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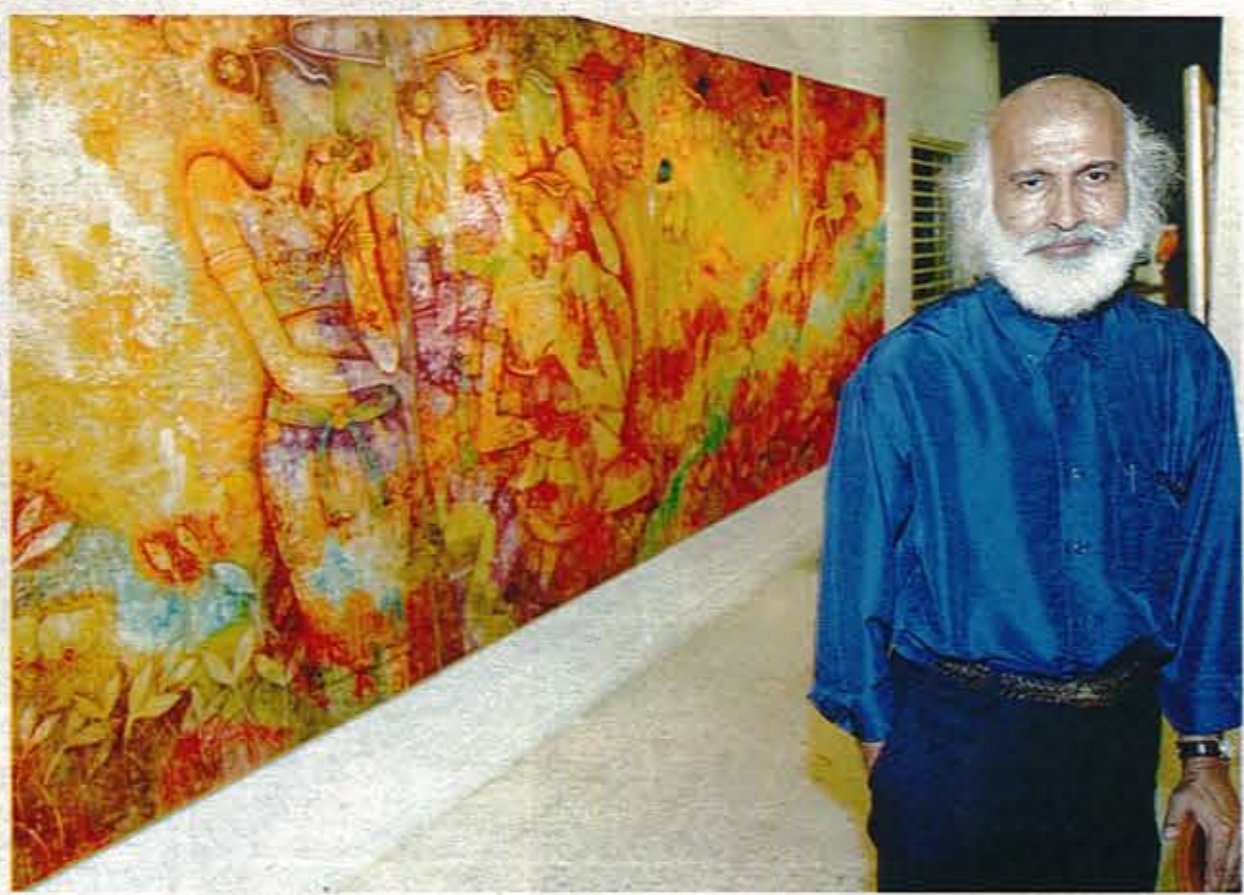
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Away from love: Syed Thajuden with his masterpiece *The Beginning*.

Let there be love

Amour and its emotions come to the fore

By PRIYA MENON
metro@thestar.com.my
Photos by KEVIN TAN

ARTIST Syed Thajuden opines that emotions behind love are forgotten. "Everything is so high-tech, everything is moving so fast that we forget the emotions behind love," he said. He has revived this in his exhibition entitled *Cinta Tercipta ... And There Is Love*, being held at the Pelita Hati House of Art Exhibition. Syed Thajuden's paintings capture

the excitement and love that two individuals feel in a riot of colours with bold hues. *The Kiss and The Embrace* are such paintings that feature the sensuality and tenderness of those in love. "I want the paintings to be colourful and cheerful, a depiction of being in love," he said. Hence, the Government College of Arts and Crafts in Chennai, India, graduate has paintings such as *Waiting For Love*, *Longing* and *The Joy Of Being Together* - a virtual poetry on love. His paintings also speak volumes of

»Spirituality is the highest point of love«
ARTIST SYED THAJUDEN

a man's devotion to God. One, called *Surrender*, is of a person deep in prayer.

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Waiting for love: *The Flower Girls* depicts young ladies grooming each other as they wait for the special someone.

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Batik series dedicated to PM's late wife

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Spirituality, he says, "is the highest point of love."
Syed Thajuden prefers red for his paintings' background to emphasise sensualism.

"Some subjects are lighter, some are stronger," he said.

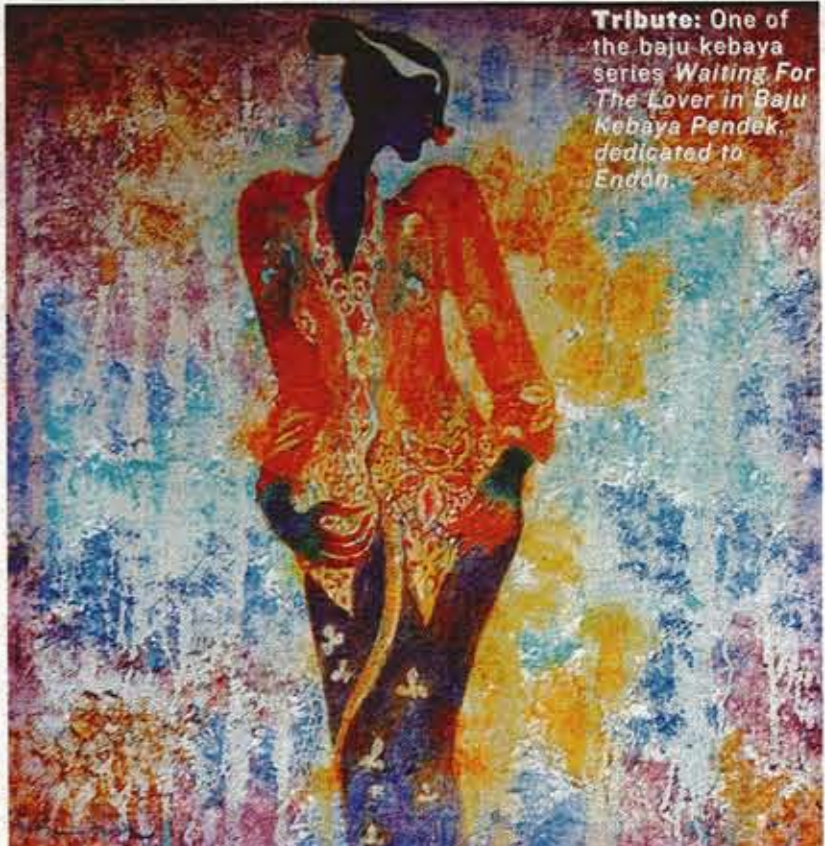
"We have to use colours that show us how heavy a subject is."
Women are featured prominently in Syed Thajuden's paintings, paired with God's other creations - for example, flowers adorning a maiden's hair, birds acting as messengers for lovers and with flora and fauna motifs everywhere.

"To bring out the essence of love, you need flowers," he said.

Syed Thajuden's favourite is *Surat Cinta*, which is of a woman holding a love letter and looking forlorn yet happy.

Ironically, his masterpiece is not a painting on love, but a tribute to Malaysian arts and history.

Called *The Beginning*, the painting is of the moment when Parameswara was sitting under a Malacca tree, watching a the kancil or mousedeer



Tribute: One of the baju kebaya series *Waiting For The Lover in Baju Kebaya Pendek* dedicated to Endon.



Joy of love: Lovers find bliss when they meet in this painting called *The Embrace*.

outsmarting his hunting dogs. "This is my way of doing something for history," he said.

"If Parameswara hadn't discovered Malacca, I don't know what would have happened to Malaysia."

Syed Thajuden has a *Kebaya* series too, to pay tribute to the late Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood. His admiration for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's late wife stemmed from one of her visits to his exhibitions.

"It is something I can do for the Malay culture," he said.

The art exhibition will be held until Saturday at the Pelita Hati at 22 Jalan Abdullah, Off Jalan Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.

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