

# WAYS OF SEEING

AIN RAHMAN  
AMIR MANSOR  
FAIZ MAHDON  
HANA ZAMRI  
HAZ YUSUP  
MAZLAN SAMAWI  
NIA KHALISA

March 29 – April 12 2021

CULT

# ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

In a world that becomes increasingly complex, artists offer us an opportunity to see with fresh eyes. In his seminal and widely-debated text *Ways of Seeing*, John Berger writes “the relation between what we see and what we know is never settled.” He asserts that every image embodies a ‘way of seeing’, and is a record of its creator’s perspective. Berger’s 1972 text stresses the subjectivity of perception and how it affects the viewer’s engagement with and interpretation of an artwork.

Just as Berger and his peers prepared seven different essays touching on painting and art criticism, *7 Ways of Seeing* presents seven new perspectives as presented by seven young Malaysian artists who are relatively unknown in the art scene. Each artist, though varied in style, medium, and philosophy, represents a new way of seeing that challenges both social and aesthetic conventions around us. Their unique observations of the world around them form the foundation of their artistic identities- what might have been taboo becomes dignified, and what was hidden before is unveiled. By displaying each artist’s body of work, *7 Ways of Seeing* offers its audience an opportunity to familiarise themselves with these emerging identities before their respective solo shows in the near future. From Amir Mansor’s bird’s-eye view of human population to Ain Rahman’s intimate self-portraits, these artists engage with topics of varying scales with mediums as orthodox as acrylic and as unorthodox as plastic water bottles.

*7 Ways of Seeing* also seeks to investigate the complex network of art, seeing, and physical space, as well as how these three factors alter and influence each other in unexpected ways. Through unconventional ways of hanging and displaying, we urge our viewers to adopt a new way of seeing art in relation to the space it occupies. Notice the effect light and shadow have on the sculptures, or how a painting is affected by the way it is hung on a wall. Both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works have different effects on its surroundings and vice versa, rejecting the notion that gallery spaces exist in a vacuum that is unaffected by the physical elements that surround them.

These seven emerging artists stand as a testament to the original and compelling perspectives that art can offer us. *7 Ways of Seeing* features Ain Rahman, Amir Mansor, Faiz Mahdon, Hana Zamri, Haz Yusup, Mazlan Samawi, and Nia Khalisa.

# AIN RAHMAN

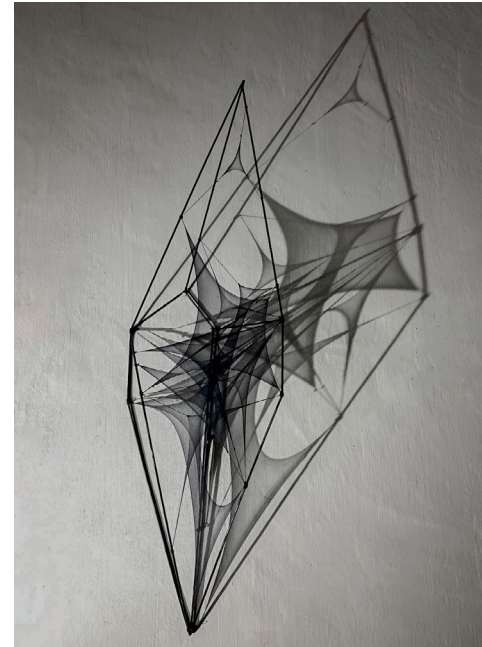
AIN RAHMAN was born in Kota Bharu, Kelantan in 1994. Coming from a family of academics specialising in science and mathematics, Ain took a different path with a degree in BA Fine Arts and a master's degree in MA Fine Arts & Technology from MARA University of Technology (UiTM). Ain expresses herself through varying mediums including mixed media installations, charcoal drawings, and new media or video - her creative process illustrates her artistic versatility. Beginning with filming herself, Ain then uses frames of her recordings as references for her intimate monotone self-portraits. The product of her background in performance art can be seen in the fluid and smooth composition of her drawings that contradicts the typical harshness of charcoal. Her intricately webbed sculptures play with light and shadow, and are inspired by the formal qualities of diamonds. Ain is a practicing artist and an academician at UiTM.



**A Drawing Sketched in Sullen Steps 1**  
Charcoal on Canvas  
152cm x 107cm  
2021  
RM 5200



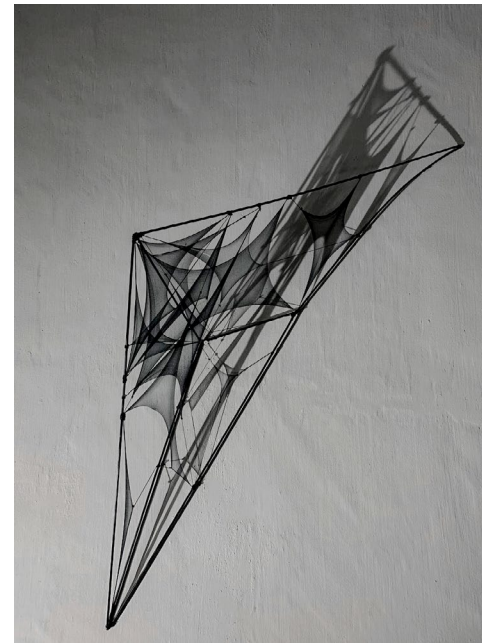
**A Drawing Sketched in Sullen Steps 2**  
Charcoal on Canvas  
107cm x 152cm  
2021  
RM 5200



**A Star Painted with Left Hand 1**  
Steel Rod, Elastic Thread, Elastic Fabric  
122cm x 30cm  
2021  
RM 4000



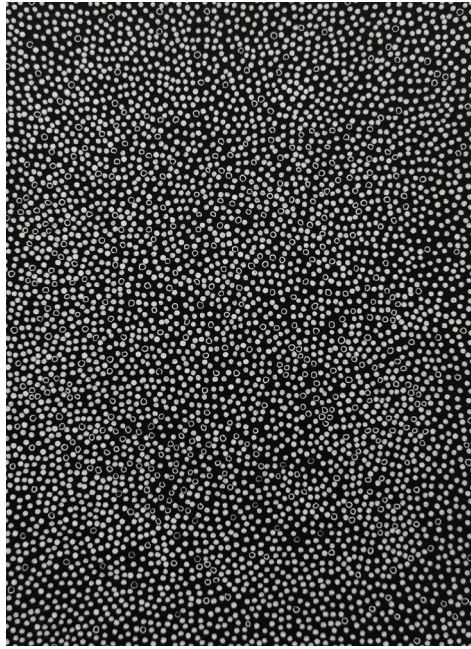
**A Star Painted with Left Hand 2**  
Steel Rod, Elastic Thread, Elastic Fabric  
122cm x 30cm  
2021  
RM 4000



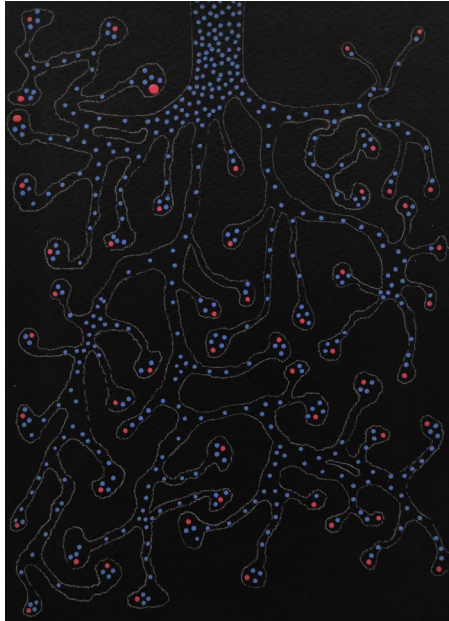
**A Star Painted with Left Hand 3**  
Steel Rod, Elastic Thread, Elastic Fabric  
122cm x 30cm  
2021  
RM 4000

# AMIR MANSOR

AMIR MANSOR was born in Penang in 1993. After obtaining a degree in BA Fine Arts from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Amir proceeded to complete a Master's degree in Fine Art & Technology from MARA University of Technology (UiTM). Amir's work presents a zoomed-out perspective of the human population in relation to cultural and historical events, conveyed through a meticulous handling of his chosen medium. Inspired by the formal elements of aboriginal and indigenous art, Amir uses repetitive, almost obsessive, tiny dots to symbolise humans while experimenting with colour and composition to create movement and atmosphere.



**Jaga-jaga 1**  
Acrylic Ink on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 600



**Jaga-jaga 2**  
Acrylic Ink on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 600



**Jaga-jaga 3**  
Acrylic Ink on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 600



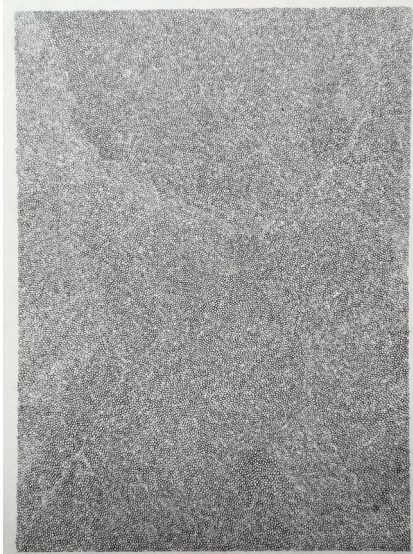
**Jumaat**  
Micro-pigment ink & Acrylic on Canvas  
102cm x 79cm  
2021  
RM 3800



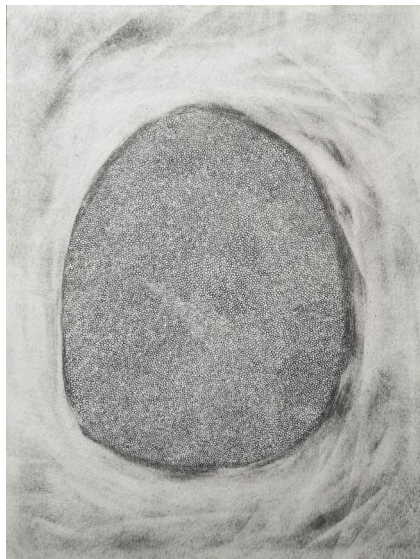
**Haji**  
Micro-pigment ink & Acrylic on Canvas  
102cm x 76cm  
2021  
RM 3900



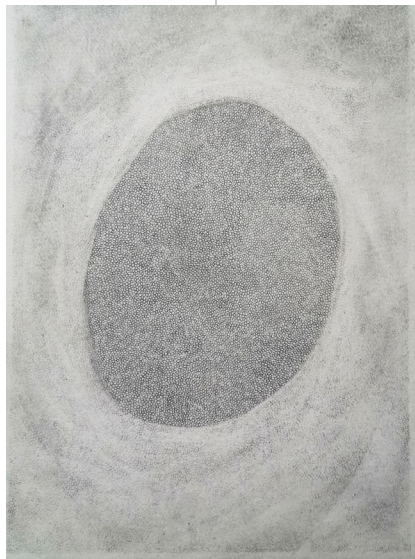
**Jarak 1,2,3 (set)**  
Micro-pigment ink on Paper  
32cm x 72cm  
2021  
RM 1500



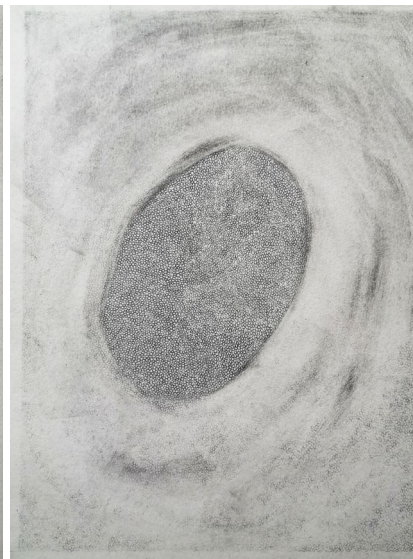
**Padam 1**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 350



**Padam 2**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 350



**Padam 3**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 350



**Padam 4**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 350



**Padam 5**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 24cm  
2021  
RM 350

or

**Padam 1,2,3,4,5**  
Pencil on Paper  
32cm x 72cm  
2021  
RM 1750 as set

# FAIZ MAHDON

Hailing from Sabah, FAIZ "FAFA" MAHDON was born in 1993. After obtaining a Diploma in Fine Art in Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Samarahan, he studied for a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art in UiTM Shah Alam. Fafa brings domestic objects into surreal natural landscapes or creates a displacement of objects in interiors. His paintings evoke a disconcerting feeling of a post-Armageddon world with a moody and somber sensibility. Material objects are rendered immaterial, yet blocks of bright yellow in each painting symbolise hope in an illogical world. Working in the space between Realism and Surrealism, Fafa's works expound on theories introduced by Sigmund Freud such as psychoanalysis and the uncanny. Through his engagement with Freud's theories, his works comment amongst others, on feelings of unease within one's gender and depressive states.



**1 Runaway**  
Acrylic on canvas  
61cm x 152cm  
2021  
RM 3850

**2 Anti-Clockwise"**  
Acrylic on canvas  
61cm x 152cm  
2021  
RM 3850

**3 Home**  
Acrylic on canvas  
68cm x 152cm  
2021  
RM 4000

**4 It Happened Quite...**  
Acrylic on canvas  
91cm x 152cm  
2020  
RM 4850

**5 I Went Too Far**  
Acrylic on canvas,  
91cm x 152cm  
2021  
RM 4850

# MAZLAN SAMAWI

Born in Kuching, Sarawak, MAZLAN SAMAWI describes himself as a budak kampung. As a sculptor, he expresses his art in the shapes that he forms together with the beauty of the material he selects, from the hardwoods that exhibit the grain flow to the texture of ominous melted recycled plastics. Comfortable with a variety of mediums such as timber, steel, plastic, and stones, Mazlan's work is distinguished by its boldly imperfect and dynamic structures. Sculpting challenges Mazlan to master art in different forms, and his creative process incorporates drawing, 3-D design, and painting. His work appraises common objects such as recycled plastic bottles by allowing its natural properties to inspire and influence him during his art-making process.



**Pohon Kekeliruan**  
Recycled plastic bottles, stud rod, bitumen  
84cm (H) x 58cm x 62cm  
2021  
RM 4500



**Kelompok Tinggi**  
Recycled plastic bottles, stud rod, bitumen  
62cm (H) x 47cm x 44cm  
2021  
RM 3500



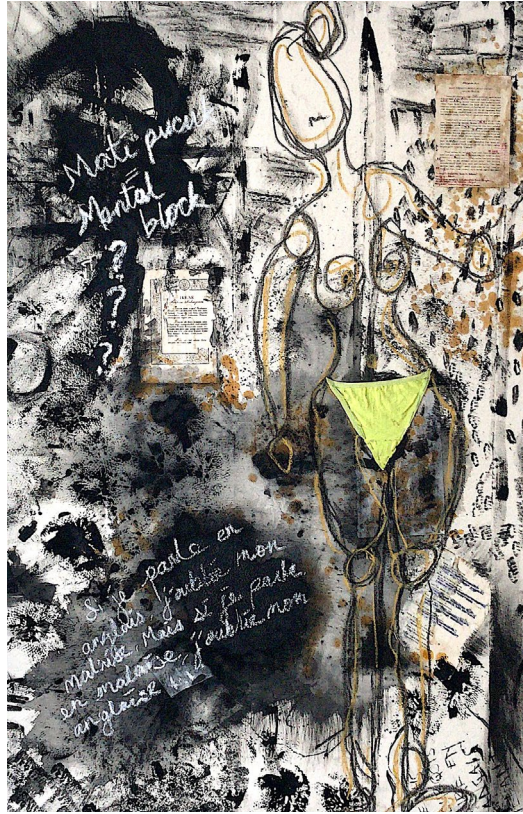
**Ukur Akur**  
Recycled plastic bottles, stud rod, bitumen  
43cm (H) x 41cm x 30cm  
2021  
RM 2800



**Riang Keliru**  
Recycled plastic bottles, stud rod, bitumen  
43cm (H) x 59cm x 39cm  
2021  
RM 3500

# HANA ZAMRI

HANA ZAMRI grew up living in different countries around the world. She returned to Kuala Lumpur in 2009. After graduating from the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) with a BSc in Architectural Studies in 2013, Hana completed her Master's degree in Fine Arts at University of Technology Mara (UiTM) in 2017. Drawing inspiration from her engagement with multiple landscapes and terrains of different lands from the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Europe to Asia, Hana's work explores the instability of identity, as well as the relationship between the self and its surrounding landscape. She consistently plays with "contouring" in map-making to define and redefine her identity. Hana's work touches on the multiple facets of identity such as the body, language, and locality, as she investigates the troubling notion of selfhood. Other than being a practicing artist and curator, Hana teaches art at INTI's American University Program.



**J'oublie (I Forget)**  
Acrylic & Mixed-media on Canvas  
143cm x 93cm  
2020  
RM 5000



**Edge of Escarpment**  
Acrylic & Mixed-media on Canvas  
120cm x 145cm  
2020  
RM 5500





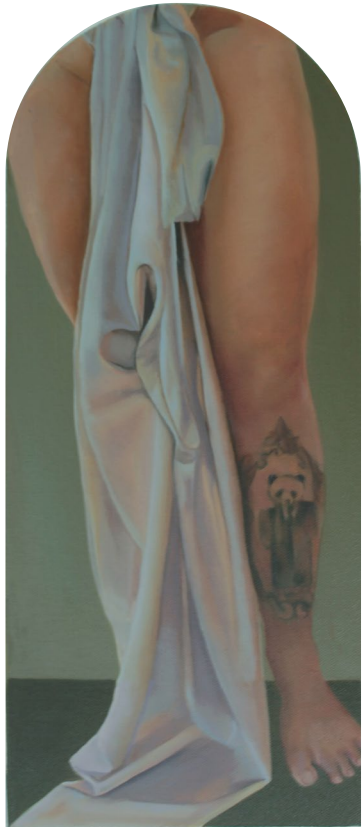
**Trrain**  
Acrylic on Canvas  
90cm x 545cm  
2021  
RM 17500



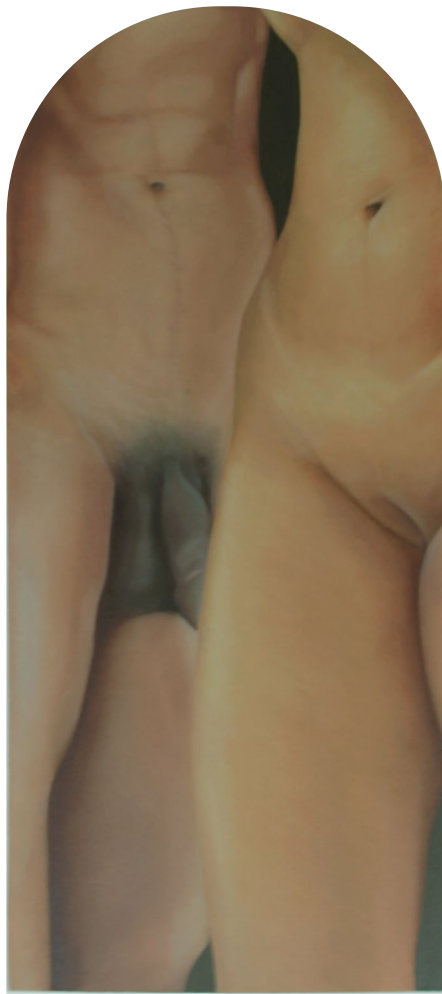
**Transient Passage**  
Acrylic & Mixed-media on Canvas  
56cm x 203cm  
2020  
RM 5000

# HAZ YUSUP

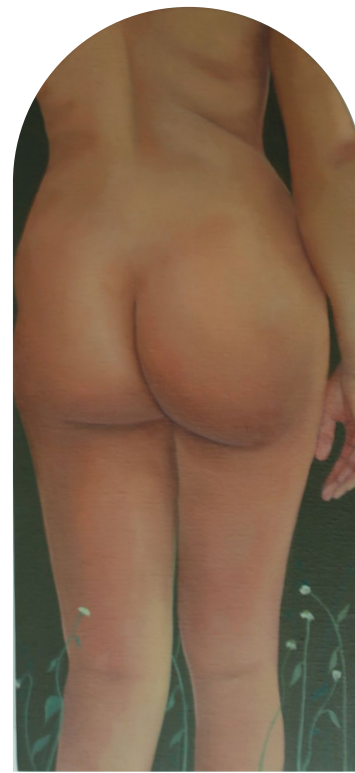
HAZ YUSUP was born in Kuala Lumpur in 1992. Following her encounters with Romanticism, Classicism, and the works of Italian masters in Europe, Haz was inspired to study Fine Arts in Manchester University, United Kingdom and graduated in 2014. Haz's work is characterised by her intimate portrayals of nudity, painted in a distinctly cool-toned and muted palette. Her figures urge its audience to see the naked body as more than just a site for eroticism, and instead as a representation of strength, vulnerability, and simplicity. Haz's paintings attempt to liberate the nude body from hypersexualisation and dares its viewers to embrace both male and female bodies in their raw, natural states.



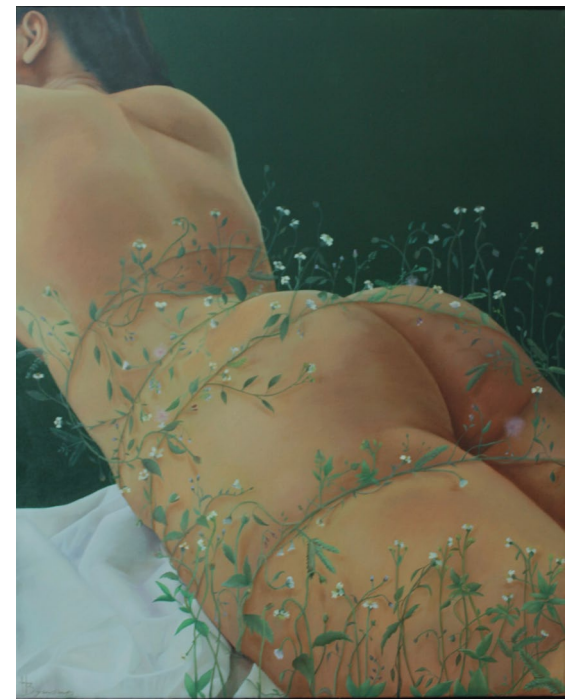
**After bath**  
Oil on Canvas  
51cm x 26cm  
2021  
RM 2400



**They/Them**  
Oil on Canvas  
61cm x 31cm  
2021  
RM 2500



**Little Birdy**  
Oil on arched Canvas  
55cm x 30cm  
2021  
RM 2800



**Let Me Tell You about the Birds**  
Oil on Canvas  
75.5cm x 60cm  
2021  
RM 4000



**Psyche without Cupid**  
Oil on Canvas  
30cm x 41cm  
2021  
RM 2300

# NIA KHALISA

NIA KHALISA is a multidisciplinary artist. Born in 1995, she studied Fine Art at Malaysian Institute of Art (MIA). Having recently attended an art residency in Indonesia under Darmasiswa Scholarship to learn batik, Nia was inspired by the craftsmanship of the locals in Solo. Fascinated by the natural world that surrounds her, Nia's work emulates the simple charm of our flora and fauna, as well as its mellow colour palette. As batik motifs draw inspiration from its surrounding ecosystem too, Nia frequently adopts various batik designs and their attached meanings into her art in order to narrate her own personal experiences. The modest tones of batik and ricepaper- the mediums she feels most comfortable with- harmonise gently with her quiet and delicate imagery. Besides doing art, Nia is a caretaker of plants.



**Pokoknya**  
Gouache on Rice Paper  
40cm x 59cm  
2021  
RM 2220



**Mawa'**  
Gouache on rice paper  
40 x 59cm  
2021  
RM 2,220



**Mawa' (study)**  
Gouache & colored pencil on paper  
37 x 77 cm  
2021  
RM 1,800

This publication accompanies the exhibition  
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CULT Gallery  
10A Persiaran,  
Bukit Tunku,  
50480 Kuala Lumpur.

29 March – 12 April 2020

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