



DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Artist Rose Chang's paintings depict life back in the *kampung* days

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AT 72 YEARS OLD, artist Rose Chang still works in her studio at her Toa Payoh flat, spending about six hours every day, painting scenes of *kampung* life, which she is well known for.

Ms Chang's memories of growing up in a *kampung* are not clear, but she remembers clearly stories of *kampung* life which her late mother used to tell her.

"My great-grandmother was a Peranakan, and mum would tell me stories about her life," says Ms Chang, who has always had a passion for the arts since young.

She graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and later pursued advance arts from Nova Scotia College in Halifax, Canada. Ms Chang has been taking part

in various art exhibitions since 1972, and has won several awards.

Her oil paintings of *kampung* life, which are drawn from memory, have found fans even in renowned personalities such as Mrs Goh Chok Tong, as well as ministers Josephine Teo and Sim Ann.

Her paintings feature rotund women dressed in *sam-foo* or *kebaya*, engaging in domestic chores such as looking after children, going about marketing, sewing, gossiping and interacting with one another. "Everyone draws their subjects skinny, so I decided to do something different," she says of her style.

It takes her about a week or two to finish a piece. Her

paintings these days are smaller in size, because she finds it difficult to lift her arm. Ms Chang has been afflicted with polio since she was three, and now suffers from post-polio syndrome.

Still, she finds much joy in painting. "It is something that I've always enjoyed, and will only stop when I really have to," she says.

Her paintings are part of an exhibition titled *The View From Here*, presented by design agency Kinetic with local charity organisation Very Special Arts Singapore.

The View From Here is on till June 24 at Kplus.sg at Scotts Square, 03-11.