

**Singapore, 22 December 2014**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Element Art Space**

Raffles Hotel Arcade

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Gallery Hours: Open Daily: 11:00am – 7:00pm (closed on Public Holidays)

**ARKIV VILMANSA: “FUTURE, PRESENT AND PAST”**

Friday, 16 January – Sunday, 15 February 2015

Opening Reception: Friday, 16 January from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Element Art Space is pleased to present “Future, Present and Past,” the first Singapore solo exhibition by Arkiv Vilmansa.

Since his debut in 2005, Vilmansa’s works have been featured in galleries in US, Germany, Australia and Indonesia, and he has collaborated with artists and companies such as Huck Gee, Disney, Something.Ill, Pot Meets Pop, Adfunture, Plastic Culture and My Tummy Toys. Vilmansa pegs childhood characters and his architecture background as significant influences on his art. “I like a few animals that have an aura of evil and (are) also funny,” he said, citing Mickey Mouse, pandas and killer whales as examples which helped spawn his iconic “Mickiv” character. Over the past several years, Vilmansa’s iconic character, “Mickiv,” has made the artist a household name within the lowbrow art and toy culture scene in US and Indonesia.

In his first solo exhibition in Singapore, Vilmansa will debut his newest technique of multi-layering paints on acrylic plastic sheets. The works will introduce new characters and continue to explore his unique style of combining the surreal and theatrical with playful and whimsical caricature.

As the title suggests, the exhibition is centralised on the theme of mortality and life as framed with time. An artwork is a product of its era. Time and place position the work, spark its initial idea, nurture its many transformations until that idea solidifies and turns into a form. This spatio-temporal frame implies that the work is a historical being—it is a living being, breathing and vibrating, intimately entwined with the pulsations of its era. Through experiencing time and place, we make sense of our every day world, a world full of forgotten images that already existed in the past, made in the present and will be produced in the future.

“Future, Present and Past” is composed of 17 works and will run from 16 January to 15 February 2015.

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**Arkiv Vilmansa** was born in Indonesia on 17 December 1979. He obtained a bachelor degree from Parhyangan University in Architecture. He began his artistic journey in 2010 and had his first solo exhibition in Jakarta, Indonesia. He has had many exhibitions in overseas including USA, Italy, France, Australia, Philippines and Malaysia. Recent solo exhibitions include Mae Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Young Art Taipei Group Show, Taipei, Taiwan and Vivi Yip Art Room, Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **About Element Art Space**

The gallery first opened in October 2009 under the mentorship of Chua Soobin--one of the most prominent gallerists in South East Asia and was the first to introduce avant-garde Chinese art to the region. Initially named S.Bin Art Plus, the gallery changed its name to Element Art Space in 2011. Drawing from Soobin's more than 20 years of experience in the art industry, the gallery's aim remains consistent: to promote great and innovative artists from South East Asia and provide exchange and dialogue with artists, galleries and collectors from throughout the world. The gallery also offers residencies to a highly selected number of emerging artists from the region. The gallery's inaugural exhibition, "Harmony," featured the works of 33 painters and sculptors from throughout the world, many of which have never been displayed to the Singaporean public before--marble sculpture by Fernando Botero and gold-plated sculpture by Marc Quinn just to name a few. Following this grand entrance to the Singapore art scene, the gallery continues to be the advocate for compelling and challenging contemporary work by today's most exciting emerging and mid-career artists.

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Image: **ARKIV VILMANSA**, *Drawn From Memory*, Epoxy resin and acrylic on acrylic sheet mounted on wood panel, 100 x 120cm,  
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