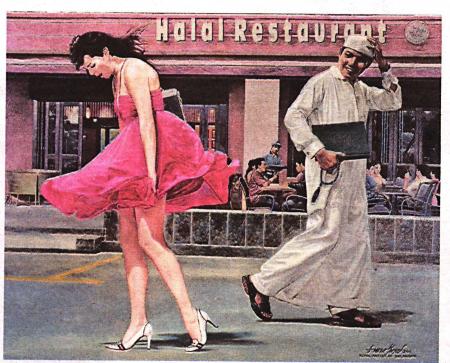
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OCTOBER 1, 2017 | BROUGHT TO YOU BY NEW SUNDAY TIMES

A ROYAL collection

SHOWCASE OF ART PIECES CLOSE TO THE SELANGOR SULTAN'S HEART COVER STORY P14-15

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A HEART'S BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPFS

Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj's personal art collection makes its impressive debut at Galeri Prima, writes

Sarah NH Vogeler



Had I the heaven's embroidered cloths Enwrought with golden and silver light The blue and the dim and the dark cloths Of night and light and the half-light I would spread the cloths under your feet But I, being poor, have only my dreams I have spread my dreams under your feet Tread softly because you tread on my dreams

The Cloths of Heaven W. B. Yeats

t's always the stories behind a particular art collection which engages us the most. How a collector begins accumulating works, his first purchase and buying processes, and how the collection itself echoes the personality of the owner. An exceptionally breathtaking assemblage of works can open up endless worlds. And good art does one thing without fail: it makes references to our existence.

Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah is delightfully approachable, and his passion for the arts is profound as he took us for a personal tour of his splendid collection recently. In the beginning, it was difficult to concentrate

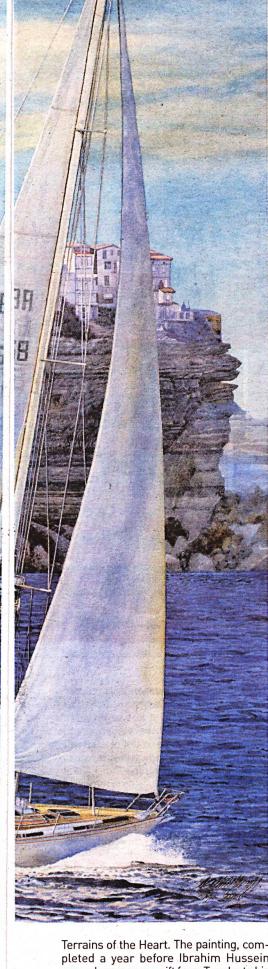
as a throng of people with cameras and more cameras were clicking enough times to blind you for the next 10 days. But as Tuanku speaks, everything else thankfully disappears. There's only him and his art. There are various types of collectors, and each one is stirred by a mass of impulses. Tuanku knows each painting and its story by heart. His art is deeply personal; it's his very own pleasure principle.

There are 33 works altogether, rendered by 14 artists; Chuah Thean Teng, Anisa Abdullah, Jaafar Taib, Datuk Sharifah Fatimah Syed Zubir, Royal Painters Datuk Hoessein Enas, Ahmad Nazri Abdullah and Datuk Azman Yusof, Shafie Hi Hassan, Ilse Noor, Datuk Mohd Nor Khalid or

lovingly known as Lat, Datuk Ibrahim Hussein, Haron Mokhtar, Raja Azhar Idris and Abdul Fatah Ngah. We take a look at the 'superstars" of the show, works which not only beguile, but leave ineradicable marks

SHOWCASE IN MASTERPIECE

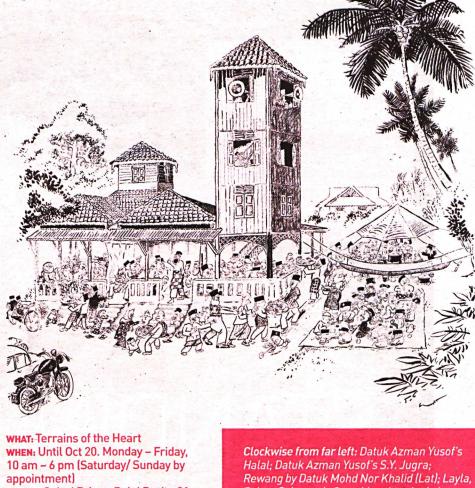
Six of Ibrahim's works are on show: Kimono [1996], Helmet (2000), HRH Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Selangor (1985), Mix (1983), Lovers (2002) and Father and Son (2008). Looking at these works up close overwhelms and evokes stirrings of nostalgia. They remind us of how much we've lost with the artist's passing. Father and Son, the painting chosen as the catalogue's cover, condenses



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pleted a year before Ibrahim Hussein passed away, was a gift from Tuanku to his son Crown Prince Tengku Amir Shah for his 18th birthday, and Tengku Amir Shah graciously lent it for this exhibition. Tuanku shared: "My son loves Ib, and has his own personal collection. It took a bit of squabbling as he's devoted to the work. But here it is, a part of the show... an important part."

Ib was supremely excellent at what he did. He was The Emperor; he still is. Forward-thinking and brilliantly-eccentric, the Kedah-born Ib was educated at The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 1956 and in 1959, moved to London and studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art and The



WHAT: Terrains of the Heart WHEN: Until Oct 20. Monday – Friday, 10 am - 6 pm (Saturday/ Sunday by WHERE: Galeri Prima, Balai Berita,31,

Jalan Riong, KL galeriprima@mediaprima.com.my

ABOUT THE GALLERY Founded in 1994, the NSTP Art enowned public galleries in Bangsar. t owns some of the finest collections of art, and has featured over 6, 000 works encompassing various genres.

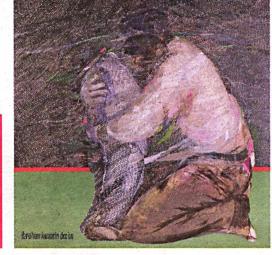
The gallery moved to a newlyrenovated building in 2016 and has since been re-named Galeri Prima. It now plays an important role in promoting our country's art. Galeri Prima offers an expansive space and its contemporary new look and exclusive location makes it a prime destination for art enthusiasts.

Royal Academy Schools. After a sojourn to France and Italy, Ib came home to Malaysia and became a resident artist at Universiti Malaya. In 1991, he initiated The Ibrahim Hussein Museum and Cultural Foundation in the Langkawi tropical forest, a non-profit establishment and museum devoted to the elevation, growth and expansion of art and

Father and Son, painted in a shadowy manner of a patriarch and offspring huddled in a fierce embrace is at once peculiar and haunting. Ib was a genius at permutations; it exceeds immediate grasp. He was an extraordinary painter and left the nation a mammoth archive of works which most of us would give up limbs to see again. And Lovers is another outstanding piece. It's a wild and anarchic vignette; opaque, gripping and rootless. This is what love is — a schizophrenic-nervous-breakdown, a drug which kills and raptures and plunges into heart-breaking oblivion. It's quite difficult to think of another artist who can transport you to unbelievable realms yet still remain within the peripheries of this world. These are works which mysteriously make stunning sense

Only Ib comes to mind.





LOVE FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

Jaafar Taib's Ayam Hutan.

Another which would certainly delight audiences is Lat's Rewang. His largest scale drawing to date, (and Tuanku is doubtful Lat would ever do anything of this dimension again) the scene is of a grand kenduri after a circumcision ceremony. The mosque is inspired after the one in his own village, and in this charming "riotous" scene, as Lat is so loved for, a million things are happening at once, both seen and unseen.

Sultan Selangor's Granddaughter by Anisa Abdullah; Datuk Ibrahim Hussein's Father

and Son; Datuk Ibrahim Hussein's Helmet and

People milling about at every corner partaking in gleeful eating, animated conversations, gossiping, children running after each other and from each other; it's a celebration which makes us yearn for

Perhaps the Selangor Government would want to seriously consider building a private museum to host Tuanku's massive collection. It'll be a way for the rakyat to become closer to their beloved King. Because the saying really is true: Paradise can be found, but you must quest for it.

public would share and thrill in.

We won't give away too much of the

show but must say that Terrains of the

Heart is intensely special. The works

displayed are a reflection of Tuanku's love

for local artists. Sultan Sharafuddin Idris

Shah "lives" with his art; it's daily bliss and

unending inspiration, and one he hopes the

