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SEMARAKKAN PERSADA SENI: Lima siswa kepujian Kelas Pertama dari Maktab Seni Lasalle, *(dari kiri)* Encik Md Heider Ismail, Encik Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, Encik Hairolnizam Sami'on *(bersama telefon bimbit),* Encik Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman dan Encik Asanul Nazryn Mohd Naz komited dalam menyumbang kepakaran mereka pada industri kreatif setempat. – Foto TAUFIK A. KADER

'Seniman' Kelas Pertama

▶HARYANI ISMAIL
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LIMA siswa Melayu dalam jurusan reka bentuk, fesyen dan seni halus di Maktab Seni Lasalle mengecap jaya dengan meraih ijazah kepujian Kelas Pertama tahun ini.

Pencapaian Encik Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, Encik Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi, Encik Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman, Encik Md Heider Ismail dan Encik Hairolnizam Sami'on sangat menggalakkan bahkan adalah petanda wujudnya peningkatan dan kepelbagaian dalam skop kajian siswa Melayu di institusi seni itu.

Mereka juga boleh menyumbang lebih baik kepada industri kreatif Singapura dengan pengalaman yang diraih termasuk peluang menyerantau ke luar negara.

Pengamatan ini dibuat beberapa tenaga pengajar Lasalle yang dihubungi *Berita Harian* lantas berkongsi rasa bangga mereka.

Mengulas kecemerlangan lulusan reka bentuk, Encik Md Rozaimie, 27 tahun, dan Encik Md Heider, 26 tahun serta lulusan fesyen, Encik Muhammad Fadli, 24 tahun, Dekan Fakulti Reka Bentuk, Cik Nur Hidayah Abu Bakar, berkata:

"Saya dapat lihat minat mereka begitu meluas terhadap pelbagai isu dan pendekatan reka bentuk. Kupasan kajian mereka juga mengatasi jangkaan kami. Karya mereka juga lebih berpengaruh dan menampakkan peningkatan dari masa ke masa.

"Misi kami juga ialah mencorak setiap pelajar kami menjadi pereka cipta bertaraf global suatu hari nanti. Mereka terdedah pada peluang bekerjasama dengan institusi di Seoul, Korea; Jepun, London, Amerika dan beberapa negara Asia Tenggara sepanjang tempoh pengajian."

Ketua Program Sarjana Muda (Kepujian) Dalam Seni Halus, Cik Hazel Lim yang menilai karya tahun kepujian Encik Asanul Nazryn, 26 tahun, menambah:

"Asanul gigih memanfaatkan media dan teknologi dalam menyampaikan ulasan lucu lagi bijak tentang bahasa pergerakan tubuh dan susunan pertuturan ikon televisyen serta tokoh yang dikenali."

Mengenai projek arca Encik Hairolnizam, 29 tahun, juga siswa kursus seni halus, Cik Lim berkata:

"Karya Hyrol menarik kerana ia meninjau obsesi warga SIngapura dengan menjalankan bermacam tugas serentak dan mengecapi daya penghasilan yang tinggi.

"Beliau bekerja keras dengan eksperimen membawa arca berupa pejabat bergeraknya di Shenton Way demi mendapatkan respons orang ramai."

▶ **Laporan lanjut di Muka 14**

ENLIVEN WORLD OF ARTS: Five First Class honours graduates from LASALLE College of the Arts, *(from left)* Mr. Md Heider Ismail, Mr. Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, Mr. Hairolnizam Sami'on *(with the mobile phone)*, Mr. Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman and Mr. Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi continue contributing their expertise to the local creative industry. – Photo TAUFIK A.KADER

First Class 'Artists'

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FIVE Malay students from design, fashion and fine arts degree programmes at LASALLE College of the Arts graduated with First Class Honours this year.

The achievement of Mr. Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, Mr. Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi, Mr. Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman, Mr. Md Heider Ismail and Mr. Hairolnizam Sami'on is an

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encouraging sign and reflects the growing aptitude for diverse academic scopes among Malay graduates at art schools.

This enables them to contribute their expertise more meaningfully to Singapore's creative industries and also get enriching opportunities to travel to other countries.

LASALLE lecturers proudly shared these sentiments when contacted by Berita Harian.

Commenting on the success of design graduates, Mr. Md Rozaimie, 27; Mr. Md Heider, 26; and fashion graduate, Mr. Muhammad Fadli, 24, Dean of the Faculty of Design, Ms. Nur Hidayah Abu Bakar, said: “I can see their immense interest and aptitude for different design issues and approaches. Their attention to detail is exceptional and beyond our expectation. Over time, they have shown tremendous improvement in their work.

"Our mission is to shape each and every one of our students to be global designers one day. They are provided with enriching opportunities to collaborate with leading institutions from Seoul (Korea) Japan, London, the United States of America and a few Southeast Asia countries during their course of study here.”

BA(Hons) Fine Arts Programme Leader, Ms. Hazel Lim, who supervised the graduation work of Mr. Asanul Nazryn, 26, added: "Asanul is persistent in using media and technology to the fullest, in delivering funny yet intelligent depictions of the way television celebrities and renowned personalities present themselves."

Regarding the sculpture project of Mr. Hairolnizam, 29, also a graduate of fine arts programme, Ms. Lim said: “Hairol's work is interesting as it depicts the obsession of Singaporean citizens to attaining high productivity through multitasking.

"He worked hard in the experiment by bringing his mobile office sculpture to Shenton Way in order to get feedback from the public."

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Tidak semudah itu mencurah ilham kreatif agar ia senang dihadam. Kerap kali sesetengah orang menganggap lulusan seni terbenam dalam dunia sendiri yang abstrak. Bagaimanapun, lima pemuda membuktikan pengajian seni halus, reka bentuk mahupun fesyen di Maktab Seni Lasalle mencorak minda mereka menjadi lebih terkesan dengan keadaan sekeliling. Ikuti wawancara **BERITA MINGGU** *bersama mereka yang mengecapi kejayaan ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama dalam bidang masing-masing.*

Berpindah minda dengan seni

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TERKENANG FILEM KLASIK P. RAMLEE: Encik Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman membawa dirinya menyelami fesyen Allahyarhamha Saloma sebagai satu penerokaan fenomena 1960-an. – Foto TUKIMAN WARJI

Tiru gaya Saloma, hargai fesyen '60-an

DARIPADA menghasilkan projek biasa lagi tidak mencetus sebarang perbincangan, Encik Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman lebih senang membentangkan karya kontroversial yang mengundang perdebatan.

Pemuda berusia 24 tahun itu pernah mengadakan pameran solo yang mengetengahkan topik hangat si wanita dominan menentang lelaki peserah.

Ini disusuli dengan projek tahun akhir kursus Sarjana Muda Sastera (Kepujian) dalam Media dan Perindustrian Fesyen di Maktab Seni Lasalle yang secara berani menjelajah subbudaya ratu *drag* (seorang, biasanya lelaki, yang berdandan berlebih-lebihan seperti wanita).

Bezanya, Encik Muhammad Fadli kini beralih daripada kebiasaan menjadi jurugambar kepada model yang menghadap kamera bagi merasakan sendiri pengalaman sebagai lelaki berpakaian wanita.

Pakaian ketat dan rambut *set* ala biduanita Allahyarhamha Saloma menjadi sumber ilham.

Sebagaimana kata anak ketiga empat beradik yang berjaya meraih Kepujian Kelas Pertama hasil komitmen dan dedikasinya pada bidang fesyen ini:

"Saya berubah menjadi watak Felicia Blaque yang beridentiti feminin tetapi berada dalam tubuh lelaki. Saya ingin tahu bagaimana rasanya disaluti subbudaya ratu *drag* ini.

"Sebagai seorang yang membesar dengan filem klasik Allahyarham Tan Sri P. Ramlee seperti *Madu Tiga*, saya merasakan Saloma memainkan peranan penting sebagai ikon dunia filem Melayu sekitar tahun 1960-an.

"Beliau berpenampilan seksi, ada kelas dan malar segar. Kebanyakan bintang filem ketika itu juga mempunyai rambut 'besar' lagi tebal, pinggang ramping dan coletan celak yang menawan."

Walaupun beberapa temannya mentertawakannya apabila beliau melahirkan hasrat ingin diubah menjadi persis Saloma, ibu bapanya pula mengejutkannya dengan memberi sokongan bahkan teruja ingin melihat hasil projek ini.

"Saya gembira ibu bapa saya banyak menyokong pilihan saya mendalami bidang fesyen.

"Sewaktu di sekolah menengah ada yang mempertikai kebolehan saya menceburi bidang ini kerana merasakan lakaran fesyen saya hodoh.

"Bagaimanapun, saya tidak membiarkan si pengkritik memusnahkan cita-cita saya. Saya ikut kata hati dan ikuti kursus Diploma Komunikasi Fesyen di Lasalle," cerita anak pemandu dan suri rumah itu.

Encik Muhammad Fadli langsung ke tahun akhir pengajian ijazah kepujiannya berbekalkan pengalaman dan kemahirannya yang mantap dalam bidang fesyen.

Karya foto fesyennya menarik perhatian penerbit serta pengamat fesyen antarabangsa bahkan pernah disiarkan di laman *Vogue Online*, majalah *Vulture* dan *Harper's Bazaar* (Hongkong).

Apakah faktor kejayaannya sehingga bakatnya dipandang karyawan fesyen di luar Singapura?

"Lain orang, lain pengamatan matanya. Saya yakin dan jujur pada diri saya. Stail fotografi saya lebih menekankan realiti dan kejujuran, sama ada orang suka atau tidak.

"Ada unsur kontroversi dalam karya saya kerana saya berusaha cetuskan kelainan serta mencungkil tanggapan orang tentang kebudayaan agar mereka ligat berbincang. Nak juga tahu apa reaksi mereka?" tambahnya.

Dua lulusan Lasalle Kelas Pertama tinjau isu yang masyarakat terlepas pandang

NIAT di hati Encik Hairolnizam Sami'on dalam memburu ijazah Sarjana Muda (Kepujian) dalam Seni Halus di Maktab Seni Lasalle ialah berehat seketika daripada dunia pekerjaan.

Bekas guru kontrak lukisan di sebuah sekolah menengah itu bahkan tidak menjangka cabang kesenian ini menjadi pilihannya berbekalkan Diploma Reka Bentuk Media Digital daripada Politeknik Nanyang.

Dalam tahun kedua pengajian, beliau merasakan bebanan kos pengajian apabila dihimpit masalah kewangan sehingga perlu menjual peralatan fotografinya.

Bagi memastikan dapat menjimat kos, Encik Hairolnizam, 29 tahun, mengumpul barangan terpakai bagi projeknya daripada membeli bahan baru.

Pada akhir pengajian tahun ini beliau bersyukur kerana berjaya memiliki segulung ijazah Kepujian Kelas Pertama sebagai sandaran masa depan.

Menceritakan laluan seninya, beliau yang ditemui di Kampus Lasalle di Winstedt Road berkata: "Apabila saya kembali ke bangku sekolah ia adalah huraian bagi mengatasi rasa tertekan di alam pekerjaan.

"Saya tersepit antara dua pilihan – mengambil seni halus atau komunikasi reka bentuk. Bagaimanapun, saya terfikir sudah terlalu ramai karyawan reka bentuk di Singapura.

"Mungkin juga ia ketentuan Tuhan. Hari demi hari saya seronok menimba ilmu seni halus dan menambah rangkaian teman yang rata-rata lebih muda daripada saya. Tak ada pun jurang generasi antara kami, bahkan seronok pula saya bertukar-tukar pendapat dengan mereka."

KUMPUL BARANG TERBUANG

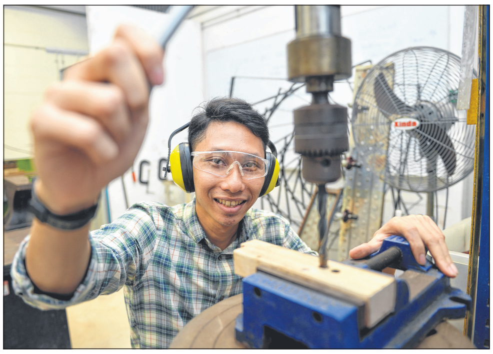
Bagi projek tahun akhirnya, beliau mengusahakan arca yang diperbuat daripada perabot terpakai dan barangan kecil seperti bingkai gambar yang dikutip dari kolong blok.

"Saya jadi ketagih kumpul barangan terbuang di kawasan kejiranan macam karung guni! Projek saya ini fokus mencari sebab mengapa manusia gemar membuang barangan dan bagaimana setiap objek memiliki hayat atau jalan hidupnya sendiri, yang boleh bertukar nasib apabila ia berubah menjadi objek dengan fungsi lain," ceritanya.

Projek itu kemudian diperluaskan menjadi penerokaan pada obsesi warga Singapura terhadap kemahiran menjalankan pelbagai tugas dan daya penghasilan sehingga menjejas masa keluarga.

Lebih menarik lagi, Encik Hairolnizam mendokumentasikan projeknya dengan rakaman video dirinya menjelajah kawasan sibuk Shenton Way dengan baju pejabat serta arca berupa pejabat bergerak yang dikemudikan seperti kenderaan.

"Orang yang melihat hairan. Ada yang berhenti merakam foto. Tak kurang pula seperti seorang pengawal keselamatan yang menyangka saya menjual barangan. Apabila saya menghadapi kesukaran bergerak di lalu lintas, dia sudi membantu! Tak sangka ada yang sudi layan orang pelik macam saya ni!" tambahnya, yang turut dibimbing penerima Anugerah Bakat Muda Presiden, Encik Ong Kian Peng, menerusi satu program di The Substation.



KAJIAN SOSIAL MANFAATKAN BARANGAN TERPAKAI: Encik Hairolnizam Sami'on memanfaatkan barangan terbuang seperti perabot di kolong blok untuk projek-projeknya yang merupakan satu kritikan sosial terhadap masyarakat. – Foto M.O. SALLEH

TERPAUT PADA SENI HALUS: Encik Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi menggunakan kemahiran seninya sebagai wadah meluah rasa dan gantian pada sukan ragbi yang pernah diceburinya sebelum kecederaan melanda. – Foto TUKIMAN WARJI

TINJAU SENI TOKOH BERHUJAH

Seorang lagi lulusan kepujian Kelas Pertama dalam seni halus di Maktab Seni Lasalle, Encik Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi, 26 tahun, pula menyifatkan dirinya sebagai seorang yang mudah teruja dengan sekitaran dan ingin ambil tahu tentangnya.

Beliau menghasilkan projek tahun akhir bertajuk *SingaPura-Pura* berupa video persembahan yang meninjau pergerakan manusia ketika berhujah.

Fokus diberi kepada pemimpin dan bagaimana pergerakan tubuh mereka ketika menyampaikan ucapan.

"Saya lihat Perdana Menteri Lee Hsien Loong begitu tenang menyampaikan hujahnya di Rapat Hari Kebangsaan. Mendiang Perdana Menteri Pengasas, Encik Lee Kuan Yew, pula tegas hujahnya.

"Dalam projek saya, kami lakonkan semula penyampaian Rapat Hari Kebangsaan 2014. Bahasanya diubah kasual menjadi pertuturan Singlish dan lebih robotik.

"Dari situ kita lihat ketidakserasiannya dan bagaimana tubuh seseorang itu bergerak mengikut ucapan yang disampaikan," ceritanya yang kini bertugas sebagai pereka grafik di kafeteria I Am Cafe.

Kepuasan dirasakannya menceburi bidang seni halus kerana ia ruang meluah rasa dan tenaga sebagai gantian pada sukan ragbi yang pernah diceburi.

"Mak saya selalu tahu apa yang terbuku di hati saya dan dia akan beri saya semangat untuk meneruskan cita-cita. Kebetulan saya cedera dan tidak boleh lagi bermain ragbi. Maka, seni halus ini menjadi wadah ekspresi buat saya," kata anak bongsu tiga beradik ini.

Beliau selesa mempelajari aspek pengiklanan dan pemasaran dalam tugasan kreatif yang dijalankan bagi sebuah syarikat milik anak Melayu.

"Saya gemarkan kebebasan yang diberikan kepada saya bagi mencurah kreativiti. Suasana kekeluargaan turut dirasakan di tempat kerja saya ini di mana kami saling membantu," ujarnya.

Melahirkan fungsi hasil penyatuan seni dan teknologi

PERAH OTAK: Encik Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim *(kiri)* dan Encik Md Heider Ismail banyak bereksperimen dengan rekaan dan menjadikannya sebagai wadah merapatkan jurang komunikasi. – Foto JOHARI RAHMAT

CINTA terhadap dunia reka bentuk datang secara semula jadi buat Encik Md Heider Ismail kerana bapanya memiliki syarikat reka bentuk sendiri.

Rakan sekursusnya di Maktab Seni Lasalle, Encik Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, pula melekat dengan seni jalanan kerana tertarik dengan budaya papan lungsur yang meliputi aspek rekaan dan grafiti.

Hasil pengorbanan masa dan tenaga dalam mencurah idea kreatif, Encik Md Heider, 26 tahun, dan Encik Md Rozaimie, 27 tahun, berjaya meraih ijazah Kelas Pertama dalam kursus Sarjana Muda Komunikasi Reka Bentuk daripada Maktab Seni Lasalle baru-baru ini.

Mereka juga merupakan penerima Anugerah Mendaki atas kecemerlangan yang dicatatkan.

Ketika ditemui *Gah!*, Encik Md Heider menjelaskan bahawa sumber inspirasinya ialah bapanya yang juga karyawan bidang reka bentuk.

"Lebih 20 tahun lamanya bapa saya mengusahakan perniagaannya. Saya pula seronok dapat berkomunikasi dengan menggunakan grafik dan simbol. Sesuatu rekaan yang tercipta boleh merapatkan jurang komunikasi mahupun menghurai masalah.

"Hasil latihan menyeluruh yang saya raih dalam bidang fotografi, rekaan dan penggunaan alat canggih, saya kini terdorong meneroka bidang pemprograman pula," katanya.

Encik Md Rozaimie pula menjadikan seni rekaan sebagai jentera dalam menggerakkan mindanya sejak berkecimpung dalam sukan papan lungsur.

"Saya selalu teruja nak lihat rekaan terpapar pada pakaian, hiasan atau apa sahaja barangan. Mencipta sesuatu bagi kegunaan orang lain merupakan satu nikmat terbesar," jelasnya.

Daripada perbualan bersama dua pemuda ini, dapat dilihat bagaimana mereka menyatukan teknologi dengan kesenian. Dalam muatan komputer riba mahupun tablet iPad yang mereka bawa ke mana-mana, wujud karya seni berupa 'santapan mata' yang sebenarnya memiliki fungsi tersendiri.

Encik Md Heider, anak kedua tiga beradik, menceritakan tentang projek tahun akhirnya bertajuk 'Lepak'. Ia meneroka hilangnya budaya berhimpun di kolong blok kerana ramai terpaku pada teknologi.

"Menerusi projek 'Lepak', teknologi digunakan sebagai medium menyatukan semula budaya berhimpun beramai-ramai yang mati ditelan zaman. Ujian lapangan dibuat di kawasan Sengkang.

"Pada akhirnya apa yang saya pelajari ialah bidang reka bentuk bukan semudah menghasilkan buku, papan tanda atau logo. Sebaliknya, setiap apa yang direka haruslah berfungsi menggerakkan satu misi murni atau membantu manusia dalam komunikasi mereka," tambah Encik Md Heider.

Encik Md Rozaimie, anak bongsu lima beradik, pula tertarik dengan estetika kesenian yang dikenali sebagai *glitch art*. Ia proses menambah estetika pada kesilapan digital atau analog dengan merosakkan kod dan data digitalnya atau memanipulasikan secara fizikal peralatan elektronik (sebagai contoh dengan melentur litaran).

Hasil kreativiti dan keprihatinannya terhadap unsur kesenian canggih sebegini, beliau turut dipilih sebagai pemenang pingat gangsa di Anugerah Crowbar yang menyatukan pelajar institusi pengajian tinggi berkebolehan dalam bidang reka bentuk, pengiklanan, fotografi, filem dan media interaktif, kelmarin.

Ditanya rahsia kejayaan mereka, kededuanya sebulat suara menyifatkan semangat tidak mengenal erti penat dan pengorbanan meluangkan masa hujung minggu demi memperhalusi projek masing-masing sebagai faktor kecemerlangan.

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It is not that easy to express creative inspiration in a manner that can be understood. Often times some people regard art graduates as those who are burrowed into their own abstract worlds.

However, five young men have proven that arts education which also offers design and fashion programmes at LASALLE College of the Arts, has shaped their minds in a way that made them more appreciative of their surroundings. Follow the interview by BERITA MINGGU (WEEKEND NEWS) on the First Class Honours achievers in their respective fields.

Appreciating 60's fashion through emulating Saloma's style

REMINISCING P. RAMLEE's CLASSIC FILMS: Mr. Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman immersed himself in P. Ramlee films to explore the fashions of the 1960s phenomenon, the late Saloma. - Photograph TUKIMAN WARJI

RATHER than producing typical projects that do not spark any discussion, Mr Muhammad Fadli Abdul Rahman finds it easier to present unconventional works that invite debate.

The 24 year-old young man once held a solo exhibition that presented the controversial subject of submissive men submitting to dominant women.

This was followed by a final year project for his BA(Hons) Fashion Media & Industries programme at LASALLE College of the Arts that bravely explored the subculture of drag queens (a person, usually a man, who wears thick make-up to resemblance a woman).

The difference was that Mr Muhammad Fadli moved on from being the photographer behind the camera to the model posing in front of it, so that he could experience for himself what it was like to be a man dressed up as a woman.

Tight fitting clothes and pompous hairdo like the late Saloma became his inspiration.

The third of four children, who earned his First Class Honours as a result of his commitment and dedication to the field of fashion, said that, "I transformed myself into Felicia Blaque who had a feminine identity but was in the body of a man, as I wanted to know how it feels to be in this subculture of drag queens. As someone who grew up watching the films of the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee, like Madu Tiga, I understood the important role played by Saloma as the icon of the Malay film scene during the 1960s. She had a sexy image, had class and was evergreen. Many film stars then also had big hairdos, slim waist lines and dark eyeliners that were ever so attractive."

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Although some of his friends laughed at him when he mentioned his intention to assume the image of Saloma, his parents surprised him by giving him their support and expressed eagerness to view the final result of his project.

"I am happy that my parents supported my passion to venture into fashion. When I was in secondary school, some people doubted my ability to succeed in this field because they felt that my fashion sketches were ugly. However, I did not let the criticism destroy my confidence. I followed my heart and enrolled into the Fashion Communication Diploma course at LASALLE," said Fadli, whose father is a driver and mother is a housewife.

Mr Muhammad Fadli advanced to his final year studies for his BA(Hons) degree equipped with experience and solid skills in fashion.

His fashion photography work impressed international editors and fashion critics and was even featured in Vogue Online, Vulture magazine and Harper's Bazaar (Hong Kong).

What are the factors for his success that have led to his talents being recognised by fashion professionals outside Singapore?

He added, "Different people have differing perspectives. I am confident and stay true to myself. My photography style emphasises reality and honesty. Some people like it, some don't. There is an element of controversy in my work because I aim to create something different and to tease people's perceptions about culture so that it will trigger discussions amongst the viewers. I am often intrigued to find out the reactions it garners."

A changing mindset with art

Two First Class Honours graduates of LASALLE’s Fine Arts programme explore overlooked issues of society

Mr Hairolnizam Sami’on’s intention when he enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Arts programme at LASALLE College of the Arts was to take a short break from the professional industry.

The former contract art teacher at a local secondary school had never imagined that he would choose this genre of art with his Diploma in Digital Media Design from Nanyang Polytechnic.

In the second year of his studies, he began to struggle with the financial burden of his studies as he had little money left. As a result, he had to sell off his photography equipment.

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To save money, Mr Hairolnizam, aged 29, would collect used items for his projects instead of buying new ones.

At the end of his studies this year, he was relieved to have earned the First Class Honours degree that would enable him in securing his future.

Sharing more about his journey in the arts during the interview at the LASALLE Campus at Winstedt Road, Hairolnizam said: "My return to school was a way to escape the pressure of work life. I was caught in between two choices – to take fine arts or design communication. But I felt that there were already too many designers in Singapore. Maybe this was God's decision. Each passing day, I saw myself being enriched by the knowledge of fine arts. I have also expanded my network of friends who are by far much younger than me. There was no generation gap among us; in fact, it was fun for me to exchange ideas with them."

COLLECTING JUNK

SOCIAL RESEARCH TO UTILISE USED ITEMS : Mr Hairolnizam Sami’on made use of items like furniture discarded at void decks for projects that have become social critiques. - Photo M.O. SALLEH

For his final year project, he worked hard on a sculpture that was made of used furniture and small items like picture frames that were collected from void decks.

“I got hooked on collecting junk from my neighbourhood like a 'karung guni'! My project focuses on exploring why human beings are fond of throwing things away and how each object has its own lifespan or life story, and how this was changed when it was transformed into a new object with a different function," he said.

The project was then expanded to depict Singaporean’s obsession with multi-tasking and productivity that began to affect family time.

More interestingly, Mr Hairolnizam documented his project through video recordings of himself exploring the busy Shenton Way in office clothing and a sculpture of a mobile office that he steered like a vehicle.

"Onlookers were amazed. Some stopped to take photos. Many, such as a security officer, also thought I was a peddler selling things. When I encountered problems crossing the roads, he even offered to help! I never expected there would be anyone willing to help a weirdo like me!" he added.

Mr Hairolnizam is currently also being mentored by Mr Ong Kian Peng, recipient of the President's Young Talent Award through a programme at The Substation.

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EXPLORING THE ART OF AN ORATOR

ATTACHED TO FINE ARTS : Mr Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi uses his artistic skills as a means to express his feelings and as a substitute for his interest in rugby which he used to play before he was hit by injury. - Photo TUKIMAN WARJI

Another First Class graduate in fine arts at LASALLE, Mr Asanul Nazryn Mohd Nazi, aged 26, describes himself as a person who gets excited by his environment and is curious to find out more about it.

His final year project entitled *Singapura-pura (Singa-lie-lie, a pun on the 'pura' which if repeated means 'pretend' in Malay)* was a video presentation that explores people's body language as they made speeches.

The focus was on leaders and their body language when delivering a speech.

"I noticed that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was very calm when he gave his National Day Rally speech. The late Minister Mentor, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, was more assertive during his speeches.

"In my project, we re-enacted the presentation of the 2014 National Day Rally speech. The script was adapted in Singlish to be more casual while the delivery was made more robotic.

"From the work, we can see the discomfort and how the body will respond according to the speech presented," remarked the arts graduate, who works as a graphic designer at the cafeteria I Am Café.

He feels satisfied with his choice of education as it provided him the space for self-expression and an avenue to channel his energy as a substitute for rugby, which he used to play.

"My mother always knew what was in my heart and she supported me to pursue my dreams. Incidentally, I was injured and could no longer play rugby. Hence, fine arts became a platform for me to express myself," said the youngest of three siblings.

He is comfortable with learning the various aspects of advertising and marketing as part of the creative assignment that was carried out for a Malay-owned company.

"I enjoy the freedom given to me to express my creativity. The environment at my workplace also has a family vibe and it is a place where we regularly help each other out," he said.

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Creating new functionalities by combining art and technology

RACKING THEIR BRAINS: Mr Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim *(left)* and Mr Md Heider Ismail have done many experiments in design and used design as a means to bridge the communication gap. - Photo JOHARI RAHMAT

LOVE for the realm of design came naturally for Mr Md Heider Ismail as his father owns a design company.

His course mate at LASALLE College of the Arts, Mr Md Rozaimie Abdul Rahim, got drawn to street art through the allure of skateboarding culture that encompasses aspects of design and graffiti.

As a result of their hard work in terms of time and energy in brainstorming creative ideas, Mr Md Heider, 26, and Mr Md Rozaimie, 27, achieved First Class honours in BA(Hons) Design Communication from LASALLE recently.

They were also the first Mendaki Award recipients for the above stated achievements.

When *Gah!* met them, Mr Md Heider explained that the source of his inspiration was his own father who is a professional designer himself.

"My father worked on his business for over 20 years. I, in turn, enjoy communicating using graphics and symbols. A creative design can narrow down the communication gap and also resolve problems.

"As a result of the comprehensive training I received in photography, design and the use of cutting edge technology, I am very encouraged to explore programming next," he said.

Mr Md Rozaimie, on the other hand, made design the engine to spur his thoughts ever since he got involved in the sport of skate-boarding.

"I am always excited to see designs splashed on clothes, decorations or any object. Creating something for other people to use is a great reward," he explained.

From our conversation with the two young men, it was easy to see how they are able to combine technology with art. Even the portable devices they carry, such as laptops and iPads, ooze with creative character, which are like 'eye candy' with its own unique functions.

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Mr Md Heider, the second of three siblings, spoke about his final year project entitled 'Lepak' ('Relaxing'). It explored the loss of the culture of gathering at the void decks as many people are now affixed to technology.

"Through 'Lepak', technology was used as a medium to rekindle the culture of group gathering that is gradually vanishing with time. Social experiments were conducted in the Sengkang area.

"Finally what I learnt was that design was not as easy as creating a book, noticeboard or logo. On the other hand, everything that is designed must be used to carry out a noble mission or help human beings in their communication," added Mr Md Heider.

Mr Md Rozaimie, the youngest of five siblings, was attracted to the aesthetics of the art form known as glitch art. It is a process of adding aesthetic value to digital or analogue errors by distorting codes and digital data or physically manipulating electronic apparatus (for example by bending circuits).

As a result of his creativity and sensitivity to this advanced art form, he won bronze at the Crowbar Awards, which brings together students from various higher education institutions who are talented in the fields of design, advertising, photography, film and interactive media.

When asked about the secret to success, both agreed that success in art comes through a tireless spirit and a willingness to sacrifice time and weekends to refine one’s projects.