

Bono Stellar's colourful artworks seen at the Masjid Jamek LRT station in Kuala Lumpur. — Photos: Vans (24 August 2021) The Strip. com

Ride the 'trippy' line

Artist lifts pandemic gloom with colourful art project at an LRT station in Kuala Lumpur and a train.

By **DINESH KUMAR MAGANATHAN**
lifestyle@thestar.com.my

THE next time you're at the Masjid Jamek LRT station in Kuala Lumpur, don't be surprised to see a splash of trippy mind-bending art on the walls and stairs of the station.

Multidisciplinary artist Bono Stellar (real name Nawwar Shukriah Ali) is responsible for the visual art takeover. The public art project is part of American shoe brand Vans' new artist-first brand campaign These Projects Are Ads for Creativity.

Bono Stellar, a designer-turned-artist, joins a global line-up of artists in an initiative to empower artists to bring their ideas to life in the vast forms that art can play.

"What inspired me was to create a sense of hope to the people in the city and the country by splashing a little colour to brighten the city in this dreadful pandemic where everyone is mostly in survival mode and there's so much uncertainty around us," says Bono Stellar about her new work, which references op-art (optical art).

The artist shares that Vans approached her in April to be a part of the campaign. She admits that it was a surreal experience as she had always wanted to have a "moving artwork", notably a train here.

Her design took nearly three weeks to complete; the various phases of movement control order imposed since May gave Bono Stellar added time to fine tune her work.

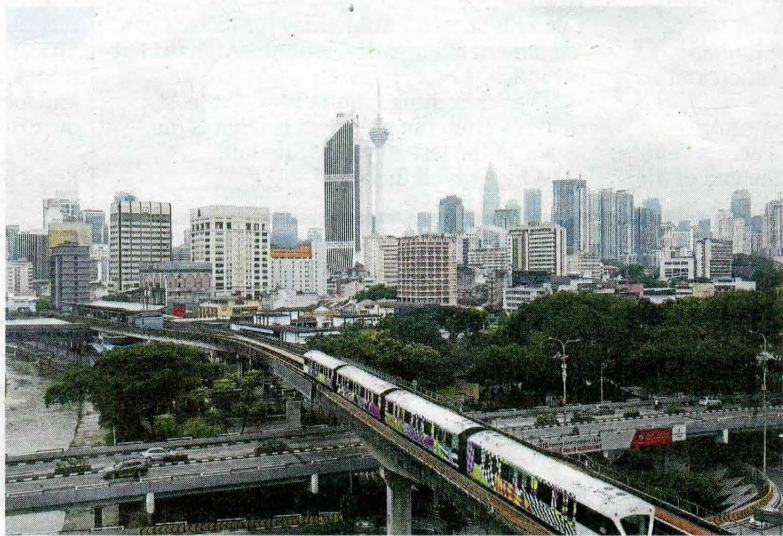
Apart from the walls and stairs of the Masjid Jamek LRT station, Bono Stellar's art will also be "touring" the city via a train car (Train 147) wrapped in her contemporary psychedelic designs. It is a small way to improve the mood in the city and to bring smiles to people.

These works will be available for public viewing until the end of October.

"I hope that this can help brighten their day and lift their mood," says Bono Stellar, who had her own struggles with depression and feelings of isolation last year.

Knack for experimenting

In her works, the Terengganu-born artist is mainly known for uti-



The new artwork will also be 'touring' the city via Train 147.



Bono hopes her artworks at the train station will lift the spirits of commuters in the Klang Valley.

lising natural light and experimenting with space via works using iridescent film and plexiglass. Her last on-site show (*Pause II* group exhibit) at the Tun Perak Co-op arts space in KL in March saw her using reflective acrylics.

With a profile spanning art gallery shows to urban culture festivals, Bono Stellar's works include interactive installations, unique sculptures and conceptual photography.

Taking visual cues from optical art, Bono Stellar, 36, used lines and space to represent the many directions and routes that can be found in the city in her artworks for the Vans campaign.

"The lines and patterns were cre-

ated in multiple directions to also show that there are many paths that we can create and recreate for ourselves individually even in this isolation, to embrace growth in this pandemic no matter how small," she explains.

"I just hope people won't fall off the stairs while looking at the artwork!" she adds.

If she is not making art, Bono Stellar can be found educating people and working on community initiatives, especially in creating broader awareness when it comes to staying the distance in the creative field. She also founded the "Make It Happen" platform to help guide fellow creatives in the art and design industry.