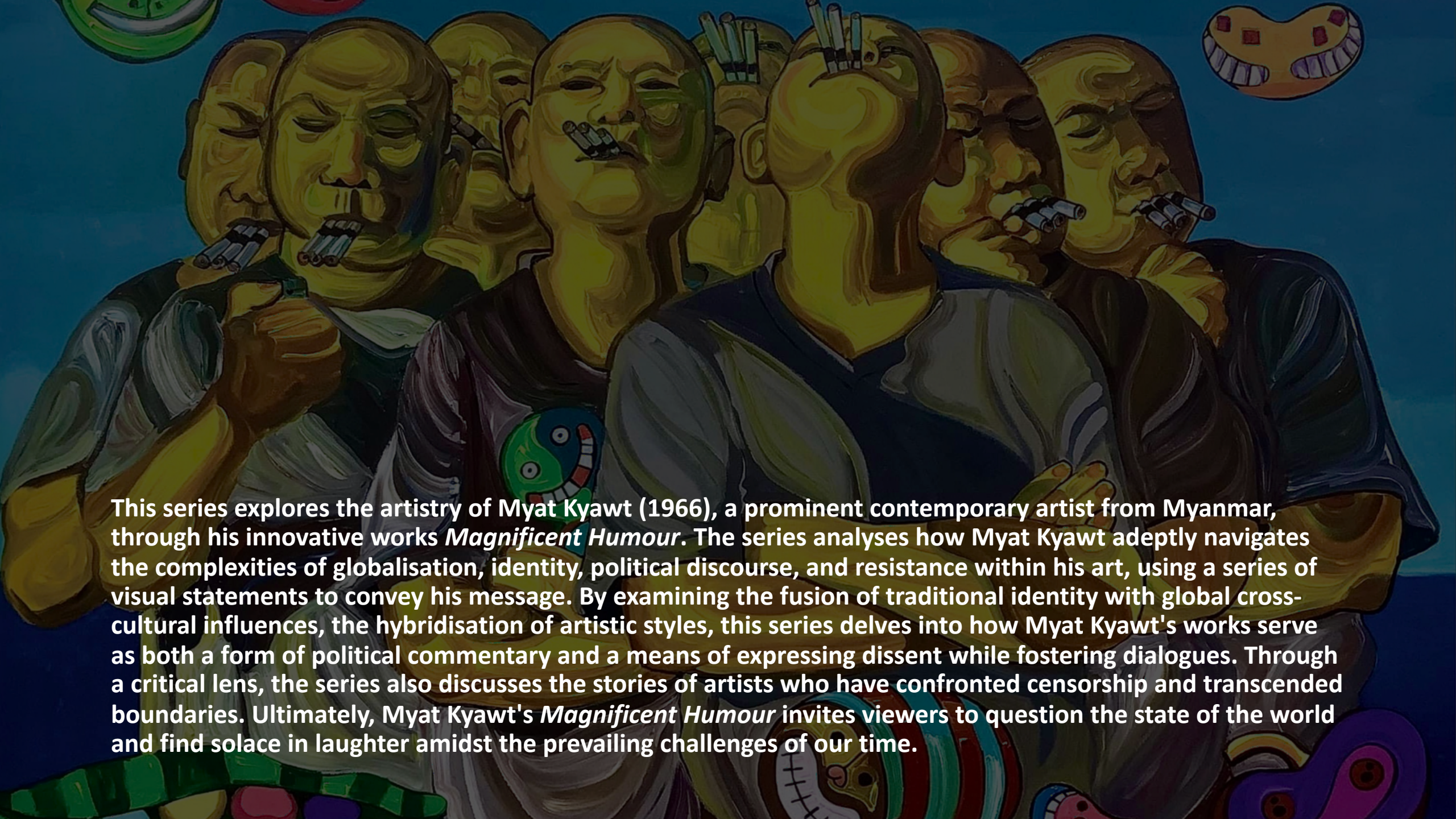


Myat Kyawt

Magnificent Humour





This series explores the artistry of Myat Kyawt (1966), a prominent contemporary artist from Myanmar, through his innovative works *Magnificent Humour*. The series analyses how Myat Kyawt adeptly navigates the complexities of globalisation, identity, political discourse, and resistance within his art, using a series of visual statements to convey his message. By examining the fusion of traditional identity with global cross-cultural influences, the hybridisation of artistic styles, this series delves into how Myat Kyawt's works serve as both a form of political commentary and a means of expressing dissent while fostering dialogues. Through a critical lens, the series also discusses the stories of artists who have confronted censorship and transcended boundaries. Ultimately, Myat Kyawt's *Magnificent Humour* invites viewers to question the state of the world and find solace in laughter amidst the prevailing challenges of our time.



Magnificent Humour, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 122 x 152 cm



Model and Artist, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 122 cm



Women with Colourful Faces
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
122 x 152 cm



Snooker Player
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
122 x 152 cm



One of the most remarkable aspects of Myat Kyawt's artistry lies in his adept navigation of globalisation while remaining deeply rooted in his cultural identity. In the three works, *A King and Queens*, *The King* and *The Queen*, he reconciles traditional Burmese aesthetics with global influences, resulting in a hybridised visual language that transcends borders. By blending intricate traditional iconographies with modern elements, he showcases a harmonious coexistence of the past and present. This synthesis speaks to the broader discourse of cultural globalisation, where artists, such as Myat Kyawt, contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the interconnectedness of cultures. Moreover, Myat Kyawt's works transcend aesthetics and delve into the realm of political commentary and resistance. The series of visual statements embedded within this series of works address a range of critical societal issues. Through his art, Myat Kyawt serves as a voice for dissent, shedding light on the harsh realities of the contemporary world. His visual statements resonate with themes of war, economic inequality, environmental degradation, and social injustice. By juxtaposing these stark realities with the concept of humour, the artist invites viewers to engage in contemplation, encouraging a deeper understanding of the socio-political landscape.



A King and Queens, 2023, Acrylic & Jewelleries on Canvas, 122 x 152 cm



Another Neo, 2023, Acrylic & Jewelleries on Canvas, 122 x 152 cm



The King
2023

Acrylic & Jewelleries on Canvas
152 x 122 cm



The Queen
2023

Acrylic & Jewelleries on Canvas
152 x 122 cm

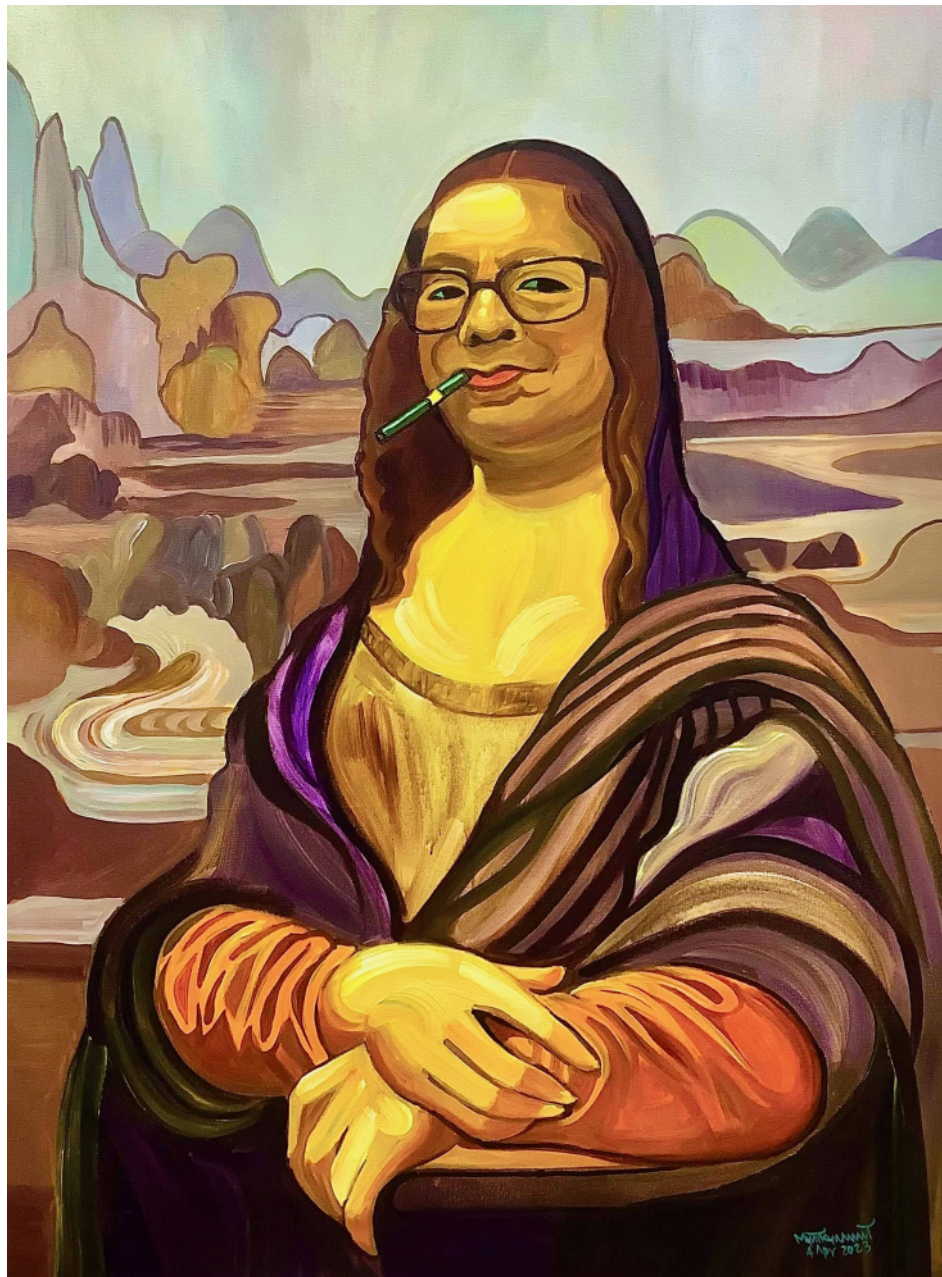


Mountain
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
92 x 122 cm



Are You Stupid?
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
92 x 122 cm

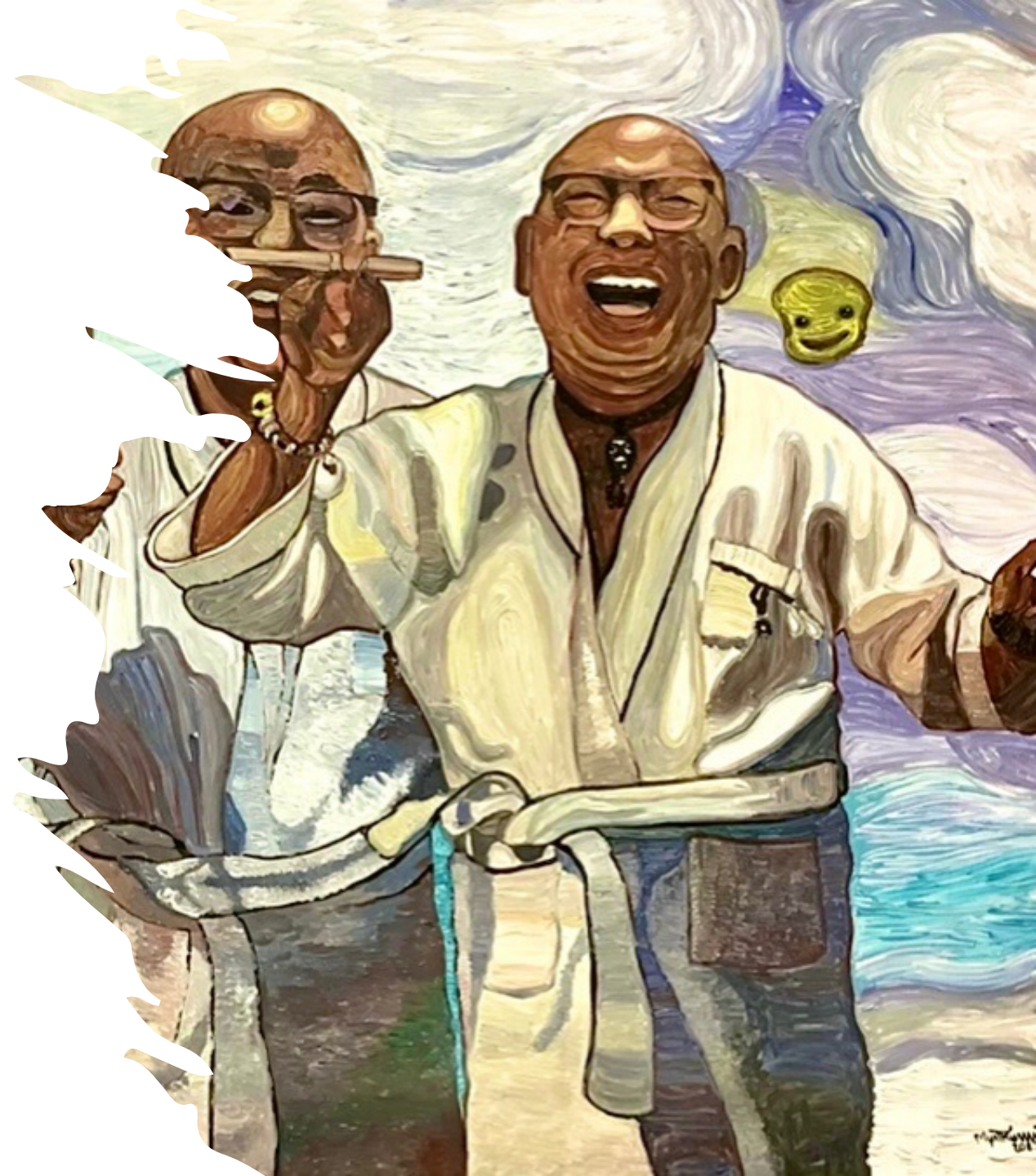
Monalisa Kyawt
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
122 x 92 cm





Golf
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
122 x 92 cm

Myat Kyawt's ability to convey dissent through humour is particularly noteworthy. Especially in these two works, *Humour 1* and *Smoking Man*, humour, as a display of resistance, allows Myat Kyawt to engage his audience in a non-confrontational manner while still conveying his critical message. This approach challenges conventional forms of protest art, presenting a nuanced perspective that prompts viewers to reflect on the issues at hand. Furthermore, embedded within the discourse of *Magnificent Humour* are the stories of artists who have confronted censorship and challenged societal boundaries, such as in this work *Ulay and Maria Abramovic*. Myat Kyawt's art serves as a testament to the resilience of creative individuals who refuse to be silenced. These narratives evoke a sense of shared struggle and solidarity among artists who continue to create despite facing obstacles and constraints. By celebrating the triumphs of artists who have navigated censorship, the artwork becomes a homage to the unyielding spirit of creative expression.





Humour 1, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 122 x 152 cm



Smoking Man, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 122 x 152 cm



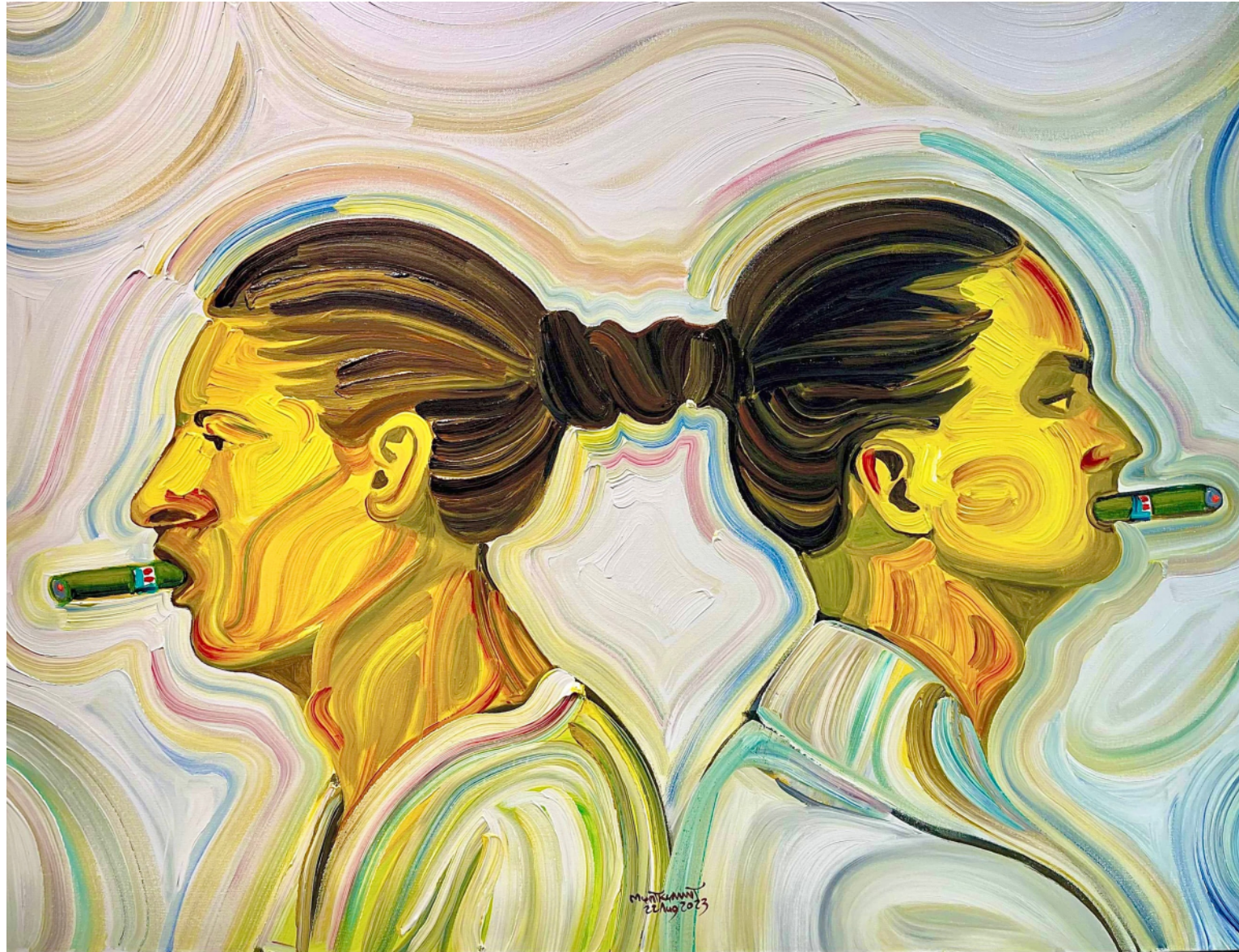
We will Smoke Together, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 152 x 214 cm



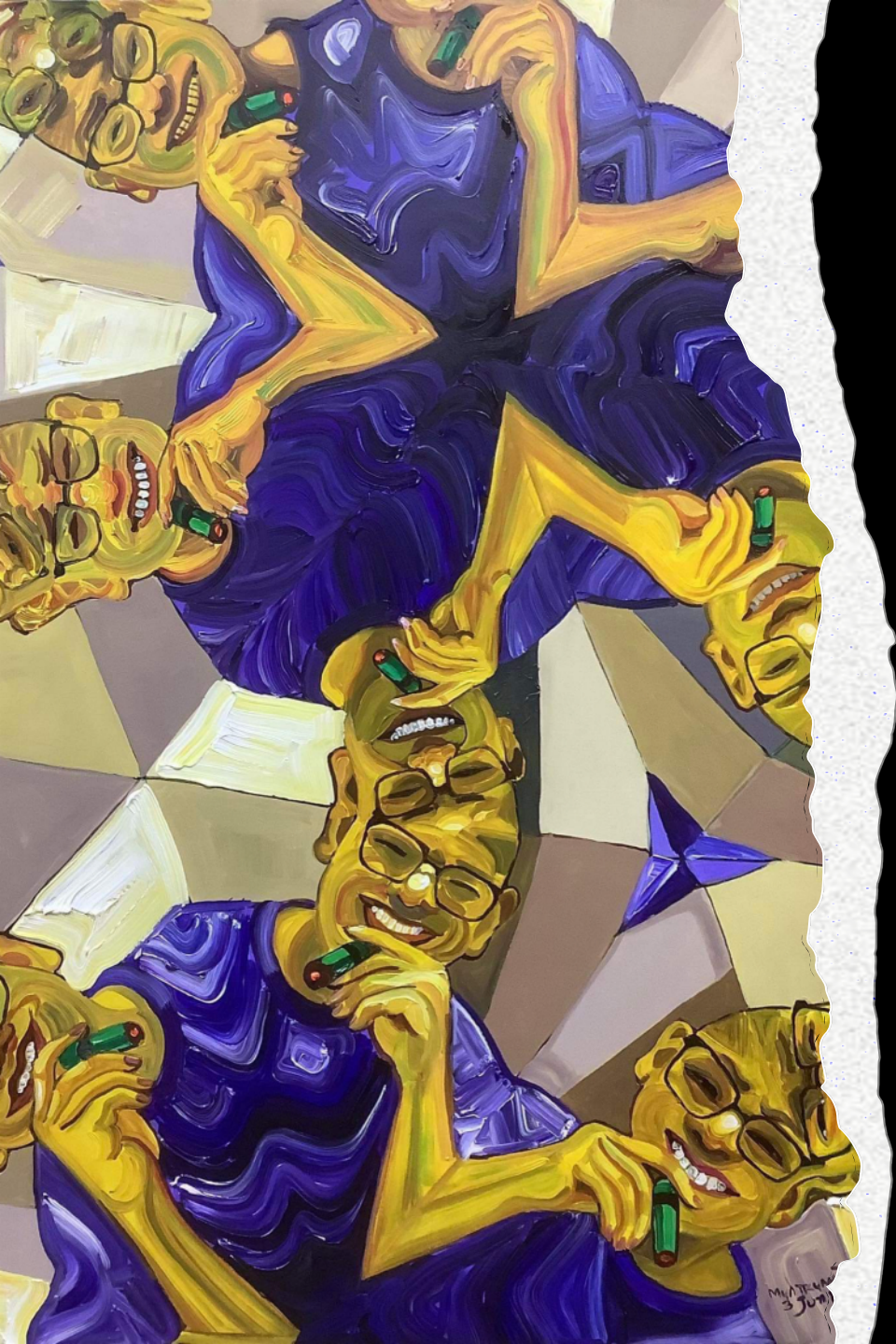
Smokers
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
152 x 122 cm



Smoking Girl
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
152 x 1222 cm



Ulay and Maria Abramovic, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 122 cm



Magnificent Humour encapsulate the essence of Myat Kyawt's artistic vision. The artist poses profound questions about the state of the world, prompting viewers to question the existing order of things. The inquiries about the persistence of beauty, happiness, loving-kindness, innocence, and laughter echo the uncertainty and turmoil prevalent in contemporary society. By challenging viewers to confront these inquiries, Myat Kyawt initiates a process of introspection, ultimately fostering a deeper engagement with his art. In closing, in his work *The Result of Thinking*, it resonates as an invitation to find solace and catharsis through laughter. This approach aligns with the artist's nuanced strategy of using humour as a vehicle for socio-political commentary. By encouraging viewers to embrace laughter, amidst the challenges and uncertainties, Myat Kyawt imparts a sense of hope and resilience. Myat Kyawt's art serves as a catalyst for dialogue, dissent, and transformation. As we contemplate the artist's message, we are reminded that amidst the turmoil of our world, the resounding laughter he invites us to embrace may just hold the key to our collective healing and resilience.



The Result of Thinking, 2023, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 122 cm

How Stupid you are Young Men
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
183 x 92 cm



Myat Kyawt: Crafting Narrative Through Versatility

Myat Kyawt stands as a remarkably versatile contemporary artist in Myanmar, traversing a diverse spectrum of techniques, from early oil social realism to impressionistic portraiture and his present-day acrylic canvases. At the core of his artistic philosophy lies a dedication to revealing the unnoticed nuances of daily life—a celebration of simple pleasures that exude whimsy and enchantment. This distinctive approach artfully captures both religious and everyday scenes in an original manner. Embedded within Kyawt's canvases is an intimate narrative, often featuring his family, occasionally himself, alongside his wife and two sons. A distinctive aspect of his work is its ability to invoke a personal connection with viewers, leading them on a visual journey through his familial ties and experiences. Kyawt's artistic journey spans decades, yet it remains ever-evolving and innovative. Unlike many artists who may become complacent after achieving success, Kyawt embraces experimentation and the exploration of novel techniques. His boldness in trying new approaches, regardless of reception, showcases his genuine commitment to the art itself. An exemplar of unassuming humility, he refrains from adhering to a formula, continually seeking new avenues of expression. Example, in his popular *Tree* series, this series of works serves as a testament to Kyawt's innovative spirit. Employing vibrant colours and a technique involving the application of acrylic paint, he captures the essence of people and trees with an unassuming innocence. This approach imbues the series with an enchanting and fantastical quality, allowing viewers to experience his child-like wonder.

Born in Mandalay, Myanmar, in 1966, Myat Kyawt's artistic trajectory was formalized through his graduation from the State School of Fine Arts (Mandalay) in 1989. His talent garnered recognition as a finalist in the 2004 Myanmar Contemporary Art Awards. His prominence further extends to numerous solo and group exhibitions in both domestic and international settings. His works have garnered acclaim, finding homes in collections across Myanmar and around the world. Myat Kyawt's legacy transcends artistic boundaries. His versatility, coupled with a distinctive narrative, underscores his dedication to exploring the profound within the ordinary. By embracing change and innovation, he embodies the essence of artistic growth. Through his canvas, he invites viewers to share in his explorations, reminding us all of the enchantment that resides in our daily experiences.

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