



SYED Thajudeen and one of his paintings inspired by Indian mythology.

Artist's long climb to the top

PENANG, Sun. — It has been a long and lonely climb to the top for artist Syed Thajudeen.

After 15 years, Thajudeen still feels he has not really made it to the very top. He has given himself another decade or so to make the grade as an artist of acclaim.

Thajudeen has one ambition — to create interest in Oriental art in this country,

Already, flashes of artistic brilliance can be seen in his 27 paintings that are currently being exhibited in the Penang Museum's art gallery.

Outstanding among these works on display is a painting comprising nine sections depicting the Indian epic, Ramayana which took him two years to complete.

The bold colours, the refined details and the evocative figures make it the most monumental work of his so far.

Thajudeen, however, has not managed to sell any of his exhi-

bits here. He said: "What I am more interested in is to create a new direction in art form and to instil a sense of appreciation of our nation's cultural heritage."

His new direction of art form is based on the inspiration of Indian art techniques and process which he acquired when he was in India.

This revolutionary approach is also unique because so far the source of artistic inspiration for painters has come from western or other oriental sour-

ces except India.

Meanwhile, he will be starting on the other nine pieces to complete the Ramayana in another two years.

After that he intends to devote another five years to creating another major work depicting the Malacca Sultanate from the time of Parameswara.

Thajudeen hopes that the completion of this work will be the culmination of his career from his present post as lecturer in the Mara school of art and design.