

Kimono cetus ilham rekaan



– Foto TAUFIK A. KADER

KIMONO vintaj yang sudah beratus tahun lamanya dihasilkan dan tersimpan dalam koleksi usahawan Jepun, Cik Noriko Collins, tidak terbiar berhabuk dan rosak ditelan zaman.

Sebaliknya, sentuhan kreatif mahasiswa rekaan, media dan perindustrian fesyen di Maktab

Seni Lasalle, (*gambar, dari kiri*) Cik Nadhirah Halim, Cik Sulistriawati Awalluden dan Cik Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori, mampu memodenkan pakaian tradisional itu.

Apakah cabaran yang dihadapi mereka dalam menjayakan pameran 'Kimono In: Tangible' yang berlangsung

hingga Khamis ini di Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Lasalle?

Laporan lanjut di Muka 10.



Kimono-inspired designs

– Photo by TAUFIK A. KADER

With over hundred years of heritage, the vintage kimonos collection by Japanese entrepreneur Miss Noriko Collins have not been rendered obsolete or left to gather dust.

Thanks to the creative touches of Miss Nadhirah Halim, Miss Sulistriawati Awalluden and Miss Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori (*seen here from left to right*), who are BA(Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles and BA(Hons) Fashion Media and Industries students at LASALLE College of the Arts, the traditional garments were given a modern twist.

What were some of the challenges faced in ensuring the success of the *Kimono In: Tangible* exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore at LASALLE College of the Arts, which will be held until this Thursday?

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Tiga gadis suntik nafas baru pada kimono vintaj

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ANAK muda lain sebaya Cik Sulistriawati Awalluden mungkin payah menghayati keunikan dan simbolisme pakaian tradisional seperti kimono.

Namun, gadis berusia 21 tahun ini tidak gentar menyahut cabaran menyuntik nafas baru pada kimono vintaj yang mencecah usia lebih 100 tahun.

Beliau seronok menyelami budaya Jepun dan pengertian mendalam kimono dalam masyarakat tradisional negara matahari terbit itu.

Kimono yang diperolehi merupakan antara koleksi usahawan berketurunan Jepun, Cik Noriko Collins, yang mengumpulkannya kerana kekayaannya budaya yang dibawa bersamanya.

Memberi kesegaran pada bahan vintaj merupakan misi terkini Cik Sulistriawati selaku mahasiswa jurusan rekaan fesyen dan tekstil di Maktab Seni Lasalle, yang menyajikan pameran *Kimono in: tangible*.

Pameran yang berlangsung hingga Khamis ini di Institut Kontemporari Seni Singapura selatjar Lasalle, disertai 14 kumpulan pelajar daripada jurusan rekaan fesyen, media fesyen dan perindustrian fesyen.

Matlamat pameran ini ialah memersial nilai objek vintaj dengan wujudnya proses pemodenan dan transformasi. Apakah akan berlaku apabila sesuatu yang lama bertentangan dengan unsur yang baru?

Ketika ditemui *Gahi!* Jumaat lalu, Cik Sulistriawati, anak kedua dalam empat beradik, berkata:

"Konsep yang saya dan rakan-rakan terapkan adalah berdasarkan budaya *moga girls* atau pangilan buat gadis moden di Jepun sekitar tahun 1920-an.

"Mereka mengikut gaya hidup dan fesyen Barat seawal era tersebut. Mereka adalah karyawan yang ke kafeteria dan terpengaruh dengan cara hidup wanita Barat.

"Cabaran kumpulan kami ialah kimono vintaj yang diberi itu bercorak berbanding kimono kumpulan lain. Saya ingin mengekalkan corak tersebut kerana ia mempunyai makna tersendiri.

"Bagaimanapun, rekaan peralihan digunakan dengan kami menambah jahit tepi satu tangan bagi menambah unsur elegan kimono ini. Yang seronoknya, karya rekaan saya ini telah pun ada pembelinya! Seorang pensyarah berminat mendatakannya."

"Bidang fesyen begitu dekat di hati Cik Sulistriawati sehinggalah apabila ditawarkan kursus sains sekitar di Politeknik Republic, bidang rekaan fesyen tetap menjadi idamannya.

"Saya juga minat bidang perniagaan bimbingan mengambil kesempatan bekerja sambil belajar di Galeri Fatimah Mohsin.

"Harapan saya dapat mencari pengalaman di syarikat reka fesyen Muslimah di Australia selepas tamat pengajian sebelum mengusahakan perniagaan di Singapura bersama kakak saya," ceritanya lagi.

Cik Nadhirah Halim, 21 tahun, pelajar jurusan media dan perindustrian fesyen, pula teruja dengan misi memasak dan menjenamakan karya kumpulan yang fokus pada konsep *Yakuza* atau mafia Jepun.

"Saya lihat persamaan antara satu yang tertera pada si mafia Jepun dengan corak pada kimono.

"Ia melambangkan siapa diri dan personaliti si mafia atau pemakai kimono.

"Kumpulan kami cuba paparkan fesyen perbandingan sekitar tahun

1600-an. Golongan *Yakuza* ini menerima julukan 'Robin Hood Jepun'.
"Mereka melakukan kejahatan tetapi ada kalanya seperti Robin Hood yang mencuri daripada si kaya untuk keperluan si miskin, *Yakuza* menganas demi membantu golongan yang tertindas," jelasnya.

Cik Nadhirah yang gemar membaca majalah fesyen bagi mendapatkan idea terkini ingin membuktikan kepada ibu bapanya bahawa beliau akan berjaya dalam bidang fesyen yang dekat di hatinya.

Bekas pelajar Maktab Rendah Pioneer, Cik Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori, 20 tahun, yang mengikuti bidang media fesyen dan perindustrian, juga mendalami sejarah penghasilan *kimono*.

Yang menariknya, kimono jenis ini digunakan lelaki atau lebih tepat lagi golongan samurai yang menganas di zaman pemerintahan Edo (1603-1867).

"Ketua samurai mereka meninggal dunia dan mereka terkapai-kapai tanpa pemimpin.

"Lantaran itu, mereka mula menganas membunuh golongan yang tidak bersalah apabila cara pemerintahan barisan pemimpin baru tidak disukai.

"Teruja saya melihat betapa si lelaki gagah rela menggunakan kimono berwarna-warni, berlapis lagi banyak coraknya! Itulah sumber ilham kami," tambahnya yang berharap dapat menjadi stilis fesyen yang memajukan produk dandanan anak watan Singapura yang mampu digandingkan dengan produk bertaraf antarabangsa.

► Pameran di ruang Praxis dan Projek, Institut Seni Kontemporari Singapura, Maktab Seni Lasalle, dibuka dari 12 tengah hari hingga 7 malam.



TERBUKA KERANA ILHAM 'MENJADI': (Gambar kiri) Cik Sulistriawati Awalluden bersama rekaan moden yang menerapkan unsur-unsur budaya 'moga girls' atau wanita Jepun yang dipengaruhi budaya Barat sekitar era 1920-an. – Foto-foto TAUFIK A. KADER



LAMBANG PERSONALITI DAN GAYA PAHLAWAN: Cik Nadhirah Halim (gambar atas) menyamakan tatu pada badan mafia Jepun atau *Yakuza* dengan corak berwarna-warni yang ada pada kimono vintaj kerana ia melambangkan personaliti si empunya diri. (Gambar kiri) Cik Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori pula bersama hasil ciptaan keunikan budaya pahlawan Samurainya zaman pemerintahan Edo yang menggunakan kimono.



Three ladies breathe new life into vintage kimonos

THRILLED WITH THE "REALISATION" OF HER INSPIRATION: (Left) Miss Sulistriawati Awalluden stands with her modern design which employs "moga girls" elements, a term coined to describe Westernised Japanese women around the 1920s.

A SYMBOL OF PERSONALITY AND STYLE OF A WARRIOR: Miss Nadhirah Halim (top photo) likens the tattoos on Japanese mafia (also known as the *Yakuza*) to the colourful motifs on vintage kimonos as they represent the personalities of the wearers. (Left) Miss Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori poses with the outfit designed by her team, which showcases the cultural uniqueness of Samurai warriors who wore kimonos during the reign of Edo.

Youngsters around the same age as Miss Sulistriawati Awalluden might find it hard to appreciate the uniqueness and symbolism of traditional outfits such as the kimono.

However, this 21-year-old student is undaunted by the challenge of injecting a new breath of life into a vintage kimono which is over a hundred years old.

She enjoys delving into Japanese culture and exploring the meaning of the kimono in the traditional society of the land of the rising sun.

The kimonos featured in this exhibition are inspired by the collection of Japanese entrepreneur Miss Noriko Collins, who collects these garments by virtue of their rich innate culture and heritage.

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To ensure the success of the *Kimono in: tangible* exhibition, Miss Sulistriawati, a BA(Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles student at LASALLE College of the Arts, was armed with the mission to give the vintage garment a fresh touch.

The exhibition, which is on until this Thursday at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore at LASALLE College of the Arts, features works of 14 student teams from the BA(Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles, and BA(Hons) Fashion Media and Industries programmes.

The objective of this exhibition is to question the value of vintage objects through the process of modernisation and transformation.

What will happen when old meets new?

When interviewed by *Gah!* last Friday, Miss Sulistriawati the second child among four siblings, said, "My friends and I have applied the concept of the "*moga girls*" culture, which is a term coined to describe modern Japanese women around the 1920s.

"They adopted Western lifestyles and fashion trends even during that era. They were working women who frequented cafes and were influenced by the lifestyles of Western women.

"The challenge we faced was in retaining the motifs of the vintage kimono assigned to my team – they were different from the other teams. I wanted to keep those motifs as they had their own special meaning.

"Hence, we utilised transitional designs through stitching the hems to give the kimono an extra touch of elegance. I am thrilled that the outfit I designed has found itself a buyer! A lecturer is interested in buying it."

As the fashion industry is close to Miss Sulistriawati's heart, she decided to pursue fashion design even when she was offered a place in an environmental science course in Republic Polytechnic.

"I am also interested in business and have taken the opportunity to work while studying at the Fatimah Mohsin Gallery.

"I hope that I will be able to gain experience in Muslimah fashion design companies in Australia upon completing my studies, before starting a business in Singapore with my sister," she continued.

Miss Nadhirah Halim, 21, a BA(Hons) Fashion Media and Industries student, was fascinated with the mission to market and brand her team's designs which focused on the *Yakuza* (Japanese mafia) concept.

"I see the similarities between the tattoos on the Japanese mafia and the kimono motifs.

"They represent the identity and personality of the mafia or the wearer of the kimono.

"Our team tried to showcase urban fashion in the 1600's. The Yakuza are known as the "Robin Hoods of Japan."

"Although they commit crimes, sometimes they do so to help the oppressed, just like Robin Hood who stole from the rich to aid the poor," she explained.

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Miss Nadhirah, who enjoys reading fashion magazines to get the latest ideas, intends to show her parents that she will succeed in the fashion industry that she holds close to her heart.

On the other hand, BA(Hons) Fashion Media and Industries student Miss Siti Amirah Mohamed Asrori, 20, who formerly studied in Pioneer Junior College, explored the history of *kabu kimono* production.

It is interesting to note that men used to wear this kind of kimono, or to be exact, Samurai terrorists during the reign of Edo (1603-1867).

“When the head of Samurai passed away, they were lost without a leader.

“Following the death of their leader, they started terrorising and murdering innocent parties when they disapproved of the regime of the new leaders.

“I am fascinated that these strong men would be willing to wear colourful kimonos with many layers and motifs! That became our source of inspiration,” she said, adding that she hopes to become a fashion stylist to promote home-grown Singaporean makeup products and put them in the same stead as international products.

The exhibition at Praxis Space and Project Space at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts is open from 12 pm to 7 pm.