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Modellers do their bit for Merdeka

Historic figures among their creative models

By **TAN KARR WEI**
karrwei@thestar.com.my
Photos by **T.K. LIM**

A GROUP of scale model enthusiasts did their bit for Merdeka celebrations by making models of objects and events associated with the country's fight for independence.

"Since it is the 50th Merdeka celebrations, we wanted to attach a meaning to the models we made. It was a group effort that started about six months ago," said Loo Chee Keong, 40.

Among the models made by the members of the Selangor and Federal Territory Plastic Modelling Society (SETPMS) are figurines of Tok Janggut and Yap Ah Loy; a replica of the Prince of Wales ship that was sunk by the Japanese in 1941; replicas of airplanes and tanks used during the war; and scenes of the Japanese invasion and the fight against communists at Bukit Kepong.

Tan Chee Ping, 46, took about five months to model the fight scene at Bukit Kepong, using only the head and torso of figurines from a commercial model set that was meant to be a Formula One pit crew.

He used a substance called epoxy putty to create the rest of the figures and construct details like the hair on the woman, the sarong skirt and the

Malaysiaku Gemilang

Territory Plastic Modelling Society (SETPMS) are figurines of Tok Janggut and Yap Ah Loy; a replica of the Prince of Wales ship that was sunk by the Japanese in 1941; replicas of airplanes

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Natural materials are used for effect

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uniforms of the men.

Tan used everyday materials like ice cream sticks to make the wooden house while the rifles were made from cardboard, paper clips and sewing pins.

According to Tang Chee Kwan, 45, they usually made modifications from an existing commercial model when making a figurine because those are already in the right proportion.

"It is not easy to sculpt a figure from scratch unless you're very good at it. You might end up making a weird-looking figure because it is too fat or has a big head," said Tang.

Tang used a lot of natural materials to make his model of the Senai Praaq, a unit formed during the Emergency period to fight the communists.

The ground was made with a Styrofoam base and covered with real soil.

"I used different soils of different colours to give it a realistic look," said Tang.

The trees and foliage were made from moss, dried leaves, oregano and even tea leaves.

"I've been stealing items from my wife's kitchen and she's not too happy about it," he said.

The plastic modelling society was formed about two years ago and currently has about 60 registered members.

"Our objective is to get people who are interested in scale modelling under one roof to share ideas and pool resources," said society president Chow Hock Lee.

He said those interested could attend the society's weekly Sunday workshops at MySciFiFan Outpost in Cineleisure Damansara.

The Merdeka scale models exhibition will be on display at MySciFiFan Outpost until tomorrow.

The plastic modelling forum can be accessed at <http://s12.invisionfree.com/scalemodelsmalaysia>. For more information, contact Chow Hock Lee at 012-288 0116.

Invasion: Loo's scene of street fighting during the Japanese invasion.



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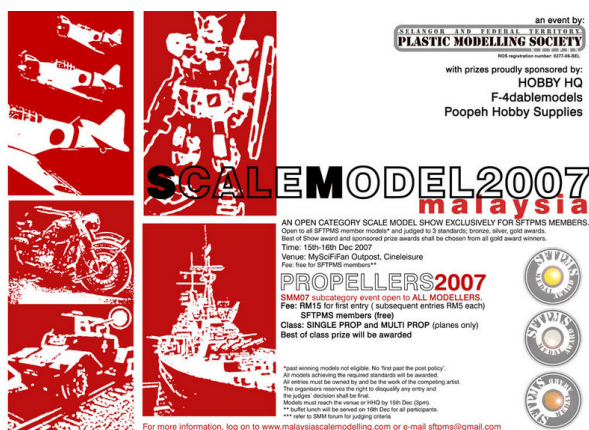


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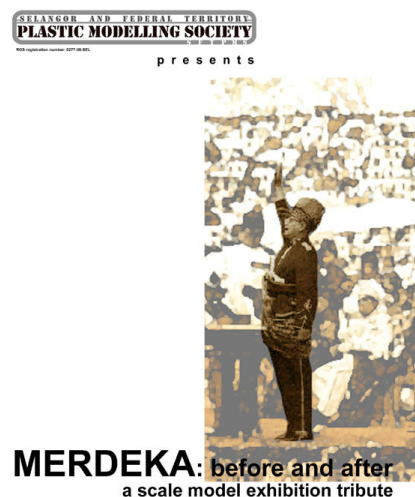


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