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Celebrity twins May & Choy take on the eBay Show House Challenge
eBay Style Ambassadors May & Choy gave their apartment a face-lift for the Chinese New Year with items bought on eBay, keeping to a shoestring budget and a two-week time frame.

Singapore, 7th February 2007 – Twin sisters Teh May Wan and Teh Choy Wan, better known as popular television personalities and MTV VJs May & Choy, were recently posed with a challenge: To revamp their 90 square-metre apartment with items bought only from eBay within a two-week timeframe and a shoestring budget of S\$7,000.

“eBay is the most popular online shopping destination for Singaporeans¹. The eBay Show House is a concept to showcase how eBay, as a global online marketplace, offers online shoppers in Singapore with variety, value and convenience, enabling just about anyone to realise a home of their dreams,” said Sam McDonagh, eBay Southeast Asia’s Marketing and Marketplace Development Director.

“Space, budget and time constraints are all realistic challenges that anyone decorating their home would face. And that’s where eBay comes in...to offer the flexibility of redecorating parts of your home at any one time, so that even with constraints, you can still enjoy a home makeover,” he added.

eBay members since 2005, May & Choy were recently appointed as eBay’s Style Ambassadors in Singapore late last year. The twins are self professed interior decorating enthusiasts and avid eBay shoppers. So, when presented with the idea of revamping their apartment with eBay they were thrilled and took on the challenge without hesitation.

“To meet the eBay Show House challenge, we’ve been shopping on eBay.com.sg for the past two weeks. We had to prioritise the rooms in our home that needed a revamp more than others so that we could keep to the budget. Since we enjoy having friends over and cooking for them, our focus was mainly the living and dining area,” said May.

The eBay Show House Challenge

May & Choy’s place is a centrally located, two-bedroom apartment just a stone’s throw away from Vivo City, one of Singapore’s newest and largest shopping malls. The apartment’s enviable location comes with a price – it is a little constrained when it comes to space.

“We have an extensive CD and DVD collection as well as books which we brought with us from Australia and it was a challenge finding enough space to store them. We were aware that minimizing clutter would help to make our apartment more spacious looking. So, one of our very first goals when shopping on eBay was to find storage efficient furniture,” said Choy.

May & Choy also wanted a contemporary Asian concept for their home right from the start. They wanted to express themselves through their home and set about redecorating the apartment with pieces they felt were an extension of their personalities.

“May and I love decorating our home and since we moved in, it has been an ongoing project to make it more cosy and stylish. We believe that our home should reflect our personalities and be a place of retreat...There is such a great selection of products on eBay that May and I never fail to be spoiled for choice,” Choy added.

They chose earth tones and gold as the main colour scheme, selecting furniture and décor pieces in dark wood and cream on eBay to match. To add visual interest, accents of other more striking colours were included through smaller items like art pieces and beaded napkin rings.

¹ According to Hitwise - the world's online competitive intelligence service



On their user experience as buyers, May said: "We were pleasantly surprised by the sellers on eBay. Not only were they friendly, they were also extremely professional and helpful, never failing to answer our queries promptly...so that our shopping experience was so much more enjoyable!"

An Apartment To Call Their Own

Despite the tough challenge of completing their shopping in two weeks and within a shoestring budget, the apartment went through an amazing transformation. May & Choy brought an Asian touch and a coordinated contemporary feel to the place. Most importantly, they both felt a great sense of achievement and satisfaction, having bought, and in some cases 'won' home furnishings and décor pieces on eBay.

"The thrill of winning the bid on an item you really like is truly incredible... and addictive. We love the experience of personally choosing every single item ourselves and making sure they all fit," Choy said excitedly.

eBay Style Ambassadors

The Internet has long been a part of the May & Choy's lifestyle as they have been leveraging on the convenience it offers to communicate with their family in Malaysia and book airline and concert tickets.

They have also been enjoying every minute of their new role as eBay Style Ambassadors. Besides shopping for home décor items, they also bought unique gifts for their loved ones last Christmas as well as found great fashion bargains, many of which are not retailed locally.

Check out their latest bargains from eBay and style tips for the season on their eBay micro-site:

<http://www.ebay.com.sg/styleambassadors>

Note to editors:

An eBay Show House Factsheet including a detailed list of items that May & Choy have bought on eBay for their apartment is attached for your reference.

About eBay

Founded in 1995, eBay created a powerful platform for the sale of goods and services by a passionate community of individuals and businesses. On any given day, there are millions of items across thousands of categories for sale on eBay. eBay enables trade on a local, national and international basis with customized sites in markets around the world. Through an array of services, such as its payment solution provider PayPal, eBay is enabling global e-commerce for an ever-growing online community.

eBay is The World's Online Marketplace®.

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