

NEWSUNDAYTIMES

# LIFE & TIMES

*Sunday Reflections*

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

FAMILY PAGE 3

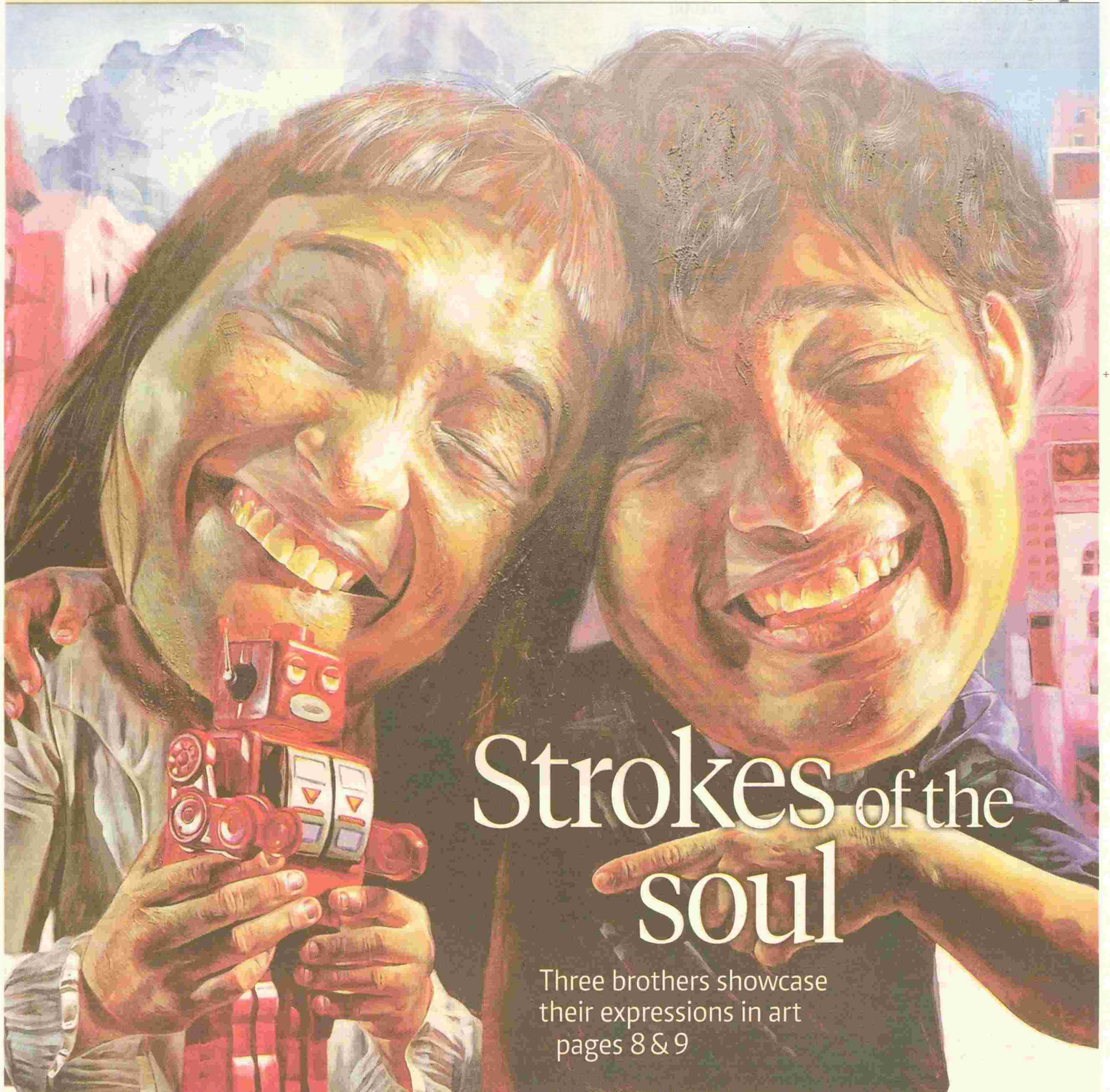


## NINE GOOD YEARS FOR TV9

SHOWBIZ PAGE 13

## BRINGING A STORY INTO FOCUS

PEOPLE PAGES 6&7



# Strokes of the soul

Three brothers showcase their expressions in art pages 8 & 9

LIFE&TIMES ART



Worst Case Scenario, Nik Mohd Shazmie.



Still Remember, Nik Mohd Hazri.



HERE'S a suggestion: When you view the paintings in the latest exhibition by G13 Gallery, start with those on your left. They're the ones that are happy, bright and almost irreverent. Make your way to the other side of the gallery and the tone changes to one that's more solemn.

By the time you view the last painting, the mood is sombre, bizarre and chilling. The works by the artists in this exhibition are so different, yet the artists have one thing in common: They are brothers.

The exhibition is called The Nik Brothers and showcases the works by Nik Mohd Hazri Nik Shairozi, 27, Nik Mohd Shazmie Nik Shairozi, 24, and Nik Mohd Shahfiz Nik Shairozi, 22. Graduates from UiTM, this is the brothers' debut exhibition of new figurative paintings.

Sharing a little of their background, Shazmie says: "We live in Klang now, but our hometown is Kuala Krai, Kelantan. Our grandfather did wood carving. The designs were called Awan Larat (Arabesque)." With a father who is himself a painter and art teacher, it's no wonder that the men chose to pursue a career in art.

"Other than our family background, I was also influenced by movies and cartoons," says Shazmie. Ever ready with a smile, he adds: "I can still remember that in kindergarten, I already knew that I could draw better than others in my class. Others would draw the usual house or tree. I could draw a machine or one of my little robots."

The brothers reminisce about a happy childhood full of family trips all over the country and, in particular, art galleries. Each shares the one that first comes to mind. For Shazmie, it was the holiday to the Paddy Museum in Alor Setar where there is a revolving platform on the top floor that allows visitors to admire the 360 degree view of a mural painted on the entire wall. It was painted by Korean artists and depicts Kedah's unique landscape of rice fields.

For Hazri, it was a trip to Penang. "There, we went to the Nanyangshop," where they were first exposed to the multitude of supplies available to artists. In Malacca, Shahfiz says he remembers visiting private studios and learning about the works of artists like Jehan Chan.

"You know," Shazmie adds, "what's special about their work is that all the painting is done on rice paper."

Pointing to one of the larger paintings in the gallery, the exuberant young man says: "That is my self-portrait. I call it Sweet Couple. The

# Even a myria

Three brothers show Art are de



Nik Mohd Shahfiz (left), Nik Mohd Hazri (centre) and Nik Mohd Shazmie (right) share their love of art.

PICTURES BY HALIMATON SA'ADIAH SULAIMAN

man is me, but so is the girl. The Malays have a saying 'wajah seiras kekal lama' which means that those couples who stay together end up having similar features. That's why I also painted what I thought the female version of myself would look like."

The portrait has a pink background - chosen specially to represent how couples in love look at the world through rose-tinted glasses. Shazmie adds: "I am pointing to the robot in her hand because I want to show how successful couples show interest in each other's pursuits."

In Worst Case Scenario, Shazmie is reflecting on his childhood and tells a story that will resonate with many children: "Every morning, when we wanted to put on our school shoes, there would be a frog inside the shoe. R

# Evoking a myriad of senses

by Aneeta Sundararaj how their varied emotions are depicted in their works of art



capture the impact of these tragedies on the families of the victims. "It's worse that they don't know what happened. There's no closure for some of them."

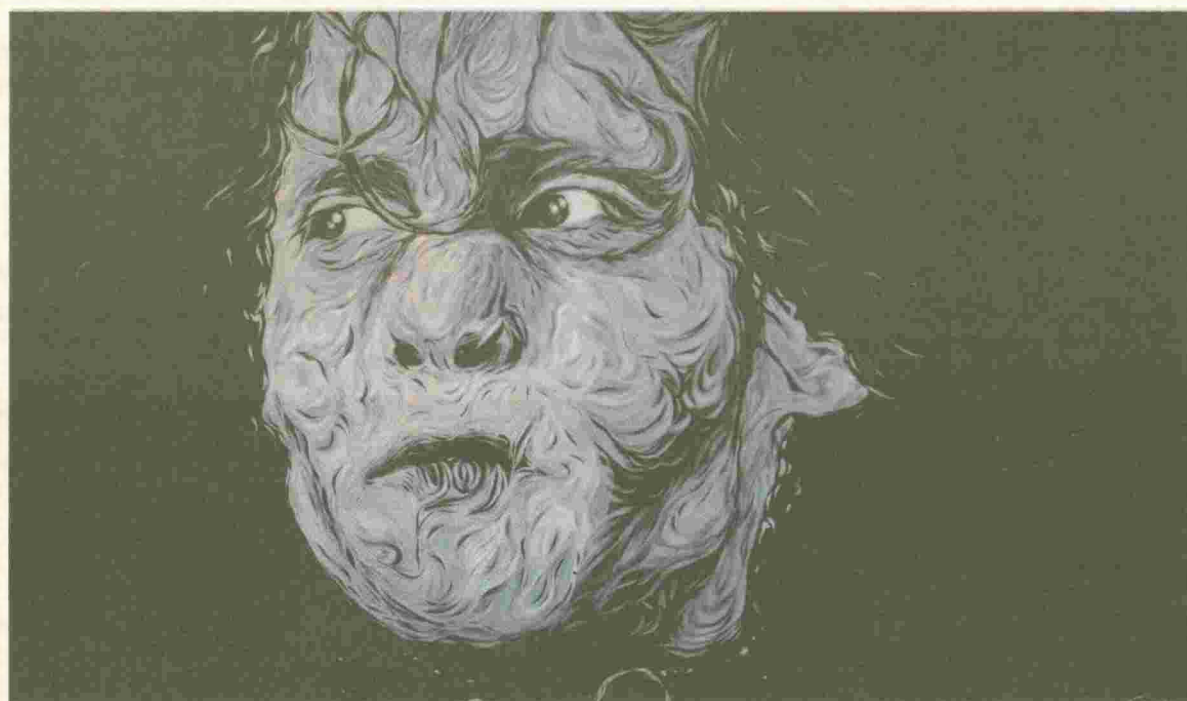
This painting is oil on jute, rather than the usual oil on canvas. Hazri, who has a minor in photography, explains that using these materials allowed him to create a painting that looked more like a photograph than a conventional painting.

As you listen to the youngest brother Shahfiz describe his favourite pieces, you sense that here's a man who is very much like the men he's chosen to feature in his paintings. They all have a calm and relaxed exterior, but on the inside, they're a ball of pent up emotions and multitude of thoughts which are in a constant state of flux.

"I like movies like Silence Of The Lambs," he says. "The character of Anthony Hopkins is a genius. So many things going on inside his head and you don't know it." True enough, Mikkelsen In Blue is Hannibal and The Caretaker is Jack Nicholson from The Shining.

Full of admiration for his brother's work, Shazmie says: "When I first heard what he wanted to paint, I also ingat boleh tak? (thought whether it was possible?) But, now I see that he's done it. It's quite genius. It's the same post-impressionist painting technique of Van Gogh. Like in his Starry Night painting."

Indeed, the admiration should be for all three brothers for evoking a myriad of senses for viewers.



Uncommonly Gentleman, Nik Mohd Shahfiz.

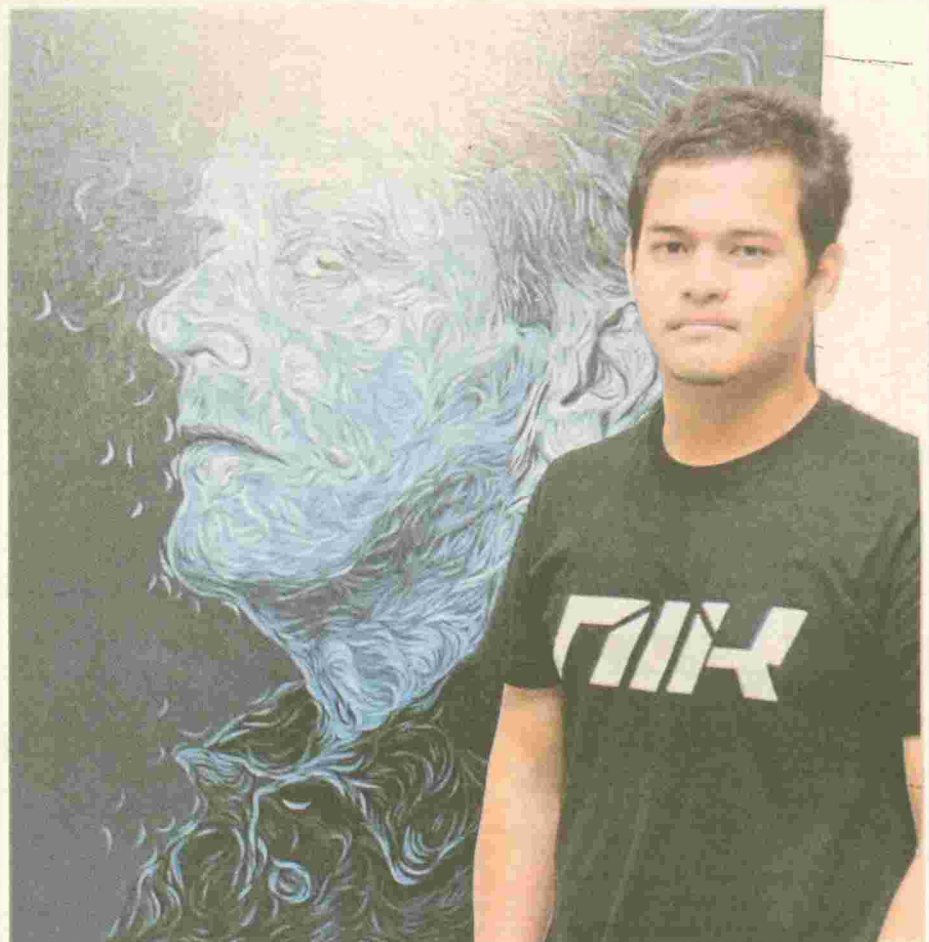
## NIK Brothers

**What:** The Nik Brothers exhibition

**When:** Until May 2 (Open daily, 11am-5pm (Closed on Sunday and public holidays))

**Where:** G13 Gallery, G113, Ground Floor, Block B, Kelana Square, Jalan SS7/26, 47301 Kelana Jaya, Selangor  
Details at [www.g13gallery.com](http://www.g13gallery.com)

**Cover photo:** Sweet Couple by Nik Mohd Shazmie



## THE A-LIST BY LILIAZURA IBRAHIM

### GONE VIRAL

**Where:** Wei-Ling Gallery, 8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur  
**When:** Ends April 30

CONTEMPORARY artist Ruzzeki Harris's fourth solo show presents a critical and cynical view of this generation's habits and mannerisms. With its focus on social media, Ruzzeki uses several materials and techniques to impart a pop-surreal quality to his works.

### DEAR DARK CLOUD BY MEME

**Where:** Galeri Taksu, 17 Jalan Pawang, KL City Centre, KL  
**When:** Ends May 16

LOOKING at the child within, Khairul Azmir Shoib, aka Meme, seeks to reach out on an emotional level by using works that contrast the innocence and purity of youth with the looming darkness of adulthood. Ultimately, the storms

pass and the rain brings new life to the subjects.

### VILLAGE

**Where:** The Print Room, 49 Lorong 16/9E, Seksyen 16, Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
**When:** Ends May 17

A SERIES of photographs by emerging photographers and four art students from Garden International documenting the last days of Kampung Segambut Dalam as it is swallowed up by development around the affluent Mont Kiara area.

### HOW TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO SOMEONE ELSE

**Where:** Kedai, D-G-03, Jalan SS6/20A, Kelana Jaya, Petaling Jaya  
**When:** Ends May 17

ARTISTS Lily Osman, Naz Imagine and Leo Ari will be displaying their latest works and projects in this exhibition. There will be installations, life-like pedestals and gory furniture.



Dear Dark Cloud, by Meme.

I was scared of this frog. In this painting, I am like Superman and fighting this evil frog. It's another self-portrait because those faces of Superman and even the frog are likeme."

From childhood fears, we move on to two works that depict a tragic event last year: The disappearance of MH370. Introducing his work, My Little Sis Looking Out The Window, Hazri says that it's a portrait of his youngest sibling, 15-year-old sister Nik Shazleen Putri Nik Shairozi who was praying for the lost souls in the aftermath of the tragedy.

"The feathers symbolise the releasing of doves. Something pure," he says in a contemplative tone. He explains that in Still Remembers, he was trying to