, Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Tan, Khlong Toei,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Open Tuesday – Saturday: 11 am – 7 pm

 +66 2037 6944  +66 8082 88359

MALAYSIA

Lot C-06, A Place Where (APW), 29, Jalan Riong, Bangsar,
59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Open Tuesday – Saturday: 11 am – 7 pm

 +60 16 491 2644  +60 19 237 7262