

Inti alumnus moving in New York's art circles

IT is not easy to carve a name for oneself in the highly competitive international art scene but 25-year-old Malaysian Kok Siew Wai (pic) is slowly making inroads in New York's art circles.

An Inti College graduate, Kok has won awards in numerous competitions and exhibitions in the Big Apple since graduating last year with "Highest Distinction as Outstanding Senior" from the University of Buffalo where she was pursuing a Bachelor of Art in Media Study.

Her video "Get-Naked" won her the first place in the Experimental category at the SMPTE-RAVA Student Film/Video Festival in Rochester, New York. She also made it to the semi-finals of the North American Open Poetry Contest for years 2000 and 2001 and has displayed her works in several art exhibitions and media collaborations in New York.

She is currently in the country to promote the "Western New York Experimental Video Screening 2002 (Malaysia)" which features her first curatorial project as well as the works of eight other artists from New York.

"I have always been inter-



ested in the arts, even from a very young age but I never had access to it whilst in Malaysia," says Kok. "The University of Buffalo was a real eye-opener for me for there were events to go to every weekend where I learned a lot."

Kok adds that she enjoyed her studies in New York so much that she decided to bring her experiences home to share with fellow Malaysians "information about American contemporary art and culture outside the mainstream of Hollywood, broadcasting and commercials."

The graduate student is presently completing her Masters of Fine Arts in Electronic Integrated Arts on scholarship at Alfred University in New York.