Young designers shine at art show

STUDENTS from the UCSI University’s School of Design recently showcased their artwork in a star-studded occasion held at a contemporary art gallery in Kuala Lumpur.

Dubbed “De Style Art & Design Show 2011”, the event was co-organised by the university’s 3D Animation and Fashion students. Themed “Art Meets Technology”, it featured some of the students’ best pieces.

According to the Faculty of Music, Social Sciences and Design dean Assoc Prof Dr Irene Tan Ai Lian, the event was not only meant to expose students to the industry, it also served as a platform for industry members to meet and guide the students.

The gallery’s owner and director Lim Wei Ling said she was supportive of the project and expressed her appreciation of the students’ artwork.

“It’s important to nurture and educate our youths who have passion for art and design,” she said.

“The event showed that with a little bit of guidance and encouragement, our young artists can shine,” she added.

Aside from several couture pieces, the design students also featured digital and canvas artworks.

One of the guests at the event, digital artist Jonathan Sum said that the exhibition was one of the best he had seen done by youths.

“The artwork seems to have been done by more matured and experienced people, and not by first or second year students,” he said.

The institution’s founder and UCSI Group chairman Datuk Peter Ng attended the event.

“Today’s event was the culmination of what technology and creativity could produce,” he said, adding that he hoped the School of Design would continue to cultivate a culture of excellence.

Meanwhile, the university recently awarded close to 400 of its students with various awards and scholarships amounting to almost RM5mil during its Awards Day event themed “Our Success Trail.” The event was attended by Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung.

The event also saw top achievers receiving the Industrial Partners’ Sponsorship Award, where the institution’s industrial partners award students with cash incentives as well as a permanent work contract.

In his speech, Dr Hou, who also gave away some of the awards to the students, congratulated them on their achievements.

“This is the only event I’ve seen where offers for real employment are made to students by employers.

“The students have not even graduated, yet they are already ‘booked’,” he said.

He added that similar programmes should be made available in other varsities and that he is looking to promote it to other public and private higher education institutions.

The institution’s vice-chancellor Dr Robert Bong said the job offers were testimony of the students’ knowledge and competence in the workplace.

He added that a two-month internship was compulsory for each student every academic year.

“This internship programme allows students to not only learn practical work skills but introduces them to potential employers in their respective fields, giving them an advantage in the job market upon graduation.”