

Availing of art to aid the differently-abled

BY JAMIL KHAN

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DUBAI: A group of prominent UAE-based artists volunteered their skills at Senses Residential and Day Care Centre to create paintings under "Little Picasso" to raise funds for the centre.

The Pullman Dubai Jumeirah Lakes Towers as part of its Ramadan 2016 activities and in collaboration with ZeeArts Community and Senses Residential and Day Care Centre for Special Needs recently launched the Charity Art Project.

Twenty two artist-volunteers from ZeeArts Community gathered for four art sessions with 15 special needs children from Senses centre during the month of May to work on paintings under the theme of "Love, Kindness, Honesty, Generosity and Gratitude". Aiming to raise funds for Senses centre, more than 45 masterpieces will be displayed for sale in the Pullman Dubai JLT hotel lobby during the Holy Month of Ramadan with an official launch of "Little Picasso" Art Exhibition, which took place on June 8.

Commenting on the Little Picasso initiative, Fadeel Wehbe, the General Manager of Pullman Dubai JLT said: "We are thrilled to be part of this initiative, giving back to the community and supporting Senses in an interactive manner. I would like to commend the volunteer-artists who joined us for this project - for their support and willingness to make a difference in these children's lives. We at Pullman will strive to ensure that the Little Picasso project will be held annually as part of our brands promise to support local art."

Activist-artist, head of ZeeArts Community, Zaahirah Muthy said: "Ramadan resonates with universal values. This momentous month makes people conscientious about the way they treat others and reminds them of the significance of making sacrifices and putting others before themselves. It is about being responsible and contributing to the overall good of society which we believe in collaboration with Pullman Dubai JLT we did successfully with this beautiful project."

Commenting on the event, Khalil Abdulwahid, an Emirati Artist – Dubai Art and Culture stated: "This is such a beautiful initiative of ZeeArts Community to involve local artists to engage with special needs children. I would like to highlight the hard work and dedication of Zaahirah Muthy, the founder of ZeeArts Community for being herself an artist and acting as a role model to encourage others to give back to the community and thank Pullman JLT for the valuable contribution, hosting such a beautiful charity event and taking a very good step further to host all the special children and artists for a delicious Iftar."

"We are sincerely grateful to the teams at ZeeArts Community and Pullman Dubai JLT for creating this project for us. Thank you for putting smiles on our children's faces, the art sessions were a time to not only develop art skills, but also provide special therapy for our children and most importantly a time of joy and happiness!", said Dr. Lina Owies, the General Manager of the Senses Residential and Day Care Centre.