

SPEECH BY MRS. S. RAJARATHNAM AT THE EXHIBITION AND  
SALE OF PAINTINGS OF THE NANYANG ACADEMY OF ARTS AT  
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ON 11.12.64

This Exhibition and Sale of Paintings by the artists of the Nanyang Academy of Arts deserve every support. Firstly, it is yet another manifestation of a cultural awakening in this new nation of ours which has seen an extension of activities in all the artistic media. Although this cultural awakening, which has followed in the wake of political independence, may not produce masterpieces, yet it creates a climate of cultural activity which may in time give rise to works of art of high standards. However, unless there is public acknowledgement and support of this first flush of artistic enthusiasm, even the most talented in our midst will either seek a cultural oasis elsewhere or wither away in the desert of discouragement. But, I am glad to say, there is increasing evidence of public appreciation and support for our local artists, which would explain the many exhibitions we have had in the past few years.

Secondly, the proceeds from this Exhibition and Sale of Paintings will go towards the organisation of an all important Christmas Fair for the underprivileged children in our Society. The season of joy and goodwill will lose its meaning if there are some among us who are forced through unfortunate circumstances to face a Christmas as bleak as any other day. However, the Singapore people are well known for their warm-heartedness and generosity, and I am certain that they will give this sale their unstinted support.

Finally the artists must be praised for their admirable works of art and for their even more admirable sense of charity.

I have, therefore, great pleasure in declaring the Exhibition and Sale open.

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