



MALAYSIAN
BATIK

CREATING
NEW
TRADITIONS

Sarah Arney

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Edited By
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**KRAFTANGAN
MALAYSIA**

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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PREFACE

Since KRAFTANGAN MALAYSIA became involved with batik makers, it has been our desire to share their innovative ideas with the public. The publication of *Malaysian Batik: Creating New Traditions* fulfills this desire. It has long been our aim to acknowledge the achievements of our batik makers, whose vision, innovative spirit, and artistic skills have contributed to the emergence of new creative styles, adding new dimension and character to a traditional craft.

We wanted to show glimpses of the lives of these men and women, young and old. They are ordinary Malaysians who have toiled in the backyards of their kampung houses or in town or city workshops, expressing and manifesting skills and talents in a variety of ways, producing exquisite works of art and craft. These are the very same people that Sarah Arney has known and grown to love: people whose entrepreneurial instinct, love for aesthetics, and a passion to express intellectual curiosity, have fostered the growth of a new tradition and created a new era for Malaysian batik.

This publication is a tribute to the creativity of these people; the batik painter, designer, block maker, printer, and dyer have ensured the ever-growing popularity of our batik through resilience

and a forward-looking attitude. They have also, in a sense, contributed to the creation of a new symbol for the nation. To the world, this book shares the joy and beauty of cloths created by the human hand as the result of a unique Malaysian experience. It is our hope that this publication provides a comprehensive overview and understanding of a facet of our craft heritage.

We would like to convey our deep appreciation to all the people whose help and dedication have made this publication possible. We would especially like to thank the Chairman and Board Members of KRAFTANGAN MALAYSIA for the inspiration, to the handicraft research project team headed by Dr. Ismail Rejab, and Elwood Pye of IDRC Singapore, for his encouragement, Abdullah Hamzah for his enthusiasm and in particular, to Sarah Arney, for accepting this challenge.

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