

Headline	Local art exhibition raises funds for womens HIV		
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# Local art exhibition raises funds for women's HIV

**A**RTAID16, an exhibition organized by the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) in aid of women with HIV, returned for a second year with a showcase of artworks from 46 Malaysian contemporary artists.

Under the theme 'Love for Sale,' the artworks aimed to raise awareness and funds for women's HIV health programmes under the MAF. Of the 63 artworks worth more than half a million ringgit, more than half were sold for a total of RM140,000 during the nine-day exhibition, which included works

L- R: Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, ARTAID16 advisor and MAF Trustee Ahmad Zakii Anwar, MAF Chairman Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, and Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim

by established and emerging artists such as Ahmad Zakii Anwar, Nia Khalisa, Poodien and Gan Chin Lee.

"The overwhelming success

of last year's ARTAID15 — which raised a total of RM230,000 for our women's HIV treatment, care and support

programmes—not only inspired us to continue this endeavour, but also encouraged us to double the scale and ambition of the exhibition," said Professor Dr. Adeeba Kamarulzaman, chairman of the MAF.

According to the MOH Division of Disease Control, at present over 12,000 cases of female HIV infections have been identified in Malaysia, with the ratio of male to female patients having shifted from 10:1 in 2001 to 4:1 in 2013. This has been linked to the trend of sexual transmission increasingly superseding drug injections as a source of infection. While in 2005 drug use and sexual activity accounted for 65% and 25% of new HIV infections respectively, in 2013 they accounted for 22% and 74%, indicating a reversal of the scales.

"Women now are faced with a two-fold increase in HIV risk with respect to men compared to ten years ago," said Dr. Adeeba, who added that the primary risk factor for women appeared to be marriage rather than any other related

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"The 'Love for Sale' collection evokes our collective hopes and ideals of an AIDS-free generation, where barriers are broken down, our differences are celebrated, communities thrive and no one is left behind," said Ahmad Zakii Anwar, contributing artist and advisor of the ARTAID16 exhibition. "As efforts to end AIDS mount, it has become increasingly clear that without love, the battle against AIDS cannot be won."

Remaining pieces from the exhibition will continue to be sold up to 7th Dec 2016. For further information, visit [www.artaid16.yam.org.my](http://www.artaid16.yam.org.my).

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