



Rewarding work: Phang working on his multicultural mural in Sungai Ara.

Penang gets another mural

Lecturer paints 'muhibbah' theme on NRD building wall

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GEORGE TOWN: For a long time, part-time lecturer Vincent Phang painted on canvas – until a few years ago when he turned to murals.

Today, Phang, who lectures in art at a local college here, has painted about 50 murals – mostly in Penang – and hopes to do more in future.

"The art scene has taken a leap in Penang with mural art festivals that bring higher demand for mural painters.

"Murals will be the best option to specialise in. Furthermore, it is more lucrative compared to canvas painting," he said.

Despite his years of experience as a canvas painter, Phang has always harboured a desire to paint murals.

"I have had my paintings exhibited in art houses and galleries but for years, I wanted to do murals as they give me a certain sense of achievement," said the 36-year-old artist.

"Canvas painting is generally for those who appreciate art while mural painting is for the masses,

even though you don't know much about art."

Phang recently completed a "muhibbah" mural on the side of the building that houses the National Registration Department in Sungai Ara, Penang.

He was commissioned by the owners of the building to paint the 11m by 5m mural on Feb 1, which he completed on March 3.

"They wanted a mural which reflects the diverse communities in the country and their cultures, which is the theme of the painting.

"I usually paint murals myself but this time, I had two assistants helping me," he said.

Phang said he spent about five hours daily working on the mural.