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Celebrating Artistry With Copper Tooling Master At EQ

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 October 2023 – In harmony with the commemoration of Hotel Equatorial's 50th anniversary, the establishment had the privilege of hosting Mr. Yan Sook Leong, the artist behind the captivating copper tooling artwork prominently displayed in the lobby. Copper tooling, an ancient technique encompassing the manipulation of sheet metal through methods like embossing, stamping, denting, piercing, rub-transferring, folding, and hammering, boasts a history of over 10,000 years, making it one of the earliest metals crafted by humanity.

Commissioned by the Founder of Hotel Equatorial Group, the remarkable piece graced the main reception area wall of the original hotel from 1974 to 2012. Following the transformation of the property into Plaza Equatorial and EQ, the artwork rightfully returned to its place in the hotel's lobby. This restoration project impeccably aligns with the group's unwavering commitment to minimal waste practices and a range of eco-friendly initiatives, distinguishing the establishment as the sole hotel in Malaysia to earn the prestigious Green Building Index Gold certification.

At the age of 30, Mr. Yan embarked on this project to immortalise the simplicity of Malaysia's villages. "Upon receiving approval for my preliminary sketches, I embarked on a tour of several kampungs, endeavouring to encapsulate the idyllic countryside way of life," Mr. Yan recounted. The creation of this masterpiece spanned three months of eight-hour workdays.

The final work transcended its initial portrayal of a pastoral village scene. Mr. Yan meticulously brought to life provincial scenes featuring traditional pastimes like *wayang kulit* (shadow puppetry) and Kelantanese kite-flying. He had also masterfully captured the nation's economic vitality, transitioning from the cultivation of lands such as ploughing, planting, harvesting, threshing, and winnowing to industrial symbolism, including factory smokestacks, tin dredges, and other emblems of industrialisation.

Mr. Yan, currently residing in New Zealand, expressed his satisfaction that the artwork will endure within a hotel celebrated for its lasting tradition of hospitality. "The fact that my work maintains its significance within EQ brings me contentment. I take pride in its enduring prestige and hold hope that its continued display may inspire emerging artists to embrace this fading art form as the practice of copper tooling gradually recedes into obscurity," the artist emphasised. As Mr. Yan's exceptional piece persists as an artistic beacon, it serves as an inspiration to emerging artists and simultaneously the preservation of copper tooling medium.

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About EQ

The re-making of Hotel Equatorial Kuala Lumpur as EQ has been a milestone in Malaysia's hospitality industry. With a prime location in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle, EQ is ideal for guests visiting the city's business, shopping and entertainment districts. Occupying the top floors of the award-winning 52-storey Equatorial Plaza, the hotel offers 440 stylish rooms, state-of-the-art banquet and meeting facilities, and an array of signature restaurants and bars such as the Bottega lounge, Nipah, Kampachi, as well as the impressive, must-visit Sky51 consisting of Sabayon, a contemporary European restaurant, and Blue, a bespoke bar and lounge with an outdoor bar offering stunning panoramas of the city. The 5-star hotel is also Green Building Index (GBI) Gold-certified making it one of the most energy and resource-efficient buildings in the country. Other facilities include Sanctum Wellness with its unique spa, 25m infinity pool and vitality Jacuzzi and state-of-the-art fitness centre.

Website: www.eqkualalumpur.equatorial.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eqkualalumpur

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Enclosed

Image of the artist and owners of EQ. This artwork is currently on displayed at the lobby of EQ, Equatorial Plaza.



Left to right:

Mr. Yan Sook Leong, Copper Tooling Artist

Mr. Donald Lim, Chief Executive Officer, Hotel Equatorial Group

Mr. Charles Lim, Chief Commercial Officer, Hotel Equatorial Group