SINGAPORE: For many, art may still be something to be appreciated from a distance.

Hoping to break down barriers, the people at Sculpture Square have created a month-long exhibition of big pieces called "Art You Can Touch" on the SMU Campus.

Many of these large sculptures have been inviting a second look from passers-by.

Said Tay Swee Lin, artistic director of Sculpture Square, "If these art works were out in a museum or gallery, they won't have that kind of accessibility. We want to make art really fun for the public to look at, to touch."

In that respect, the "Chilli Series", created by well-known Singaporean artist Kumari, proved particularly hot.

Some people took the concept of "Art You Can Touch" so literally they dragged one favourite piece about 50 metres away to a nearby flagpole for a gag.

Considering it weighs almost 90 kilogrammes, that could not have been an easy task.

Said the artist, "At least they made an attempt to do something and I think it's quite funny as well."

But the organisers may still have some way to go, as most other reactions were still mostly lukewarm.

"Art is nice but don't touch it because I'm afraid I'll spoil the aesthetic value of it," one person said.

"We have some fake human beings along the staircase downstairs and my friend was sitting beside it and then he got scolded so I don't dare touch this one, which is quite ironic because it's interactive art. We should be able to touch them, kiss them, or something," another said.

The exhibition ends on Sunday. - CNA /ct