

Headline	Double the joy, double the passion		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	1089 cm ²
Journalist	AIDA AHMAD	AdValue	RM 40,753
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 122,259



Double the joy, double the passion

Two artists come together for exhibition

By AIDA AHMAD

aidaahmad@thestar.com.my

KAHLIL GIBRAN once said "in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures".

Most art exhibitions feature a single artist's solo show.

But at Seni Gallery, housed within the prestigious residential resort of Seni Mont Kiara, there is a two-man show.

From now until end of January at Seni Mont Kiara, the two-man art exhibition entitled "Symphony of Joy" by Tommy Chen and Gary Lim presents a unique showcase of artistic talents by two local artists.

Chen, who hails from Malacca, has been focusing on painting *koi* (Japanese carp) for the past 20 years and is known as the finest *koi* fish artist in Malaysia.

His affection for *koi* fish goes back to when he first started painting. "My new collection depicts a deep affection for *koi* fish, which is also in conjunction with the new year, that is to do something positive. Whatever you do, do it with passion. Art is meant to be fun," enthused Chen.

How did the branding of *koi* fish come about?

"*Koi* fish swim smoothly. They share a lot of similar characters with us humans, where we live life according to some sort of order. When I put feelings into my paintings, I feel at peace. It of course improved my skills as an artist. My paintings speak for themselves. I paint with my heart," he said.

Born in 1967, Chen graduated from the Fine Art Department of Malaysian Institute of Art in 1990. He had participated in numerous art exhibitions within the Southeast Asia region, including the 5th Biennale Print Exhibition at Wakayama City, Japan in 1990, and the 5th Asian Art Exhibition, National Taiwan Museum of Art.

Chen's "The Joy of the Living Water Series" features the red-spotted

Japanese *Koi*, known as the *Tancho*, which weaves its way through the cerulean kingdom beneath the shade of lily pads and dapples of sunlight.

Marked by its majestic crown, its path is followed by the *Sanke* with their splashes of red, black and white; the *Kohaku* or red and white and even a t times by the rare, black-scaled *Shusui*.

As the title of the exhibition 'Symphony of Joy' suggests, the artists look forward to share the philosophy of joy with their collectors and art lovers through their works of art. Both the artists' works depict flow, dynamic energy, a

joyful and positive attitude towards life.

Symphony of Joy presents the various forms and techniques of Lim's contemporary works of acrylic on canvas — including his favourite Drip series and the most recent Wrestling series. Lim's works depict the elements of energy, joy hope and desire.

Born in Johor Baru in 1962, Lim studied graphic design in Malaysia Institute of Art (1987) followed by fine art in Central Academy of Art (1989). Lim started his career in TV3 as a producer and has over 20 years of experience in creative communications, TV commercial productions, script writing and concept creation.

He has been painting for more than 10 years and since then consigned his works to various art galleries. This is Lim's first exhibition.

"My Pineapple series has been the most demanding," he said.

He needed to do some soul searching after his job as a TV producer so he decided to pursue arts.

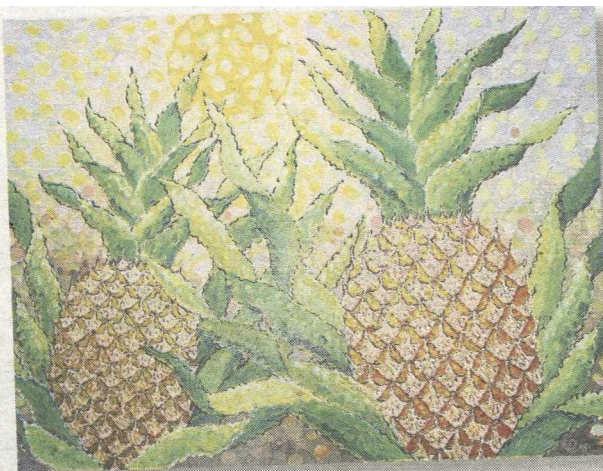
"I always dreamed to have an exhi-

Headline	Double the joy, double the passion		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	1089 cm²
Journalist	AIDA AHMAD	AdValue	RM 40,753
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 122,259

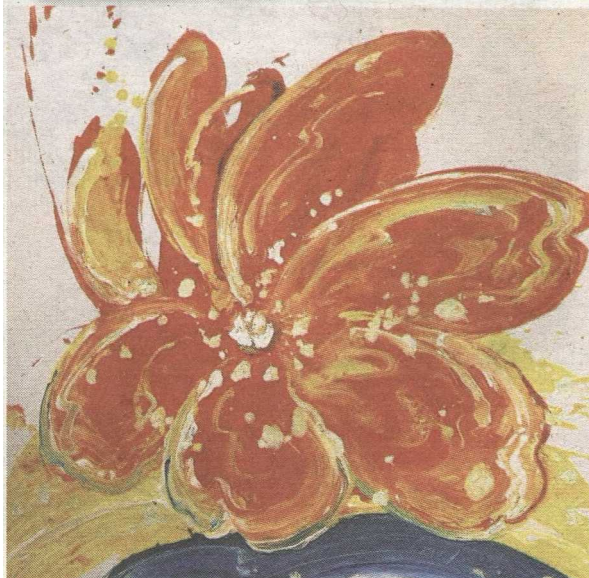
hibition featuring my paintings and it's great when an artist's work is appreciated. Having this joint exhibition with Chen is an amazing experience for me because it's an honour to collaborate both our works together," said Lim.

Seni Mont Kiara is the first condo to house an art gallery in Malaysia, according to Ireka president and chief executive officer Lai Voon Hon. Lai's love for art (and his penchant for collecting art) made him incorporate an art gallery into Seni Mont Kiara architecture.

"The gallery is about 2,000 sq ft. I believe art can become part of a person's lifestyle. I saw an opportunity to include a gallery in Seni Mont Kiara and I think it was a good idea," added Lai.



Fruit is the theme:
Lim's 'Joy In The Rising Sun 3'.



Homage to country:
This work by Lim incorporates the colours of the Malaysian flag.

Headline	Double the joy, double the passion		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	1089 cm²
Journalist	AIDA AHMAD	AdValue	RM 40,753
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 122,259



Headline	Double the joy, double the passion		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	1089 cm²
Journalist	AIDA AHMAD	AdValue	RM 40,753
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 122,259



Step inside: Knock is part of Lim's Drip series. It gives the illusion of a 3-D look and shows the abundance of goodness flowing out from the door.

Headline	Double the joy, double the passion		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	27 Jan 2012	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	1089 cm ²
Journalist	AIDA AHMAD	AdValue	RM 40,753
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 122,259



Moving through: Chen's 'Abundant Life Series 11'.

Two is better than one:

The exhibition entitled Symphony of Joy by Chen (right) and Lim presents a unique showcase of artistic talents by two local artists.



VALUATOR

Company(Brand)	Mention	Tone	ROI
Star Publications (M) Bhd (The Star)	4	0	RM 0
Sunrise Berhad (Mont Kiara)	4	1	RM 3,494

GIST(ENGLISH)

... Bom in 1967, Chen graduated from the Fine Art Department of Malaysian Institute of Art in 1990. He had participated in numerous art exhibitions within the Southeast Asia region, including the 5th Biennale Print Exhibition at Wakayama City, Japan in 1990, and the 5th Asian Art Exhibition, National Taiwan Museum of Art. ... Born in Johor Baru in 1962, Um studied graphic design in Malaysia Institute of Art (1987) followed by fine art in Central Academy of Art (1989). Um started ...