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e-mail: city@nst.com.my

Crafts from Tibet and the Himalayas

By Meena Sreenivasan
meena@nst.com.my

ALMOST everything in Sacred Citadel is a collector's item and each exquisite piece tells its own story.

This treasure trove of Tibetan and Himalayan art and tribal crafts is, according to its proprietor Premendra Y. Verma, the English version of Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet.

"Eighty per cent of the items are handcrafted in Tibet and most of them are made-to-order, designed and painstakingly made by three or four trained Tibetans," he said.

Items include gorgeous cushion covers, bed throws and wall hangings with exquisite applique work on silk fabric, brocade table runners and wall scrolls, carpets and rugs handwoven with New Zealand Marina wool and intric-

ate brass door knockers from Bhutan.

The applique work on the cushion covers reminds one of the heydays of the Silk Road and suggests a revival of the same style of art. The applique designs include the lotus, birds, flowers, Tibetan auspicious symbols, and also the yak, peacocks and tigers.

The grandeur of special Tibetan paintings known as "thangka", depicting the serene Buddha, gods and goddesses, have been heightened with exquisite brocade silk edging.

"The waiting period for a product like this is about eight months because these items are directly from Tibet.

"Most of the paintings focus on Himalayan Buddhism," Verma said.

Carpets can also be made to order. Look out also for the attract-

ive paper mache jewellery boxes and side tables from Kashmir.

There are extravagant side and altar cabinets in the gallery, replicas of the antiques used by Tibetan royalty. They would make any home look majestic.

The waiting period for one of these is about four to five months. Tiger-patterned rugs are popular with Tibetans and you can buy one at the gallery along with grand statues of the Buddha.

While there, browse through their range of knick-knacks such as photo frames in pewter and those in applique work, and also hand-made desk and wall clocks.

"Although these are available in Delhi, India, the ones you find here are different," said Verma.

Sacred Citadel is located at No 44-A, 1st Floor, Jalan Telawi 5, Bangsar Baru.

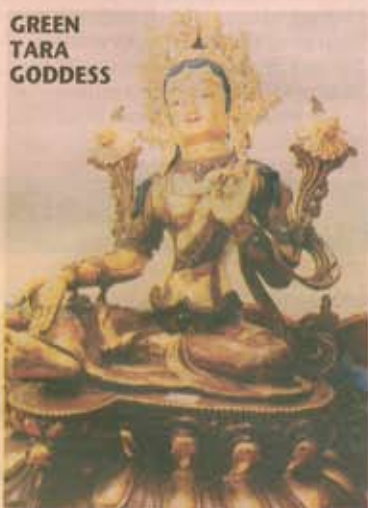
Call 03-2284-8412.



HIGHLY ARTISTIC: Altar cabinet in two parts at RM20,000



TIGER RUG



GREEN TARA GODDESS



APPLIQUE SILK BED COVER SET



EXQUISITE: Beautiful gemstone necklace sets from Rajasthan. Blue topaz (left) and a mixture of gemstones (right)