



IM PESEY

Im Pesey is a Cambodian artist known for his subtle yet emotionally rich paintings that evoke the harmony of music and the serenity of everyday life, inspired by Cambodian culture and history. Born in 1991 in Prey Veng province, his passion for art began in childhood when he was captivated by the murals on temple walls near his home, an experience that inspired his lifelong commitment to painting.

In 2010, he moved to Phnom Penh to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts at the Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA), while also attending supplementary art classes at the Yamada School of Art. He later continued his studies with a Master's degree in Fine Arts at the Royal Academy of Cambodia. Deeply rooted in his personal life experiences, Pesey's work reflects the symbiotic relationship between art and human emotion. His distinctive style, defined by soft pastel tones, delicate brushstrokes, and warm, impressionistic atmospheres, invites viewers into a tranquil world filled with memories and quiet introspection. He views art as **a source of peace and healing**, a philosophy that runs through his entire body of work. By combining traditional cultural motifs with modern composition, he brings a sense of soothing harmony, blending a range of emotions, from nostalgia to fulfillment, like a piece of music evoking the sweetness of times gone by.

Through his artistic vision, Pesey fosters cross-cultural dialogue and highlights the richness of Cambodia's creative voice. His work transcends time and geography, **preserving historical memory** while illuminating the vibrant spirit of modern Cambodian life.

In 2013, he gained national recognition by winning first place in a painting competition under the theme "Cambodian Portrait," which launched his career into wider exposure. One of his most recent and notable exhibitions featured 26 paintings that explored the relationship between everyday Cambodian life and traditional Khmer music, accompanied by live performances to create a deeply immersive cultural experience. Often comparing his paintings to **melodies**, Pesey uses visual storytelling to convey Cambodia's journey from trauma to renewal, blending humor, nostalgia, and reflection in scenes that capture the dynamic tension between tradition and modernity. His murals and artworks serve as **visual chronicles of a nation in transition**, celebrating both resilience and cultural identity.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- **Melody Chivit** - Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2025

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- **"Asian Watercolor Masters Exhibition & Plein Air"** in Guizhou, China - 2025
- **"The 8th Xishuangbanna International Art Exhibition"** in Kunming, China - 2025
- Bagan Archaeological Museum **"Mekong-Lancang Cultural Activity in Myanmar"** in Bagan, Myanmar - 2025
- **"Cycle of Life"** at Connexion, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2024
- Pteah Chas **"WATERCOLOR & HARMONY"**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2024
- Pteah Chas **"FLOW"**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2023
- Bophana Center **"MEMORY"**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2022
- Organized by SANSAR BHARATI KOPAGANJ, INDIA - 2020
- The 3rd International Watercolor Biennale of IWS Vietnam - 2019
- The 1st International Watercolor Biennale of IWS Cambodia - 2019
- **"The 4th Kunming Art Biennale"** China - 2018
- **"Design Art of Regionality and Climate"** Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2018
- **"ASEAN Art Exhibition at ASYAAF"** Seoul, Korea - 2017
- **"Xishuangbanna International Art Exhibition"** Kunming, China - 2017
- **"ASEAN-KOREA Mural Collaborative Project"** Manila, Philippines - 2017
- For Arts' Sake Gallery, Siem Reap, Cambodia - 2017
- **"HOSPITALITY"**, at Plantation Hotel Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2017
- **"Art Innovation Cambodia"** at BOPHANA, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2016
- Samaki Gallery in Battambang, Cambodia - 2016
- "RUFA Painting Students" at META HOUSE, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2015
- **"PLAIN PAPER"** at Intercontinental Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2015
- **"Crossed view on Cambodia"** at BOPHANA, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2015
- **"Second Cambodian Fine Art Contest"** at META HOUSE, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2014
- **"90 Cambodian Portraits"** Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, Cambodia - 2012

AWARDS

- 1st award in Painting of the Second Cambodia Fine Art Contest "Cambodian Portrait" - 2013
- 1st award of "The Second Cambodia Fine Art Contest" - 2013

SELECTED PRESS REVIEW

- <https://cambodianess.com/article/a-cambodian-artist-echoes-the-flow-of-life-in-images-of-nature-and-music> (Cambodianess, 2025)
- <https://www.bestofpp.com/en/post-9/Im-Pesey-Melody-Chivit-A-Pictorial-Ode-to-Cambodian-Life> (Best of PhnomPenh, 2025)