



PILLARS OF SABAH COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT, SABAH



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PILLARS OF SABAH 2.0 COLLABORATES WITH WWF-MALAYSIA IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH HOUR 2019

Artworks of 30 threatened animals painted by 30 Sabahan artists unveiled

Kota Kinabalu, 2 April 2019: The Pillars of Sabah community art project was established with the aim to bring the Kota Kinabalu community together through art, and in the process highlight issues important to Sabah. Spearheaded by renowned local artist Red Hong Yi as well as local film producer Jared Abdul Rahman, the project serves as a vital platform for Sabahan artists who otherwise may not have had any opportunity for exhibition.

Officially launched by Mr. William Baya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah, in conjunction with WWF-Malaysia's annual Earth Hour event, celebrated on 30 March every year, the new artworks were presented to the public after a 10-day painting process which began on March 20. Through this joint event, it is hoped that maximum impact will be achieved for both Earth Hour and Pillars of Sabah 2.0, delivering a united message to the local and global community. Other partners this year include the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment Sabah; the Sabah Tourism Board; Kota Kinabalu City Hall; Sabah Art Gallery, and Nippon Paint Malaysia.

Speaking on the project, Red Hong Yi said, ***“What I love about Pillars of Sabah is how artists have come together to transform a neglected site into a safer and more welcoming public space through art. I love seeing how the artists express themselves on a slender pillar and I am blown away by the limitless talent and creativity the artists in my home state have shown. I hope everyone will visit the pillars when they’re in Kota Kinabalu, and be inspired by the project!”***



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Dr. Rebecca Jumin, Head of Conversation Sabah at WWF Malaysia, further added, ***“WWF-Malaysia commends the efforts of these 30 local artists in creating beautiful illustrations of 30 of Sabah’s unique animal species. Wildlife is an integral part of our ecosystem that needs to be protected. It is our hope that these 30 pillars will raise awareness and instil a sense of pride among the public when they come to admire not only the art on the pillars, but also to learn about the significance of each of these wildlife.”***

The project organisers are collaborating with WWF-Malaysia to produce an exciting second edition. This year, the renewal of the pillar artwork by a new group of Sabahan artists will focus on raising environmental awareness. In line with the ethos of WWF-Malaysia, this will be done through highlighting 30 threatened animal species found in Sabah. Featured animals will include the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), Bornean sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus euryspilus*), and Borneo pygmy elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*).

Gladys Goh, Group General Manager of Nippon Paint Malaysia Group said, ***“We are proud to be supporting the Pillars of Sabah project for the second time round, especially in nurturing our talented local artists and providing them with a strategic platform as they push the boundaries of creativity. This community initiative is truly exciting and we are honoured to be a part of the remarkable journey of Pillars of Sabah where art and colours come to life to bring awareness to a common cause close to the hearts of the Sabahans.”***

The first edition of the Pillars of Sabah project was launched in September 2018, which featured professional and new artists such as Abu Bakar Ellah as well as Red Hong Yi, who is one of the founding organisers for the Pillars of Sabah project. The project was well-received, creating a new, popular place of interest in the city for locals and tourists alike. Not only has the project succeeded in positively transforming a long-neglected site within central Kota Kinabalu, but it has also inspired the community towards a sense of active appreciation for art and its message.

To learn more about the launch of Pillars of Sabah 2.0, check out <https://youtu.be/HYDhoN1Mzgc>.

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About Pillars of Sabah

Pillars of Sabah is a collective street art project spearheaded by renowned local artist Red Hong Yi and educator, ecologist, and filmmaker Jared Abdul Rahman. The project, which inaugurated in 2018 in conjunction with Malaysia Day 2018, features the artworks of local Sabahan artists and aims to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the Sabah art community.



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For more information on Pillars of Sabah:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pillarsofsabah>

For media enquiries, please contact:

Jared Abdul Rahman

Email: jared@theamadisproject.com

Mobile: +6016-252 0211

Issued by Perspective Strategies on behalf of Nippon Paint. For further information, please contact:

Tel: 03 - 7491 3138, Fax: 03 - 7733 3138

Anita Teh, Ms

Email : anita.teh@perspective.com.my

Mobile: +60 14 – 396 9433

Kimberly Tan, Ms

Email : kimberly.tan@perspective.com.my

Mobile: +60 12 – 609 5931