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Artist puts local life on canvas

KUALA LUMPUR: It took seven years before self-taught artist Kuen Stephanie was bold enough to launch her debut exhibition.

Kuen, 41, had been a graphic artist for 15 years before picking up the brush to make her first painting in 2000. She tried hard to get galleries to put her paintings on display, but to no avail.

“However, with the encouragement of my family and close friends, I plucked up the courage to kick-start my art career.

“It was a positive move as I sold 80 per cent of my pieces in an exhibition called ‘The Essence of Tropical Life in the Kampung’ at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre,” she said.

Her second exhibition, “A Bowl Full of Memories”, also

produced similar results.

Kuen’s third exhibition is being held at Citra Warna Malaysia, Balai Seni NSTP, Jalan Riong, Bangsar, this month.

The 35 colourful acrylic-based paintings — priced from RM700 to RM9,000 — depict the everyday lives of the various Malaysian communities.

“I think my paintings will remind Malaysians and tourists of the traditions of our communities.”

Her buyers are mostly expatriates who like to take home memories of Malaysian cultures and way of life. Kuen’s dream is to travel and paint the village settings of communities around the world.

“It is still tough breaking through, but I am enjoying my work as people now recognise the value of my paintings.”



Kuen Stephanie with her art collection at Citra Warna Malaysia at Balai Seni NSTP, Jalan Riong, Bangsar.