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**THE YOUNG REPORTER**  
*magazine*

December 2015



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Previous issue is our special issue on Hong Kong's District Council Election.

## Letter from the Editor

December (the “Friday of the year,” as the saying goes) marks the end of an unprecedentedly warm November and the beginning of holiday joy, mulled wine and hot chocolate. December also marks the end of 2015, a time to review the year and start planning New Year’s resolutions.

This issue is filled with stories about endings -- the closure of things such as Hong Kong’s last fabric bazaar and independent bookstores and the fading of traditions, heritage and objects of nostalgia. In Hong Kong, everything seems to eventually come to an end.

But sometimes there are ways to delay that end. We look at the opt-out organ donation scheme

in Hong Kong and examine the exciting ways it can prolong life in Hong Kong.

Christmas came early for The Young Reporter this year. Since October, we have been

working with Operation Santa Claus, an annual charity event jointly organised by RTHK and the South China Morning Post, to produce video stories on beneficiary organisations. We spread the Christmas spirit in our videos, available on scmp.tv and our YouTube channel, The Young Reporter.

We wish everyone a happy end of the year and a Happy Holiday.

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*Editor*

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**Crystal Tse**

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**Terrance Zheng**

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Printer  
**Department of Journalism**  
**School of Communication**  
**Hong Kong Baptist**  
**University**

E M A I L  
*editor@tyr.hk*  
W E B S I T E  
*tyr.hk*









# One Moment

*Clockenflap 2015 brought a kaleidoscope of music, art and culture to the West Kowloon Cultural District over three days. Families and music lovers alike gathered to grab a bite, a pint and catch the acts at one of the many stages or intimate music tents. Here children sit upon parents' shoulders during French act Nouvelle Vague.*

*By* **Tanya McGovern**





COVER

# High rent brings the final chapter in local book stores

*Closure of a book shop after half a century may spell the beginning of the end of Hong Kong's reading culture*

On October 25, Sam Wong Bo-long and his staff took the last photo together at Spirit Bookstore in Sai Wan. They bid farewell to the second-hand bookselling business founded by Wong's grandfather in 1958.

"We are really don't want to leave the neighbourhood," he said. "We will surely come back if we have the chance in future."

Spirit Bookstore, first opened in Mong Kok, relocated to Sai Wan some ten years ago when the rent skyrocketed.

History has repeated itself and this time Mr Wong, the third generation in this family business, has to shut down the store.

Rent in West Central District is set to rise mainly because of the MTR's Island Line western extension. Rent for the 500-square-foot space soared to around \$40,000 per month and Mr Wong is forced to say goodbye to the neighbourhood.

"We were hoping to tough it out but the situation has not improved," Mr Wong said. "Even small bookstores upstairs in building in Mong Kok would rent more than \$30,000 a month."

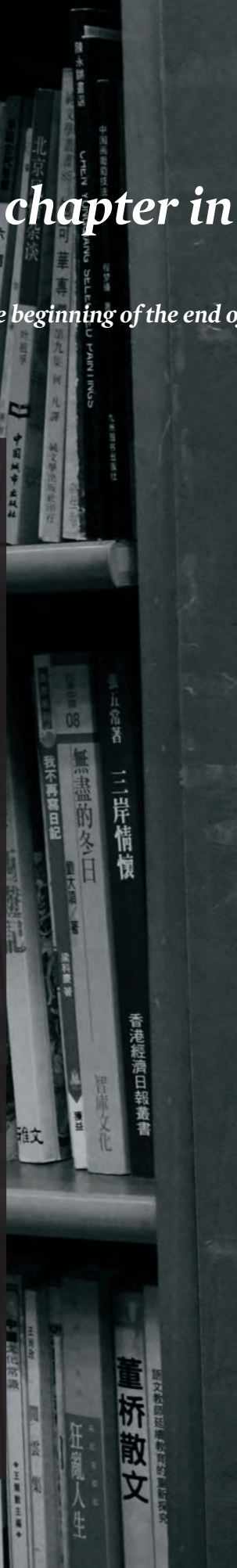
Mr Wong admitted the lack of online promotion might be a cause of the decline of his shop but the reading attitudes among Hong Kongers, he said, have also changed.

"When people want to relax, they go shopping and watch movies, but they would seldom read a book in a quiet corner."

He said many Taiwan readers would travel from urban areas to small bookstores in the peripheries of the city. But that, he believed, is unlikely in Hong Kong.

Some old local bookstores including Dymocks and Well Read Shop, also closed earlier this year because of soaring renting. But that has not deterred Taiwanese bookstore chain, Eslite, to expand.

The chain has opened up its second store in the city. The shop in Tsim Sha Tsui offers other services besides book selling, including light meals, shoes and accessories.







“It’s just a trend. Bookstore chains with a diverse business model always find it easier to survive,” said Mr Wong.

“Many successful small bookstores in Taiwan do well in creating a reading ambience,” Mr Wong said. “They sometimes focus more on selling other products, such as coffee and boutique items.”

Li Zhuohui, who frequently visits Eslite Bookstore, said she preferred reading in this kind of all-in-one shop. The setting, she said, gives her incentive to purchase.

“Eslite is able to incorporate the café and within the bookstore, therefore it offers a good reading environment. The setting doesn’t seem to be very commercial oriented,” she said.

Daniel Lee Tak-ling, one of the three owners of the Hong Kong Reader Bookstore, said that Eslite’s business model, shared by many Taiwanese independent bookstores, makes it possible to develop the bookstore business and a reading culture.

His bookstore emphasises on academic reading materials in Hong Kong studies and targets educated readers.

“Snacks and coffee just offer comfort in reading but should not make up the bulk of the profit,” he said. “Every bookstore just needs to have its own style.”

“Most people nowadays only visit bookstore chains to buy best-sellers but they don’t realise the fun in finding some books that are no longer published or found only in public libraries.”

Mr Lee formed a partnership with two university schoolmates in 2007 with a mission to redeem the eroding academic prosperity and culture in the city, coined by its citizens as “culture dessert”.

He said cultural promotion was closely related to economic and political issues. But he felt that the Taiwanese bookstore business model is unsuitable for Hong Kong.

“After all, Taiwan is a democratic society, which welcomes thoughts and culture.”

“The perception in Taiwan is different. They value cultural development and believe that it can also improve the economy.”

By **Terrance Zheng**  
Edited by **Annie Lau**





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## SOCIETY

# Supervision, education needed to reduce stray cat numbers

Sterilisation works, but activists say more should be done to cut Hong Kong's street cat population.



*Expert says that cats raised by hobby breeders are fragile.*

Hong Kong streets have become too crowded, even for cats. Some of them have to be killed, the government says. A total of 6,053 cats were euthanised from 2011 to 2013, according to government figures.

But some organizations in Hong Kong say sterilization is better than euthanasia.

A plan named "Trap-Neuter-Return" was introduced in 2000, aiming to ease the problem of too many wild cats by reducing their birth rate instead of euthanizing them.

The Hong Kong Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been practicing TNR for 15 years and sterilised 51,000 stray cats.

Meanwhile, The Hong Kong Non-Profit making Veterinary Clinic has been running the Community Animal De-sexing Project since 2008, which works the same way as TNR, and so far has sterilised 1,310 cats.

"It is the most effective and civilised way to help homeless cats," said Zoie Cheng Kam-shan, public relations manager at the Hong Kong NPV.

But sterilisation, which is carried out only in certain territories, isn't getting the task done.

"The reproduction speed is too high," Ms Cheng said. "There can be six to eight baby cats per litter."

The Dogs and Cats Ordinance contains no specific regulations for cats as they are seen as less threatening than dogs.

"The Hong Kong government has extremely poor regulations on animal breeders," said Vivian Chiu, an education manager at SPCA.

Ms Chiu said 90 percent of cats for sale in pet shops come from illegal breeders. Hobby breeders will not need any license for breeding.

"Hobby breeders are exploiting the loopholes of the regulations," Ms Chiu said. "The result is cats are growing up in places like hell. Most of the cats raised by them are fragile."





*A homeless cat is eating some left-over cat food and drinking yellowish water that may be contaminated.*

Some people try to help the cats on their own.

"I have fed the street cats at the Cyberport Waterfront Park for three years, as I feel pity for them," said Ms Yu, a house wife who lives nearby and feeds stray cats every morning.

However, experts say feeding homeless cats can make the situation worse. Ms Chiu said the number of street cats in a certain area may increase if people

simply feed them without de-sexing them.

"We do not encourage people to feed stray cats, it is an irresponsible behavior," she said.

Ms Chiu said neutering street cats should be the first step to solve the problem. After the neutering surgery, microchips will be implanted into the cats and the corners of their ears will be cut for identification.

Animal activists say they are disappointed that the government pays little attention to stray cats.

Activists also appeal to pet owners not to abandon their cats. Animal Friends, a Hong Kong-based non-profitable charity organisation, educate pet owners on animal welfare.

By **Phoebe Chau**  
Edited by **Airis Lin**



*The food was spilled all over the ground by the black dog. This cat was scared away but returned after to make sure the food was still there.*



## SOCIETY

# Organ donation opt-out scheme may save lives

Should everyone be on the donors list?

Nineteen-year-old Jamella Mangali Lo needed a double lung transplant. She didn't get it. In October, she passed away after two anxious weeks of waiting.

Since her death, the Hong Kong government announced it will resume the debate on making all citizens potential organ donors unless they explicitly state their objections. But experts doubt whether the so-called "opt-out scheme" can be implemented in a society dominated by traditional beliefs about life and death.

The number of voluntary organ donors in Hong Kong is not keeping up with the rising demand for organs. Nearly 3,000 people are currently waiting for transplants, according to government figures.

Although Hong Kong has seen an overall increase in organ donation, from about 4.2 donors per million people in 2005 to about 5.4 in 2015, the figures lag behind those in other developed societies. The United States has 27 organ donors per million people while Spain has 36.

Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Ko Wing-man said the government will discuss the possibility of an opt-out scheme to boost the city's donation rate. Under the scheme, all Hong Kong residents will be put onto the donors list unless they submit an objection letter. Spain, the first country to adopt the opt-out organ

donation system, has the world's highest donation rate. There are organ donation coordinators at every hospital. They counsel the patients and their families, and help facilitate their communication with medical workers.

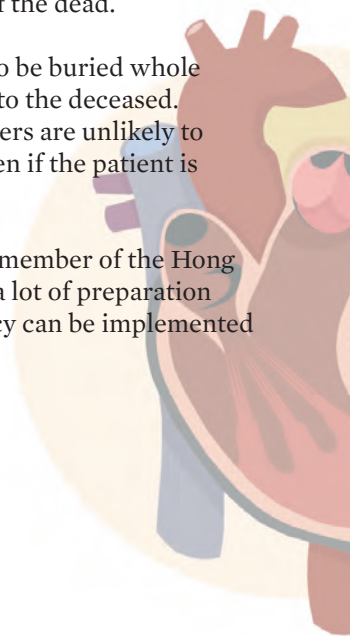
This successful "Spanish model" has prompted other countries, including the United Kingdom, to discuss the possibility of having a similar system. Twenty-four European countries have adopted opt-out schemes.

But it is questionable whether a majority of Hong Kongers can accept the idea of giving away organs after death.

Yip Chun-hin, a 22-year-old university student, thought that this practice could be difficult to implement, because according to traditional Chinese beliefs, organ removal amounts to desecration of the dead.

The belief is that the body needs to be buried whole and intact in order to bring peace to the deceased. Mr Yip said grieving family members are unlikely to give consent to organ donation even if the patient is registered as an organ donor.

Dr Desmond Yap Yat-hin, council member of the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology, said a lot of preparation needs to be done before such policy can be implemented.







*Kwan Kam-fan, Council Member of Will In Action, thinks that Hong Kong should consider opt-out organ donation.*

Dr Yap said the government should allocate more resources to public education and the training of frontline doctors and transplant coordinators. He said doctors should be told how to identify potential donors and communicate with family members.

President of the Society for Life and Death Education, Pasu Ng Kwai-lun agrees that Hong Kong should put more resources on education and training.

“Public education is the key to change the concept of organ donation,” Mr Ng said. “Hong Kong is a democratic city. If the government implements such policy without seeking the consent of the public, it could create backlash against organ donation.”

Despite the concerns, some welcome the new scheme, hoping it will bring more people into the group of organ donors.

“This new system would turn organ donation into a civic responsibility and allow more citizens to learn about organ donation,” said Kwan Kam-fan, council member of Will In Action, an non-governmental organisation that promotes organ donation.

Mr Kwan said the opt-out scheme, under which every patient who is pronounced brain death is screened for organ donation, will make it much easier for those who need organ transplantation to find their matches.

But Mr Kwan agrees that the implementation should be accompanied by more support from the authority.

Mr Kwan said Hong Kong has only nine organ transplant coordinators across all the public hospitals, and they do not have time to talk with all potential donors.

The Department of Health said in an email to The Young Reporter that they would ensure the new proposals are acceptable to the public before any decisions are made, and a fair and transparent mechanism will be developed. They will continue to discuss the matter with the professional sectors and parties concerned.

## POLITICS

# Controversies behind ambitious Lantau plan

Government urged to listen to the public before turning the scenic island into business centre

With its rich natural resources and beautiful landscape, Lantau Island is Hong Kong's backyard garden. However, the island, popular with tourists and hikers, may soon become a prospering metropolis with skyscrapers and shopping malls if the government is allowed to go ahead with its recent plan.

Despite numerous criticism and insufficient public consultation, a plan to develop Lantau Island will be submitted to the Chief Executive by the end of 2015 and then to the Legislative Council.

The Overall Spatial Planning and Conservation Concepts for Lantau, endorsed by The Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC) in September, is expected to bring a nine-time increase in population from the current 105,000 living on the island and five times more jobs to the current market of 470,000.

The plan, initiated in 2007, proposes to build infrastructure, housing, leisure facilities and tourist attractions while preserving nature and heritage. It outlines the creation The East Lantau Metropolis (ELM) as a core business district and also includes the creation of water taxis, a cable car, funicular railway, cycle tracks and a round-the-island shuttle.

However, the plan faces strong opposition from the community. Many question whether this ambitious project is what the Hong Kong public actually wants.

Tom Yam, management consultant with a doctoral degree in electrical engineering, doubts the plan objectives can be met,

saying Hong Kong will not have enough people to fill new towns.

"Together with the Development Plan of Northeast New Territories, new towns including Lantau would bring 1.7 million more people to the city," he said. "But Hong Kong's population is only expected to increase for 600,000 more by the year 2050."

"The government hasn't done a needs analysis for the Lantau Development Plan yet," said Mr Yam. "They already assume there's a need and they're pursuing the next step of feasibility study already."

"That's not logical," the consultant said. "You need to show the public there's the need of doing so before you study the feasibility."

He submitted a proposal last year to ask LanDAC to conduct a strategic needs analysis of the development of ELM, concerning building an artificial island in the sea between Hong Kong Island and Lantau. But he received no reply.

LanDAC, which is chaired by the Secretary for Development and consisted of nine ex-officio members along with 20 non-official members, was formed in 2014 as an advisory committee to the government concerning the Lantau plan.

Eleven of the 20 LanDAC non-official members come from the tourism and economic industries. The rest come include the Islands' District Council, one geography professor, one Legislative Councillor and the president of environmental organization Green Force.

But "decisions and recommendations (of the committee) will be biased and that should be taken into account," said Paul Zimmerman, a district councillor in Southern District and the CEO of Designing Hong Kong, a NGO for better urban environment.

"It would be better to have a wider range of interests and background either in the committee or in a separate plan review panel," Mr Zimmerman said.

Kevin Chan Sze Wai, senior town planner of the Planning Department says the two-tier declaration system of members declaring interest on appointment and at meetings can protect them from criticism or embarrassment from any interest that has potential conflict with the work of LanDAC.

But "other than the committee on strategic development and the Lantau development advisory committee, the public and specific other stakeholders have not yet be consulted about the plan," said Mr Zimmerman.

Secretary for Development and the chairman of LanDAC Paul Chan Mo-po, said the public consultation will happen in the beginning of next year.

"The only remaining green belt in the city where people can enjoy fresh air and the natural environment is disappearing," said Mr Yam. "Lantau should remain what it is now, instead of epitomizing the government's business and political interest."

By **Julianna Wu**  
Edited by **Joanna Wong**



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*The Young Reporter  
run by HKBU journalism students since 1969*



The e-waste recycling plant will be handling waste of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), including computers, televisions, monitors, refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners.

## BUSINESS

# E-Recycling brings full circle to waste management

Producers and consumers should rethink the role of waste management in the economy.

After working on waste disposal projects in Hong Kong for 20 years, Nigel Mattravers left the city in 2000. Back then, plastic bags were handed out freely at local supermarkets.

Coming back three months ago, the waste manager has witnessed the changes in people's behaviour in their use of plastic. Amazed by the transformation, Mr Mattravers, general manager at Alba Integrated Waste Solutions, is convinced that Hong Kong's response to electronic waste recycling will be just as positive.

Alba Integrated Waste Solutions Hong Kong, a joint-venture subsidiary of the Alba Group, plans to spend two years on building and another ten years operating an e-waste recycling system. The German

recycling company has been awarded a multimillion-dollar contract by the Hong Kong government to build and operate the first electronic waste recycling plant in the city.

The government will fund \$548.6 million to construct the plant and an estimated \$200 million a year to run the scheme.

Located on a three-hectare site in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun, the recycling plant will deal with the waste from electrical and electronic equipments including computers, televisions, monitors, refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners.

The recycling scheme introduces a circular economy to the Hong Kong

market, forming a dynamic process between manufacture and consumption. The new model is an attempt to replace the old linear chain that starts from excavation to production, consumption and ending in landfill.

"The recycling scheme aims to convert 85 per cent of the waste into secondary raw materials, such as plastics and alumina", Mr Mattravers said.

"The company will also offer door-to-door service since some equipments can be difficult to move", he added.

A spokeswoman for the Environmental Protection Department said the government aimed to apply the "polluters pay" principle by charging a recycling



levy on suppliers of regulated electrical equipment.

She said registered suppliers may then transfer the cost of levies wholly or partially on to other stakeholders along the supply chain, including distributors, retailers and consumers, thus pushing up the prices.

The recycling fees has not yet been determined but the government indicatively estimates a cost of \$100 for smaller items and \$200 to \$250 for bulky appliances, according to the Environmental Protection Department.

Tourists, who make purchase from retailers in Hong Kong but for the usage outside the city, will also be charged under the scheme.

Consumers will have the legal responsibilities to take back the appliances to regional collection centres and satellite stations set up by Alba Group at the end of cycle.

“Incorporating the cost of recycling into the retail price will encourage consumers to rethink over their consumption habits,” said Project officer of Friends of the Earth Wendell Chan.

He said the fee to handle the waste was often higher than the cost to produce a brand new item.

Producers should have a bigger share of responsibility since they are involved in most of the product’s lifecycle from design, engineering, marketing and shipping but missing a part in disposal, he said.

“By making producers responsible for the disposal of their products, they will need to design their products in a way to maximize reuse and recyclability and also minimize waste for easier dismantling and recovery,” Mr Chan said.

“Shopper may not be happy about [being charged] at a higher price,” Chairman of Panel on Financial Affairs Ng Leung-sing said. “Spending a huge amount of money in the e-waste recycling plan shows that Hong Kong is willing to take the responsibility.”

On the other side of the world, “Advance Recycling Fee” method adopted in Europe, Korea and Taiwan is funded collectively by manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers. Consumers only need to return the items for recycling.

Valuing at tax to the products in different levels, the government should be careful with the scheme since manufacturers can learn to game the systems, said David Ahlstrom, professor of the Business School at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Electronic waste recycling business may also form a monopoly because of the high fixed costs of the facilities, he said.

“Hong Kong government should be open to better methods coming along in the next few years by giving opportunities to small companies to experiment with different models and standards,” Mr Ahlstrom said.

Hong Kong generates around 70,000 tonnes of e-waste every year, mostly exported to developing countries with lower environmental standards or primitive recycling practices to handle valuable materials, according to Friends of the Earth.

By **Sharon Shi**  
Edited by **Tina Cheung**



Nigel Mattravers, General Manager at Alba Integrated Waste Solutions Hong Kong, says the capacity of the recycling facilities is 30,000 tonnes in dealing with big electrical and electronic items.



PEOPLE

## *Rookie musical actress ready to shine on stage*

Not only does Angelika Wong enjoy performing, she also aspires to spread the joy of drama.





She is an adorable 6-year-old child on stage, but a newlywed 26 year-old in real life.

Angelika Wong Ching-ching is a rookie theatre actress. She introduces herself as Siu Lung, the nickname she is known by because she is only 150-centimetre tall.

"I don't mind being short. My height has actually given me a lot of opportunities for many roles on stage," said Siu Lung.

In 'With Love, William Shakespeare', she played the main role, Juliet and drew a lot of attention.

"I was thrilled when I received the call from the director because I was just a fresh graduate but was offered the main role," she recalls in excitement.

"The director later told me he chose me simply because I was short enough to act as a sweet innocent girl," the 26-year-old said. "But I did not mind at all," she smiled.

Unlike many successful actresses, Ms Wong did not have any drama experience during her secondary school years. But she liked singing and was always encouraged to join singing competitions at school.

She started voice lessons when her music teacher discovered her singing talent and recommended a good tutor for her. But she found practising Italian and German songs "very boring".

"I had no idea what I was singing. But now I am so grateful to the teacher because she helped me build a strong foundation. That's why many directors think of me when they need an actress who can sing in their drama," she said.

Ms Wong wanted to study music at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts after secondary school. But the programme was not available then. So she chose drama instead because she thought that was similar.

She got her first role in Disneyland soon after graduation. Dressed as a princess, she played the lead character, Bebe in 'The Golden Mickeys', the longest-running Broadway-style musical in Hong Kong.

Ms Wong then went to Canada to study philosophy and literature because she thought it would help

her understand the scripts. On return to Hong Kong, she had many opportunities on stage and soon gained fame and popularity.

"I really love singing and performing on the stage. I guess I will never be suitable for an office job," the rookie said.

Ms Wong married a dancer earlier this year.

She said having similar career as her husband has helped to chances of getting into a fight because of their irregular working hours and endless rehearsals.

"We understand each other's situation because we love what we are doing," the newlywed said. "It actually makes us cherish the time we spend together."

Her next step is to promote drama and encourage people to get a taste of performing on stage. She established Theatre Delphis this year with two other actors who also graduated from the Hong Kong Academy For Performing Arts.

"Musicals and dramas are not as popular as movies in Hong Kong. The development of the drama scene is immature in this city. We want to do education and spread the joy," said Ms Wong.

The three artists are going to organise a workshop to teach acting skills and tell people

what it is like to be an actor. There will be a mini showcase at the end of the workshop so that participants can perform on stage.

"We hope participants will invite their families and friends to watch their performance so that more people will get to know what is a musical and start developing an interest," Siu Lung said.

Acting has taught Ms Wong more than going on stage.

"Actors can't stay in their comfort zone. When you get a new role, you have to forget about the previous one and get to know about the character quickly," she said.

She said the best part in being an actress is getting to explore oneself.

"When a director thinks you are suitable for a role, there must be a reason. Even if it's a villain, you still have to get to know more about yourself and think why the director thinks you are suitable, and thus explore the dark side of yourself to play the character to the fullest," she said.

"You get to know more about yourself each time. It's a never-ending journey."

By **Choco Chan**  
Edited by **Jane Cheung**



Angelika Wong Ching-ching

## ART &amp; CULTURE

# Is Hong Kong ready for street art?

Hardwares to promote arts is abundant, softwares are necessary instead.

**S**almon swimming upstream, snowboarding and rock climbing: just some of the paintings you see on staircases in Tsuen Wan town centre

But are people in Hong Kong ready to welcome community arts with open arms?

“In Hong Kong, more people are interested in popular culture than in crafts, such as tea making, ceramic and handicrafts,” said Lam Yuk-fai, leader of the artist group, Omni Art. Their members have been painting the murals around Tsuen Wan.

“Most of the shops are monopolised by tycoons, leaving no room to promote arts and culture. It is hard for artists to blossom here,” he said. Mr Lam thinks Hong Kong does not provide a fostering environment for art, compared with Taiwan and mainland China.

Mr Lam believes community art is a great stepping stone to promote art

in Hong Kong. But it takes a time for people to develop an interest.

His group has been working with the Home Affairs Bureau, but Mr Lam there is not enough government support. He believes Hong Kong has the potential for further art development because it is the world’s fourth largest art auction market.

According to the Contemporary Art Market Report 2015 published by Artprice, more than \$146 million dollars’ worth of contemporary art was auctioned off between July 2014 and June 2015.

Denise Yeung Tsz-ching, one of the five artists of Omni Art, said residents in Tsuen Wan used to call the police when the artists were working on the stairs because they thought they were vandalising.

“We didn’t put up any signs stating that the activity was sponsored and approved by the District Council. So there was

some misunderstanding,” said the 20-year-old artist.

“The visibility of the murals allow people to appreciate and participate in art as they walk on the stairs or stop to take photos”, Ms Yeung said.

Lo Siu-kit, a Tsuen Wan district councillor, thinks murals on stairs are ‘interesting’, even though painting the three stairs cost \$100,000, according to the council’s meeting document.

“These may be small changes, but people feel different about the stairs,” he said. “They are now pieces of artwork rather than dull concrete steps.”

Mr Lo believed it was money well spent because response from residents has been positive. He thought that the lack of interest in art among the general public is why art development in Hong Kong is slow compared with other regions. People were unwilling to join the Tsuen Wan Arts Festival, for example,

## “The art scene in Hong Kong is thriving.”

**Dr Victor Lai Ming-hoi,**  
Associate professor in Visual Arts,  
Hong Kong Baptist University



Although there are many murals around Hong Kong, Mr Lam thinks Hong Kong people are not familiar with art.





*Mr Lam says that skiing and Snowboarding relates to young people in Tsuen Wan.*

unless the events were free or very low cost.

“You have to start developing art and culture among kids so that they can understand the works,” he said.

“When you have groups of audience who understand the works, the demand will follow and art development will take off,” he said.

But Dr Victor Lai Ming-hoi, an associate professor in Visual Arts at Hong Kong Baptist University, said it is unfair to call Hong Kong a “cultural desert” because there are a lot of resources for art development. “For example, the Home Affairs

Bureau have funded billions of dollars in art development,” he said. “Together with resources provided by Hong Kong Arts Development Council and other NGOs, I would say the art scene in Hong Kong is thriving.”

Since 2014, the Home Affairs Bureau has allocated \$3.5 billion for cultural and art development, providing support for arts groups, activities, education and promotion.

Dr Lai believes that people in Hong Kong appreciate community arts because they think this kind of arts belongs to them and they can participate in it.

“The problem is that there are no long-term policy in art development,” he said.

Despite abundant funding from the government, Dr Lai said that the government focuses mostly on ‘hardware’ such as West Kowloon Cultural District instead of attracting and nurturing talent from home and abroad.

“We have resources, but the development is short-lived instead of sustainable,” the scholar said.

By **Herbert Cheung**  
Edited by **Jackson Ho**





## ART &amp; CULTURE

# Clockenflap 2015: Review on young bands

*Clockenflap's Atum and Yourmum Stage was the stomping ground for acts from around the Asia region on the festival's final day. The kaleidoscope of sounds on offer – from indie pop to death metal – was a much welcomed and balanced mix not normally seen on the schedules of many festivals around the world.*

By **Tanya McGovern** Edited by **Crystal Tse**



## Shugo Tokumaru (Japan)

Japanese multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter Shugo Tokumaru brought an array of eclectic and indie sounds to a relaxed Atum Stage. Crowds bopped to Tokumaru's speckled aural rainbow under a setting sun.



## Flesh Juicer (Taiwan)

As darkness devoured the Yourmum Stage, Flesh Juicer's dreadlocked pig head wearing lead singer emerged from the stage drapes, marking the start of an evening of hardcore – a contrast to Shugo Tokumaru's earlier quirky act.

A violent whirling mosh pit formed throughout the band's set. Head banging, elevated stomping and frenzied shoving ensued. Animalistic squeals and shrieks from the lead were echoed by the pit.



## King Ly Chee (Hong Kong)

Local hardcore act King Ly Chee came out waving the Hong Kong flag and followed with a hot-headed set drenched in local pride and anti-discrimination messages.

A combination of an already warmed up crowd (courtesy of previous act, Flesh Juicers) and strong patriotism paved the way for an energy packed set.

Lead singer Riz Farooqi, a Hong Konger with Pakistani heritage celebrated Hong Kong's cultural diversity during the set. "There is no other place in Hong Kong where you can see people of so many ethnicity," Farooqi said, referring to Clockenflap's audience, by adding "But this is Hong Kong. You guys have done something this government couldn't do."

Farooqi writes about social and political issues in Hong Kong such as activism and local attitudes to Mainlanders on the band's website.



## HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY

# Running for Life

Jogging the wrong way can put your life at risk.

Jogging may seem like an affordable way to get fit, but there are risks.

According to a 2014 study by the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the Lehigh Valley Health Network in Pennsylvania, people who live longest only do a moderate amount of exercise. That means two to three hours of running a week. Researchers looked at more than 3,800 joggers. They found that those who jog a lot or not at all have shorter lifespans than moderate joggers.

Another research by the American College of Cardiology in February 2015 mentioned that training too hard might be as bad as not putting on your running shoes at all. The study suggested jogging at a steady pace for less than two and a half hours a week is best for health.

Here in Hong Kong, the annual Hong Kong Marathon sponsored by Standard Chartered has seen more and more participants in recent years. For the 2016 marathon, 15,500 places were all gone in two and a half hours.

"When welfare organizations promote the advantages of exercise, more people become aware of their health," said Lobo Louie Hung-tak, Associate Professor of Physical Education at Hong Kong Baptist University.

"Jogging, for instance, is easy because you needn't need any facilities," he said.

"Joggers' injuries are not that serious. Maybe it is exaggerated by the media," Dr

Louie suggested. But he admitted there is a lack of data on joggers.

Dr Louie explained that there is a causal relationship between training time and the probability of getting injured while jogging. He said that competition should not be considered as a way to show off one's talent, but should be about commitment to training. A 10 kilometre marathon for example requires at least three months' preparation.

"Some people blame on the host organization of the marathon when they are injured. That is unethical," Dr Louie said.

Bobo Lau Po-yu loves running and started going into competition when she was in secondary school. She has been running long distance for seven years. She has completed three marathons and a 57km walkathon. Her personal record is a 70km race.

"Speaking of injuries are inevitable. In fact, I am injured now," the experienced runner said. "Every year, I feel my injury might be more severe because my training is either not enough or too intense."

Ms Lau is recovering from fibrosis in her muscles from training too much last year on top of an inadequate diet.

To prevent injuries or sudden death during exercise, Dr Louie suggested that runners should also do cross training and swimming in addition to daily stretching and jogging. Physical checkups are

*Nothing can ever stop Bobo from participating in any running competitions or marathons, not even injuries.*  
Photo: Bobo

necessary from age of 40 years onwards because of the risk of heart failure or undiscovered inherited diseases.

"If you commit to a marathon or competition, it's your responsibility to keep to a training schedule. You are at risk of injury if you don't plan to have regular and accumulative trainings," Dr Louie warned.

Ms Lau thinks that running is more than health benefits. It brings people together. "During a recent competition I was the first runner-up and because of that, I met the other winners and we made friends. The fun of running is that you can compete against and encourage each other," Ms Lau said.

"That is the real treasure," she said.



By **Sharon Tang**  
Edited by **Joey Hung**

## INTERNATIONAL

# A city of light

Integrating artistic events in residential neighborhoods is an interactive way to create cultural experiences in the Netherlands.

**I**n a small residential neighborhood in the quiet city of Eindhoven in southern Netherlands, colourful lights decorate the surface of three residential houses.

The lights are part of the project “Nature & Architecture”, a concept created by audio-visual artist Noralie van den Eijnde and executed by children, architects and residents for the city’s annual GLOW lights festival.

A light show is nothing new for Hongkongers. Hong Kong is famous for its 13-minute long daily light and sound show “A Symphony of Lights” over Victoria Harbour, recognised by the Guinness World Records as the world’s largest of its kind. This \$44 million project organised by Hong Kong Tourism Board has attracted millions of visitors since it started in 2004.

But unlike Hong Kong’s mission of attracting tourists, GLOW is wants to achieve something different.

Around 50 light artists are participating in this year’s GLOW light in art and architecture festival in Eindhoven, an interactive cultural event that attracted around 730,000 visitors in November this year, according to GLOW’s official website.

Over one week, various spots in the city were transformed into a temporary theatre. Like the Nature & Architecture show, residents in the project areas were also invited to participate in the projects.

Artist Ms van den Eijnde specialises in designing multidisciplinary experiences with light, video and sound. This year, she was invited by the GLOW organizers to produce a social project for the neighbourhood themed on the nature and architecture. Residents used a broad selection of materials such as plants, ribbons, and plastic pieces for residents to make their DIY projects.

“Children seemed to enjoy the preparation work and their parents were very supportive in assisting me to direct the process,” Ms van den Eijnde said.

Eugene Franken, one of the participants and owners of the projected houses, said the project was extraordinary and he enjoyed making the neighborhood a beautiful public space.

“It is weary to see an endless stream of people passing by for the whole week, but the reaction of the public is positive and it is also nice to see the project from inside of my house,” Mr Franken said.

This year, Glow celebrated its 10th anniversary by providing a platform for new experiments with lights. This year, it emphasized innovative light concepts, new techniques and insights. Combining light and energy saving, emotion and health becomes the directives of the projects.







“Glow is a fantastic event which not only shows the beauty of Eindhoven but also provides a platform for participation of citizens. It is fun to be creatively involved and see how professional artists work,” Jurgen Krikke, another participant said.

Video mapping technique was also used in Noralie’s work. It is usually created by digital 3D models with illusions made by animated fake light or movement. However, Noralie used real objects and showed people’s hands instead of using animation software.

“The projection shows the actual process of people earthing up the seeds, grass growing and tree blossoming. The projection images perfectly fit with the projected house, making the interaction between animation and real objects a very impressive visual effect,” said Tianshu Yue, an exchange student from China who heard about this event from a local friend.

“Eindhoven has always been a city with a prosperous industry. Within the city’s cultural programme, GLOW is an event that fades the boundaries between art and technology,” said Claudia Hermans, the marketing and hospitality representative of GLOW.

Sponsored by the municipality of Eindhoven, GLOW is just one of the examples of the Netherlands promoting cultural participation.

This year, the Dutch government’s spent 733.7 million euro (HK\$6.05 billion) on culture, such as art and culture promotion and subsidising entrance fees for exhibitions and museums.

Cultural participation and education is currently a national priority area for development in the Netherlands. According to a government publication, nearly 90 per cent of the population in the Netherlands attends cultural events, ranking second in Europe.

“Culture is not one-way; you can’t spoon-feed people with culture. You need to let them experience it, make them do it by themselves,” said Ms Hermans.

By **Lindsy Long**  
Edited by **Yanis Chan**

## **Noralie van den Eijnde** **Audio-visual artist**



# Final days of the fabric bazaar

**“Hong Kong is a very small place. It is inevitable that the old places have to be sacrificed for development...” Lam Yok, photographer**

Chan Yu-tung, also known as “Uncle Tung”, 82, is the oldest hawker in the Yen Chow Street Hawker Bazaar in Sham Shui Po, where he has worked for decades. He still enjoys his work in the market, although he says the environment is not ideal – the small fabric market was built with plastic and iron sheets and is packed with fabric bolts. But that all may soon come to an end if the government gets its way.

In August, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department sent letters to hawkers saying it was planning to resume the land for building 200 units under the Home Ownership Scheme, according to a report by local media Apple Daily.

Hawkers with a license may have the choice of compensation of \$80,000, lower than the normal \$120,000, if they return the licenses back to the government, or they will be offered a stall in other markets. Yet, among the 190 tenants, only 21 of them actually have government licenses, according to Cable TV’s report. These hawkers will receive no compensation.

Tung has no license. “The government has not talked to us, the tenants, yet. We have no idea how they would settle us, or if they would compensate us,” he said. He added that he will miss the market if it is closed.

Since the 1970s, the fabric market has been the paradise of fashion students. They have also expressed their reluctance to part with the market. Some university graduates even take photos in the market in their graduation gown.

“We can find varieties of fabrics here and they are very cheap. Hawkers are also very nice to us. It actually nurtures many students,” said Chee Ka-po, a graduate of Bachelor of Fashion and Textile Studies, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Ms Chee has been going there with her classmates since secondary school to buy fabrics for their home economics homework.

“I hope the market can be preserved,” she said.

“Hong Kong is a very small place. It is inevitable that the old places have to be sacrificed for development, so I come here today to capture the market and try to keep this meaningful place by photos,” said Lam Yok, a photographer in the fabric market. The photography event was organised by local concern group.







E M A I L

*editor@tyr.hk*

F A C E B O O K

*The Young Reporter*

W E B S I T E

*tyr.hk*