

Organization seeks to rebuild 200 schools in East Nusa Tenggara

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The NGO Happy Hearts Indonesia recently held an art charity auction in Jakarta to raise funds for its #IAMCHANGE campaign dedicated to rebuilding schools in underdeveloped regions.

Launched in March, #IAMCHANGE is a five-year program that aims to rebuild 200 schools in East Nusa Tenggara by 2023.

The auction on Wednesday evening put under the hammer creations and exclusive artworks by masters from across the country, including Arahmaiani, Oky Rey Montha, Labaudio Piko, Sinta Tantra, Arkiv Vilmansa and Alexander Thian. In collaboration with furniture company BIKA Living, the artists put a one-of-a-kind artistic touch on different pieces of furniture.

"Having always been interested in design and art, BIKA has provided luxurious furniture for more than 40 years and is delighted to collaborate with design artists in supporting a good cause," said Karina Cheung, the creative leader of BIKA Living.

LASVIT, a furniture company that focuses on glass-based lighting sculptures, also dedicated various glass pieces by prominent international artists for sale and auction. Highlighted pieces include "The Martian" by René Roubíček, as well as a contemporary interpretation of a classical chandelier titled "Neverending Glory" by Jan Plecháč and Henry Wielgus.

The collaboration between quality furniture and modern art "[makes] raising money for charity more engaging in a creative way, as we explore the intersection between art and lifestyle design," said Deborah Iskandar, founder and principal of ISA Art Advisory, who oversaw auctioneering of the artworks.

Held at the Four Seasons Hotel Jakarta and supported by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the event also featured musical performances by contemporary Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený and prominent classical guitarist Miloslav Klaus.

The international non-profit organization Happy Hearts, founded in 2005 by supermodel Petra Nemcova, began rebuilding schools in Yogyakarta after the devastating earthquake of 2006. It rebuilt more than 30 schools at the time.

In 2013, Happy Hearts opened its first chapter in Indonesia, Happy Hearts Indonesia (Yayasan Hati Gembira Indonesia), to support the reconstruction of schools destroyed by natural disasters.

Since 2006, HHI has built more than 132 schools, including 17 in East Nusa Tenggara, and reached more than 50,000 children in Indonesia. (liz/kes)