

Headline	Artist tells stories of Asia		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	31 May 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	s8,9	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	869 cm ²
Journalist	Sarah Rahim	AdValue	RM 28,242
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 84,726



Artist tells stories of Asia

ROOT: Ketna Patel said it is about time for Asia to reclaim its place in the world

SARAH RAHIM

KUALA LUMPUR
streets@nstp.com.my

KETNA Patel wants to share the stories of Asia with the world through artworks on architecture, culture exchange, entertainment, religion, patterns, street people and socioeconomics.

Her exhibition, *Rojak Asia*, was launched by Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir at 150, KL Lifestyle Art Space, Jalan Maarof, Bukit Bandaraya recently.

Its chief executive officer Datuk Gary Thanasan said the exhibition runs until June 15 and 10 per cent of the proceeds would go to the PT Foundation.

PT Foundation is a community-based organisation that provides information, education and care services relating to HIV or AIDS and sexuality in Malaysia.

Marina, extended her well wishes to Ketna, encouraging women's participation in advocacy through paintings, writings, songs, theaters and other art forms.

"Colours in her works really popped up. It was appealing as these scenes are familiar to us but may have been forgotten," said Marina.

Ketna said there was a lot to be

discovered if Asians explored their history and look closer to home. The exhibition is part of the ongoing ASIA POP! project.

"Global media narratives and renowned brands have always been dominated by the West," she said, adding that this had led to crisis of self-image and worth.

She hoped that Asians would reaffirm a strong identity by embracing diversity as it would unleash their potential.

"I made acrylic painting, sofa, barber's chair, foot stool, lampshades, an advertisement pieces based on this theme. With technology, possibilities are endless," she said.

Ketna added that instead of separating cultures, she combined them together in single pieces to depict unity.

"In 'India discovers China', a Chinese housewife was sewing to patch up differences while an Indian mother-in-law gave out keys as a symbol of trust to care for her belongings," she said.

She said a thought-provoking piece on disrespecting polarity or opposite attributes resulting in losses was available for audience to ponder on.

"For 'I Love Hero But I Hate the War' a sex-worker and a Red Guard had subjective reflections on the loss of beauty due to the nature of their work," she said.

On her contribution to PT Foundation, Ketna said she was grateful to be able to help.

"Uninformed prejudice can be a blind prejudice that will limit dialogue," she added.

"Two-way communication is important so that they will not feel shunned by society."

PT Foundation chairman Hisham Hussein said HIV infection cases had been declining in Malaysia since 2010 but more sex-workers were being infected, compared with needle users.

"We work with the Health Ministry and Women, Family and Community Development Ministry to overcome this. We do patient referrals and have Bar Council cooperation on legal issues," he said.

Hisham said owing to Malaysia's status as a middle-to-upper income country, there was a lack of technical expertise and funding support from the world as compared with countries such as Cambodia.

"Counter-measures are rendered ineffective by the lack of information dissemination such as on safe sex," he said, adding that strategy must take into account actual trends rather than figures alone.

He added that PT Foundation gave nominal salaries and allowances to its staff.

The gallery opens daily from 10am to 7pm.

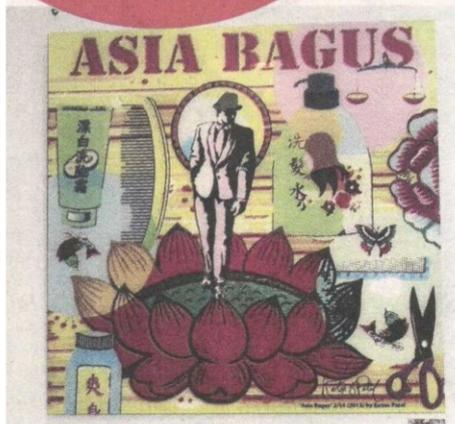
Headline	Artist tells stories of Asia		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	31 May 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	s8,9	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	869 cm ²
Journalist	Sarah Rahim	AdValue	RM 28,242
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 84,726

(From left) **Ketna Patel, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir and Datuk Gary Thanasan** at the *Rojak Asia* exhibition.



"Global media narratives and renowned brands have always been dominated by the West."

Ketna Patel
Artist



Asia Bagus, a talent show, is captured in this piece.

Headline	Artist tells stories of Asia		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	31 May 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	s8,9	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	869 cm ²
Journalist	Sarah Rahim	AdValue	RM 28,242
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 84,726

