

# Grandma shows her true colours at graffiti contest

BY PETER WILLIAMS

ARMED with a magenta spray-paint can, Madam Michelle Lai prepared to leave her mark on Singapore's street-art landscape.

But the 77-year-old housewife was not defacing any public space – she had a very legitimate canvas.

She was the oldest participant in Sunday's South East CDC's Graffiti Xpressions, an event that brought together 103 participants in 20 teams for a graffiti competition inspired by the three values of the upcoming Singapore Youth Olympic Games: Friendship, respect and excellence.

The contest, held at Big Splash, saw the participants transform a white-washed plywood board into a work of art



**TEAMWORK:** Madam Michelle Lai (front) adding her touch to the graffiti designed by her team. (PHOTOS: PETER WILLIAMS)

with 450 cans of Pylox spray paint. Four teams, comprising senior citizens aged between 50 and 77, competed alongside 16 youth teams.

"I don't draw well, but I can spray it in very well," Madam Lai said in Mandarin with a big smile.

While she and her team-



**COOL:** A grandmother to seven, Madam Lai, 77, thinks all older people should try doing graffiti.

mates from Love failed to take top spot – that went to another group, Team Active Seniors – she certainly left the competition feeling on top of the world.

"It actually is a lot of fun, and I think all older people should try it," said the mother of four and grandmother to seven.

Before taking to their canvas on Sunday, all 103 participants attended a series of graffiti-art workshops.

Graffiti Xpressions marks the end of the month-long South East District Arts Festival 2010, which has seen over 30 community arts groups and partners reach out to some 16,000 people.

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