



Cool tones: recently Lim Khim Katy has taken to portraits of Vietnamese people, either in stoic poses or amidst their daily routines



THAILAND

The art of silence

Lim Khim Katy's latest exhibition speaks loudly of women's contribution to society

By Matilda Brown

It's been four years since Lim Khim Katy last exhibited in Bangkok. But she's back. And the local art world is buzzing with excitement.

In the years since her debut outside Vietnam at La Lanta gallery in Bangkok, Lim Khim Katy has gone from strength to strength and has earned herself an international reputation for delivering strong and passionate depictions of life in Vietnam.



Highly collectable: Lim Khim Katy is an artist to look out for

A new mother, her latest exhibition, "Portrait of Silence", is inspired by her conversations with women around her. Depicting female figures with poignant facial expressions, Lim Khim Katy portrays the unvoiced contribution of women in society and their struggle to live a comfortable life.

Born in 1975 to a Cambodian father and a Vietnamese mother, Lim Khim Katy typically prefers to draw villagers and middle-class people. "My paintings come from the feelings generated from the life all around me; from people's eyes, gestures and the individual emotions they express. These moments are profound and do not leave me until expressed on my canvases."

Preferring to paint with a trowel or knife to a paintbrush, the graduate from Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts University says she her mind is always racing and her hand works at a speed of its own.

And she's certainly been busy. The 15 new paintings in "Portrait of Silence" exhibition cohesively tell an allegory of women's commitment to care for the family, the hard work required to obtain the income, as well as the suggestion of the current social slant.

Remaining true to her distinctive style, Lim Khim Katy conveys strong emotions that are deeper than what the eyes can see on the canvas, using only painting knives and a limited colour palette.

Portrait of Silence - exhibition by Lim Khim Katy
September 11 - October 25
La Lanta Fine Art, 245/14 Sukhumvit soi 31; www.lalanta.com

Photos: Courtesy La Lanta Fine Art