

Royal praise for Sarawak artist

KUCHING: Sarawak's leading artist Chew Fang Chin's unique works on the state's indigenous communities has received high commendation from a member of the Negeri Sembilan Royalty.

Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah Tuanku Ja'afar said Chew's paintings had reflected the rich cultural heritage, customs and traditions as well as the colourful lifestyles of the state's various ethnic groups.

She said his fascinating paintings had projected the characters and identities of the indigenous people.

Tunku Dara made the remarks when she opened Chew's solo exhibition at the "ARTragously/Ramsay Ong - The Art Gallery" at Changkat Bukit Bintang in Kuala Lumpur recently.

The show, which features Chew's *Ethnic Impression* series consisting of 60 paintings will be on until Oct. 20.

The exhibition has drawn keen interests from local art lovers since it opened on Sept. 28.

Besides the paintings on the indigenous communities, others on display feature his impression of "modern women" and landscape.

Tunku Dara said through his numerous solo exhibitions in several countries like Taiwan, China and South Korea, Chew had helped to foster international cultural exchanges and won recognition for his works.

Chew born in 1947, graduated with a Bachelor of Law Degree from the National Chengchi University Taiwan, R.O.C. in 1972.

He was the first Malaysian artist selected and sponsored by the Pacific Cultural Foundation for cultural exchange to hold solo exhibitions in several cities in Taiwan in 1987.

He scored another first by being the first Malaysian artist to exhibit his works in Qing Dao Museum and Jinan Hall in Cina in 1991.

His masterpieces have been collected by art galleries and museums in Australia, China, Taiwan and in the country.

Chew turned a professional artist in 1983, specialising in a painting style mixing classical Chinese and modern western art.



Chew explaining his works to Tunku Dara at the opening of his exhibition in Kuala Lumpur recently.