



SENI PEMBUKA

MATA: Dengan peluang menjalani program jelajah dan penempatan seni di luar negara, Encik Mohd Khairullah Rahim lebih terdedah kepada perbezaan perkembangan seni di luar Singapura.

Rebut peluang jelajah seni di Taiwan dan China

JAUH perjalanan, luas pemandangan.

Melalui minat mendalam terhadap seni, pensyarah adjung jurusan seni halus di Maktab Seni Lasalle, Encik Mohd Khairullah Rahim, 29 tahun, berpeluang mengembara sambil menjelajah dunia seni sejagat.

Tahun ini, beliau bertuah kerana terpilih bagi dua program jelajah dan penempatan seni di Taiwan dan China.

Empat tahun lalu, beliau pernah ke Tokyo, Jepun, bagi satu program penempatan seni selama sebulan yang mengajarnya erti berdikari.

Kali ini, di Taiwan dan China, Encik Mohd Khairullah berminat memperluas pengamatannya tentang ruang persinggahan awam yang berubah wajah sekelip mata dek kegiatan kelompok tertentu.

Kajian dan kerja seni berupa lukisan dan arca yang mempunyai tema serupa pernah dihasilkan di Singapura dengan tajuk *Memori Daun Pisang*.

Secara am, ia mengupas penggunaan ruang taman awam di Chinese Garden setiap hujung minggu yang dijadikan persis lambang penyatuan golongan pekerja asing yang rasa terpinggir dan berhimpun di situ.

Sewaktu ditemui *Gah!* di Lasalle baru-baru ini, Encik Mohd Khairullah, yang memiliki ijazah Sarjana Muda Sastera (Seni Halus) dengan Keujian Kelas Pertama daripada Lasalle, menjelaskan:

“Saya dapat merasakan kuasa seni membawa saya merantau dunia. Sebelum mencecah usia 30 tahun, saya ingin merebut seberapa banyak peluang mengembara dan menghasilkan kerja seni yang bermakna.”

Beliau bakal berangkat ke Taipei sekitar lewat bulan depan kerana terpilih sebagai peserta program penempatan seni selama dua bulan anjuran Perkampungan Seniman Taipei di Taiwan.

Pemilihannya ke sana ialah hasil kerjasama Perkampungan Seniman Taipei dengan ruang seni tidak mengaup keuntungan, Grey Projects di Singapura.

Gerakan yang mengadakan pameran, ceramah, bengkel, kumpulan membaca dan program pertukaran itu menguar-uarkan usaha seniman setempat ke luar negara bagi menebarkan minat seni mereka.

Hujung minggu lalu pula, Encik Mohd Khairullah menerima berita gembira beliau dipilih sebagai salah seorang penerima Anugerah Impart.

Anugerah tersebut merupakan langkah baru yang dikenalkan pertubuhan pendidikan tidak mengaup keuntungan, Art Outreach, bagi menggalak bakat seni tempatan membangun kecemerlangan dalam kerjaya seni mereka.

Selama tiga bulan kelak, Encik Mohd Khairullah akan ke Institut Seni Halus Hubei di China yang dikenali sebagai pusat pendidikan seni bertauliah.

Beliau yang turut menerima ganjaran \$20,000 berminat meninjau pendekatan seni dan budaya kerja yang diamalkan khususnya dalam pembangunan kraf tangan.

Dengan nada teruja, beliau berkata: “Setiap kali ke luar negara bagi program sebegini, saya belajar tentang pengurusan masa dan kepentingan berdikari.

“Tiada siapa yang akan mengajar saya apa yang perlu dibuat. Saya harus bijak berkomunikasi dan mengkaji terlebih dahulu tempat yang ingin dikunjungi.

“Bagi saya, setiap kembara seni itu adalah pengalaman membuka mata yang membuat saya lebih arif tentang perkembangan dunia seni kontemporari di luar negara.”

Taking the opportunity to explore the arts in Taiwan and China

By Haryani Ismail

Photo: Through opportunities to undergo arts residency programmes overseas, Mr Mohd. Khairullah Rahim will be more exposed to developments in the arts scene outside of Singapore.

THE farther one journeys, the more one sees.

Through his deep interest in the arts, part-time Lecturer of Fine Arts at LASALLE College of the Arts, Mr Mohd Khairullah Rahim, 29, will get the chance to travel and explore global art. This year, he was lucky enough to be selected for two arts residency programmes in Taiwan and China.

Four years ago, he went to Tokyo, Japan for an arts residency programme for a month and it taught him to be independent.

This time around in Taiwan and China, Mr Mohd Khairullah's focus will be on public spaces. He believes the utility of these spaces can be gauged by observing how people use them in groups.

In the past, he has conducted observation studies at public spaces like Chinese Garden, and each time went, he would come across foreign workers who had gathered there. This inspired him to propose the idea of reinventing the garden as a symbol of unification of marginalised groups. His research led him to create an art installation in Singapore titled *Memori Daun Pisang* (*Memories of Banana Leaf*).

During his interview with *Gah!* recently, Mr Mohd Khairullah, a BA(Hons) Fine Arts graduate with first class honours from LASALLE, explained: "I feel the power of the arts lies in its ability to transcend geographical boundaries, so before reaching the age of 30, I wish to grab as many chances as I can to explore other cultures and produce meaningful artworks."

He will be leaving for the AIR Taipei residency at the end of next month. His selection for this programme was a result of a partnership between Taipei Artist Village and Singaporean organisation, Grey Projects. As a non-profit organisation, Grey Projects organises exhibitions, talks, workshops, reading sessions, and offers opportunities for local artists to go overseas in order to expand their interest in the arts.

Last weekend, Mr Mohd. Khairullah received the good news that he was selected as one of the recipients of the IMPART Awards. The Awards is a recent effort of non-profit educational organisation, Art Outreach, to encourage local art talents to pursue excellence in their careers.

Hence in 2018, Mr Mohd. Khairullah will be at the Hubei Institute of Fine Arts in China for another residency programme. On top of his placement at this programme, Mr Mohd Khairullah also received \$20,000 as a cash prize.

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When asked about the line of research he intends to pursue once in China, he mentioned that he is interested to look into the different artistic approaches that are unique to the practice and development of handicrafts.

In an excited tone, he said, "Every time I go on overseas programmes like these, I learn how to better manage my time and the importance of being independent because no one will teach me what I need to do. For instance, I have to be smart in communicating, and researching the places I wish to visit beforehand. For me, each art residency is an eye-opening experience because I get to understand more about the development of contemporary art that is outside of the Singapore setting."