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Johor's fine young artists

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SHOPPERS throng the flea market in Danga Bay, a promenade and breezy broadwalk along Johor Baru's Lido Beach, looking for interesting treasures and a crowd gathered around an artist who was sketching a baby's portrait.

Artist Yahya Hassan drew with confident strokes and his audience was thrilled to see the portrait of the child gradually appear on his sketch board. Yahya from Johor Baru is one of the local artists invited by Majlis Wanita Johor (Mawar) to promote their work at the Mawar stall.

Drawing professionally since 1959, Yahya has a wide repertoire of work in oil, acrylic and watercolours. He was honoured to receive commissioned work including his impression of the proposed new bridge replacing the Causeway that was presented to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and a portrait of the late Tun Abdul Razak presented to his son, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Also showing off their paintings were two gifted Johor Baru artists from the Johor Art Society, Lim Kian Huat and Wee Chiang Lung.

Ali Mustapha, a UITM fine arts graduate from Gelang Patah, has the vision to introduce Malay culture through his paintings. He is currently working on a series of "silat" (Malay martial arts) drawings and is seeking to exhibit his work.

Self-taught artist, Kamarozi Mamat, from Penang has made Pontian his home for the past eight years. A versatile painter with varied subjects ranging from scenery, nature, landscapes and architecture, his work is available for sale at exhibitions held in local souvenir shops and hotels.

Practising the Indian art of henna painting, the steady hands of Lalitha Sarkkunam skillfully decorated the palm of a customer with a flowery pattern. Henna designs on the hand or palm are beauty accessories worn for events like weddings and special gatherings.

Mawar recognises and supports these Johor artists who certainly love what they do. For more information to buy original paintings from these artists, contact Mawar at 07-2214100/1.