

From Nostalgia to Nirvana, from Funky to Futuristic - Hong Kong's Largest Ever Public Art Installation Portrays Impressions of Hong Kong by Leading Artists

29 Jun 2005

Hong Kong - 29 June, 2005. Hong Kong's largest ever public art installation, "Box - A Hong Kong Exhibition", was today unveiled at Langham Place in Mongkok. The Installation - featuring the work of celebrated artists including Alan Chan, Craig AuYeung and Wing Shya - is set to become a talking point for members of the public who will witness some truly unique impressions of life in Hong Kong.

The massive exhibition, spanning 15 floors of the Mall and produced at a cost of HK\$3 million, will be showcased at Langham Place for one month, from 29 June to 31 July 2005. Entry is free and exhibition hours are 11am to 11pm daily.

The Installation comprises works by thirty artists each using a box as their 'canvas'. Given complete artistic freedom, the artists - whose disciplines range from painting and sculpture to multimedia and graphic art - bring vastly different perspectives to the Installation. A private party for the artists will take place tonight to celebrate the completion of the specially designed boxes and to unveil this installation.

Among the most unusual works on display is Alan Chan's bamboo depiction representing Hong Kong's preoccupation with self-achievement. Another noteworthy exhibit is a "museum" by the colourful artist, Frog King, featuring 900 individual pieces of his own work. Ông Thê' Huy has sought to depict the inspiring skyline of Hong Kong using neon lights. James Lavelle has produced the largest Bearbrick - a sought after fashion toy - reflecting his love of Hong Kong and Hong Kong's love of Bearbrick. Another mountainman has used the architecture of Hong Kong to depict a heart shape, symbolizing community spirit.

The Installation is the result of a partnership between Langham Place and thirty leading Asian artists, who were either born in Hong Kong or have a deep connection to this city.

Simon Birch, participating artist and curator of the Installation, commented: "In some ways we are bringing a new meaning to Cubism! Our artists have been able to use boxes as blank canvases in any way they want - whether as completely abstract or representative forms, whether as receptacles or as sculptures, as montages or minimalist pieces. The interpretation was entirely at the whim of each artist, with fascinating results!"

He added: "The Installation itself will resemble a modern day Stonehenge at Langham Place. A piece of art on this scale, with this level of artistic involvement and set in such a busy public space

has never been attempted or seen in Hong Kong before. It will be a true spectacle for Hong Kong people."

Dr K S Lo, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director, Great Eagle Holdings Ltd, the owner of Langham Place, said: "We are proud to be collaborating with these talented local artists whose close connections to Hong Kong are reflected in their contributions to this Installation. Their work is rarely given the opportunity to be seen by so many people, on such a large scale or in such an unusual and exciting manner as it will be in Langham Place."

Dr Lo continued, "'Box - A Hong Kong Exhibition' is our way of supporting Hong Kong artists and the continued development of a lively local arts culture. This exhibition represents the first in a series of ongoing collaborative partnerships between Langham Place and local artists."

The starting point of the Installation can be reached from MTR Mongkok Station Exit C3 (Langham Place) entrance at Basement level 2 of the Mall. A complimentary colourful art map is available to all visitors, and serves as a guide to all thirty unique design pieces as well as providing further details about each of the artists. These art maps are available at standees, which will be placed throughout the mall.

- End -