

ART EXHIBITION AT THE SARAWAK MUSEUM

Coordinated by Goh Tze Hui (a student volunteer)

Siniawan is a historical town with many stories untold. In order to raise public awareness on the conservation of historical buildings, the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) has initiated a community-based heritage conservation project called "Reminiscing Forgotten Treasures, SINIAWAN" together with Wujiaoji (The Talent and Art Performing Group) and the Siniawan Heritage Conservation Committee, which was also supported by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd. It has been almost 3 years since the launching of the project in 2009, and the old town is once again in the public eye through a series of activities held by SHS, such as oral history with the local elders, architectural measured drawings by volunteers, photographing buildings for record and the latest being a sketching weekend led by artist Hoan Kee Huang on 3rd September 2011.

Subsequently, Sarawak Heritage Society collaborated with the Sarawak Museum Department on an art exhibition entitled "***From Studio to Old Street – Capturing cultural heritage through art***" by a renowned local artist **Hoan Kee Huang**. The exhibition was held from 14th January to 12th February 2012 at the Sarawak Museum. The launching ceremony was held on the 14th January (Saturday) at 9.30am. This exhibition was sponsored by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.





Artist Hoan has a passion for local culture. Participating in the project since inception, he has committed himself to recording Siniawan's heritage through his paintings. The gifted artist specialises in portraits and landscapes that are painted in an eye-catching and innovative brush style and created paintings that have a three-dimensional feel. He said that each of his works of art is imbued with rich emotions of the land and strives to invoke the viewers' passion and love towards their own land and culture.

Hoan has held two solo exhibitions: "Portraits of Sarawak" in Kuala Lumpur (2003) and "Portraits of Malaysia" in Kuching (2005). In 2008, he also organised a retrospective exhibition entitled "Sarawak's 1st Generation Fine Art Artist" featuring 6 local pioneers in Sarawak's art scene. His paintings had been collected by various galleries and collectors including Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail. In 2003, Hoan was also commissioned to draw the portraits of His Royal Highness (Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII) and His consort, Tuanku Fauziah binti Tengku Abdul Rashid.

A series of graphic panels summarising activities carried out under this Community-based Heritage Project were also exhibited in conjunction to Hoan's exhibition. Members of the public were encouraged to view these works of art.

The exhibition was publicized in local newspapers, banners and flyers and well received by all. The society would like to extend its appreciation to the artist, Hoan Kee Huang; organizing partners; sponsor and volunteers for their hard work in each capacity.



Artist Hoan presented a painting to the Sarawak Museum Department's permanent collection.



Artist Hoan being interviewed by reporters.

Invited guests viewing the exhibitions.