

# LABOURER (LUNCH BREAK)

by Lai Foong Moi, 1965



The Samsui woman in this painting was one of many who came to Singapore in the 1930s and 1940s. These strong women came from the Sanshui district in Guangdong, China in search for jobs to support their families. Many Samsui women worked on construction sites, helping to build the Singapore we see today.

Lai Foong Moi. *Labourer (Lunch Break)*. 1965. Oil on canvas, 104 x 67 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore

This poster is adapted from *Awesome Art: The Next 20 Works from Southeast Asia Everyone Should Know*, published by National Gallery Singapore, 2017.



## IT IS THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, AND THE AIR IS STILL.

Two labourers, having toiled all morning, are having their lunch break – one eats a solitary meal, her chopsticks raised in mid-air, while the other rests on a barrel, deep in thought. Here, Singapore artist Lai Foong Moi presents the labourers in a quiet moment of rest, before their heavy work resumes yet again.