

# leisure....3

**THE town of Klang is at present witnessing a kind of migration of artists and designers to the place and, by the look of things, the town may well become a centre of artistic activity in the future.**

Part of the reason for this may be attributed to the fact that the ITM's School of Art and Design is finally vacating their premises in Petaling Jaya and moving to their permanent building at Shah Alam. Many of the teaching staff have already gone to Klang and others will be following soon.

The arrival of so many artists and designers to the town will result in a marked increase in the number of artists already in Klang.

Klang besides being more notoriously famous for its crows has also produced a substantial number of artists. Among the more illustrious products are Long Thien Shih (now in Paris), Kok Yew Puah and Ho Yam Tim (trained in Australia), Lee Kian Seng (trained in Japan), and Tew Naitong (trained at the Ecoles de Beaux-Arts in Paris).

## Paintings, too

My meeting with Kok Yew Puah the other day afforded me a chance to assess the new developments in Klang. A deceptively boyish-looking young man, Yew Puah, 26, is one of the most interesting print-makers in this country today. Besides producing prints, Yew Puah also produces paintings.

Yew Puah was trained at the National Gallery School of Art in Melbourne, Australia. An artist who prefers to remain unemployed at present, Yew Puah manages to survive by selling his prints and paintings periodically.

Living with his family helps considerably.

Yew Puah's credentials are quite impressive for a young artist. His prints were included in an Australian show called "Imprint Commonwealth" which toured Asia some time back.

He has also exhibited

his works in the "Young Artists' International" show in New York, this year.

His works have featured regularly at our National Art Gallery shows and he has several works in the gallery's permanent collection. For a young man, Yew Puah has achieved quite a bit.

Yew Puah is one Klang artist who is excited by the migration that is taking place and he is hopeful about the future. He has in fact converted the ground floor of his family premises into a kind of gallery-cum-studio.

Already a popular meeting place for artists, the place is frequented by such artists as Latiff Mohideen, Sulaiman Esa Long Thien Shih, Lee Kian Seng, Piyadasa and others.

Yew Puah named the place 'Studio 22' (after the house address) and hopes that the place will become a centre for artistic gatherings in Klang eventually.

## The need

He explained the idea behind 'Studio 22': "There is a serious need for this kind of place where artists can meet and exchange ideas and even criticise each other's works. The fact that there are so few places an artist can go to during his spare hours is one of the most serious set backs in our local artscene.

"Artists have tended to function in isolation and there has been little attempt to communicate with one another.

"One of the attractions of the place has been the

# Artists on the move to Klang

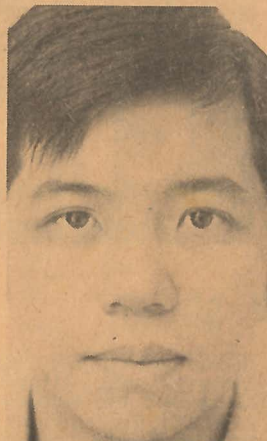
## the artscene

By REDZA

many journals I subscribe to. Also several artists have brought in recently published books on art and the place functions as a kind of library."

Yew Puah went on; "Besides this, I have also collected works by serious artists and exhibited them at 'Studio 22'. The place affords a kind of atmosphere that is conducive to artistic activity. I hope to eventually attract writers, poets, dramatists and other creative people, as well."

'Studio 22' has been in existence for nearly five months now and one interesting development has been the steady stream of professional people who have been drawn to the place. Artists bring in their friends and it is done very casually. Even if a visitor never buys a single piece of work, an



KOK YEW PUAH

interest and exposure to art has begun!

Yew Puah is in fact full of ideas and one pet project of his is the setting up of a print-studio some time in the

### Meet Kok Yew Puah an exciting print-maker

future. He is working very closely with Ho Yam Tim, another Australian-trained artist.

Latiff Mohideen is also involved with the project, I was told.

Yew Puah is also negotiating with his old art-college about the possibility of bringing to K.L. a show of contemporary Australian prints. The National Gallery School of Art in Melbourne boasts one of the most progressive print-making departments in the whole of Australia.

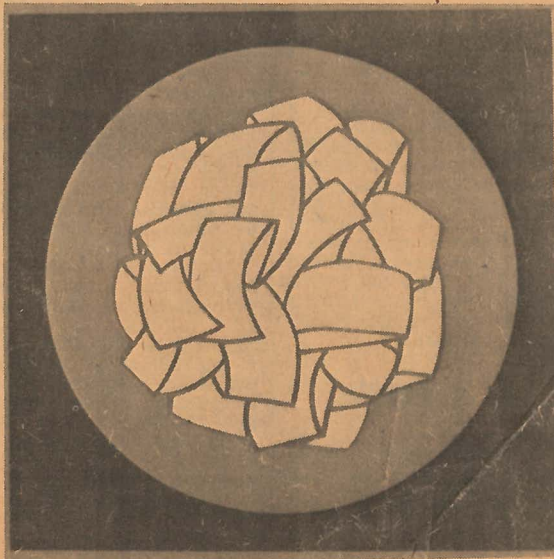
## Next show

The principal of the school has evidently promised Yew Puah a collection of prints and Yew Puah hopes to stage the show some time next year.

Yew Puah's fantastic drive and energy augurs well for the future of Malaysian art and more especially, the Klang artscene. Underlying the almost boyish grin is a very sincere and dedicated artist. His optimism is really quite infectious!

Perhaps what is most impressive about this young man is his absolute lack of selfishness and this is a very rare qualification among artists. It is perhaps his sincerity that has won him so many supporters.

"Studio 22" is a very worthwhile experiment that deserves to succeed.



● A silk-screen print by the artist.

## Advance through Knowledge

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