

## Celebration of Reunion by Singapore Girls' Home, Singapore Boys' Home and Tan Teng Teng



As part of *Huayi - Chinese Festival of Arts 2008*, a visual arts project was organised to showcase the creativity of youths from the Singapore Girls' Home and Singapore Boys' Home, while bringing across the importance of family togetherness. Through a series of workshops conducted by artist Tan Teng Teng, participants learnt basic skills of Chinese ink painting, paper cutting and seal carving to create works of art based on the themes of traditional Chinese culture and reunion. These works,

made up of different characters of the rat, were put together in a visual arts installation at the Esplanade Tunnel to celebrate the Chinese New Year during *Huayi*.



"I used to love to draw fishes as they seem very carefree swimming in the sea. Now I'm happy to be able to participate in this workshop as it allows me to learn to draw other interesting art pieces. Although I was initially not too comfortable with Chinese painting, I think I can still succeed if I work hard. I drew a group of rats eating a cake with fireworks in the background to signify the Chinese New Year celebration in Singapore. My only wish for the Chinese New Year is to go home to my family." - Ah Hao, aged 15, participant in the workshop



"It is indeed a very special experience for me to have the chance to interact with this group of youths. While I started the workshop with a lot of insecurities and fear, the youths have shown me what the Chinese proverb says, "Nothing in the world is too hard for those who set their minds on it." I was touched to realise that the best artworks did not come from the youths who were good in painting but from those who were willing to learn and were persistent in trying ". - Tan Teng Teng, artist