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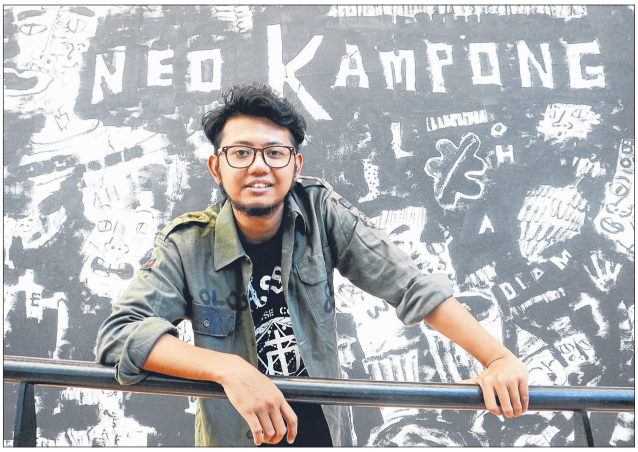
Mereka mencari ruang baru bagi mengetengahkan bakat melukis yang merangsang daya kreatif. Si pelukis muda pernah hilang arah tuju malah ingin menggantung sahaja berus catnya kerana khuatir masa depannya hambar dalam kerjaya melukis. Si pelukis mapan pula terus meneroka peluang mengadakan pameran di luar negara selepas menebarkan sayap kerjaya jurubinanya di Hanoi, Vietnam. **HARYANI ISMAIL** *(haryani@sph.com.sg) melaporkan.*

Minat terkubur hidup semula dek ‘Matlamat Jangka Panjang’



KEMBALI BERSENI: Encik Izzad Radzali Shah pernah putus asa dan tertanya-tanya tentang arah tujunya dalam seni, tetapi kini teruja berbekalkan peluang mengadakan pameran solo *Matlamat Jangka Panjang* di Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Lasalle. – Foto JOHARI RAHMAT

KEYAKINAN Encik Izzad Radzali Shah pada bidang lukisan tiba-tiba pudar sejurus beliau meraih ijazah sarjana muda (kepujian) seni halus daripada Maktab Seni Lasalle pada 2013.

Tatkala itu, beliau berasa masa depan sebagai pelukis sepenuh masa di Singapura hambar, dan minatnya berkarya pudar dari hari ke hari.

Bagaimanapun, kunjungan ke kota yang bersemarak dengan warna-warni seni, Jogjakarta, Indonesia, pada 2015 mengubah segalanya.

Di situ beliau bertemu sekumpulan seniman muda yang bersusah payah berjuang demi menegakkan cinta pada seni.

Mereka tidak mengira pendapatan yang diraih, malah sanggup mengetepikan segala hambatan berkarya.

Keadaan ini membuatkan Encik Izzad, kini 30 tahun, sedar beliau masih mampu menebarkan kemahiran seninya bagi manfaat masyarakat di Singapura.

Perbualan dengan pelukis di Indonesia juga membuatnya akur betapa seni boleh dianggap sebagai jentera meluah pandangan terhadap isu sosial sekeliling atau mengupas identiti sebagai anak Melayu.

Hasil kesungguhannya mengembalikan ‘api cinta’ terhadap bidang seni lukis, beliau mendapat tawaran mengadakan pameran solonya, *Matlamat Jangka Panjang*, di ruang seni Praxis Space dan Project Space di Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Lasalle.

Pameran itu berlangsung dari Sabtu lalu hingga 25 Julai. Terdapat karya yang dipalit pada kertas dan kanvas. Ada juga lukisan digital dalam iPad ataupun lukisan tembok raksasa yang sarat dengan pengertian, falsafah kehidupan dan pedoman bersama.

Ketika ditemui *Gah!* di Maktab Seni Lasalle baru-baru ini, Encik Izzad berkata:

“Terus terang saya katakan, saya hilang motivasi melukis selepas tamat pengajian. Saya sedih memikirkan arah tuju yang tampak kabur. Saya sendiri tak tahu mengapa saya harus terus melukis sedangkan saya kelak payah cari makan di Singapura sebagai pelukis.

“Namun, entah mengapa lawatan ke Jogjakarta menjadi pembuka mata dan pengukuh semangat buat saya. Walhal seawal 2009, saya memang sudah biasa berkunjung ke Indonesia dan mengamati perkembangan seni di sana. Tapi kunjungan pada 2015 memang berbeza.”

Beliau mendapatkan pandangan seniman muda Indonesia yang begitu membara semangat perjuangan mereka atas nama seni.

Tekad Encik Izzad ialah tidak mahu lagi pandang belakang dan menyemai semangat positif agar berjaya dalam dunia seni.

Rakan-rakannya di Jogjakarta berpesan kepadanya agar tidak kuburkan minat terhadap seni dan tidak menjadikan wang sebagai alasan agar berhenti berkarya.

Tanpa diduga, tawaran mengadakan pameran solo datang bergolek sebagai satu kejutan pada saat beliau tidak mengharapkan apa-apa dan hanya bahagia menjadi seniman lukisan tembok bagi beberapa projek kemasyarakatan.

Antara karya awalnya yang dipamerkan berlegar di sekitar isu pencemaran pantai di Singapura yang membuatkan timbul rasa geli dan tidak selesa bagi orang ramai berenang. Beliau juga bermain dengan kata-kata dan imej spontan yang timbul dalam fikirannya.

Pasu bunga ibunya yang terletak di bilik tidurnya pula menjadi sumber inspirasi.

“Saya bukan pakar sastera Melayu tetapi memandangkan saya suka tulis lirik lagu secara suka-suka, maka susunan kata falsafah ini turut saya sertakan dalam lukisan saya,” katanya.

Penulis sendiri tertarik pada lukisan tembok yang berdiri megah sebagai karya agung Encik Izzad dalam pameran ini.

Sambil menunjuk ke arah dua wajah manusia – seorang Mat Rok dan seorang pemilik ijazah, beliau menambah:

“Kehidupan mana yang anda pilih mahu jalani? Si Mat Rok yang nampak serba sederhana tetapi mampu tersenyum bahagia penuh kesyukuran atau si pemilik ijazah yang banyak duit tetapi saban hari bermuram kerana hati tak tenang?”

Apakah pula daya tarikan karya Encik Izzad sehingga ia menarik minat penolong kurator Lasalle, Cik Melanie Pocock?

Cik Pocock mengulas:

“Saya akur perjalanan seni Izzad tidak semudah mana. Kerap kali seniman muda sepertinya rasa kehilangan. Maka di Lasalle, antara matlamat kami ialah menyokong seniman berbakat sepertinya. Kami beri mereka ruang meluah rasa. Izzad miliki potensi besar yang tidak harus dibiar begitu sahaja.”

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Buried interest revived due to ‘Long-Term Goal’

Mr Izzad Radzali Shah's confidence in painting initially faded once he achieved his BA(Hons) degree in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2013.

Then, he felt the future as a full-time painter in Singapore was bleak, and his interest diminished by the day.

However, a visit to Jogjakarta, Indonesia, a city filled with lively colourful art, in 2015 changed everything. There, he met a group of young artists who withstood pains and sacrifices to stand up for their love of art.

They do not count the income that they make, even willing to overcome obstacles just so that they can hone their craft.

This made Mr Izzad, now 30, realise that he can still spread his artistry for the benefit of society in Singapore.

Conversations with painters in Indonesia also made him see how art could be regarded as a vehicle for views on current social issues or understanding of the Malay identity.

His fervour resulted in the restoration of his ‘flame of love' towards painting. He received an offer to hold a solo exhibition, *Long-Term Goal*, in the Praxis Space and Project Space galleries at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore at LASALLE.

The exhibition runs from the previous Saturday to 25 July. There are works on paper and canvas. There are also digital paintings on iPad and giant wall paintings loaded with insights, philosophies on life and guidance.

When interviewed by Gah! at LASALLE College of the Arts recently, Mr Izzad said: "To be honest, I lost the motivation to paint after finishing my studies. I was sad to think about my direction which appeared vague. I did not know why I should continue to paint when in fact I will have a hard time earning a living as a painter in Singapore later on.

"However, unexpectedly, the visit to Jogjakarta became an eye-opener and a morale booster for me. In fact as early as 2009, I was already visiting Indonesia quite frequently and observing the art development there. But the visit in 2015 was definitely different."

He heard views and perceptions of young Indonesian artists with their burning spirits and their struggles in the name of art.

Mr Izzad's determination forced him to stop looking back and instill positive spirit to succeed in the art world.

His friends in Jogjakarta reminded him not to let his interest towards art be laid to rest and that not earning money was not a reason to stop his creative works.

Unexpectedly, an offer to hold a solo exhibition came rolling in which was a shock to

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him as he did not expect anything and was happy to become a mural painting artist for several social projects.

The early works displayed revolved around beach pollution issues in Singapore that made many feel uneasy and uncomfortable to swim at the beaches. He also played with words and spontaneous images that popped into his mind.

His mother’s flower pot located in his bedroom has become a source of inspiration. "I am not a Malay literary expert but as I like to write song lyrics for fun, thus these philosophical phrases are also included in my painting," he said.

This writer was also impressed by the wall mural that stood proudly as Mr Izzad’s masterpiece in this exhibition.

In the painting, a man with two faces - one of a Mat Rocker and one of a university graduate, asks: "Which life do you choose to undergo? The Mat Rocker who seems mediocre but smiles widely and is full of gratitude or the graduate who has a lot of money but each day he mopes because his heart is not at peace?"

What was it about Mr Izzad's work that attracted the interest of LASALLE’s curator, Miss Melanie Pocock?

Miss Pocock commented: "I know that Izzad’s journey in the arts has not been easy. Often young artists like him feel lost. So in LASALLE, one of our objectives is to provide support to talented artists like him. We give them space for them to express their feelings. Izzad has great potential that should not be left just like that."