



## Press Release

To: General/ Business/ Lifestyle/ Education/Feature

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

### **Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair 2012 Showcasing Three Young Award Winning HK Artists**

Three young award winning Hong Kong artists will display their works at the 7th Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair (AHAF), held from 24-26 February 2012 in Hong Kong, which promotes exchanges of Asian art and integration of the region's art market.

Coming to Hong Kong for the third time as the city rapidly emerges into a regional art market hub, AHAF is committed to supporting and nurturing young artists in Asia Pacific region by providing them with a platform to access overseas markets.

Since 2009, the twice-a-year AHAF Young Artist Contest has been selecting talented and potential young artists and showcasing their works at AHAF. Selection criteria cover contestants' ways of expressing their creative ideas, their potential for further growth and development, and public preference.

The 12 winning young artists of this year's contest have already been announced. They are: Chae Ji-Min, Cho Hye-Yoon, Cho Sung-Hoon, Choi Hyun-Seok, Kim An-Seon, Kim Dong-Hyun, Rha Omi, Takashi Onishi, Wadino from Korea, Indonesia and Japan respectively, as well as three up and coming artists from Hong Kong - Castaly Ching Man Leung, Michelle Kuen Suet Fung and mr clement.

The works of the winning young artists displayed at AHAF exudes their potential to explore different directions and their capabilities in employing pluralistic perspectives that reflect the diverse aspects of modern life. The judging panel describes the three winning artists from Hong Kong as being very impressive in their own different ways:

#### Winning artist from Hong Kong- Castaly Ching Man Leung

Graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with fine art degrees at bachelor's and master's levels, local artist Castaly Ching Man Leung has always been fascinated by painting. Her works mainly focus on the relationship between human and nature in the contemporary world. She applies a combination of engraving and painting techniques to her works, and through repeatedly showing familiar action patterns: an old couple sitting together, the act of reading, etc, her works defamiliarize the forms of usual patterns, thus induce her audience to reflect upon and



rethink their daily behavior and actions. Castaly's recent solo exhibitions include "With Love" and "Imprint of the Mundane" in Hong Kong.

#### Winning artist from Hong Kong- Michelle Kuen Suet Fung

Based in Vancouver for many years, full-time artist Michelle Kuen Suet Fung will display her paper art collection "Into the woods" she started since the end of 2008. Michelle believes that trees as part of the nature have an inextricably close relationship with human beings. The "Into the woods" collection uses different breeds and forms of trees as the subjects of drawing. Fusing Chinese-style with western-style drawing and applying pen and colour pencil, the collection presents serious subjects for reflection, such as the Nanjing Massacre and the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.

Michelle has just returned to Hong Kong for half a year. Asked to compare Canada with Hong Kong, she says the people and trees in Hong Kong evoke an extraordinarily strong vitality, and she believes both are able to survive any challenges. Michelle plans to incorporate into her collection trees "with Hong Kong characteristics", such as banyan trees, the "Wishing Tree" and cherry blossoms. Michelle has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong, and will present her solo exhibition in Beijing this year.

#### Winning artist from Hong Kong-mr clement

Another winner from Hong Kong, mr clement distinguishes himself with sculptures of a character of his own creation: "petit lapin" (little rabbit in French). Having studied in the United Kingdom, mr clement said the limited physical space in Hong Kong has restricted his creativity; whereas the open space in the UK has allowed him to make sculptures of larger scale. One of the themes of the "Petit Lapin" series stems from what mr clement calls his "confused self- identity as Hong Kong people". mr clement's comic series has been published in France. Apart from Hong Kong, his solo exhibitions had already travelled to Paris, London and Bulgaria.

The art works of the 12 winning artists will be displayed at the "Very, Vary" exhibition of AHAF (staged in Rooms 520 and 521, Mandarin Oriental, Central, Hong Kong)

AHAF will also feature solo exhibitions of four emerging artists who will display their new collections. They include a past winner of AHAF Young Artist Contest, Yuki Matsueda, and Tomomi Yoshizawa, both from Japan. The other two are Eugene Koo from Korea and Wu Nan from China. Yuki Matsueda is an expert in using three-dimensional spaces to recreate two-dimensional graphic with an interesting visual effect.



**About AHAF** Established in 2008, the Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair (AHAF) aims to exchange Asian art and unify the Asian art market. AHAF offers a wonderful opportunity for a greater appreciation of the power and potential of contemporary Asian art to the participants, while providing opportunities to talented, potential emerging artist a chance to reach the global art market. This year AHAF will be held in both Korea and Hong Kong. AHAF HK will feature more than 3,000 works of art, with the participation of more than 60 primary galleries from Korea, China, Japan, Hong Kong and other Asian countries.

Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair Hong Kong 2012 (AHAF HK 12)

Event overview (For more information, please refer to [www.hotelartfair.kr](http://www.hotelartfair.kr))

Date: Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Venue: Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong (5 Connaught Road, Central Hong Kong)

Press/ VIP Preview: Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 (Fri) 12 pm - 4 pm

Open hours for public: Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 (Fri) 4pm – 9pm

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2012(Sat-Sun) 12pm - 8pm

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All images are provided by Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair Committee



Images of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Top Gallery Art Fair held in Hong Kong.



One of the twelve AHAF Young artist contest winner: Castaly Ching Man Leung from Hong Kong applies a combination of engraving and painting techniques to her work



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