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Berita Harian

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Kawasan Little India menjadi lebih bersemarak dengan kerja seni dan ilham kreatif menerusi projek seni awam berbilang disiplin yang dilancarkan baru-baru ini. Ini merupakan tahun kelima Maktab Seni Lasalle dan Lembaga Pelancongan Singapura (STB) bekerjasama bagi projek ARTWALK Little India dengan sokongan Persatuan Pekedai dan Warisan Little India (Lisha). Projek ini menjadi sebahagian daripada Minggu Seni Singapura. Wartawan **HARYANI ISMAIL** *(haryani@sph.com.sg) meninjau apa yang tersemat di sebalik beberapa lukisan dinding mahupun seni pemasangan bunyian yang membentangkan kisah bersejarah dan kebudayaan kawasan Little India.*

Desiran merdu bunga-bunga cinta

SEBAGAIMANA kepulan awan putih berarak perlahan di langit biru mencetus rasa tenang, seniman tempatan Encik Farizwan Fajari membayangkan kedamaian juga wujud dalam bentuk lukisan 'bunga-bunga cinta'.

Encik Farizwan, 38 tahun, yang lebih dikenali dengan panggilan Speak Cryptic dalam kelompok masyarakat seni, bersandarkan lukisan hitam putihnya bagi menghiasi dinding Hotel Park 22 di 60 Kerbau Road.

Lukisan itu persis corak bunga pada sari tradisional yang diikat rapi wanita India.

Sesetengah kuntuman bunga seperti kekwa, melur, 'marigold' dan anggerik yang dilakar pula disatukan menjadi kalungan bunga pada keramaian masyarakat India.

Bunga-bunga ini merupakan simbol kekuatan dan keaslian dalam kebudayaan India yang ingin diabadikan Encik Farizwan dalam lukisannya yang bertajuk *In The Clouds*.

Lukisan tersebut adalah antara beberapa kerja seni yang disertakan dalam projek seni awam *ARTWALK Little India*.

Projek ini merupakan hasil usaha Maktab Seni Lasalle dan Lembaga Pelancongan Singapura (STB) dengan sokongan Persatuan Pekedai dan Warisan Little India (Lisha).

Ini merupakan tahun kelima projek tersebut diadakan sebagai menyemarakkan lagi kawasan bersejarah Little India menerusi filem, lukisan dinding, muzik dan persembahan kebudayaan.

Ketika dihubungi *Gah!*, Encik Farizwan berkata:

"Projek seni awam *ARTWALK Little India* adalah cara baik bagi seniman agar lebih peka pada sekitaran mereka sendiri. Tambahan pula, semua kerja seni yang dijana bergantung pada keadaan di sesebuah lokasi.

"Dengan terlibat dalam projek sebegini, saya juga lebih berpeluang mengenali sesebuah lokasi itu dengan lebih baik."

Beliau yang sedang mempersiapkan diri bagi satu pameran solo sekitar Mei ini terdorong menghiasi Hotel Park 22 dengan corak bunga setelah mengamati keindahan lakaran bunga pada sari dan daya kreatif dalam gubahan kalungan bunga.

"Cabaran terbesar pastinya apabila saya perlu melukis mengikut skala besar dinding hotel itu dan berada pada ketinggian bangunan tersebut.

BUNGA-BUNGA CINTA: Encik Farizwan Fajari melakar corak bunga yang dicetak pada sari dan hasil ilham daripada kalungan bunga di dinding Hotel Park 22 di Kerbau Road. – Foto ihsan FARIZWAN FAJARI

FIKIRKAN TENTANG SUASANA LITTLE INDIA: Encik Bani Hayqal menghasilkan seni pemasangan bunyian di Ultra SuperNew Gallery di 107 Rowell Road bagi mengajak orang ramai memikirkan tentang masa depan mereka. – Foto BH oleh ZALEHA ABDUL KADER

"Berbanding melukis pada skala lebih kecil, saya payah membayangkan bagaimana hasil lukisan itu kelak kelihatan," ujarnya.

Pameran solo Encik Farizwan adalah sebahagian pameran jelajah *Atypical* yang dianjurkan balai seni Chan + Hori Contemporary dan STB.

Seniman pemasangan bunyian, Encik Bani Haykal, 33 tahun, pula muncul dengan kerja seni bertajuk *Cryptocartography (Isolated Future #2)* sempena *ARTWALK Little India*.

Seni pemasangan bunyian itu dipamerkan di balai seni UltraSuperNew Gallery di 107 Rowell Road.

Kurator Milenko Prvacki bekerjasama dengan Encik Bani dan tujuh seniman lain bagi menterjemah aroma unik Little India menjadi kerja seni bunyian dan bau-bauan.

"Saya sebenarnya berminat mengetahui jawapan bagi soalan "Siapa yang berpeluang mengimpikan masa depan mereka?" dan "Bagaimana kita boleh bayangkan masa depan kita?"

"Kerja seni adalah sebahagian daripada amanah seni saya yang lebih besar tentang masyarakat yang dibayangkan akan wujud pada masa akan datang serta corak penakatan yang mereka amalkan menerusi pelbagai usaha pengubahsuaian.

"Saya juga berminat meneroka perihal penggodaman bermacam teknologi. Bagi kerja seni ini, saya juga berminat meninjau keupayaan berkomunikasi menerusi deria sentuhan dan bauan.

"Antara kajian saya adalah mengenai masyarakat yang berkomunikasi dengan labah-labah dan manusia menerusi deria menghidu. Dari hasil yang dihidu, ia ibarat menyisipkan pesanan tertentu yang sarat dengan maklumat," kata Encik Bani.

Beliau berdepan dengan cabaran teknikal, perlu melalui banyak rundingan dan keterbatasan dalam membangun kerja seninya.

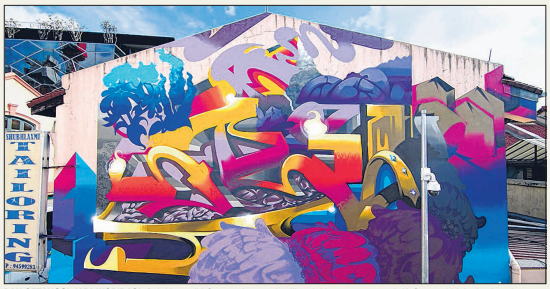
"Namun, saya melihat *ARTWALK Little India* ini sebagai satu ruang yang wajar diteroka sebagai respons seorang seniman terhadap sesuatu tema atau ruang yang diberi," jelasnya.

Encik Bani kini gigih menyiapkan projek penulisan meliputi monograf tentang amalan seninya menerusi lensa pendengaran serta projek yang menggabungkan puisi dengan kriptologi.

Semerbak harum rempah-ratus Little India

CORAK GEOMETRIK: Encik Mohammed Zulkarnaen Othman menghiasi dinding rumah kedai sekitar Kerbau Road ini dengan lukisan yang melambangkan warna-warni rempah ratus yang dijual di Little India. – Foto ZUL ZERO

WARNAI RESTORAN: Encik Shah Rizzal membayangkan suasana kecoh tetapi menyeronokkan di Little India yang sarat dengan kegiatan apabila menghasilkan lukisan dinding bertajuk 'Flavours' pada Restoran CreatureS. – Foto ihsan SHAH RIZZAL



BAU SETANGGI JADI INSPIRASI: Pelukis grafiti Song pula menghasilkan lukisan warna-warni, 'A Scent of Lights' sebagai melambangkan pengamatan dan penggunaan lima derianya dalam memahami kawasan Little India. – Foto @VISUALLYKLAXIFIED

JEJAKKAN kaki anda ke Kerbau Road. Di hadapan mata anda, tersergam indah lukisan geometrik dan piramid berwarna-warni yang melambangkan bagaimana rempah-ratus disimpan di kedai sekitar kawasan Little India.

Inilah yang cuba dipaparkan pelukis grafiti, Encik Mohammed Zulkarnaen Othman (Zero), 40 tahun, menerusi lukisan dinding bertajuk *Diff/Fusion*.

Lulusan Sarjana Seni Halus daripada Maktab Seni Lasalle itu mendapati Little India sebagai tempat yang bersemarak dengan budaya lagi penuh warna-warni.

Bukan sahaja anda akan tenggelam dalam lautan manusia tetapi mampu menghidu betapa harum mewanginya kalungan bunga melur yang banyak dihasilkan di situ.

Karya Encik Mohammed Zulkarnain beberapa kali mengembara dunia malah menarik perhatian majalah *The Economist* yang mengusulkan kerja seninya dipamerkan dalam pameran *Artistic Expression of the World*.

Jika sebelum ini, lukisan dindingnya yang mengetengahkan wajah wira filem Tamil, Rajinikanth tersergam indah di Hindoo Road, *Diff/Fusion* juga menarik perhatian sebagai lambang rempah-ratus seperti jintan putih dan ketumbar.

Semburan cat merah, kuning, jingga dan putih pula menghiasi dinding di Restoran CreatureS sekitar 120 Desker Road.

Itulah hasil daya kreatif pelukis Encik Shah Rizzal, 34 tahun. Dengan menggunakan tajuk *Flavours*, beliau cuba menggambarkan ledakan warna dan bauan yang mengisi ruang Little India.

"Saya tertarik dengan keadaan Little India yang tampak sarat dan sibuk dengan bermacam kegiatan tetapi menyeronokkan penduduk, pekedai, pembeli dan pelancong.

"Datang sahaja ke Little India bagi menikmati warna-warni rempah-ratus dan herba yang menambah kemeriahan Little India," kongsinya lagi.

Dalam pada itu, bau setanggi pula menarik perhatian pelukis yang ingin dikenali dengan nama Song, 20-an tahun.

Lukisan dinding bertajuk *A Scent of Lights* di 20 Clive Street cuba menggambarkan suasana Little India yang ceria dengan membayangkan lima deria manusia – tatapan, sentuhan, pendengaran, menghidu dan merasa mampu mengesan warna-warni kawasan kebudayaan itu.

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Berita Harian

MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2019

The vicinity of Little India has become more happening with works of art and creative inspirations through multi-disciplinary public arts projects recently launched. This is LASALLE College of the Arts' fifth year in collaborating with the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on the ARTWALK Little India project with the support of the Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association (LISHA). This project is part of Singapore Art Week.

Reporter HARYANI ISMAIL (haryani@sph.com.sg) peeks at what lies behind the wall murals and sound art installations that present the history and culture of Little India.

Melodious whispers of the blooms of love

JUST as puffy white clouds floating slowly across the blue sky evoke tranquility, local artist Farizwan Fajari envisions peace arising out of a painting of 'blooms of love'. Mr Farizwan, 38, who is more popularly known in the art community through his moniker Speak Cryptic, leans against his black and white painting that decorates the wall of Hotel Park 22 at 60 Kerbau Road.

The painting looks just like a flower design one might see on a traditional sari worn by Indian women. Some of the blooms like chrysanthemums, jasmine, marigolds and orchids are gathered together into a garland like the one used by the Indian community during festivities.

These flowers are symbols of strength and originality in the Indian culture that Mr Farizwan wants to depict in his work entitled *In The Clouds*. The painting is one of several he has contributed to the public art project ARTWALK Little India.

This project is the result of the collaboration between LASALLE College of the Arts and the Singapore Tourism Board in conjunction with the Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association (LISHA).

This is the fifth year the project has been held to make the historical areas of Little India livelier through film, wall murals, music and cultural performances.

When contacted by *Gah!*, Mr Farizwan said: "The ARTWALK Little India public art project is a good way for artists to become more attuned to their own surroundings. Furthermore, all works of art depend on its situation in particular locations.

"By participating in such projects, I get more opportunities to get to know a location even better."

He is currently preparing himself for a solo exhibition in May and was driven to beautify Hotel Park 22 with floral designs, having studied the design on a sari and the creativity behind a garland of flowers.

"The biggest challenge was certainly when I had to paint on a large scale on the hotel wall and work at the full height of the building. Compared to painting on a much smaller scale, I had trouble visualising how the mural would eventually turn out," he said.

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Mr Farizwan's solo exhibition is part of the exploratory exhibition *Atypical* held at the Chan + Hori Contemporary gallery also in collaboration with the STB.

Sound installation artist Mr Bani Haykal, 33, appears with an artwork entitled *Cryptocartography (Isolated Future #2)* in conjunction with ARTWALK Little India.

The sound installation art is exhibited at UltraSuperNew Gallery at 107 Rowell Road.

Curator Milenko Prvacki collaborated with Mr Bani and seven other artists to translate the unique aromas of Little India to create a sound and smell sensorial work of art. "I was really interested to know the answer to the question 'Who has the chance to dream of their future?' and 'How can we imagine our future?'

"Artworks are a part of the larger artistic mission I have with respect to the society which I imagine to exist in the future as well as their evolution through various adaptations.

"I was also interested to explore the hacking of various technologies. For this artwork, I was keen to peek into how communication can be done through the sense of touch and smell.

"One of my studies is about a society that communicates with spiders and humans through the sense of smell. From what is smelled, one picks up hidden messages that are packed with information," says Mr Bani.

He had been confronted by technical challenges and has had to undergo numerous discussions and limitations in developing his artwork.

"Nevertheless, I saw ARTWALK Little India as a space that deserves to be explored as a response by an artist to the theme or space he has been tasked to work with," he explains.

Mr Bani is now busy completing a monograph he is writing on his artistic practice through the lens of hearing as well as a project that combines poetry with cryptology.

Image caption (top): BLOOMS OF LOVE: Mr Farizwan Fajari's mural based on a floral design printed on a sari and inspiration from a flower garland on the wall of Hotel Park 22 at Kerbau Road. – Photograph courtesy of FARIZWAN FAJARI

Image caption (bottom): THINKING ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE OF LITTLE INDIA: Mr Bani Hayqal creates a piece of sound art installation at Ultra SuperNew Gallery at 107 Rowell Road to invite the public to think about their future. – BH photo by ZALEHA ABDUL KADER

The fragrance of Little India spices

STEP into Kerbau Road. Before your eyes is a beautiful colourful geometric pyramid representing how spices are displayed in the shops around Little India.

This is what graffiti artist, Mr Mohammed Zulkarnaen Othman (Zero), 40, wants to showcase through his mural entitled *Diff/Fusion.*

The BA(Hons) Fine Arts graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts discovered Little India to be a location bursting with culture and full of colours.

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Not only will you become enveloped by the sea of humanity, you will also be able to smell the aroma of garlands of jasmine which are produced there in abundance.

Mr Mohammed Zulkarnain's works have travelled the world a few times and have even attracted the attention of The Economist magazine, which featured his works exhibited at the *Artistic Expression of the World* show.

If his mural work in the past featured the Tamil film hero, Rajinikanth at Hindoo Road, *Diff/Fusion* is also its own attraction as a representation of spices like cumin and coriander. Sprays of red, yellow, orange and white paint decorate the wall of CreatureS Restaurant at 120 Desker Road.

That is the creative work of painter Mr Shah Rizzal, 34. By using the title *Flavours*, he attempts to depict the explosion of colours and scents that fill the air around Little India.

"I am attracted to the atmosphere of Little India which seems packed and busy with lots of activities but is such fun for the residents, merchants, customers and tourists.

"Do come to Little India to enjoy the colourful herbs and spices that add to the festival atmosphere of Little India," he shares.

In that respect, the aroma of incense attracts the attention of a painter who wishes to be known as Song, 20-ish.

His mural entitled *A Scent of Lights* at 20 Clive Street attempts to depict the cheerful atmosphere of Little India by visualising the human senses of sight, touch, hearing, smell and feel through the colours of the culturally rich area.

Image caption (top left): GEOMETRIC DESIGN: Mr Mohammed Zulkarnaen Othman decorates the wall of this shophouse in Kerbau Road with a painting to represent the colours of the spices sold in Little India. – Photo by ZUL ZERO

Image caption (top right): COLOURING THE RESTAURANT: Mr Shah Rizzal depicts the chaotic but fun atmosphere at Little India which is packed with activity when creating this wall mural entitled 'Flavours' on the restaurant CreatureS.– Photo courtesy of SHAH RIZZAL

Image caption (bottom): THE AROMA OF INCENSE BECOMES HIS INSPIRATION: Graffiti artist Song produces a colourful painting, 'A Scent of Lights' to depict his observations and use of five senses in understanding the Little India vicinity. – Photo @VISUALLYKLAXIFIED

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