



**In support of nature conservation:** Syed Thajudeen's oil on canvas artwork entitled 'Bonding'.



**Man and nature theme:** (From left) Thanasan, Dr Dionysius, artists Long Thien Shih, Syed Thajudeen and ambassador Harry Molenaar admiring Long's mixed-media painting entitled 'Pandarhino'.

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Photos by **SIA HONG KIAU**

# Plight of animals on canvas

Art exhibition in Bangsar in support of nature conservation

**T**HE combination image of a rhinoceros and panda, with a hacksaw hanging ominously over its head in Long Thien Shih's painting entitled *Pandarhino*, underscores the message and theme for Art for Nature 2013.

"Man And Nature" is the theme for AFN 2013 — WWF-Malaysia's annual charity art exhibition that serves to showcase works by Malaysian artists in support of nature conservation.

Held in aid of WWF-Malaysia since 1997, AFN depicts the various levels of interaction between man and nature through art, man's dependency on nature, the pressures on the environment from human activities, as well as scenes of harmony between man and nature.

It also highlights the importance of nature conservation to protect life on the planet.

Part of the sales proceeds from the exhibition will aid WWF-Malaysia's efforts to safeguard Malaysia's unique natural heritage and its critical conservation work in the country.

AFN 2013 features artworks by 20 artists, including Syed Thajudeen, Awang Damit Ahmad, Rapahel Scott Ahbeng, Jolly Koh and Tajuddin Ismail.

On *Pandarhino*, Long said: "It depicts the pain that animals suffer, sometimes indiscriminately, in the hands of man."

"Rhinos are killed for their horns, but it has never been scientifically

proven that consumption of rhino horn provides any benefit. It is due to ignorance that rhinos are killed.

"If the rhino had been born in a different situation and form, such as a panda, it would be safe."

The 68-year-old took two to three months to formulate the idea and message he wanted to convey for *Pandarhino*.

"I usually think about the given theme and best image to convey the message."

"This period can be very long and frustrating, as art, to me, is about getting the right ingredients in the right proportion," said the Klang-born artist who trained at L'école nationale supérieure des Beaux-Art and L'atelier 17, both located in Paris, France.

The resident artist at Universiti Malaya also said that he would be painting another piece for AFN 2013, after it was announced that *Pandarhino* was sold at the exhibition's opening.

Present at the launch were Netherlands ambassador Harry Molenaar, WWF-Malaysia executive director/CEO Datuk Dr Dionysius Sharma and KL Lifestyle Art Space CEO Datuk Gary Thanasan, whose gallery hosted the exhibition for the first time.

Dr Dionysius said, "This world is our only home, and finding a sacred bal-



**Abstract piece:** 'Breakthrough' by Mohamad Ismadi Sallehudin.

ance between man and nature is the focus for this year's AFN exhibition, as there is much work to be done.

"The 2011 Living Planet Report shows that we are currently living at a rate that consumes 1.5 planets' worth of resources.

"If we are going to ensure our food and freshwater security, as well as our

good quality of life in the years to come, we must take action to sustainably manage our resources, starting today."

Dr Dionysius said AFN was previously hosted by WWF-Malaysia trustee Angela Hijjas and her husband Hijjas Kasturi at Rimbun Dahan.

"Angela felt it was time to hand



**Highlighting flora:** Soon Lai Wai contributed two pieces for WWF-Malaysia's Art for Nature 2013. This artwork is called 'Song of Earth 6'.

over the exhibition to someone else after serving as trustee for 15 years."

"The proceeds that WWF-Malaysia receives from the exhibition will go towards funding projects that are more difficult to raise funds for, such as those on education, advocacy and policy work," he said.

Gary, who cited *Pandarhino* as one of the stand-out pieces at AFN 2013, said it was an honour for KL Lifestyle to take over the hosting duties from Rimbun Dahan.

AFN 2013 will be held until Oct 31 at KL Lifestyle Art Space, 150 Jalan Maarof, Bukit Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur.

The exhibition is open to the public from 10am to 7pm daily.

Admission is free. For details, call 03-2093 2668 or visit [wwf.org.my](http://wwf.org.my)

**Abstract piece:** 'Camouflage Series' by Mohd Jamil Mat Isa.



**For a good cause:** "Like Maiden's Hair" by Jolly Koh.