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Art a useful therapy for AIDS victims

FEELINGS MIRRORED THROUGH ART ... AIDS Foundation chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir lending her creative hand to officiate GaleriWan's exhibition of art therapy paintings in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The paintings are done by 35 members of Positive Living, a support group programme by Pink Triangle Malaysia for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Titled 'art AIDS,' the exhibition is the work of anonymous artists who had participated in art therapy sessions.

Art therapy uses art media to document personal experiences. It emphasises a spontaneous approach to making art, directed by inner inclination rather than external consideration.

Marina said the paintings were successful in the sense that they expressed the feelings of the HIV and AIDS patients eloquently.

She said the paintings captured the hopes, optimism, fears and sense of isolation of the HIV and AIDS patients.

She added that the exhibition was a perfect example of how the public could have direct contact and learn from HIV and AIDS patients.

"I might talk at various meetings, but here, people can tell their own stories directly to the Malaysians," she said.

The event is part of AIDS Memorial Week. The exhibition will be on till May 10.

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