

Pengamat seni di Singapura mengenalinya sebagai penggiat seni halus dan teater terlebih dahulu. Selepas melayari kerjaya membuka minda selaku kurator kanan di Muzium Seni Singapura (SAM), Encik Khairuddin Hori menerima lamaran pusat seni terbesar Eropah, Palais de Tokyo di Paris, Perancis pula. **BERITA MINGGU** meninjau kembali kerjayanya sebagai Timbalan Pengarah Pengaturcaraan Artistik di pusat seni itu.

Berseni sana sini di persada dunia



SANTAPAN ATAS BUMBUNG: Inilah gambaran restoran sementara yang mudah dialihkan serta dibina arkitek, Encik Pascal Grasso, di atas bumbung Palais de Tokyo. - Foto BONJOUR PARIS

Mantan kurator Muzium Seni Singapura terajui misi eksperimental pusat seni terbesar Eropah

LAPORAN



HARYANI ISMAIL
haryani@sp.com.sg

DARI balik jendela pejabatnya di pusat seni kontemporari terbesar di Eropah, Palais de Tokyo sekitar Paris di Perancis, Encik Khairuddin Hori mampu menatap pemandangan indah Menara Eiffel.

Bagi pencinta seni yang teruja dengan setiap peluang mengembara ke serata dunia dan bertemu insan seni lain dengan idea kreatif, luar biasa lagi 'gila-gila', tugas beliau selaku Timbalan Pengarah Pengaturcaraan Artistik menjadi idaman. Mantan kurator kanan di Muzium Seni Singapura (SAM) itu tertawa besar dengan pertanyaan beberapa kenalan tentang kerjaya *jetsetting* (kerap mengembara ke sana sini) beliau yang dianggap mengagumkan lagi membuka minda dan mata.

"Ramai yang bertanya, 'Apakah gaji saya jauh lebih besar daripada dahulu?' Saya kata, 'saya di-gajikan seperti orang Perancis... tiada keistimewaan atau lonjakan pendapatan luar biasa'."

"Selepas sekian lama menolak pelawaan Presiden Palais de Tokyo, Encik Jean de Loisy, agar bekerjasama dengannya, saya akhirnya menerima tugas ini sekitar 14 bulan lalu kerana pusat seni ini terkenal dengan bimbingan pamerannya yang eksperimental, luar biasa lagi 'menggila' Perkenalkan dengan beliau bermula dalam rangka tugas saya di SAM.

"Saya inginkan pengalaman berbeza berpangkalan di Eropah dan memasyarakatkan seni di peringkat antarabangsa. Lebih daripada itu, saya tertaru dengan kesungguhan dan kepercayaan Encik de Loisy mendapatkan khidmat saya."

"Walhal ketetapan pusat itu ialah mengajikan orang Perancis terlebih dahulu sebelum meninjau calon dari Eropah."

"Dah tak dapat orang Eropah, barulah terakan pemilihan dalam kalangan orang luar benua itu. Ia bukan keputusan mudah sebab melibatkan perbincangan dengan pihak Kementerian Kebudayaan dan Komunikasi di Perancis," certanya dalam pertemuan di Maktab Seni Lasalle, baru-baru ini.

Baru-baru ini, Encik Khairuddin, 41 tahun, kembali ke tanah air bagi menerajui tugas selaku kurator pameran *Sous la lune/Beneath the moon*, hasil kerjasama Palais de Tokyo dengan Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Lasalle.

Beliau kini adalah penduduk tetap Perancis yang gigih mengarang penguasaan bahasa Perancis menerusi kursus pertuturan dan penulisan yang turut dihadiri karyawannya berbilang kaum dari serata dunia.

Misinya di Palais de Tokyo ialah membantu Encik de Loisy melakar visi pusat seni itu serta mengusahakan cara membangunyanya menjadi institusi yang mesra seniman lagi mampu menjaditai artis muda meraih pedadahan.

Beliau menyelia sepasukan kurator dalam butanya kerja cukup berbeza yang menggalkan semangat berdayakan dan kebebasan bersama.

Pameran pertama yang dikendalikan Encik Khairuddin ialah *Secret Archipelago* yang mengabungkan 35 seniman Asia Tenggara.

Beliau turut mengenalkan program yang memudahkan karyawannya kreatif daripada pakar seni



GIGIH BEREKSPERIMEN: Timbalan Pengarah Pengaturcaraan Artistik Palais de Tokyo di Paris, Encik Khairuddin Hori, teruja mengembara dunia dan membawa idea segar demi memasyarakatkan seni. Di belakangnya ialah seni pemasangan saintifik Cik Marguerite Humeau, yang antara lain menggunakan bisa ular dan susu badak. - Foto KHALID BABA



'DIBANJIRI' KELAINAN: Palais de Tokyo mengembalikan suasana peris Venetian Lagoon di Venice, Itali, dengan si pengunjung mengayuh sampan ke ruang pusat seni sambil meninjau bahan pameran Acquafata. - Foto BONJOUR PARIS

bina, pelakon dan pemuzik agar bertemu dan bertukar-tukar idea secara langsung dengan kurator.

Bagaimanapun, jiwa kesingapurannya sentiasa memanggil-manggilnya agar kembali ke 'kampung halaman' setiap dua atau tiga bulan sekali, baik untuk perbincangan projek atau bertemu keluarga dan teman.

"Selebihnya, beg pakaian saya bagaikan sudah bersedia berges ke mana-mana. Humbar sahaja apa yang perlu, angkat komputer riba dan langsung kembara seni."

"Hari ini, saya mungkin di China, membincangkan projek di Eropah. Esok, saya ada mesyuarat di Australia bagi melakar butiran projek di Singapura," certanya.

Sebagai seseorang yang pernah bergiat dalam seni halus, teater, seni bunian dan muzik, beliau tidak merasakan penceburannya dalam bidang-bidang itu terhenti begitu sahaja.

"Saya telah membawa kegiatan seni saya berkembang ke tahap yang berbeza yang memuaskan meskipun banyak cabarannya."

"Apabila saya mencari bakat baru di ruang siber, ia bagaikan proses *dating* dalam talian. Kami tidak pernah berjumpa dan beritus khabar berita. Kemudian buat janji temu yang membawa kami ke tahap urusan selanjutnya. Amanah mengetengahkan bakat yang tidak orang ketahui potensinya, saya junjung tinggi," jelasnya.

Encik Khairuddin telah melihat bagaimana Palais de Tokyo berubah wajah bak kota Venice yang dibanjiri air dalam satu pameran uni.

Pengunjung perlu mendayung sampan bagi meninjau sekeliling.

Beliau mengharapkan sumbangannya akan membawa perbezaan dalam dunia seni antarabangsa.

"Saya pernah menyelaras pameran solo seniman muda dari China, Tianzhou Chen, dengan konsep budaya pop dan budaya *underground* yang obses dengan populariti dan selebriti sehingga ia bak pegangan agama."

"Bulan depan, pameran solo dua beradik Perancis, The Quistrebets, sedang saya rancang. Yang menariknya, seorang menetap di Paris dan seorang pula di Amsterdam. Mereka bertemu di Paris demi seni."

"Penggunaan bahan lukisan abstrak yang nampak mahal tetapi murah seperti cat kereta, tanah liat dan lampu LED dimanfaatkan sehingga karya mereka mempunyai kesan hipnotisme yang memukau," ujarnya penuh harisan.

Didah bakat seniman muda ke mata dunia

MESKIPUN hanya titik kecil dalam peta dunia, Singapura tetap dilihat sebagai pusat perbincangan kesenian yang rancak dengan pertukaran idea bagi rantau Asia.

Disebabkan itulah, pameran *Sous la lune/Beneath the moon* terbitan pusat seni kontemporari, Palais de Tokyo di Paris, Perancis, dibawa terbang ke Galeri 1, Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Maktab Seni Lasalle.

Ia berlangsung dari 12 Disember lalu hingga 3 Februari ini dengan bentangan karya kreatif 11 seniman dari Asia Tenggara dan Perancis.

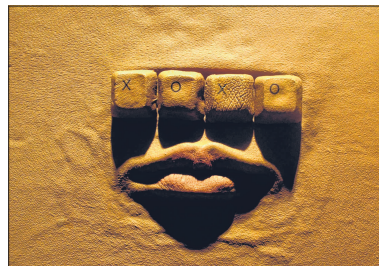
Timbalan Pengarah Pengaturcaraan Artistik Palais de Tokyo, Encik Khairuddin Hori, bertindak selaku kuratornya.

Menjelaskan matlamat pameran kerjasama itu, beliau berkata:

"Walaupun ruang di dalam pusat seni kami besar iaitu seluas 22,000 meter persegi, kami berusaha menjelajah ke luar Paris dan Perancis."

"Singapura menjadi tuan rumah Palais de Tokyo kerana ia menjadi bahagian yang baik seniman di rantau Asia Tenggara. Perancis pula menawarkan wadah penemuan seni baru."

"Pusat seni kami lebih suka me-



CUARAN ILHAM ARTIS MUDA: Seni pemasangan Cik Lou Lim dari Filipina yang diberi nama 'Message Delay' ini dihasilkan dengan menggunakan barangan di rumahnya. - Foto MAKTAB SENI LASALLE

ngetengahkan bakat muda yang tidak dikenali ramai tetapi memiliki daya usaha dan kreativiti luar biasa untuk diperkenalkan ke mata dunia."

"Ini juga satu formula jaya yang saya terapkan dalam pameran *Sous la lune/Beneath the moon* ini. Saya beri ruang buat seniman muda meluahkan apa sahaja isi hati dan ilham mereka."

Mengenai tajuk pameran, beliau berkata bulan adalah topik yang sering diperbualkan manusia bahkan turut dikaitkan dalam aspek agama.

"Cuma walau bagaimana terpercipi kita mengkaji bulan, kita hanya lihat sebahagian permukaan bulan. Ia boleh diumpamakan seperti hubunan sesama manusia."

"Beberapa seniman yang terlibat dalam pameran ini pertama kali sampai ke Asia dan hanya memiliki satu perspektif pemikiran tentang rantau ini. Justeru, inilah peluang mereka membuka minda agar mengenali Asia lebih dekat lagi."

Beberapa karya dalam pameran *Sous la lune/Beneath the moon* menarik perhatian.

Cik Lou Lim, 26 tahun, dari Filipina, mengambil kepingan lantai dapur dan dewan rumahnya untuk diubah menjadi arca. Ia mendedahkan garisan pemisah antara ruang privet dan awam.

Seni pemasangan artis Perancis, Cik Marguerite Humeau, 29 tahun, pula meninjau konsep kematian dan kehidupan abadi dengan bersandarkan mitos era purba Mesir.

"Menariknya, Cik Humeau menggunakan tembok kuning, busa uhar Black Mamba, darah buaya, susu badak daripada taman haiwan di Taiwan dan susu ibu bagi seni pemasangannya."

"Beliau mewujudkan semula sfera Cleopatra berbul dalam sembla bahasa di samping mencetak pit suara pemimpin itu menggunakan teknologi digital tiga dimensi (3D)," cerita Encik Khairuddin.

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Artfully everywhere on the global stage

From former curator at the Singapore Art Museum to Europe's largest contemporary arts centre

FROM the window of his office in the heart of the biggest contemporary arts centre in Europe, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, Mr Khairuddin Hori was able to gaze at the beautiful scenery of the Eiffel Tower.

For an art lover who is excited about the opportunities to travel the world and meet other artists with creative ideas, he enjoys his duties as the Deputy Director of Artistic Programming.

The former senior curator at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) has had a good laugh at acquaintances' questions about career jetsetting (frequent travel here and there). He considers this an admirable endeavour, also re-opening the mind and the eye.

"People are asking, 'Is my salary is much higher than before?' I said, 'I have been employed as a French person ... no privileges or a surge of extraordinary income'.

"After so long declining the invitation of the President of the Palais de Tokyo, Mr. Jean de Loisy, to work with him, I at last accepted this job about 14 months ago because of the famous art centre with exhibits that are experimental, unusual and 'crazy'! My acquaintance with him began within the framework of my duties in the SAM.

"I wanted a different experience based in Europe and to promote the arts internationally. More than that, I was overwhelmed by the seriousness and trustworthiness of Mr. de Loisy in seeking my services.

"The centre's usual stipulation is employing French people before reviewing candidates from Europe, then spreading it to outsiders beyond the continent. It was not an easy decision when discussions with the Ministry of Culture and Communication in France were involved," he explained in a recent interview at Lasalle College of the Arts.

Recently, Mr. Khairuddin, 41, returned to his homeland to lead as the curator of the exhibition *Sous la lune / Beneath the moon*, a collaboration between Palais de Tokyo and the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, Lasalle.

He is now a permanent resident of France who works hard to master the French language through speaking and writing courses also attended by employees of different races around the world.

His mission in Palais de Tokyo is to assist Mr. de Loisy in bringing out the art centre's vision and seeking ways to build a more artist-friendly institution that can help young artists to achieve exposure.

He oversees a team of curators in quite a different work culture which promotes self-reliance and freedom of expression.

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The first exhibition curated by Mr. Khairuddin was *Secret Archipelago* which brought together 35 artists from around Southeast Asia.

He also introduced a programme that allows employees to be creative. From architecture experts, actors and musicians, they are able to meet and exchange ideas directly with the curator.

However, his Singaporean spirit was always calling him to go back to 'home' every two or three months, both for project discussion or to meet family and friends.

"First and foremost, my suitcase is ready to rush anywhere. I throw in only what's necessary. Today, I am probably in China, discussing projects in Europe. Tomorrow, I have a meeting in Australia for sketching out details of the project in Singapore," he says.

As someone who has been in fine arts, theatre, music and art music, he does not feel satisfied to remain stationary.

"I expanded my artistic activities to different levels of satisfaction despite many challenges.

"When looking for new talent in cyberspace, it's like an online dating process. We don't meet before corresponding, and we go ahead to make an appointment that takes us to the next stage of affairs," he said.

Mr. Khairuddin has seen the Palais de Tokyo flooded with water in a unique exhibition which resembled the city of Venice. Customers need to paddle a canoe to explore the surroundings.

He hopes his contribution will make a difference in the world of international art.

"I have previously coordinated the solo exhibition of a young artist from China, Tianzhou Chen, with the concept of pop culture and underground culture that is obsessed with popularity and celebrity also religious beliefs.

"Next month, I am planning the solo exhibition of two sisters from France, the Quistreberts. Interestingly, one settled in Paris and one is in Amsterdam. They met in Paris for the sake of art.

"They employ the use of abstract painting that looks expensive, but is actually cheap as car paint, clay and LED lights benefits their work with a mesmerising effect of hypnotism," he said hopefully.

Reveals the talent of young artists to the world

ALTHOUGH only a small point in the global map, Singapore is still perceived as a centre of lively art discussions with the exchange of ideas for the Asian region.

Because of that, the exhibition *Sous la lune / Beneath the moon* can now be seen at Gallery 1, Institute Contemporary Arts Singapore, Lasalle College of the Arts.

It runs from December 12th to February 3rd with works of 11 artists from Southeast Asia and France.

Deputy Director of Artistic Programming Palais de Tokyo, Mr. Khairuddin Hori, is acting as curator. He said:

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"Although we have a space measuring 22,000 square meters, we tried to venture out of Paris and France.

"Singapore has become the focus of Palais de Tokyo as it has become the hub of the art world for artists in the region of Southeast Asia. France is showcasing and discovering new art from this region.

"The art we prefer to highlight is young talent that is not well known but has remarkable effort and creativity worth introducing to the world.

"This is a formula that I have applied successfully in the exhibition *Sous la lune / Beneath the moon*. I give space for young artists to express what is in their hearts and inspire them. "

Regarding the title of the exhibition, he said that the moon is a frequent topic of human talk and has even been linked in the religious aspect.

"But no matter how we look at the detail, we only see part of the lunar surface. It can be likened to human relations.

"Some of the artists involved in this exhibition are coming for the first time to Asia and only have one perspective of this region. Hence, this is their chance to open their minds to learn more about Asia, closer together. "

Several works in the exhibition *Sous la lune / Beneath the moon* were eye-catching.

Ms. Lou Lim, 26, from the Philippines, took the floor slab of the kitchen and hall from her home to be turned into a sculpture. It reveals the dividing line between private and public space.

French artist artistic installation, Ms. Marguerite Humeau, 29 years old, was surveying the concept of death and eternal life in relation to the myths of the ancient Egyptian era.

"Interestingly, Ms. Humeau used yellow walls coated with venom of the black mamba snake, crocodile blood, milk of a rhinoceros from the zoo in Taiwan and breast milk in this art installation.

"She re-created the sound of Cleopatra in nine languages by scoring the vocal chords through digital technology for a three-dimensional (3D) effect, "said Mr. Khairuddin.