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## Impressions of Malaysian culture by Italian artist

IN conjunction with Malaysia International Arts Month, Italian artist Anna Stiffi Fardella recently launched her fourth solo art exhibition at City Art Gallery, The AmpWalk, Kuala Lumpur.

Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Fu Ah Kiow officiated at the opening.

Fardella, an admirer of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, presented a painting called Towards 2020 to Fu as a tribute to Dr Mahathir.

Fu said Fardella was a trained photographer and avid traveller who had beautifully captured the images and charm of Malaysia on canvas and other media.

"In her 36 works, she has managed to portray the rich and diverse cultures of Malaysia and Asia - the mysticism of temples, and fauna and flora in various forms - through rich and vivid paintings."

Fu was joined by Italian ambassador Anacleto Felicani and wife Maria Ines, and senior Italian government officers from the Lazio region of Italy - Council of Lazio region deputy president Tommaso Luzzi, Lazio Commission for Culture, Tourism and Entertainment president Claudio Bucci and Lazio Commission for Youths deputy president Romolo Rea.

Fu said: "Malaysians want to learn from the Italians about design and art. Hosting such exhibitions promotes inter-community sharing and learning."

He also commended City Art Gallery for taking the initiative to host the exhibition.

"I urge private galleries to organise more exhibitions to provide an avenue for talented artists to display their works."

Others present were gallery owners Vincent Sim and Mary Tang, Asia Culture Exchange Centre adviser Chung Chen Sun and the artist's husband Italian businessman Francesco Fardella.

The exhibition is on until Monday. Exhibition hours are from 11.30am to 6.30pm daily.

For enquiries, call 03-27753933 (Tang or Sim).

Fardella can be contacted at 012-2341953 or via e-mail: [annafardella@hotmail.com](mailto:annafardella@hotmail.com). Visit her website at [www.annafardella.com](http://www.annafardella.com).