

Budding artists brush up on hot topics



Young artists explain their creations at the Children's Creative Arts Exhibition, which opened yesterday at the Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui and runs until Sunday. Photo: David Wong

Agnes Lam

More than 300 young artists from nine kindergarten and nursery schools expressed their feelings through art about events in the city, including the recent demolition of the Star Ferry pier.

More than 280 artistic creations, including drawings, photographs and three-dimensional models, by 370 children aged four to six are on display at the Children's Creative Arts Exhibition at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Some 113 paintings and 42 three-dimensional models were sold yesterday, raising HK\$300,000 for the Hong Kong Christian Service's children's arts development fund.

Five-year-old Lee Tsz-yan, from Central Nursery School, was one of the young painters who drew a picture of the Star Ferry pier.

"The title of my picture is the Everlasting Star Ferry Pier. I spent about two days to draw this picture. I drew it because I miss the white clock tower," Tsz-yan said.

Although she had never been to

the Star Ferry Pier, she had learned about the clock tower from reading stories in the newspaper and seeing pictures of the tower.

"I feel quite sad when drawing the picture because the tower is not there anymore. It has been torn down."

Another young artist who drew a picture featuring the Star Ferry pier's clock tower was Tang Hoi-ki.

The picture, which is titled Embracing the Clock Tower, shows a small child with her arms wrapped around the clock tower, trying to protect it from harm.

"I've been to the Star Ferry many times. I like the sound of the clock very much when it tries to tell us the time. It was like music," said the six-year-old, who goes to Way Foong Nursery School.

"The child in the picture is me. I want to wrap my arms around it because I do not want it destroyed."

Chan Kong Siu-wai, principal coordinator of early childhood education services, said the artwork showed how much children cared about Hong Kong.

"Children's views on what is hap-

pening in Hong Kong are reflected in these art works. Demolition of the Star Ferry pier is one of the issues that touches our children's hearts.

"Their paintings also clearly show how much they miss the clock tower," she said.

Other hot issues, such as the redevelopment project in Kwun Tong, pollution and the smoking ban that came into effect this year, were also themes of the artwork.

The four-day exhibition, which began yesterday, will end on Sunday. Admission is free.