



At Your Fingertips

The look is ubiquitous about town, but have you dared to give it a go? We're talking about nail art – those fancy little designs that adorn many of the most well-maintained fingertips in Singapore. VICTORIA KOH, the owner of Flair Nails, suggests you add some artistic expression to your next manicure.

Is nail art a new trend in Singapore?

Nail art has always been popular in Singapore, but every day we get clients who try it for the first time. Now, about half of our clients want nail art. And it isn't just popular for the hands. We have clients who choose designs for their toenails while bearing in mind the pair of heels they plan to wear for the next few days! They want them to match.

Is it fair to say that nail art is more popular with locals than with expat clients?

When Flair Nails started five years ago, I would have said "yes" to that question, because expatriate clients were more conservative when it came to manicures. Eighty percent of them chose red. But today, around 30 percent of our expat clients use daring colours and nail art.

Do you need to have really long or artificial nails?

No, we have clients with short, natural nails who want small designs, a ladybird for example. However, for 3-D flowers or bigger designs, you usually need artificial nails.

Why, do you think, is nail art so popular? Why do women love it?

Personally, I feel that nail art is just like the makeup we put on our faces. Makeup enhances our features and makes us more attractive. Likewise, nail art makes your nails look prettier.

I don't want to discriminate. Do males ever request nail art?

Young men do. We get appeals from three-year-olds asking to have cartoon characters drawn on their thumbnails!

How in the world do you get such detailed pictures onto such tiny canvases?

We draw freehand with a nail art brush. To accommodate all our clients' varied requests, our nail technicians need steady hands and a flair for drawing. For 3-D art, acrylic powder is used to mould the desired shape.

What are the most popular designs?

That depends largely upon the upcoming occasion or festive season. Close to Christmas, we draw a lot of snowflakes and snowmen. Mandarin orange art is requested when Chinese New Year is around the corner. Last month, we even had requests for F1-themed nail art.

Any recent trends?

Crystals, crystals and more crystals! We paste them onto nails to create the "bling-bling" effect of a diamond ring. **■**

by Monica Pitrelli

At Flair Nails, nail art starts from \$2 per nail. To make an appointment, call 6468 3989 or visit www.nailsflair.com.