STREET ART in George Town

Take an amazing tour around George Town to discover the unique painted walls mimicking life in the city and the wrought-iron caricatures with anecdotal descriptions of the streets that they adorn.
Welded iron wall caricatures

Blending humour and historical facts, these metal sculptures describe the prevailing colloquial demeanor of the early settlement days that gave memorable moniker to the streets and landmarks that are George Town icons today. Like voices from the past, they creatively symbolise the intimate relationship the people have in their daily lives with these landmarks that stand to this day.

Note: This project consists a total of 52 sculptures located in George Town. Currently 24 sculptures have been installed. Production of the remaining sculptures are in progress.

Street art by Ernest Zacharevic

Many have become enamoured of the newly transformed streetscape of George Town, much thanks to the beautiful and evocative murals that Ernest hand painted. From what originally was a short visit to Penang, the Lithuanian-born artist who graduated with Honours from Middlesex University in London, has since taken up temporary residence in Penang and is currently pursuing a career as a full-time artist, animator, photographer and filmmaker.
Marking George Town

1. Jimmy Choo
2. Win Win Situation
3. Mr Five Foot Way
4. One Leg Kicks All
5. Narrowest Five Foot Way
6. Bullock Cart Wheel
7. Cheating Husband
8. Tok Tok Mee
9. Wrong Tree
10. Too Hot
11. Ting Ting Thong
12. Labourer to Trader
13. Kopi ‘O’
14. Untrained Parakeet
15. Three Generations
16. Rope Style
17. Procession
18. Too Narrow
19. Limousine
20. Property
21. Escape
22. Cow & Fish
23. No Plastic Bag
24. Waterway
A Boat

B Kids on Bicycle

C Old Motorcycle
D Boy on Chair

E Old Man
F Broken Heart

G Kungfu Girl

H Trishaw Man
Jimmy Choo
This is the place where the famous shoe designer, Jimmy Choo, started his apprenticeship.

*Location: Lebuh Leith / Lebuh Muntri

Win Win Situation
Muntri Street was named after The ‘Orang Kaya Menteri’ of Larut, Perak, Ngah Ibrahim.

*Location: Lebuh Muntri

Mr Five Foot Way
Five foot way were meant to protect pedestrians from the hot sun and rain. With the influx of immigrants, work increasingly became hard to find. Many of the old and unemployed thus began using these corridors to set up small businesses instead. The Hokkiens began calling these ‘goh ka ki’ or ‘five foot way’ trades.

*Location: Jalan Transfer

One Leg Kicks All
The ‘black and white’ Amahs were Cantonese domestic servants from Guangdong who did all kinds of household chores and would refer to themselves with wry humour as “Yat Keok Tet” (One Leg Kicks All).

*Location: Lebuh Muntri
Narrowest Five Foot Way
Obviously, this is less than five feet...
The ‘five foot way’ of Wan Hai Hotel is said to be the narrowest in Penang.
*Location: Lorong Stewart

Bullock Cart Wheel
In the days when your money could be as “big as a bullock cart wheel”, this was a popular rest stop for limousines of the time.
*Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

Cheating Husband
The local Chinese say the rich men who lived on Muntri Street kept their mistresses here, hence the name ‘Ai Cheng Hang’ or Love Lane.
*Location: Love Lane

Tok Tok Mee
Tok tok mee is so called because hawkers would strike a ‘tok tok’ sound to signal their presence.
*Location: Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling / Lebuh China
Wrong Tree
Also called toddy or palm wine, tuak is an alcoholic beverage made from underdeveloped flower of the coconut palm. The collecting and market for tuak was entirely an Indian affair with the majority of its drinkers being Indian labourers.

*Location: Lorong Pasar

Too Hot
The famous Weld Quay was the birthplace of Kelinga Mee, a spicy Indian noodle dish created to whet the appetites of sailors and port workers.

*Location: Pengkalan Weld

Ting Ting Thong
One of the favourite foods sold at Seck Chuan Lane is ting ting thong or rock candy, a hardened mixture of sugar, sesame seeds and nuts loved by kids. It has to be “chiselled” and “hammered” to break it into smaller biteable pieces.

*Location: Lorong Seck Chuan

Labourer to Trader
The early convict labourers were reputed to have built most of the government buildings in Penang. Some ex-convicts became petty traders and were the core group who started the Chowrasta Market.

*Location: Jalan Kuala Kangsar
Kopi ‘O’
One Tall, Double Shot, Decaf Espresso
KOPI-O’-KAU!
*Location: Lorong Kimberley

Untrained Parakeet
Parrot astrologers were Indian fortune tellers, who used green parakeets to foretell a person’s future.
*Location: Lebuh King

Three Generations
Kimberly Street is famous for its hawker food. Some stalls have been here for over 3 generations.
*Location: Lebuh Kimberley/ Jalan Sungai Ujong

Rope Style
Rope walk was named after the rope making activities on the street.
*Location: Jalan Pintal Tali
Procession
The Tua Pek Kong Hneoh Grand Float Procession is held in the Year of the Tiger to wash away bad luck and bring great wealth and health.

*Location: Lebuh Armenian

Too Narrow
The hand-pulled rickshaw was the most popular form of transportation in early Penang.

*Location: Lorong Soo Hong

Limousine
This was the place to go for Chinese books, stationery, coffins and paper effigies. All the pleasures of the material world can be reproduced in paper burnt as gifts for the hereafter.

*Location: Lebuh Carnarvon / Lorong Carnarvon

Property
In the 1800’s, shops and godowns on Victoria Street were built at the Seafront.

*Location: Lebuh Victoria
Escape
This old Acehnese godown was originally a jail building already extant in 1805 - hence the thick walls and small windows.

*Location: Lebuh Acheh

Cow & Fish
Not only there were hapless cows bred and slaughtered here but you could smell the fish hung out to dry.

*Location: Lebuh Melayu / Lorong Ikan

No Plastic Bag
A petty-trading neighbourhood, where you can find activities such as drying of salted fish and basket weaving.

*Location: Lorong Prangin

Waterway
Prangin River was a bustling waterway for all manner of goods that were shipped to Penang from all over the world.

*Location: Gat Jalan Prangin
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