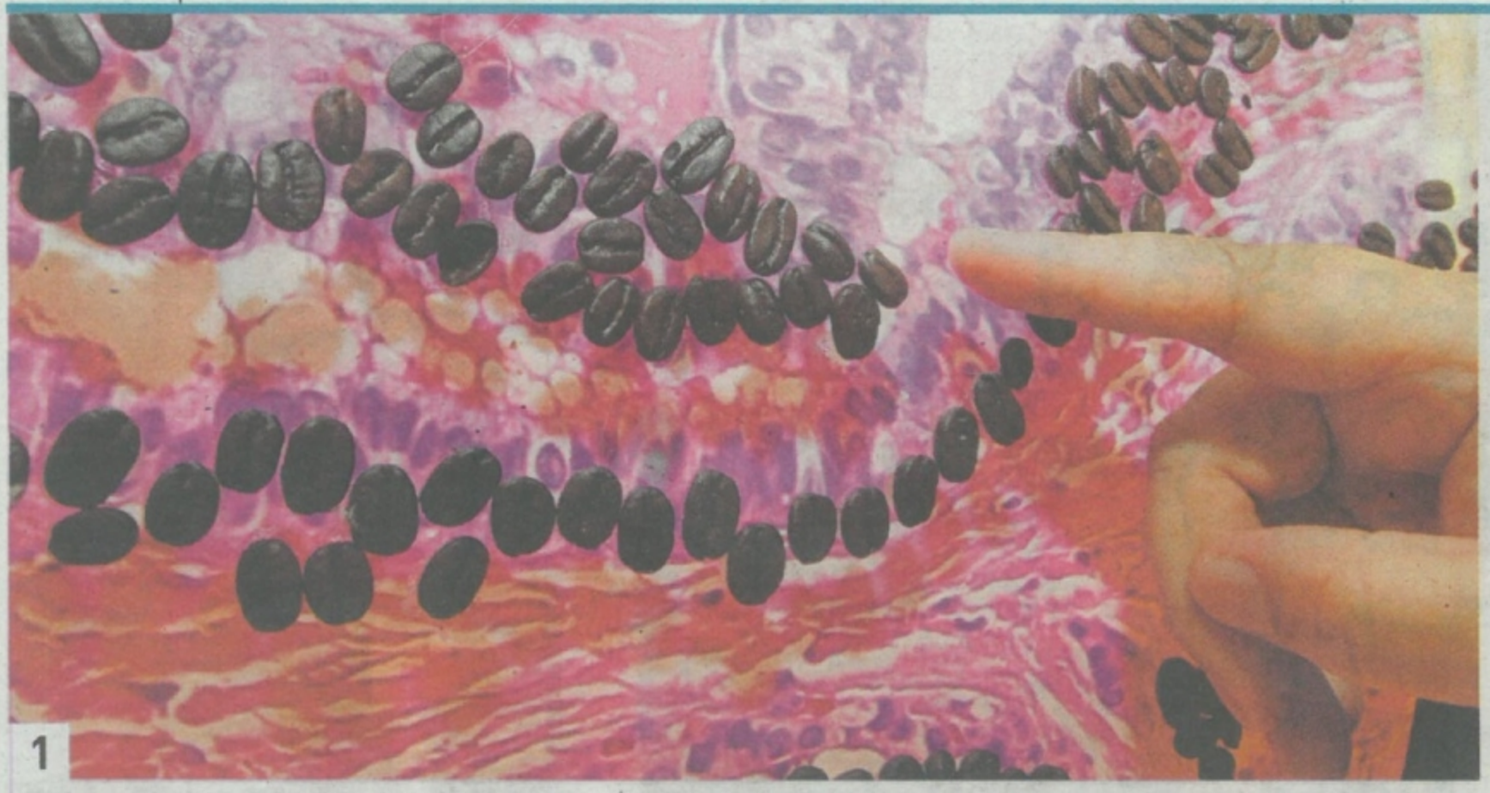

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★ YOU ★

UPM researchers display artworks

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A TOTAL of 19 research products and scientific findings turned into works of art are exhibited at the Nature's Yield and Wonders of Art (Nyawa), Serdang Gallery, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

The exhibition, themed "Food" this year, is held annually as one of the prime edu-tourism attractions under Putra Science Park, UPM, aiming to bring visual arts and science together. It is also a platform for researchers to share their research findings with the public.

Now in its eighth year, Nyawa continues to engage the public through its theme, providing researchers with an infinite canvas to explore their creativity.

The exhibition, which brought together 80 researchers from 13 UPM faculties, covers various fields, including agricultural science, medicine and information technology.

UPM chairman Professor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon said one's artistic values and talents could turn into an entrepreneurial opportunity.

"An artist is never unemployed. They are self-employed and business owners. It is refreshing to see researchers get in touch with their artistic side and display their pieces here.

"I encourage students and the public to show their support and appreciation of art by visiting this gallery," he said before officiating the exhibition.

Present were deputy vice-chancellor (research and innovation) Professor Dr Zulkifli Idrus, participating researchers, lecturers and students.

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences lecturer Dr Fauzah Abd Ghani, driven by science and her own research, produced an artwork inspired by cancer cells with longitudinal grooved nuclei resembling coffee beans.

"As a pathologist, I peer under a microscope all the time. Needless to say, microscopic images of cells and specimens are arts in their own way," she said.

Her artwork, titled "The Two Sides of Coffee Beans", is a composition of an image of a lady made from thousands of coffee beans.

She revealed that the coffee bean-shaped cells are usually associated with tumours in the thyroid, ovaries and lymph nodes — commonly diagnosed among women.

Another participant of the exhibition, Dr Shahrizim Zulkifly from the Biology Department, put together a 3D art display of a symbiotic association between fungi and algae called "lichens".

Fitting to the theme "Food", his artwork — "The Secret Life of Lichens" — was inspired by a lichen species used in the spice mix in making biryani.

The exhibition, which began on Sept 18 and will end on Nov 22, is open for free to the public.

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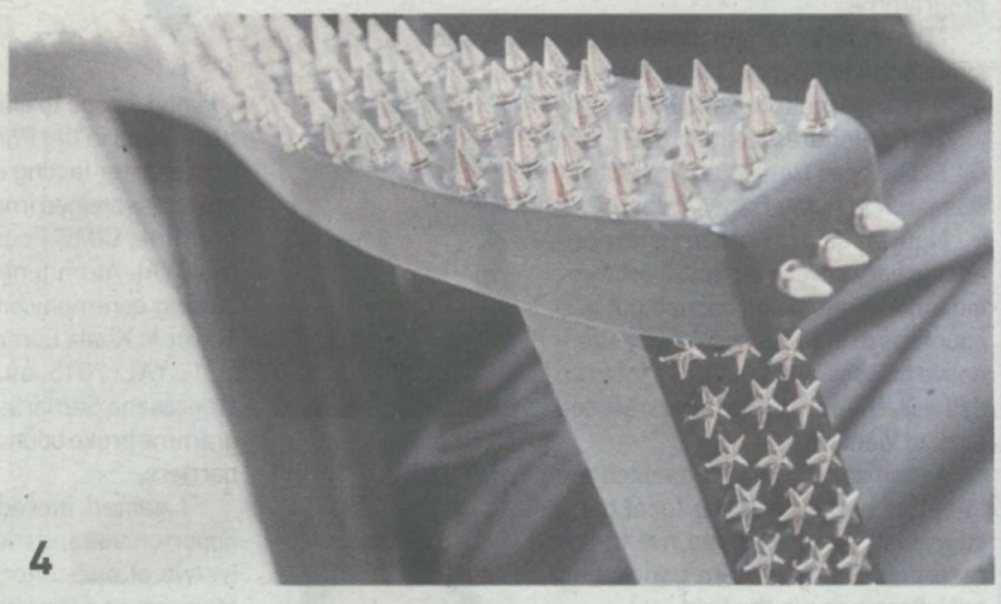

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1. Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences lecturer Dr Fauzah Abd Ghani showing the microscopic image of cancer cells with longitudinal grooved nuclei in comparisn to coffee beans. 2. Visitors taking a closer look at the 3D art display 'The Secret Life of Lichens' by the Biology Department's Dr Shahrizim Zulkifly. 3.Visitors looking at one of the exhibits made from baby milk bottles. 4. A close-up of the artwork "Throne of Thorns", which is inspired by the tropical fruit durian. 5. Two visitors demonstrating the traditional way of processing rice using wooden pestle and mortar at the exhibition. 6. A visitor scanning a QR code at an art display called 'LobsterApp' to get more information on lobster farming.

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