



What's the story?: Raduan Man's double panel Dragon Ball series.



Rapt: A visitor admiring Ismail Mat Hussin's Kota Bharu Market (left) and Shafuddin Habib's Movement.

Show of expressions

Artists tell stories through their works at Malaysian Gems exhibition

By CHRISTINA LOW
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Photos by AZLINA ABDULLAH

LIKE the aphorism "a picture paints a thousand words", every artist has a story to share behind every piece.

Choong Kam Kaw's latest series — featuring different *taiji* poses — was one close to his heart.

The 77-year-old said the inspiration to draw these pieces came after he took up the Chinese martial art a few years ago.

"After being diagnosed with colon cancer some five years ago, I took up *qi gong* and found it beneficial to my health," he said.

To-date, Choong has exhibited his works in 10 art museums around the world.

At the ongoing Malaysian Gems exhibition, he contributes a piece from the series to share with Malaysians his love for martial arts.

Choong is one of the many

Malaysian artists participating in the exhibition which showcases a wide variety of subjects and mediums.

Artist Lim Ah Cheng, 42, whose love for movement can be seen in almost all of his paintings.

He cited *Flying with the Wind 27* — a team of horses racing against one another — as an example of his unique interest.

"In the West, paintings of horses are stiff, focusing only on their body and posture but in the East horses are painted in a more aggressive mood to express how the animal's strength," said Lim.

His another piece seen in the exhibition is *The Moving Body* which brought to life the gracefulness of an Indian dancer.

Aside from Choong and Lim, other artists featured in the exhibition are; Ahmad Zakii Anwar, Awang Damit Ahmad, Chuah Seow Keng, Chuah Siew Teng, Daud Rahim, Eric Quah,



Masters: (From left) Soon, Maamor, Choong and Lim are among the artists showing at the exhibition.

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Burst of colour: A three-panel painting by Syed Thajudeen entitled *Lightness of Being*.

Show pays tribute to late artists

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Fauzulyusri, Ismail Kadir, Ismail Mat Hussin, Khalil Ibrahim, Khoo Sui Hoe, Long Thien Shih, Maamor Jantan, Mokhtar Ishak, Multhalib Musa, Raduan Man, Shafuddin Habib, Soon Lai Wai, Syed Ahmad Jamal, Syed Thajudeen, Tajuddin Ismail, Yusof Ghani and Yusof Majid.

Held at the KL Lifestyle Art Space in Tropicana City Mall, the show also pays tribute to artists who have passed away. Among them are old paperwork by the late Mansor Ghazali dating back to 1957, rare works from well-known batik painter Datuk Chuah Thean Teng and notable pieces by Ahmad Khalid Yusof, M. Zain and Peter Haris.

There is a special section dedicated to Khalil Ibrahim where visitors can have at the 77-year-old's art pieces; ranging from sketches of Ungku Aziz drawn in 1971 to the 'Nude Line Sketch' which was inked last year.

Gallery chief executive officer Datuk Gary Thanasan said the highly-prized pieces came from their families, artists' private collection and through contributions from col-



Strong: Lim's *Playing with the Wind 27* sees a team of horses racing against one another to the finish line done in Oriental style.

lectors. "People usually feel intimidated by an art gallery, fearing they will not be able to afford the pieces on the wall.

"In a shopping mall, people are not so scared to step into a shop to see what is in there, which is why we

chose our first gallery to be opened here," he said.

He added many first-time collectors were amazed by the price of the pieces, often assuming large pieces would cost them a hole in the pocket. For details, call 019-333 7668.

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