

# THE YOUNG REPORTER magazine

Oct 2016



*To support or not?  
Braless campaigns  
unable to gain  
momentum*

*Americans, remember: 15 years  
after 9/11  
The second Sunday of September  
marks the 15 anniversary of the 9/11  
terror attack  
P4*

*Outcry from industrial buildings tenants  
Should the government ease the application  
for the industrial owners to change land  
usage  
P12*

*Healing with rhythm and melody  
Music therapy helps children with autism  
P18*

# In This Issue

PHOTO ESSAY

**4** *Americans remember: 15 years after 9/11*

*The second Sunday of September marks the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attack*

NEWS

**16** *Prevention of food allergies - at an early age*

*A new remedy for food allergies*

NEWS

**24** *Breaking the traditions: Paper offerings as art*

*Modern paper offerings are breaking traditional stereotypes*

**8** *To support or not to support?*

*Gender equality activists advocating no bras find their campaign falling flat*

**18** *Healing with rhythm and melody*

*Music therapy helps children with autism*

**26** *Young artists painting their paths*

*Can art and business go hand in hand?*

**12** *Outcry from industrail buildings tenants*

*Should the government ease the application for the industrial owners to change land usage?*

**20** *Graffiti: The new bankable design trend*

*The story of an entrepreneur and his eco-friendly business*

**28** *Beating all odds with positivity*

*Bouncing back from ordeals to live a positive life*

**14** *Train to the Southern District*

*MTR South Island Line may cause more inconvenience than benefit to the community*

**22** *Social enterprise: A gift for the community?*

*Horticultural therapy to alleviate student suicide problem*

**30** *A rise of local prosthetic makeup artists*

*Special effect makeup artist Gary Chan seeks ways to support artists in Hong Kong*

FEATURE

NEWS

## Letter from the Editor

Over the summer break, The Young Reporter team covered many significant news events, like the Legislative Council election and the Umbrella Revolution anniversary. Thank you for following our social media posts and we will continue to provide more content in the future.

Our cover story for our October issue looks into a topic that is rarely discussed - women's underwear and its relationship with feminism. There has long been discussions in foreign countries on giving women the right to choose whether they want to wear undergarments or not. Some think that wearing bras is merely a social protocol and can be dropped.

Also in this issue we covered the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attack. Our reporter went all the way to New York and took spectacular photos of the memorial event. More than a decade has passed since the tragic event that took lives more than 3000, but the emotional pain still lingers in many's hearts.

You will also find an assortment of stories in this issue, including a way to cure food allergy, by including the allergens in young children's diet during the transition phase from breastfeeding to solid foods.

Also we have a feature of a young prosthetic makeup artist that created realistic models for film shooting. They are calling for production companies to hire locally instead of sourcing talent overseas.

This is our first issue of the academic year and we have adopted a new approach and included a wider variety of articles this time. To widen our publication's variety, TYR will launch a series of collaboration work in the near future, so please stay tuned to our social media pages for more news.

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## PHOTO ESSAY

# Americans remember: 15 years after 9/11 in New York

*The second Sunday of September marks the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attack*



Many memorial events were held around New York city, to mourn and remind Americans of their loss.

Apart from the major 9/11 memorial ceremony held the morning at Ground Zero (former World Trade Centre site), memorial events were held at St. Paul's Chapel and other places as well.

A parade was also organised by the The New York City Police Department to honour the police of-

ficers who sacrificed their lives in this terrorist attack.

"I feel that more people have come to the memorial events this year," said Alexandra De Rose outside the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, "I was eight when it happened."

Ms Rose, 23 years old, is an Italian who often visits her family members living in New York.

"I remember I was in school when it happened. It really resonates with us because a lot of the victims were Italian American," Rose said.

"I was little when it happened. When I saw these images on TV, I could not really comprehend, I just thought it was horrible," she said.

Ms Rose thought that national security has become better after the attack, especially security check at the airport.



A man sells flags of America on the path towards 911 Memorial and Museum

A man carries a bunch of flowers to the 911 Memorial and Museum



Flags at half mast to mourn the loss of lives in the 911 attacks.



A tourist takes photo of a ribbon which written with words of blessing outside St. Paul's Chapel



Hand straps with "9/11 Memorial" printed are sold at 9/11 Memorial Preview Site.



Two women watch a documentary about 9/11 at the Memorial Preview Site.

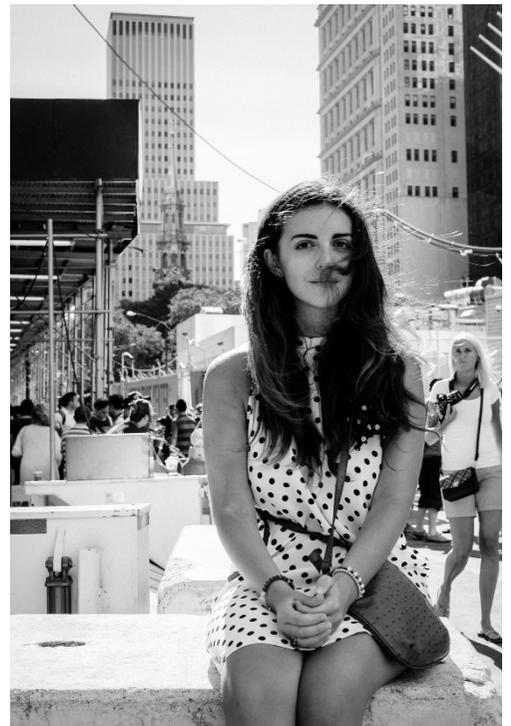


A parade organised by the The New York City Police Department to honour police officers who have sacrificed their lives in this terrorist attack.

Only family members of the victims can enter the 9/11 Memorial and Museum on 11/9 before 3 pm.



An elderly naval officers tries to persuade a security guard to let him enter the 9/11 Memorial and Museum before 3 pm.



Alexandra De Rose, the 23-year-old interviewee

*To support or not*



*Gender equality activists advocating  
no bras find their campaigns falling flat*



Lingeries and brassieres are glamorised by brand-name manufacturers, becoming an icon of femininity and beauty.

For decades, women around the world have been wearing bras. The lingerie industry is worth \$13 billion and is growing at a rate of 3.3% this year. In popular culture, lingerie is often glamourised.

Enter the Free the Nipple Association, part of a global movement to promote gender equality, destigmatize breast-feeding, and say no to commercialism.

The year-old group has primarily been active online, posting photos of breasts on the internet under the hashtag #FreetheNipple, but its founders in Hong Kong are considering expanding their activism from the virtual community into real-life.

Yet, compared to other feminist movements like SlutWalk, which has enjoyed considerable support with their march to raise awareness of 'sexual, gender and body-based'

violence, Free the Nipple and its associated movements are still on the fringe.

Back in 1997, a feminist newspaper published by the Chinese University of Hong Kong put forward an article titled "Ban the Bra", which explores the reasons behind society's harsh expectations of women and their breasts, but it did not ignite a similar movement.

"Very few people in Hong Kong have participated in the 'Free the Nipple movement'," said founder Christine Yu Po-yan. "Many people might think that posting photos of breasts on the internet will provoke sexual thoughts of men."

Though the 22-year-old activist believes women should have the choice of not wearing bras, braless campaigns have sparked controversy. Some have pointed out that

freeing the nipple does not promote breast cancer awareness, but only serves to facilitate the spreading of nudity and sexism on the internet.

Law professor Prof Surya Deva from the City University of Hong Kong said the legality of posting breasts photos will be governed by Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). "Under the Ordinance, publishing or displaying "obscene" or "indecent" articles is a criminal offence," he said.

In particular, the Obscene Articles Tribunal considers the display of breasts to be indecent, but will consider on a case to case basis whether such a display is in the interest of science, literature, art or learning, or any other object of general concern like breast-feeding.

Online censorship of photos with women's nipples is perhaps one



*“Only very few people in Hong Kong have participated in the ‘Free the Nipple’ Movement. A considerable proportion does have the impression that posting nipple photos on the internet will provoke sexual thoughts of men,”*

**Christine Yu Po-yan**  
**Founder of Hong Kong ‘Free the Nipple’ Association**

of the biggest challenges faced by the online-driven campaign. Facebook continues to delete topless photos of women and suspend user accounts who posted such photos, including five Taiwan female activists’ nipples photos which were taken down in 2015.

“Social media companies like Facebook have to comply not only with local laws but also certain international norms. They might have their own internal policies which might stipulate that no user should post pornographic materials on their sites,” said Prof Deva.

Feminist movements can also be too complex for the simplicity of social media, according to Prof Charles Cheung Chi-wai, an assistant professor of gender and media research studies.

“However, it can somehow raise the awareness of those who have little knowledge and thoughts about the issue,” he said.

Opposition towards bras have been part of the feminist movements throughout

the years, but have become more pronounced given the advent of third-wave feminism. “The second-wave feminism lobbies for equal treatments in genders, while the third-wave accepts certain differences between male and female, focusing on individual’s rational choice,” Prof

Cheung said. “There may be some girls who like bras because it maintains the shape of their breasts, this is their rational choice.”

Dr Cheung felt that promoting gender equality requires serious and thorough discussions. While mass



Wireless bra has become a popular innerwear choice over the years, with soft molded cups instead of a rigid wire to lift the breasts.

media takes an essential role to facilitate the promotion, “popular culture can be very influential to infiltrate people’s mind and change society’s atmosphere,” he said.

He believes that we will be able to see the change of the media environment in the long run, “but currently, mass media like TVB are not doing a very good job; (they are) promoting only traditional judgements and values,” said Dr Cheung.

‘Free the Nipple’ holds hope that popular opinion will sway, however. Over

the year, they have gained around two hundred supporters on their Facebook page, with half of them being male.

Yu says that Joanna Chan, another co-founder of the association, will consider running for the next Legislative Council election in 2020 to bring their voice into Hong Kong’s legislature.

The association will also apply for a seat to speak in the public consultation session in the coming term of LegCo meetings.

“Women’s nipples shouldn’t be censored,” she said, “It is our own right to choose if we want a bra, although stereotypes of standards of femininity proposed by the media can be influential to women’s choices,” said Ms Yu.

*Reported by Isabella Lo  
Edited by Catherine Xu*



Bras are deemed to be a necessity for women. Their function defy the pull of gravity.

## SOCIETY &amp; POLITICS

# Outcry from industrial buildings tenants

## Should the government ease the application for the industrial buildings owners to change land usage?

Ken Wong Cheuk-kei, a boxing coach who set up his gym in an industrial building in Kwun Tong last year, was carrying two bags filled with boxing gloves and gear during the day of the interview. He had just vacated his boxing gym after government officials deemed his place accident-prone, and told him to clear out.

He, along with many other tenants, is affected by the recent government checks on industrial buildings in Hong Kong. Recent fires that occurred in Ngau Tau Kok and Sham Shui Po, sparked public outcries to beef up control over these buildings.

Ngau Tau Kok fire in particular started due to an accident in a mini-storage room, and claimed the lives of two firemen.

The secretary for development, Paul Chan Mo-po, said the checks are targeted at industrial units which attract people to

gather at the building, and other premises that store dangerous goods. Tenants found to be in breach of the lease during the check would be evicted.

The Land Department has announced that tenants found to have violated usage of the space, with risk of causing accidents, would have to move out by the 29th of August. Landlords would be granted 14 days to see the tenants move out, or else the government may repossess the property.

Since the decline of the industrial sectors in 1990s, industrial areas have been an ideal place for non-industrial businesses to operate, as they are not expensive and are quite spacious, even though the land usage of many of the industrial buildings has not been successfully converted.

Mr X, who refused to reveal his name, is facing the same challenge as Wong did,

as he is renting an apartment for studio, which usage has not been successfully been converted.

Applying for the change of land usage is a long and complicated process.

Before they can set up their business, owners need to apply to both the Lands Department to pay a land premium, and the Town Planning Board (TPB). The TPB would then involve various government departments such as the Fire Services Department, to see if the buildings satisfy the safety requirements.

Wong said that in order to apply for a change of the land usage, the owner would have to pay land premium, many owners would simply rent out their unit without applying for conversion of land usage.

Mr. Y, who refused to reveal his full name as he owns one third of the units of an industrial building but is now currently operating an office there, said that the application for the waivers or conversions requires months to obtain. Tenants have to pay the rent during that time, and consequently many close down even before the waivers or conversions are approved.

If they have breached the terms of their lease, the tenants can only hope the Land Department will kindly grant them more time to persuade the owners to apply for conversion of the land usage. However, the government is unclear the standards applied on the evictions.

Wong said officials have posted warning letters on the door of the gym, but has yet to conduct a check inside their complex.



“They have not entered my gym to collect evidences of violation; they took pictures through the windows, or they relied on pictures in newspapers as evidence,” the evictee said.

He also mentioned that apart from a few businesses who also got evicted, office units have been allowed to stay, and he is not sure why that is so.

“Is this selective enforcement? I think people need to judge it themselves.” Wong said.

While there have been frequent checks in recent months, Mr X felt that these checks are just high profile gestures to show the public after the fire, and would not persist.

Wong said the inspection focused on buildings that attracted less people and involved fewer tenants.

“They actually want to restrict the damage of their operation,” the evictee said.

He said that the vacant units do not pose a fire hazard, and doubted if the evictions really solve safety issues of industrial buildings.



Water sprays outside evictee Ken's unit.

He said that if the checks persists, it will affect people who might want to open up businesses in these areas. The gym owner also said that his customers felt annoyed by his eviction and wishes he could find another spot to open up as soon as possible.

Mr X said that there might be a hit on the cultural scene, but the effects would be

minimal, as he has been pessimistic towards Hong Kong's art and cultural development in industrial buildings.

“The creative industry is non-existent, people do not really know about the band rooms in these industrial buildings, but would know you can buy baby formulas in there,” he commented.

Wong said the government needs to acknowledge the market demand for public spaces like industrial areas, set up rent control, and give clearer rules and regulations for tenants to follow.

He also thinks that the law and regulations regarding industrial buildings should be revised, and the legal usage of the places should be relaxed.

Mr. Y said that the government ought to reform the contract system and change all industrial land purposes to more practical ones, since industrial work is no longer important to the local economy.



Evictee Ken's own picture of himself preparing to move out after receiving a warning letter from the government.

*By Paulus Choy  
Edited by Kary Hsu*

## SOCIETY &amp; POLITICS

# Train to the Southern District

## MTR South Island Line may cause more inconvenience than benefit to the community

The Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTR) has recently announced that due to the construction work in Admiralty station, the South Island Line (East) may launch at early 2017.

The South Island Line (East) will connect the Southern District, including Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons, to the existing Admiralty station.

The Southern District has been suffering from serious traffic congestion for decades since most of the vehicles rely on the Aberdeen Tunnel to get to the heart of Hong Kong Island.

The Transport Department has put forward a proposal to establish several new bus and minibus routes to improve traffic congestion in the Southern district, after consultation and looking at the data from the bus and minibus companies.

Several new routes will be established - for example, minibus 51B that links Tin Wan Estate with the future Wong Chuk Hang MTR station - but other routes will be rerouted or cancelled, like Citybus 71 and 75, which serves Central and Wong Chuk Hang.

Some commuters are skeptical about the ability of the new MTR line in resolving traffic problems. They believe that the plan will bring more inconvenience to the Southern District.

Nine community interest groups - including Western District Transport, SH Concern Group and Imaging Wong Chuk Hang - have set up a Concern

Alliance to call for actions to bring residents' voices to the Transport Department and the Southern District Council.

"I think the Transport Department has underestimated the number of people who travel in and out of the district everyday during peak hours," Clive Law Siu-yin, a member of the South Island Line Concern Alliance, said.

According to the MTR website, there will be a total of ten trains, each with three carriages, serving the South Island Line (East). Law is concerned that the number of people who will be affected by the cancellation of bus routes in the Southern District is larger than the number of people the MTR line can serve.

Changes to bus and minibus routes serving the Southern District will be carried out within three to six months. But the Concern Alliance believes that these changes may not serve the community well.

Charles Lee Chun-sang, another member of the Alliance, said that the Transport Department should survey new travelling habits after the Line opens, before changing bus and minibus services.

The Alliance is also skeptical about the statistics and proposals that the Transport Department is giving to the Southern District Council, as it favours some transportation service providers, such as the Citybus and New World First Bus.

"The bus company conducted the

survey when secondary school students were having exams and university students were having a semester break. The number of passengers must be fewer than normal. They didn't even mention where they conducted the survey. How can these unclear and unrealistic results be a reference used in the council?" Law said.

District Councillor and member of the Traffic and Transport Committee, Henry Chai Man-hon was also skeptical of the statistics and surveys provided by the Transport Department.

Both Chai and the Alliance believe that the Transport Department is not looking for the best travel routes for the district, but instead is helping the bus companies to maximise their profits.

Lee criticised the Citybus for giving up some bus routes in the district. "It is very irresponsible for the bus company to do so," Lee said.

Some have also suggested that the bus companies would not stand to benefit from the Transport Department's plans, since it prioritises the South Island Line. Chai disagrees.

"The bus company has been asking for the cancellation of the routes as it brings very low profit to them," Chai said.

"Luckily, we successfully stopped the Transport Department from using some of the survey data collected by the bus company," he said.

Chai criticized the Transport Department for insufficient



There are traffic jams almost every morning in the Aberdeen tunnel as more than 70 per cent of residences rely on the tunnel to get to other parts of Hong Kong.

consultation and research before proposing reforms to the bus routes. “They have only done a consultancy report and collected residents’ opinion through district councillors. They should have done more,” he said.

Chai also thinks that the department is trying to cover up transport problems by delaying discussion in the District Council.

“It is already very close to the opening date of the South Island Line and the Transport Department has not yet put the proposals into the District Council’s meeting agenda, giving us very little time to discuss and react. It is definitely an executive hegemony,” Chai criticized.

In the District Council, Chai hoped the government could give the community a reasonable plan for the transportation system in the Southern District.

While District Councilors are doing their part in the meetings, the Alliance

would like to get the community more involved in their actions.

“Although we are concerned that we only have a few helpers, we are going to distribute some leaflets and maybe call for action in the coming weeks, so as to give the community a better transportation system,” Lee said.

*by Tiffany Lui  
Edited by Jonathan Chan*



## HEALTH&amp;SCIENCE

# Prevention of food allergies at an early age

## A new remedy for food allergies

When Kelly Tang Tsz-yu was just two years old, she took a spoonful of shrimp and shortly after that, her skin was covered with an itchy rash. Her mother Iris Tai Lok-man was terrified when she began to have breathing difficulties.

Since then, her mother always makes sure that Kelly stays away from seafood, peanuts and other common allergens.

Like many parents, she holds on to the belief that her child will be fine as long as she stops eating food that triggers an allergic reaction.

But new findings show that adding peanuts and eggs to babies' diets – rather than keeping them away, can cut the rates of allergies.

An article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association this month, found that early introduction of allergenic food to infants, can reduce risk.

The journal shows evidence that feeding peanuts to babies aged between 4 and 11 months, can lower their chance of developing a peanut allergy.

Further studies suggest that early introduction of other common allergens like eggs and fish, was linked to fewer amount of allergies later on.

The new approach to treating food allergies is in contrast with the research released around a decade ago. At the time, the American Academy of Pediatrics asked kids to stay away from allergens until they were much older.

Researchers concluded that there was a “moderate” certainty that putting food allergies in babies' diets prevents the allergy from developing.

Ms June Chan King Chi, Senior Dietitian at the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital said that early introduction of allergens to children has been a heated topic in the UK and the US recently.

She said between 2008 to 2015, 1,300 three-month old infants were regularly fed small portions of milk, peanut, sesame, fish, eggs and wheat, alongside continued breastfeeding. The results of the study showed that early consumption of allergenic foods, especially peanuts and eggs, can significantly increase the chance of preventions.

When asked whether she would start adding allergenic food to her child's diet gradually, Ms Tai was uncertain about the results of the research.

“My child is very allergic to seafood and knowing that it brings her more pain to eat those foods, I just wouldn't take any risks,” she said.

Ms Chan said parents can add small portions of peanuts and eggs as soon as infants are developmentally ready to eat solids.

The amount of allergens in babies' diets vary with the level of tolerance. But the EAT study gave a brief idea that weekly consumption of a small boiled egg and 1½ teaspoons of peanut butter can reduce the risk.

In Hong Kong, the percentage of children with a food allergy is similar to those other countries like Australia and the US.

Based on a survey done by Queen Mary Hospital in 2015, about 4.8% of the 7000 respondents aged 14 or below, reported having a food allergy. Among those affected, 15.8% of them had a severe allergic reaction.

“The proportion of children with a severe reaction is five percent higher than the global average,” said Dr. Lee Tak-hong, Director at Allergy Centre.

Victims of food allergies may suffer from an itchy rash, nausea, diarrhea, to severe reactions like a drop in blood pressure and breathing difficulties.

The most common allergies are to proteins like shellfish, eggs, dairy products, peanuts and combined fruits.

Research in Hong Kong has pioneered in food oral immunotherapy (OIT) alongside with anti-IgE therapy for management of patients diagnosed with allergies.

Immunotherapy has been considered dangerous as parents have feared that inadvertent food ingestion can bring about fatal allergic reactions.

But prescribing patients with a dose of anti-IgE before they try to add allergens to their diet has proven to be an effective solution.

Ms Chan said food-specific IgE antibodies act as detectors within human bodies. When allergens fall under the



A skin prick test helps patients to identify food that may provoke allergic reactions.



*“When you help someone who once reacted severely to just a dose of allergen to eat nine peanuts at once, you actually save a life,”*

*Ms June Chan King-chi  
Dietitian*

radar of these antibiotics, they may become hypersensitive and progress to fatal systemic anaphylaxis.

Anti-IgE, on the contrary, helps to shut down food sensitivity and increase the threshold dose of allergens required to trigger a reaction.

“Some of our patients underwent rapid desensitization under the cover of anti-IgE and they reached the goal dose of 2000 mg of peanut protein over the course of 7 to 11 weeks,” said Ms Chan.

However, the lack of government investment in research of food allergies and the high costs in private hospital services mean that

this treatment is not accessible to everyone.

Most victims of food allergies are referred to the Allergy Centre at Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital, one of the very few clinics in the city dedicated to this field. Each treatment costs around 100,000 dollars.

“Dietary avoidance is no longer a global trend as people find it much cheaper to work on allergy prevention rather than spending thousands of dollars on treatment,” said Ms Chan.

*By Crystal Tai  
Edited by Anna Tang*



Physicians add peanut flour into apple puree to make it easier for food-allergic patients.

## HEALTH &amp; SCIENCE

# Healing with rhythm and melody

## Music therapy helps children with autism

In a room filled with playful and catchy melodies, Sam Lawrence sits beside an electric piano, moving along the rhythm played by his music therapist. There are no words but his body movements express the joy he finds.

Sam has a chromosome abnormality, which has some symptoms resembling those of autism spectrum disorder. His journey with music therapy began when his therapist discovered that he reacted positively with music. Once the therapist discovered that he reacted positively to music, his journey with music therapy started.

Rona Grecia has been Sam's nursemaid for almost 11 years. After accompanying him in the music therapy sessions for three years, she has seen observed that how music therapy has given Sam a chance to express himself.

Sam has a chromosome abnormality. His Ose symptoms resemble those of autism spectrum disorders.

"He used to react slowly to (his) therapist's music or instructions, but now I am impressed to see his improvement in interactions. He can even express what instruments and music he likes. Sam is calm and happy when he is with music," she said.

According to the American Music Therapy Association, music therapy designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is effective in improving their interpersonal and communication skills.



Sam reacts with the music played by Ms Wu, the music therapist.

Jockey Club Sarah Roe School offers in-house music therapy to children with special needs.

"Children with autism always live in their own world. Music serves like a cue, which can bring their attention back into reality and make them feel connected to the real world," said Joanne Wu, a music therapist at JC-SRS.

"For example, we always play 'Hello Song' when a session starts, which serves as a signal and converge (grabs) the children's attention," she said.

Ms Wu added that music is a kind of non-verbal communication, which helps children to express themselves.

"During music therapy sessions, they could choose what instruments and music they want. Through making

choices and playing instruments in the way they like, their needs of autonomy and self-expression are fulfilled, which help relieve their pent-up emotion emotions," she said.

Chung King-man, the founder of International Music Therapy Centre, said there are different approaches to music therapy. "It can be presented in active, passive or receptive ways to satisfy patients' needs at different stages of recovery," he said.

Mr Chung also said patients could alleviate their worries and sadness by playing musical instruments, composing songs or simply listening to music.

"Music could not only provide psychological support to patients, but also reduce the physical pain they experience during the treatment," he said.



Rona, the helper of Sam.

Rhythms and melodies can also integrate with other therapies in order to maximize the outcomes. Miss X, who declined to be named, is a speech therapist who has been working in a special needs school for more than 15 years and has witnessed how music assists speech therapy.

“Music is the only thing that can keep their concentrations,” she said. “I felt so amazed when I saw a group of children being so concentrated and obedient at the same time.”

Miss X added that children are more

responsive and willing to communicate with others during the session. “Music is their shared interest which facilitates their interactions,” she said.

She believed that students could feel a sense of achievement as they meet teachers’ requirements easily with music.

“Students have become more cooperative even when they are not accompanied by music,” she said. “When they could follow the instructions with music, they realized that they can follow instructions in other lessons.”

Most patients in Hong Kong engage in music therapy through non-government organizations or pay for private services, as most public hospitals do not provide music therapy.

Clinical psychologist Dr Alexander Lo suggested the situation can be im-

proved if more relevant researches and courses are conducted. He hopes music departments in Hong Kong universities could put more resources in music therapy research.

“It would be helpful if the universities can launch a concentration in music therapy, so that students can be educated and trained properly by psychiatrists and clinical psychologists,” Dr Lo said.



Joanna Wu, the music therapist.

By Daisy Lee  
Edited by Alvin Kor & Lindsay Long

## BUSINESS

# Graffitis: The New Bankable Design Trend

*The story of an entrepreneur and his eco-friendly businesses*

Graffiti is often associated with vandalism and rebellion, but with the growing popularity of street cultures, graffiti is now becoming a booming commercial design element, especially for interior design.

“Couldn’t say Hong Kong is a place that embraces graffiti as much as in the UK, Brazil, or Germany,” said Hannah Smith, director of creative company Graffiti4hire. “But I think more people are changing this by subtly putting graffiti up in interiors, commercial spaces, or on objects meant for marketing use. They want people to see them as aesthetic pieces of arts.”

Graffiti4hire is a UK creative company that contacts graffiti artists for customers who plan to have graffitis for their

businesses as design solutions. The company launched in Hong Kong in 2014 because they saw growing potentials from emerging popularity of graffitis. Since then, they have hired six local artists and over 100 international artists.

The company’s business has 2-3 per cent of steady growth every year. They are planning to do pop up exhibitions for their artists in the future, hoping to showcase their work and attract more opportunities.

“Clients range from restaurants and our commercial spaces to hotels and gyms,” Smith said.

Rocky Lam, owner of New York Diner in North Point, put graffiti on three walls in the restaurant.

“What kind of art could make a statement and create the vibrancy that my restaurant needs?” said Lam. “Then came the idea of having graffiti as my major design element here.”

He said the cost of putting up graffitis is at least 20 per cent less compared to other design decorations like brass pipes and lamps that relate to his restaurant’s industrial, New York style theme. They help to market his business.

“I think they have their advertising function. Customers will tell me how much they like the wall and will be interested to know the concept behind,” said Lam. “The graffiti has kind of become my restaurant’s icon and two conversation pieces here.”

“The business benefits artists to get to work on commercial projects with interesting companies,” said Smith. “These give not just monetary but experiential opportunities.”

Local graffiti artist, Pantone C has been doing commercial graffiti work for several years. commercial graffiti stacks up 30-40 per cent of his income.

Apart from discerning what clients want, Pantone C thinks the other key to commercial graffiti is that artists or companies need to understand local urban cultures, so they could blend personal style, client’s wants, and local vibes in their works.

“I had one client who wanted to infuse the Hong Kong style in his restaurant’s graffiti. The owner was directed to a foreign artist before coming to me,” Pantone C said. “He eventually gave up



Graffiti artist Pantone C says localization is important in doing commercial graffiti.



on the foreign artist because he did not understand and could not execute what he wanted. Localization is an important aspect that is easily neglected in doing commercial graffiti.”

Interior designer, Fu Kuk-ying said

graffiti is indeed one of the big design solution trends, especially in bars and restaurants. It is a flexible and authentic design option. He said construction sites and schools nowadays hire local artists to decorate their advertisement boards and exteriors too.

“The benefit of having graffiti is not just about decorating in an affordable way,” said Fu. “People can also use graffiti to express their own style, showing customers what their restaurant characters and brand values are.”

“Potentially, interior design firms could work with graffiti artists and provide graffiti design services to maximize business opportunities,” Fu added.

# GRAFFITI

By Nicole Kwok  
Edited by Flavia Wong

## BUSINESS

# Social Enterprise: Gift to the Community?

The government's plan to help social enterprises is not effective enough

The problem of an ageing population is nothing new in Hong Kong. In his 2016 Policy Address, the Chief Executive predicted that the proportion of people aged 65 or above is estimated to increase from 15 percent in 2014, to 36 percent in 2064, that is, by over 1.5 million.

“Hong Kongers have some of the highest life expectancy in the world. Many people have a long time to live after retirement,” said Mr. Derek Pang, one of the founders of Senior CID. “People need to be concerned about what they have to do to make a living for the rest of their lives. That inspired us to start our company,” said Pang.

Senior CID was established in early 2016 after Pang and two other partners participated in the Hong Kong Social Enterprise Challenge 2015 (HKSEC). It is a social enterprise that provides training in pet care for the elderly. Once trained, participants can then offer their services to pet owners.

Pang said the difference between a social enterprise and a business company is that they have a vision to do something for the society instead of just make money.

“We want to give values to those in need.” Pang added.

“Providing a pet sitting service is a much better way for the elderly to make a living compared with collecting papers on the street,” said Mr. Keith Leung, one of the pet sitters in Senior CID, which he became after his

retirement from a teacher's position at a secondary school.

However, pet sitting services are not well known in Hong Kong. As a pet owner himself, Leung pointed out that the popularity of a pet sitting service in Hong Kong is much lesser than that of Western countries. “Many pet owners, even myself, have never heard of it before.” Mr. Leung added.

“It is important to get support from the government for new social enterprises like Senior CID”, said Mr. Derek Pang. Pang believed that young adults generate a lot of creative ideas, but they do not have the experiences and financial support to fulfill their plans.

Home Affairs Department provides the ‘Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme’ to encourage the development of social enterprises in Hong Kong. Applicants must have non-profit-making undertakings for at least one year. They also need experience in running social enterprises for at least one year.

Pang said that there is a loophole in the programme, because it fails to help newly established social enterprises. At the start-up stage, the majority of the capital used for running the company relies on the funding from HKSEC.

“A social enterprise is not a charity, the government cannot expect us to be non-profit making and still be able to work in here full-time for the entire year,” said Pang.

The Home Affairs Department has not to respond to questions on the effectiveness of their programme.

“At this moment we do not have a very clear definition of what social enterprise is in Hong Kong,” said Dr Yanto Chandra, an assistant professor at the Department of Public Policy at the City University of Hong Kong. “Having a universal definition will create a lot of burdens because the rules and requirements will discourage people from trying to set up SEs.” Chandra added.

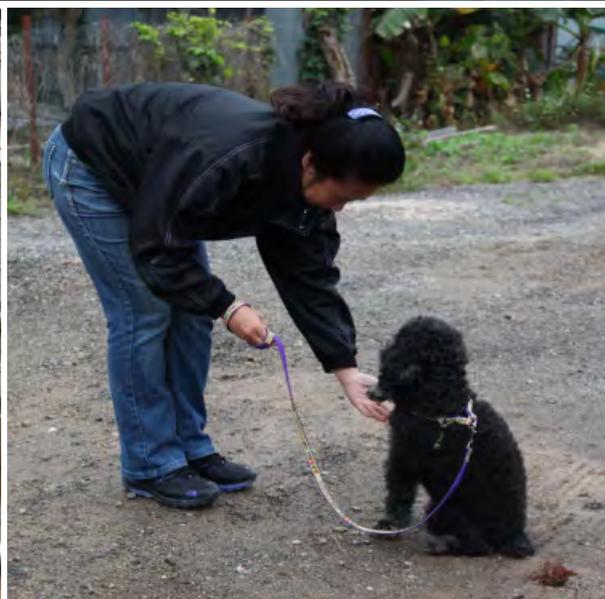
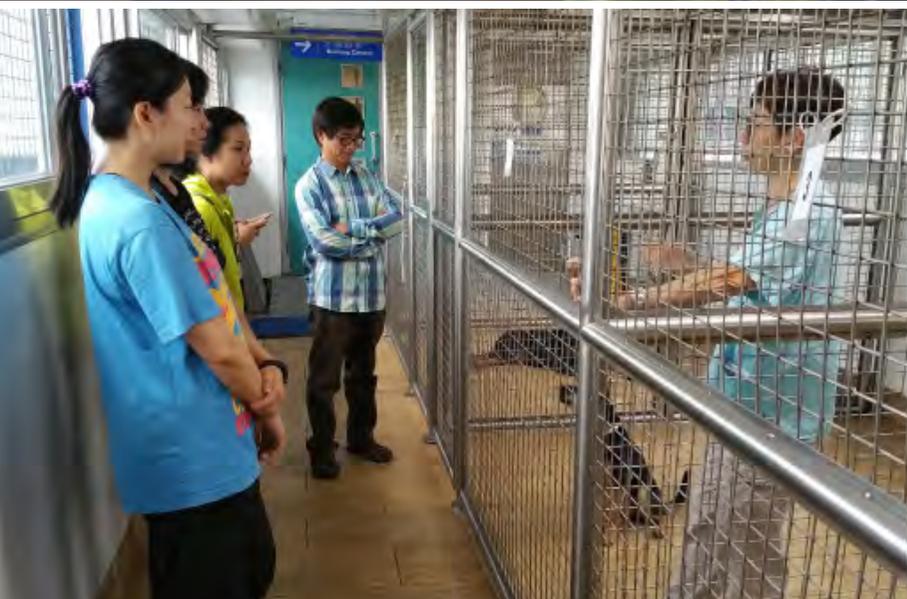
While the scholar advised new social enterprises to be creative and find strategies to get started through, “the difficulties are not for social enterprises per se, anyone starting a new venture, even if it is a full profit venture, will face a critical period,” said Chandra.

“Social enterprises are lacking a transparency to have clear reporting,” said Dr Chandra. He suggested that the government should help social enterprises build up their transparencies. People of the social enterprise sphere should form a council where transparent reporting is encouraged, so that the general public would know more about SE.

“That is exactly the spirit of social enterprise,” Chandra added. This could be a bottom-up process, where people are required to work together and face the challenges.

*By Richelia Yeung & Cecilia Wong  
Edited by Phoebe Chau*

SPCA's vets teach Senior CID's pet-sitters, including Mr Keith Leung (Left), how to observe pets' condition.



(Bottom left) Senior CID cooperates with SPCA, offering a training section to its pet-sitter about pets' health.

(Bottom right) Senior CID invites dog trainers to share experiences of dog-walking with pet-sitters in a Yuen Long dog shelter.

## Art &amp; Culture

# Modern paper offerings are breaking traditional stereotypes

## Breaking the traditions: Paper offerings as art ?

In every traditional Chinese festival, paper offerings for celebration or the worship of spirits can be seen everywhere.

“Paper offerings are not only about funeral affairs. We do paper offerings for the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance, and even for Chinese New Year,” said Mr Ha Chung-kin, the traditional paper craftsman.

He said there were two factions in the paper offering industry in the past - paper offerings for celebrations and those for funeral purpose.

“We cannot make paper offerings for both occasions [at the same time] as people think it is ominous,” he said. “But now, we do everything together, people don’t mind.”

The culture of paper offerings is believed to have started with a concept brought along by Confucianism, introduced in the Spring and Autumn period, according to Dr Tam yik-fai, from the Department of Religion

and Philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University.

“In the ‘Book of Rites’ by Confucius, the master once said that we should respect spiritual beings with containers,” said Tam. “As Confucius starts to distinguish human beings and the spirits as two different existences. The containers for spirits must be different from those we used,”

Before that, most Chinese tended to use the same offerings, for example, meat, fruit, or even humans - which they were presenting to a higher hierarchy - the spirits.

Although Confucius did not state specifically that we should use paper to make offerings, the plant and common reed that he mentioned is believed to be an early sample of paper offerings.

Until modern age, paper offerings have experienced a striking development in different parts of China, with great diversity since their introduction in the Spring and

Autumn period.

For example, people in Tianjin use joss paper cows as offerings, those in Chaozhou present joss paper water buckets and streamers to the spirits, while people in Fujian make joss paper lamps for their spirits.

“There are over a hundred types of paper offerings due to cultural diversity. We create different paper offerings for different places and occasions,” Ha said.

Paper offerings are designed for the spirits. Family and friends of the deceased would order customized offerings for their beloved ones.

According to Tam, the Chinese believe the world of spirits is the reflection of the human world. Therefore, people would make paper offerings similar to the materials they have in daily life.

The most common paper offering, joss



(left) Mr Ha Chun-kin has been working in the paper offering industry for over 30 years.

(right) Paper craft is common during celebration of some traditional Chinese events.



One of the paper offerings in the exhibition “Unfold Taiwan”.

paper doll, is an implication of a servant in the traditional Chinese society; and the trendy joss paper iPhone, is a reflection of the luxurious enjoyment in the digital age.

Nowadays, paper offerings are not limited to Chinese festivals and the spirits. We can also see them during Western festivals like Christmas and Halloween.

In 2015, artist Fong Tong-shing of the online video platform TVMost even ordered a joss paper doll of himself for the promotion in the book fair. His related post on Facebook didn't scare people, but gained around 2500 likes, which was much higher than his other posts.

Ha had once created a large-scale paper Frankenstein and a mummy for a Halloween party, and a giant Santa Claus placed outside the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation headquarters in Central.

“Paper offerings can be in any format and for different uses. It is art and we can think out of the box!” he said.

Recently, Ha has been offering classes to pass on the skills of making these paper offerings. He has had a positive response from the public as all his classes are full.

Mr Patricio Sarmiento agrees. He is a curator for the exhibition “Unfold Taiwan” held in Decorative Arts Museum of Paris, also sees paper offering as an art.

Patricio is not afraid of the Asian taboos that paper offerings may bring people bad luck, even though the Taiwanese Embassy had once gave him a warning when he showed interested in exhibiting the paper offerings.

“Bad luck is very cultural, we don't share the same history and belief, so I think it is okay,” Patricio said.

Patricio introduced paper offerings as one of the focusing exhibitions in this D'Days design festival, which has been held since 2000 to celebrate design and creation all over Paris on an international level. On one of his trip to Taiwan, he witnessed the burning of paper offerings and he felt the art value inside.

“Chinese paper offering is an art, a history, a tradition and a practice of contemporary design use in paper,” Patricio said. “This shows a very deep relationship between paper and human beings on a spiritual level.”

The paper offerings are regarded as a bridge between human beings death. By burning the paper offerings, the Chinese believe that we can transfer the materials to the afterlife world.

*By Emily Cheung  
Edited by Janet Sun & Candice Tang*

## ART AND CULTURE

# Young artists painting their paths

Can art and business go hand in hand?



“What Used to Be”, one of Rainbow Tse’s watercolor paintings.

Hong Kong has witnessed a boom in the art industry in recent years, thanks to international fairs like Art Basel, Art Central, and the development of the West Kowloon Culture district, while this may provide opportunities for business.

Young artists are not benefiting, says University of Hong Kong student, Elaine

Chiu. She has 25 exhibitions under her belt. “[The Hong Kong art industry] is very international and very rarely would Hong Kong organise its own art fairs. I’m not sure if this is a good trend for local artists as we have to appeal to the international market to be successful.”

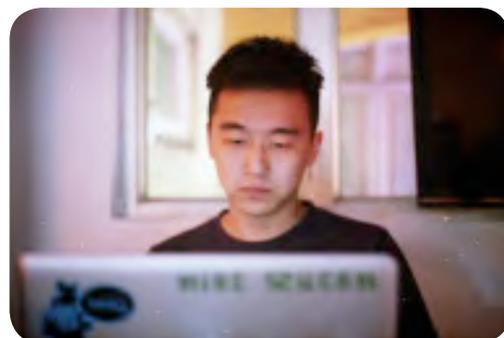
Just this year, Chiu has had her artworks exhibited in France, Italy and Bulgaria.

But Chiu believes that Hong Kong’s emphasis on commercialising art is a blow to local artists.

Compared with her experience in the UK where she sees art as “more public”, the 20-year-old feels that Hong Kong’s art atmosphere “isn’t as strong.” She pointed out that it is difficult to make her artworks seen in the local



(Left) Rainbow Tse  
(Middle) Elaine Chiu  
(Right) Nicky Chan



community because of the lack of funding, opportunities and connections.

“Without a gallery representation, you cannot get into the art scene here in Hong Kong. It’s always about money, relationship and connections,” she added.

Preconceived beliefs that ‘art can’t feed you’ has been one of the reasons why the art scene in Hong Kong is underdeveloped, according to Nicky Chan, the founder of tgt Gallery.

“When we were young, teachers always said ‘Art is a good way to express your emotion’. Yet what they were really implying was ‘Don’t do art when you grow up’, he said.

Chan’s tgt gallery aims to provide an interactive platform for young local artists to share their creativity and talent. The gallery promotes local arts by having a solo artist exhibition every month, and collaborates with companies (how?) instead of commercialising art.

The emerging art market benefits the business and finance sector, because there are more opportunities for events management and establishment of

new art venues like PMQ, Para Site Art Space and the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, says the Chairman and CEO of Hong Kong-listed Pico Far East Holdings Lawrence Chia.

All of these have made Hong Kong the world’s third largest art market.

“For a profit-driven commercial city like Hong Kong, art is valuable because it can bring money,” he said.

Rainbow Tse, a young local artist who also has various exhibitions held both in the city and overseas, believes that there are two sides of the art scene and one cannot function without the other.

“Without the business aspect, it would be difficult for artists to have a career with it as opposed to a side job or a hobby. But when there is too large of an emphasis on business, sometimes it’s easy to lose the purpose of creating art—was the art created just to be sold or was it created as a means of expression?” she wondered.

In a speech at Goucher College in Baltimore, United States, the Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York (HKETONY), Anita

Chan, highlighted the introduction of a new senior high school arts learning experience for senior high school students.

Chiu is delighted to hear the news, as she sees her experience in studying visual arts during secondary school as “too exam-oriented”.

Meanwhile, new funding has been allocated to the Academy for Performing Arts to provide professional training from a post-secondary diploma up to a master’s degree. Assistance also is being given to ramp up professional artists and art bodies through increased funding for nine major performing companies. All these measures are hoped to encourage local artists to pursue their dreams while still being able to make a living.

Despite a bittersweet and conflicting relationship of the art and business in Hong Kong, Chiu, Tse and Chan are still hopeful of the art development in the city. Seeing Hong Kong people appreciate art and understand the value of each piece of artwork someday is the dream that they will continue to paint in their paths.

*By Jianne Soriano  
Edited by Choco Chan*

## PEOPLE

# Beating all odds with positivity

## Bouncing back from ordeals to live a positive life

At the age of 67, Stephen Char Shikngor is still wearing different hats: a barrister at law, a mediator, a columnist. Straddling different fields, he is renowned for being an activist in the frontier of health protection.

Having an abscess on his bottom lip because of sweltering, the grey-haired man laughed about his hectic but happy life.

“I can take a break when I am taking the train,” Mr Char said with a smile creasing his face.

The wrinkles marked his ups and downs. Nicknamed the “expert of ordeals”, he had experienced family loss, cancer and two divorces. However the misery in his life has never beaten him. “Life is a combination of sorrow and happiness. One has to accept the fact of life,” he said.

Liver cancer became a watershed in his life. In sight of no helping hand to turn to while he was suffering from the disease, the survivor set up the first organization for liver cancer sufferers in Hong Kong, during the year of 1994. Besides providing medical and spiritual support, the organization was running for liver transplants. He was crowned one of the top ten fighters of regeneration, for his contribution in 1998.

For the sake of patients’ rights, the cancer fighter even confronted the Hospital Authority (HA) himself, in 2003. To fight for the rights while minimising the adverse effects, Mr Char resigned from the Independ-

ent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), where he had worked for 28 years. He negotiated with an HA official who wanted to close down the liver transplant centre in Prince of Wales Hospital due to a fiscal deficit after SARS.

“Meanwhile there was a generous businessman offering HKD\$40 million to continue the transplant centre. Yet, HA asked me about the kidney or heart patients. They were testing my EQ,” he said.

Brimming with confidence, this veteran barrister said, “out of their expectations, I promised them I could

go find some other wealthy men for help. If not, I could launch a territory-wide fund campaign. They were shocked.”

Unfortunately, HA brushed aside his suggestion and shut down the transplant centre. He expected a justifiable explanation but met no reply. The temporary failure didn’t hinder him from helping more people. In 2004, a journalist inspired him to run for the LegCo election. “She asked me if I was doing this for the election. I said no but I thought deeply about it,” he said.

Instead of shouting at the shut door,



Stephen Char embraces failure as a fact of life. “But you have to know why you succeed and why you fail.”



Mr Char tried to initiate the Legco councilors into the health issues. He took part as an independent candidate in New Territory West. The whole election campaign cost him more than a million dollars. Yet, he failed to enter the council.

“I will never forget the number - 9116 votes! With less than two-months of exposure! It was impressive,” he said.

Reviewing this years LegCo election, in which a controversial disqualification and death threats were involved, the barrister urged ICAC and the police to initiate a proactive parameter in the protection of law enforcement. “Blackmail is a serious offence. People who commit crimes should be brought to justice,” he stated.

Asking whether we should not expect anything from ICAC and police amid their declining reputation, Mr Char said this was a negative attitude. “Never premise anything. We should always encourage the government to take action,” he said.

**“We are different individuals. We are unique,”**

**Stephen Char Shik-ngor  
Former Chief  
Investigator, ICAC**

Hong Kong saw the highest turnout rate in this LegCo election with the participation of more than 2.2 million voters. Mr Char hoped people could respect the counselors, whether they are conservative or

radical, since they relay the voices of the people of Hong Kong. “Like what Voltaire said ‘I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it,’” he quoted.

“We are different individuals. We are unique. Voice out what we think not what we hear,” he said. Apart from being judgmental, Mr Char said Hong Kong people do not spend time thinking, but rather echoing others’ opinions.

Over the last few years, the happiness index of Hongkongers has dropped to the 75th place, out of 135 countries. Giving a hint on how to stay positive, the happiness expert suggested us to “be critical”. “It frees us from being controlled, as one can make his own judgement and decision so as to live his own life,” he added.

*By Celia Lai  
Edited by Ann Li*

## PEOPLE

# A rise of local prosthetic makeup artists

Special effect makeup artist Gary Chan seeks ways to support artists in Hong Kong

A sweaty-stocky meat deliveryman dismembers the corpse of a 16-year-old female prostitute, tearing the skin from her face.

The signature bloody scene appeared in the award-winning local crime movie "Port of Call". 26-year-old Gary Chan Ka-wai was in charge of special makeup effects.

Dubbed "the little king" in the field, Chan says he wants to be more than just a makeup artist. He hopes to improve the art industry and society through his work.

"I was lucky that I got lots of opportunities," said Chan. He wants to create more opportunities for others.

As Chan participated in many local art competitions, he found out that many of the rules and judges in those competitions were not professional or qualified.

So, he decided to organise one himself. At the moment, Chan is organising a face-painting competition for local artists.

Chan said its aim is to support local artists, since filmmakers nowadays usually prefer hiring foreigners. "The moon seems fuller in foreign lands," he said.

Many production companies either simply edit the script and stories to eliminate the need for special makeup or find foreign makeup artists if they have enough budgets.

Chan implores production companies to hire locally - and to respect local artists by giving them a budget to work with. "Don't think that we're beggars," he told The Young Reporter.

Although many skilled artists have emerged in Hong Kong, the major problem in the prosthetic makeup industry is still a shortage of talent, he added.

It takes at least a year to train a qualified special makeup artist, but many people do not have that patience, he said. After a couple of weeks or months, when they find it cannot bring them good money, they will stop practicing and quit.

Another reason is the gap between their expectations and reality, he said. People may think doing special effects makeup will take hours, which is already a long time but the truth is it can take months.

Chan said his most recent project is making an adult-size corpse in the fetal position. This unusual posture poses great difficulties, taking twelve people almost a month to complete.

Mr Chan said this is his most satisfying piece yet. "I cannot show you now, but when you see it, you must be like "Wow. That's amazing!"

Mr Chan has been a prosthetic makeup artist for three years. Despite so many difficulties, he said he never thought of quitting.

Most production companies only have low budgets for special effects

makeup, Mr Chan said. He said he would always use the best quality products for clients, and if they did not have enough budget, he would pay on his own.

"It's not that I do it cheaply," he said, "it's because this was the only budget they had, and this was the only chance we got. I wanted to show off my skills, so I would take it anyway."

Special effects makeup cannot earn enough money for his living, said Mr Chan. He also works in a company selling professional makeup products, in which he has developed relationships with customers and in turn will benefit his prosthetic makeup career.

"When they need special effects makeup, they will come and find me, because they trust me," said Mr Chan.

Financial difficulties never stopped him from chasing his dream. At first he did not have much money, so he signed a contract with a company supporting him to study abroad, promising to work for it after graduating from Cinema Makeup School in Hollywood.

"I'm just lucky," he said, "but luck is what happens when preparations meet opportunities."

Mr Chan said he always did lots of preparations. When he was not at work, he would be practicing, teaching himself online, or consulting experienced artists.

Other than Port of Call, he works for other film production, commercial,

advertising, fashion institutions and even pre-wedding shootings. He has also organized many training programs in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

But he does not consider himself

as successful at all. “Special effects makeup is only one of my tools to do something else,” he said, “I will never be successful until I realize my dream.”

“I want to be a politician,” said Mr

Chan with his back straight, “I hope I can influence people in a good way, not only (people) in this field, but also the public.”

*By Connie Fong & Susan Gao  
Edited by Michelle Chan*



Gary Chan Ka-wai, 26, a local special makeup artists known as “the little king”

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