

Lukisan tembok ‘ceriakan’ Little India



TERSERGAM INDAH TEMBOK LITTLE INDIA: (Dari kiri) Cik Dina Nerina Hamzah, Encik Nor Saeful Malek Mod Talib dan Cik Nur Shireen Marican Hamid Marican mengamati lukisan tembok tentang pekerjaan silam di Little India yang dihasilkan sempena pesta seni Artwalk Little India. – Foto ZAINAL YAHYA

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TEMBOK usang sebuah rumah kedai di Belilios Lane sekitar kawasan Little India berubah wajah menjadi ‘ceria’ hasil perkongsian idea mahasiswa pengurusan seni di Maktab Seni Lasalle dengan pelukis setempat.

Sempena pesta seni berbilang disiplin Artwalk Little India, pengunjung dibawa menyusur jalan kenangan meninjau lukisan tembok yang memaparkan beberapa pekerjaan silam yang pernah mewarnai Little India. Ini termasuk tugas si tukang tilik yang dibantu burung kakak tua, benggali penjual susu, pegerai air batu kepal dan penjual kalungan bunga.

Ia merupakan tahun kedua pesta yang turut diadakan seiringan dengan Minggu Seni Singapura

itu diusahakan Maktab Seni Lasalle dan Lembaga Pelancongan Singapura (STB) dengan kerjasama Persatuan Pekedai dan Warisan Little India (Lisha) dan Pusat Warisan Indian.

Selain lukisan tembok dan seni pemasangan yang tampak gah di sudut strategik Little India, orang ramai berpeluang menonton filem yang berlegar di sekitar kehidupan masyarakat India mahupun menikmati persembahan muzik dan kebudayaan yang disajikan pelajar dan lulusan Lasalle serta kumpulan seni setempat.

Mahasiswa tahun kedua di Lasalle, Cik Nur Shireen Marican Hamid Marican, 20 tahun, menjelaskan Artwalk Little India itu menyatukan pelbagai lapisan masyarakat Singapura dalam meneroka kekayaan seni, sejarah, tradisi dan budaya di Little India.

“Saya dapat rasakan semangat kemasyarakatan yang kuat dalam kalangan pekedai, penduduk dan pengunjung tetap di Little India ini dalam meneruskan urusan harian di samping memajukan seni tradisi,” katanya.

Rakannya, Cik Dina Nerina Hamzah, 23 tahun, pula menambah: “Projek ini menekankan kerjasama orang ramai dengan sesetengah daripada mereka juga bersungguh-sungguh ingin mencorak seni tersendiri.”

Cik Nur Shireen yang meminati seni visual dan Cik Dina Nerina, seorang penggiat seni tari di Sri Warisan, ditugaskan mengendalikan projek seni ini sejak Ogos tahun lalu.

Pengalaman yang ditimba membuka ruang bagi mereka memahami cita rasa pekedai dan penduduk Little India yang mahu kawasan itu kekal bermaya.

Encik Nor Saeful Malek Mod Talib, 26 tahun, yang menghasilkan lukisan tembok indah bersama tiga lagi temannya pula menyifatkan faktor cuaca sebagai cabaran menyiapkan hiasan gah itu.

“Apabila hujan lebat, kami terpaksa berhenti mengecat. Kalau panas terik, berpeluh-peluhlah melukis di bawah sinaran matahari. Kerja turun naik palang tinggi juga memerlukan ketangkasan tanpa mengabaikan keselamatan.

“Bagaimanapun, kami seronok menggambarkan nostalgia Little India dan lebih gembira apabila ramai pekedai ingin lukisan ini menjadi penghias tetap tembok rumah kedai,” jelasnya.

Satu persembahan muzik dan kebudayaan akan disajikan pada 7.30 malam ini di Campbell Lane sebelum Minggu Seni Singapura menutup tirainya esok.

Wall mural “brightens up” Little India

BEAUTIFUL TOWERING WALL MURAL OF LITTLE INDIA: (From left) Ms Dina Nerina Hamzah, Mr Nor Saeful Malek Mod Talib and Ms Nur Shireen Marican Hamid Marican admire the wall mural depicting traditional jobs in Little India which was painted as part of the ARTWALK LITTLE INDIA.— Photo by ZAINAL YAHYA

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The dilapidated wall of a shop house on Belilios Lane in Little India has received a “brightening” makeover thanks to the exchange of ideas between LASALLE College of the Arts BA(Hons) Arts Management students and local artists.

The ARTWALK LITTLE INDIA, a multidisciplinary art festival, brings visitors down memory lane with a wall mural depicting traditional jobs that have lent colour to Little India. The jobs depicted include that of fortune tellers assisted by parrots, Bengali milk salespersons, ice ball stallholders and wreath sellers.

The festival, held for its second year in conjunction with the Singapore Art Week, is a collaborative effort between LASALLE College of the Arts and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) with support from the Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association (LISHA) and Indian Heritage Centre.

Besides appreciating wall murals and installation art pieces in strategic corners of Little India, the public may also watch films revolving around the lives of the Indian community and enjoy musical and cultural performances put up by LASALLE students and graduates as well as local arts groups.

Ms Nur Shireen Marican Hamid Marican, 20, a second-year student, explained that ARTWALK LITTLE INDIA unites Singaporeans from all walks of life through exploring the richness of art, history, tradition and culture in Little India.

“I can feel the strong sense of community among the shopkeepers, residents and regular patrons of Little India as they go about their day-to-day lives while preserving traditions,” she said.

Her friend, Ms Dina Nerina Hamzah, 23, added: “This project emphasises collaboration among a big group of people with some of them working really hard to create their own art.”

Visual arts enthusiast, Ms Nur Shireen and Sri Warisan dance art enthusiast, Ms Dina Nerina were tasked to handle this art project in August last year.

The experience opened up avenues for them to understand the likings and preferences of the shopkeepers and residents of Little India who hope that the liveliness of the area will be maintained.

Mr Nor Saeful Malek Mod Talib, 26, who produced the beautiful wall mural together with three of his friends, said that the weather posed a challenge in completing the decorative piece of art.

“We had to stop painting whenever there was heavy rain. When it was scorching hot, we would be bathed in sweat, painting under the sun. Climbing up and down high poles also required agility without neglecting safety.

“However, we are delighted to depict the nostalgia of Little India and are even more happy to hear that many shopkeepers would like this mural to be a permanent decorative feature on the wall of their shophouses,” he said.

A musical and cultural performance will be presented at 7.30 pm tonight at Campbell Lane before the Singapore Art Week comes to an end tomorrow.