

Loud and proud roar



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Toy artist community partners with WWF-Malaysia to mark Global Tiger Day 2022.

IN conjunction with Global Tiger Day 2022 yesterday, WWF-Malaysia released 150 limited edition tiger collectibles made from sustainable and eco-friendly materials.

These collectibles designed by Malaysian artists are up for sale on pandashop.my, with proceeds from each tiger collectible going towards supporting conservation initiatives by WWF-Malaysia.

These collectibles will also be exhibited at the Piazza space at Pavilion Bukit Jalil in Kuala Lumpur today (10am-6pm) and tomorrow (10am-3pm).

Toy designer and artist Kangblabla (Julius Raja Manickam), one of the participating artists, painted his tiger blue, a nod to the blue flames of fire, stable yet powerful.

“Being a character artist, I express my thoughts, feelings and point of view through my characters. I always believe that we can learn a lot from each other and we can understand one another through putting oneself in others’ shoes. So I tried to imagine being a tiger faced with the realisa-



Drawdelow’s tiger design incorporates the Tiger Balm pain reliever household staple.



Peter the tiger, designed by Kangblabla, is sad to discover that he is slowly but surely disappearing from this world. — Photos: WWF-Malaysia



tion of a possible extinction of my species," says Kangblabla.

"Most of us don't see tigers in real life, unless we pay a visit to a local zoo or through the lens of media and entertainment. I chose to depict a scene with my tiger where he is disappearing pixel by pixel into the void. For many of us, we only see tigers in pixels, through a digital screen and it might be too late when we realise all tigers are gone from the world and all we have left are digital copies of tigers, be it in photos or video," he adds.

His tiger is named "Peter", a tiger who realises that his time on this planet is up.

"It is in no way his fault.

Through the horrible acts committed by parts of the human race, tigers like Peter

become victims. The number of tigers in the wild have steadily decreased and if nothing is done, we will soon face extinction of another majestic creature. Storytelling is a big part of my art, I use these stories alongside my characters to convey messages and views on particular subjects. I hope stories like these can shed some light to the plight faced by these tigers and create awareness that these atrocities are happening," he says.

Each tiger collectible has been customised with a unique design, with art outfits Artisus and Fused Labs adding on serial numbers to each work.

This series includes works from contemporary artists, designers, doodle artists, illustrators and freelance creatives.

Visual artist and children art



Ho Mei Kei's colourful tiger is made of sugar and spice and all things nice.

educator Ho Mei Kei taps into her inner child and decked her tiger out in colourful little balls.

"I applied a colourful outfit on our Malayan tiger, using cute colours to attract the viewer and help spread awareness on the critical endangered issue faced by our tigers," says Ho.

Edward Low, who is known as Drawdelow, co-founder of MY Toy Hoard, gives a nostalgic nod to his tiger, incorporating the beloved Tiger Balm, a topical pain reliever that is a staple in many households.



Abdul Rani Ahmad's tiger is suited up for space exploration and adventures in the solar system.

There is also a "dead" tiger among the 150 collectibles here, with multidisciplinary artist Teebai noting that there are more tiger collectibles than real tigers in the wild.

He removed the head and tail of his tiger to drive home this point, replacing it with a flower bonsai made of copper and aluminium wire.

"I am dedicating my tiger collectible to the dead tiger. Most of us are well-informed that animals are in danger but it doesn't seem like it is our priority. The rate of deforestation shows no sign of slowing. It is a complex yet simple problem," he says.



Microwig, a hair rooting artist, delivers a collectible inspired by the lion dance tradition.



Luqman Herman's Catbus, inspired by the Studio Ghibli animated classic *My Neighbor Totoro*.

And why not go where no man ... or tiger ... has gone? Animator and comic artist Abdul Rani Ahmad puts his tiger in a space suit and lets it traverse the great unknown that is space.

There is a little bit of a monkey in his tiger too.

"My concept takes the legendary Monkey King and sets him on an adventure in space where he explores wild and fun objects, aliens and solar systems," says Abdul Rani.

How's that for out of this world?