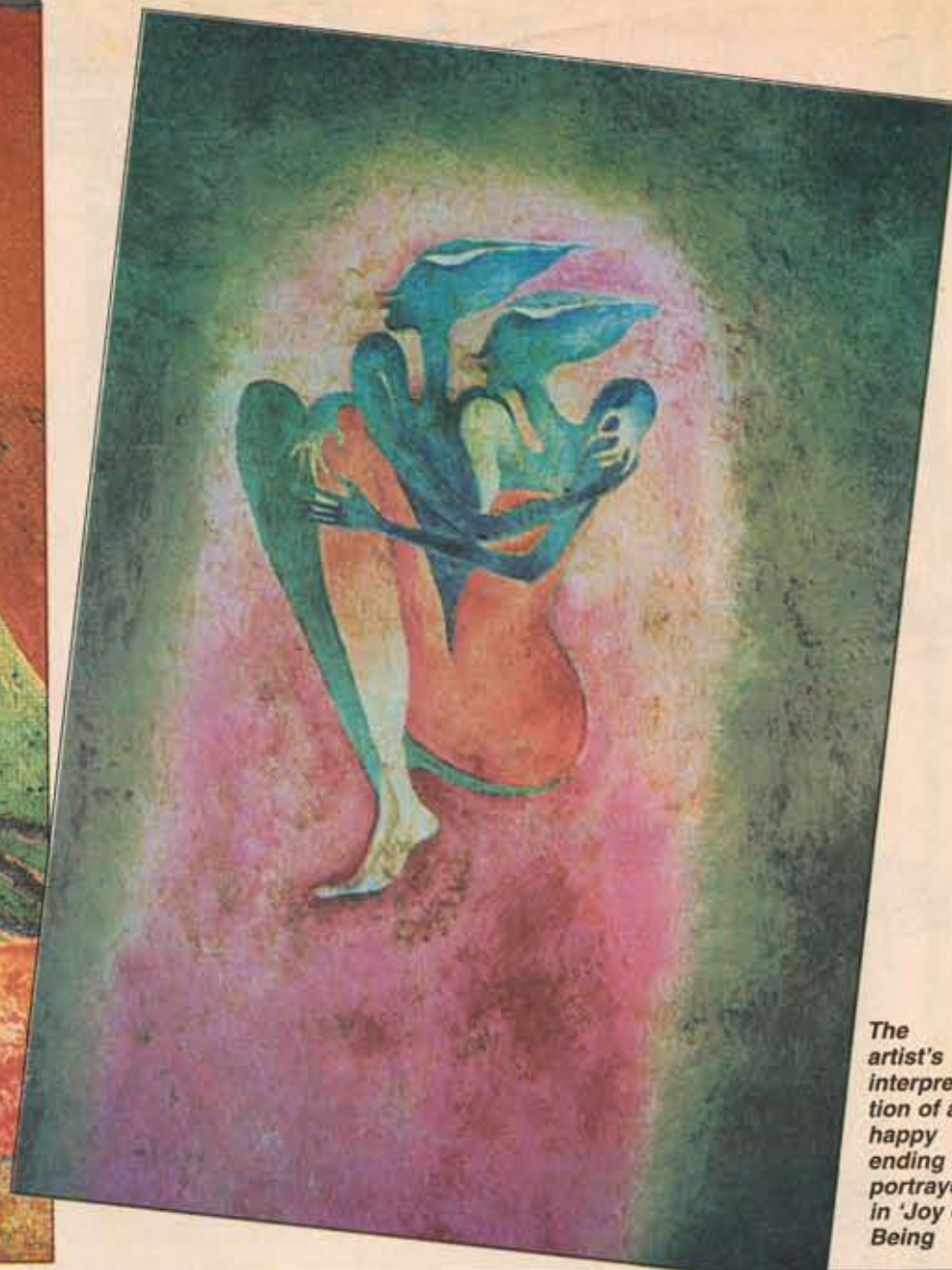




This one is titled 'Longing for love.'



The artist's interpretation of a happy ending is portrayed in 'Joy of Being'

Works of love by local artist

By SALINA KHALID

A LABOUR of love is the most apt description of Syed Thajudeen Shaik Abu Talib's latest exhibition at the Pelita Hati Gallery of Art.

The 54-year old artist' exhibition, entitled *Painting on Love* by Syed Thajudeen focuses on a subject close to his heart - love.

The exhibition cum sale, from March 4-20, features 30 artworks, priced from RM1,000 to RM150,000, wholly devoted to the subject of love.

"Some people choose to write about it and others sing about it but I express the feeling of love on canvas," Syed Thajudeen.

Most of the paintings depict the sensual female form in abstract designs.

Syed Thajudeen admitted the pieces exhibited featured his personal feelings towards the subject of love.

"I feel the type of 'love' which existed in the earlier generation is diminishing now.

"The feelings that are found today are very superficial and are influenced by other factors like wealth and look.

"And these feelings do not stay very long," he said.

He hoped the paintings would inspire the public to have a genuine feeling towards love.

"It is not only love between man and woman but also among friends and family members," he said.

Born in 1943 in Alagan Kulem, a hamlet in Tamil Nadu, India, Syed Thajudeen has been involved in the art scene for the past 22 years.

He came to Malaysia to join his family in Penang at the age of 11 but returned to India in 1967 to pursue a course at the Madras College of Fine Arts and Craft.

He received his Diploma in Fine Art from the college in 1973 and a post diploma a year later.

On his return from India, he lectured part-time at Institute Teknologi Mara in Shah Alam between 1975 and 1976 before joining the United Asian Bank as a resident artist.

Syed Thajudeen has exhibited his works widely and held two solo exhibitions at the Penang Museum Art Gallery.

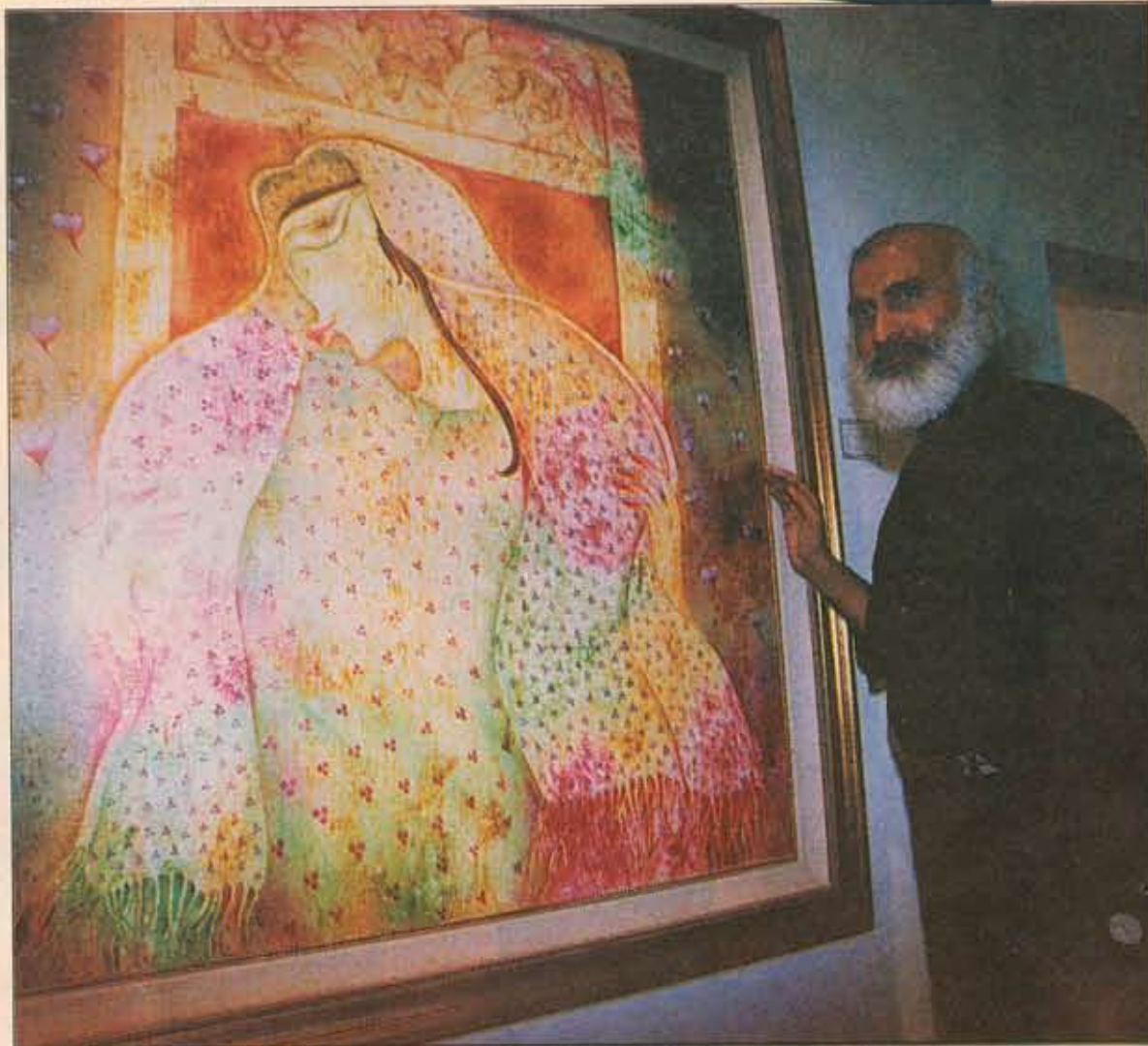
In 1988 one of his works was exhibited at Contemporary Paintings of Malaysia Exhibition in Los Angeles.

Although he has worked with other subject matters, Syed Thajudeen believes that the subject of love suits him best.

"I am most comfortable working with the subject.

"And I find it easier for me to give 'life' to the paintings," he said.

Syed Thajudeen refuses to be labelled as an expert on the sub-



Syed Thajudeen with one of his favourite pieces titled 'Waiting for the Lover.'

ject, but the father of two admitted love was essential in his life.

His setting, style and colours in this series portray the magical quality that is often found when love and romance is in the air.

Divided into several categories the exhibition includes paintings titled *Waiting for the Lover* and

Longing for Love.

His interpretation of a happy ending is probably portrayed in his paintings titled *Joy of Being Together* depicting the strong bonds of love and care between a man and a woman.

"The feelings depicted in the paintings although similar are

very different.

"Only those who experience it would know the feeling," he said.

Located at No 3 Persiaran Titiwangsa 3, Pelita Hati Gallery of Arts is open from 10am to 6pm every Monday to Friday and from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday. It closed on Sunday.