KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	STAR METRO			
TARIKH	:	19/1/2022 (RABU)	MUKA SURAT	:	8
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Fadzil posing with the Malayan tiger family sculptures at Kwai Chai Hong in Lorong Panggung, Kuala Lumpur.



Art of protecting the Malayan tiger

Two local artists give festive touch to popular laneway in Chinatown while raising awareness

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INSPIRED by the majestic Malayan tiger, the latest art installation at Kwai Chai Hong in Lorong Panggung, Kuala Lumpur, featuring a family of tigers, has an urgent message to convey.

Themed "Live Wild and Prosper", the sculptures highlight the need to save the Malayan tiger and encourage the public to raise awareness of this in conjunction with the Year of the Tiger.

This year, two local artists, Alice Chang of Lai Lai Art Studio and Fadzil Huzaire, crafted thematic artworks that represent the relationship between the Malayan tiger and humankind, while giving it a Chinese New Year touch.

Visitors to the attraction, a laneway surrounded by shoplots in Chinatown, can admire the sculptures of a Malayan tiger family under a stretched fabric art that hangs high above the walkway.

Bai Chuan Management managing partner Zeen Chang said her team wanted to do something special and meaningful, not just for the nearby community but also for the larger ecosystem that they live in.

"It is devastating that the Malayan tiger is on the brink of extinction.

"We want to do our part by educating the public through art.

"According to WWF-Malaysia, there are no more than 200 Malayan tigers left in Malaysia, so we must do something to protect them.

"We are glad that both artists share the same passion and joined us in this art installation," she said.

Bai Chuan Management oversaw the restoration of the façade of 10 heritage shophouses and rejuvenation of the laneway between Lorong Panggung and Jalan Petaling in the project known as Kwai Chai Hong.



Stretched pieces of fabric hung high up at Kwai Chai Hong. — Photos: FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

At the site, Alice's sculptures consists of a pair of adult tigers looking after their cub.

The ideation process for her artwork took about three months and she spent two months putting recycled tiles onto the metal frames outlining the shape of the tigers.

"Helping endangered tigers is about protecting them and increasing their population in their own habitat.

"Instead of creating the usual proud-looking solitary animal, I chose to feature a family of tigers as a symbol of love, hope, protection and repopulation," Alice told *StarMetro*.

In support of WWF-Malaysia's conservation efforts, all proceeds from the sale of the sculpture will go towards saving the Malayan tiger.

Meanwhile, red and white cloths are stretched all over Kwai Chai Hong.

Titled "Stretch Out", the rendition of avant-garde stretch fabric art is the brainchild of Fadzil, who goes by the artistic name of "Odd".

His artwork is fused with prints of tiger images inspired by paper cutting.

"It was printed on four-way nylon lycra fabric. I had to make use of Kwai Chai Hong's setting to anchor the sides of the fabrics.

"This means using tree branches and parts of the shoplots to stretch the fabric," he said.

The Live Wild and Prosper art installation is also sponsored by Tiger Beer.

Kwai Chai Hong is open to the public daily from 9am to 10pm.