



學生視覺藝術作品展 Exhibition of Student Visual Arts Work 2018/19

視覺藝術作品集
Visual Arts Portfolio



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作品集主題

Theme of the Portfolio

Finding Joy in Misery

創作者自白

Artist's Statement

Inspired by the deep rooted local culture of Hong Kong, my theme "Finding Joy in Misery" is about how people have thrived and smiled through all their hardships. I would like to encourage my viewers to enjoy the best of life.

My first piece, Nonsense Daily, is inspired by newspapers, which is mostly perceived as dull, serious and boring. Inspired by the famous "mo lei tau" culture, I add nonsensical captions to the drawings to humour people and to encourage them to entertain themselves with nothing.

In my second artwork Lion Rock Sprit, I celebrate the spirit and people that has led us through hard, dark times. The previous generations have gone through thick and thin, helping to build and shape Hong Kong to the success it has now. The coming together of people is a huge part of our history. This piece celebrates the effort people put in to build Hong Kong. Besides being thankful, we should never forget that and pass on this passion in our hearts.

My third piece Acrobatic Troupe in Subdivided Flats is about how a part of the population are forced to live in such restricting and limited dimensions. Despite the circumstances, its residents still survive and thrive. Their flexibility is truly fascinating. Therefore acrobats are used as a metaphor in this piece.

My fourth piece brings viewers back to the old Hong Kong, when life wasn't so great, when life was bitter. Although deprived of freedom and kept in cages, the bitter melons still laugh through the chaos.

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學生作品 Student's Artworks



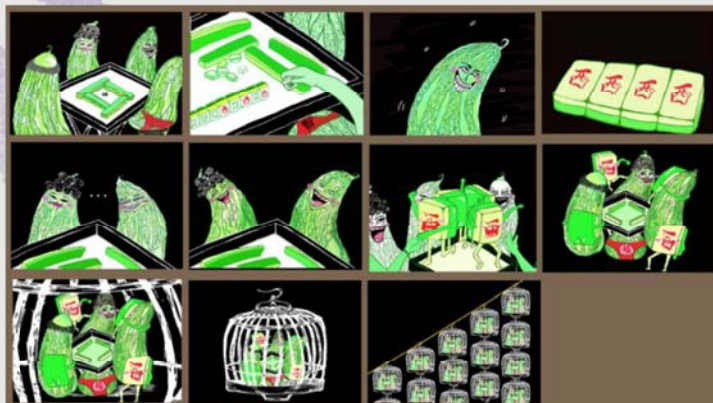
Title Nonsense Daily
Media Ink on paper
Size 29cm x 40cm (6 pieces)



Title Lion Rock Mountain Spirit
Media Mixed media (ink, rice paper and clay)
Size 40cm (W)

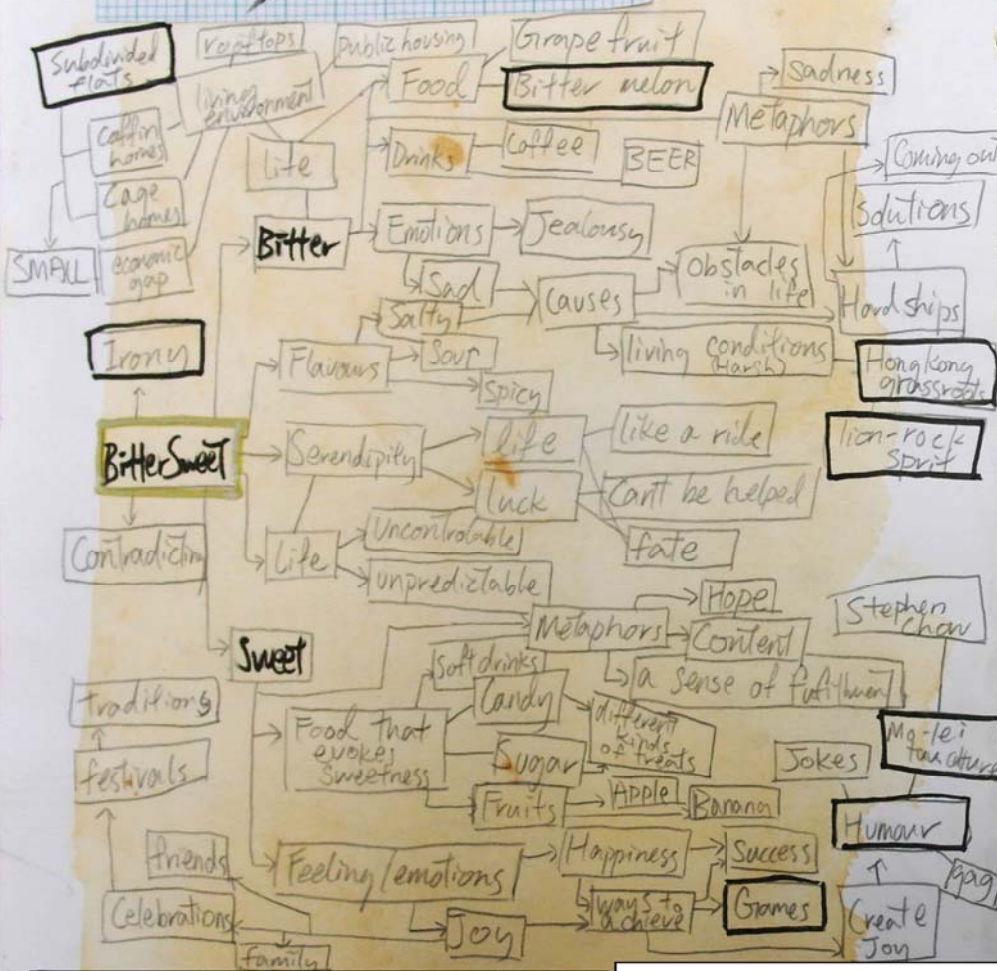


Title Acrobatic Troupe in Hong Kong
Subdivided Flats
Media Mixed media
Size 120cm (H)



Title Bitter Melon playing mahjong in a cage
Media Digital illustration
Size 70cm x 80cm

MINDMAD!!



This is an image capture from a Stephen Chow's movie.
Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction
of the image is provided.

This is an image capture from a movie.
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Inspiration

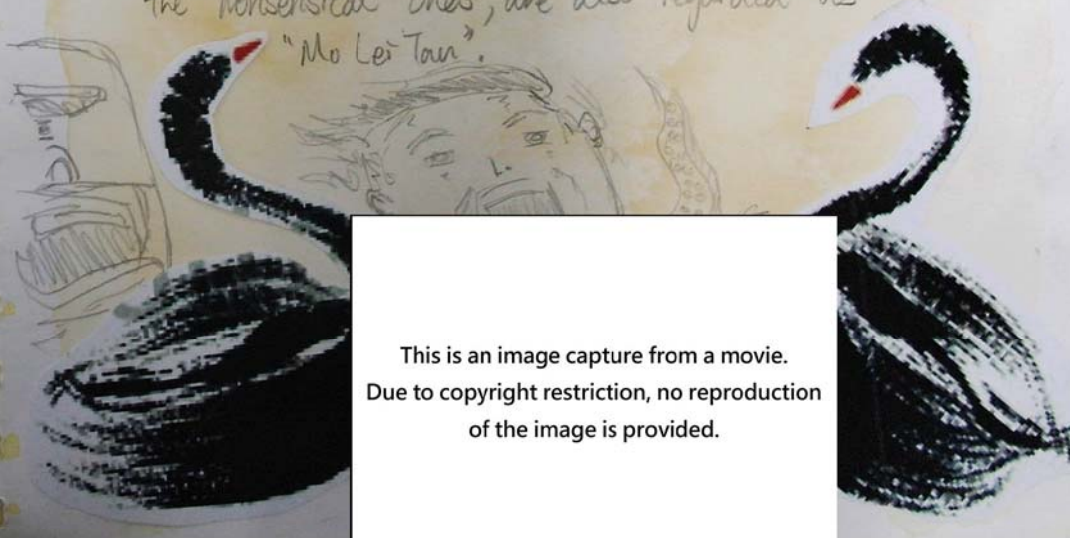
"Coming from Nowhere."

靈感

This is an image
capture from a
Stephen Chow's
movie. Due to
copyright restriction,
no reproduction of the
image is provided.

Boring things can always light up
Smile of others. It's appeal is really
strong. It is just like love, it spreads
happiness and helps people get through
the day happily.

The "Mo Lei Tau" culture has brought smiles
to faces. It is a type of humour associated
with Hong Kong Pop Culture, and has grown
largely due to the rise of the modern film
media. "Mo Lei Tau" means "makes no sense"
and can also be loosely translated as
"with no source". The "Mo Lei Tau" Culture
can also be commonly found in Stephen Chow's
films. Cantonese Slangs and word play, sudden
surprises of dialogues exchanged or physical interactions,
the nonsensical ones, are also regarded as
"Mo Lei Tau".



This is an image capture from a movie.
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of the image is provided.

CHARACTERISTICS

This is an image of Joan Cornellà's 'Civic Mindedness'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Joan's art consists of instantly recognizable and cartoonistic characters. They are well drawn, hilarious and colourful, yet the characters are constantly featured in disturbing, bloody and grotesquely gruesome scenes in wordless six-panel comics. With which are often bright, happy and soothing colours, coupled with the glossy-eyed and friendly but empty smiles of automation-like characters, as if they were ripped off the frames of children cartoons.

The comics itself often jokes with controversial themes, such as social injustice and racism. As the characters can be easily beaten, insulted and brutally murdered in situations that the average person would regard as morally wrong, gory and violent, Joan is speculated to take on a nihilist perspective.

Yet, despite the fact that disfigurement, mutilation, sadism and masochism often being the key elements in these comics, the characters never cease to deliver a haunting smile. Due to Joan's bold approaches at controversial topics with incredible imagination and absurdity, even famous actors, politicians and celebrities are constantly portrayed, painting them as fake and inconsequential.

This is an image of Joan Cornellà's 'Mystique'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

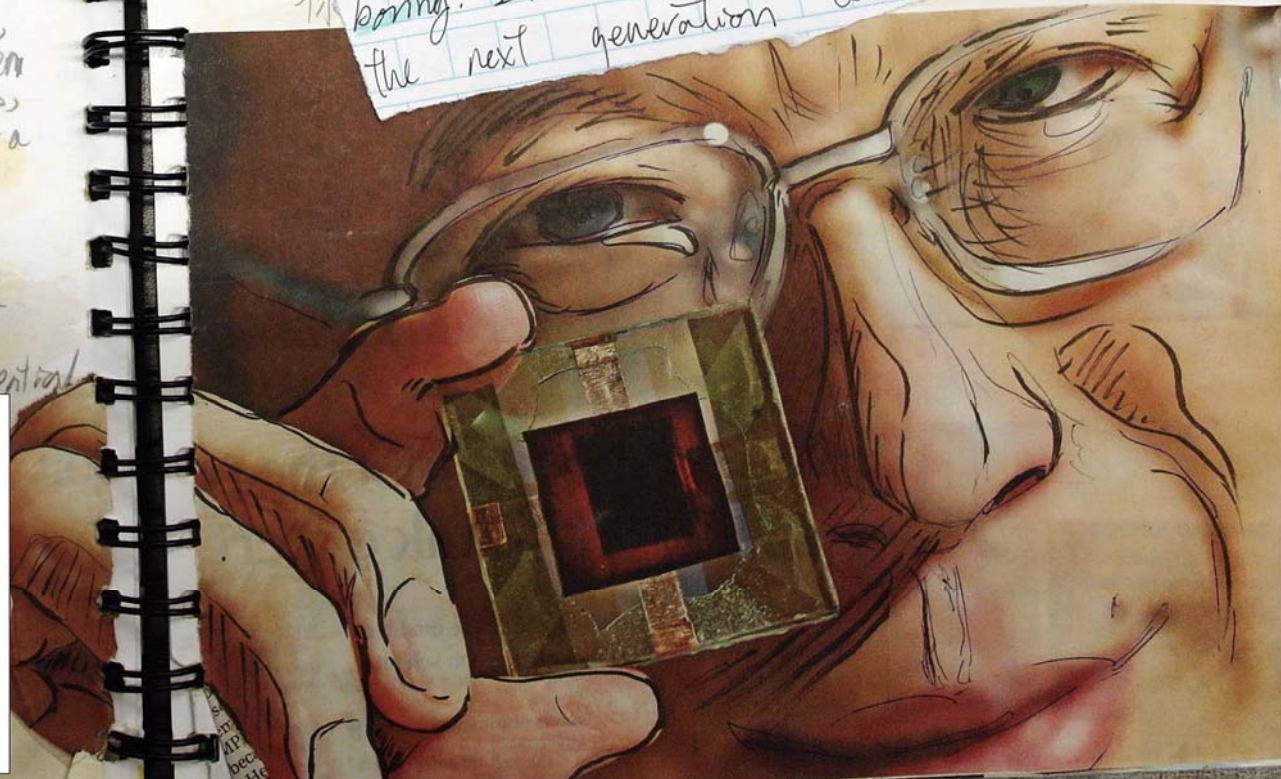
This is an image of Joan Cornellà's 'Civic Mindedness'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is an image of Joan Cornellà's 'Homeless'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Why I Chose This medium

By using brushes and ink, the traditional Chinese drawing method can create texture and a sense of motion. The unique feeling of this media is irreplaceable.

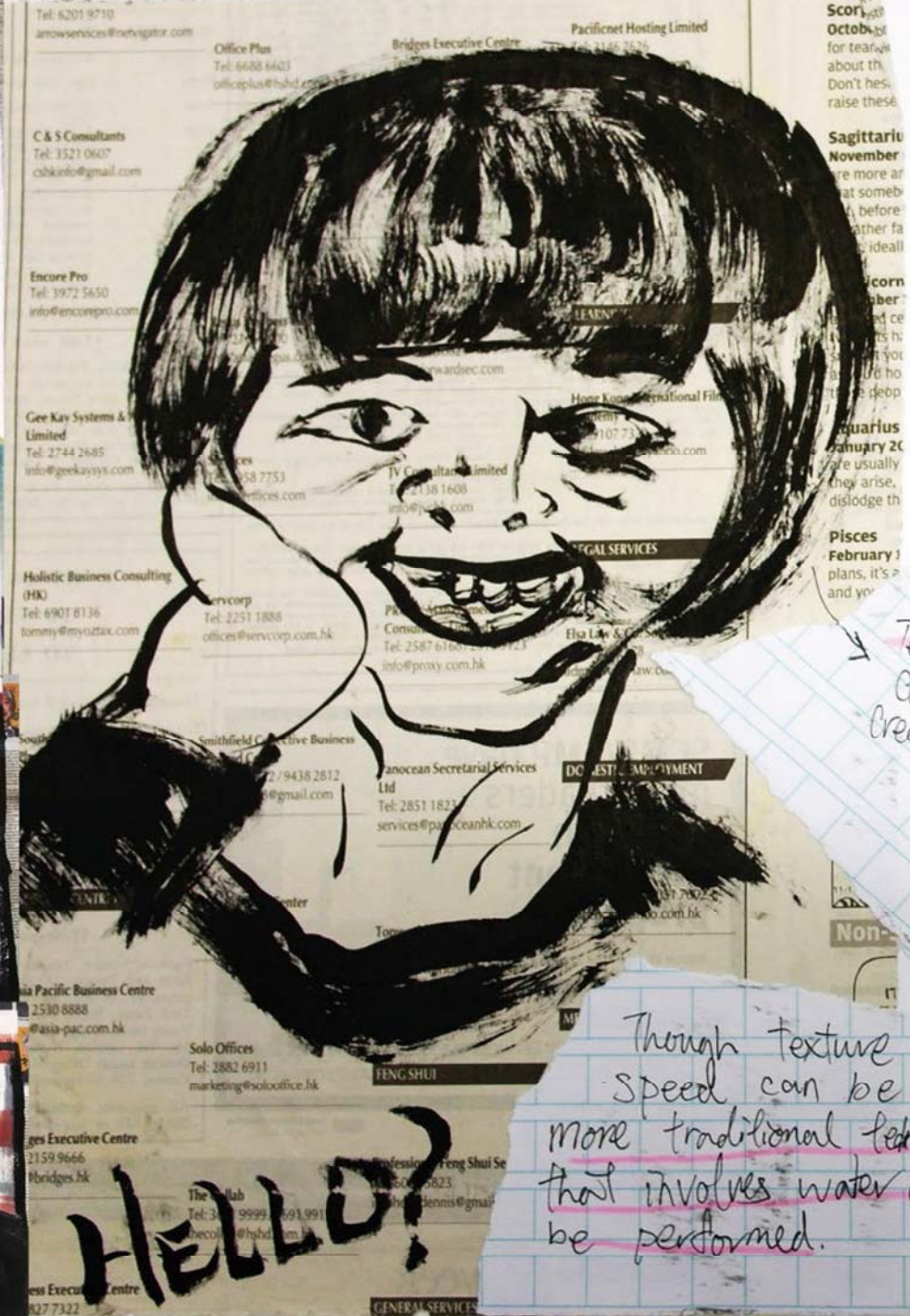
I also wanted to use this historical media, It is also to break the stereotypical thinking that this old method of drawing is serious and boring. It is to inherit this media to the next generation too.



Experiment MEDIA + Technique

Testing and experiments on different papers and surfaces.

Newspaper.



Texture
Can be
Created

Though texture and speed can be created, more traditional techniques that involves water cannot be performed.



Various techniques are used in this series of work. Johnson has sketched the material and created these real and life like sculptures. No colours are added and therefore the original colour is kept. The surreal sculptures are not necessarily balanced, by ~~but~~ stretching the porcelain and the use of hands, ~~moment~~ a sense of is created, yet some feels still. The overall visual effect is absolutely stunning.

This is an image of Johnson Tsang's work, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

I think the piece is to present that life has lots of opportunities to let us explore new subjects, ~~thinkings~~. Therefore people should have an open mind to accept and to explore such things. It might also be presenting that people nowadays are constantly distancing themselves from new topics. Lots of people, especially elders, have a hard time adapting as they stick to their own opinions and are not open to open ones. By giving new things a shot and discovering more options, people will gain more knowledge and will broaden their horizon.

This is an image of Johnson Tsang's 'In Me'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

In my opinion, this is a very successful series that has transferred its message very strongly and clearly. The sculptures are realistic, life like yet surreal, making it more haunting and a great visual effect. The idea is original, fresh and attractive, also interesting. The message is also meaningful and something people nowadays need. An awesome reminder.

This is an image of Johnson Tsang's work, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Johnson
Tsang's ⇒
Other Works

This is an image of Johnson Tsang's 'Untitled'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is an image of Johnson Tsang's 'Cages'. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

FINAL DRAFT!!!



Step 6th!!

I removed the light clay heads from the newspaper Lion Rock.



Step 7th



The original "Lion Rock" is used as a base and additional newspaper is added to make it look more like Lion Rock. After the shape is formed, a layer of clay is added to the surface.

Step 4th!

I used water to "Slick" the ink onto the light clay. What I have learnt, is that to wait for the ink to completely dry before the process.

5th! A Hot glue gun is used to put the heads in place on the "Lion Rock" one by one.



Mid-

Reflection: I didn't think my work delivered my message well and that it didn't look like the Lion Rock.

Therefore, the design is modified! I added more elements to the sketch and reversed my work to step 1's state.

REFLECTION

#3

Did my artwork effectively convey the message?

In my opinion, yes.

In this piece, I wanted to bring out and highlight the issue of Hong Kong's extreme living conditions.

By using acrobats as a metaphor, I think that the viewer will find it humorous but they will understand the underlying message at the same time. The relationship between the limited spaces and people coming together to survive and thrive in such conditions are fascinating.

Which point can be improved?

Although I think the piece was effectively conveyed its message, I think that if I had more planning, had more ideas for the piece, there would be a more interesting visual effect for this piece. I got an idea for this piece but will save it for next time.

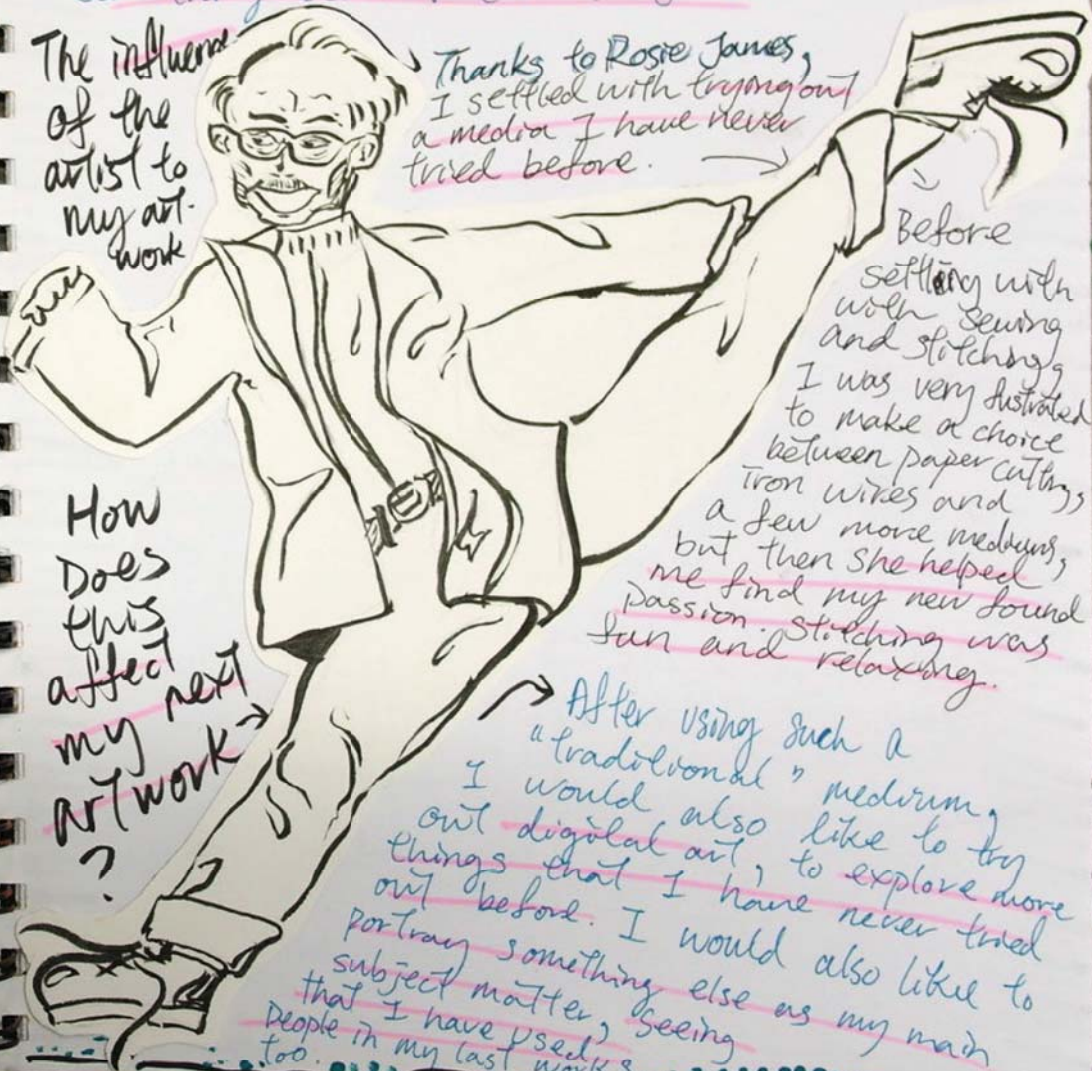


What have I learnt in the process?

This is actually my first time stitching and sewing. Besides the skills I have learnt, I have also learnt to appreciate failure, seeing that I am a newbie in this media, I have done the piece wrong various times. However, I also managed to be patient and make something beautiful out of it.

The influence of the artist to my art-work

Thanks to Rosie James, I settled with trying out a media I have never tried before.



How does this affect my next art-work?

Before settling with using sewing and stitching, I was very distracted to make a choice between paper cutting, iron wires and a few more mediums, but then she helped me find my new found passion. Stitching was fun and relaxing.

After using such a "traditional" medium, I would also like to try out digital art, to explore more things that I have never tried out before. I would also like to portray something else as my main subject matter, seeing that I have used people in my last work too.

EXPERIMENTS ON Presentation



I had a few ideas on the final presentation of my work, and therefore experimented to find out the different visual impacts.

IDEA #1

To have a background behind the finished characters.

ADV: It brings out the main theme and relation between the characters and space



IDEA #2

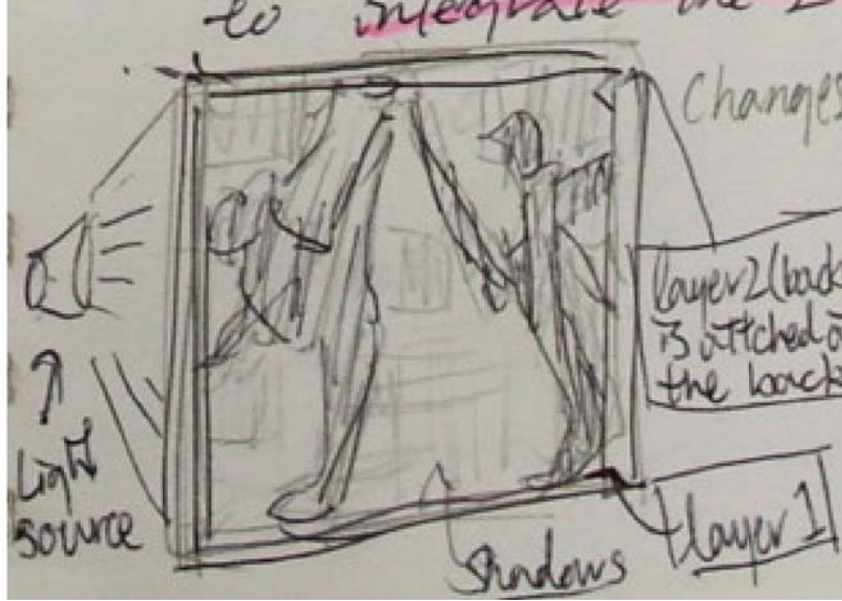
To layer the 4 pieces together, without background

ADV: Interesting effects are created when lighting is added.

DISAD: fails to bring out the relationship between the characters and limited space, not effective in conveying the message.

Mini - Conclusion: I really like the visual effect of idea #2, yet it is not effective in conveying the message, therefore I tried to integrate the 2 ideas into 1:

Changes: turn the background transparent, so when there is lighting, interesting effects can still be created



The shadows of the works at the back is fascinating.

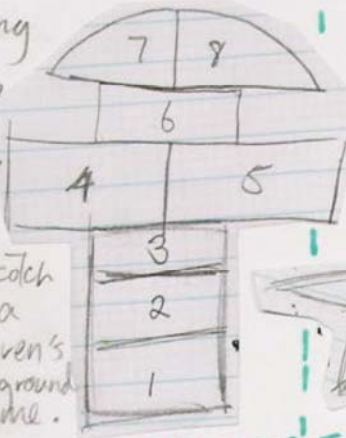
Hopscotch

Paper Planes

紙飛機

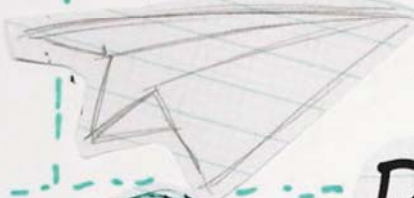
跳飛機

Jumping and balance is involved.



Hopscotch is a children's playground game.

Paper planes can be folded with a piece of paper. Popular among children.



FINAL CHOICE:

MAHJONG

麻雀!

Some would even say mahjong is a part of our city's DNA, a national essence.

The game has been played in Hong Kong for hundreds of years, and passed down from generation to generation, bringing people together.

These are two images of mahjong, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Mahjong was named an "intangible cultural heritage" by the HK gov in 2014.

AEROPLANE CHES

飛行棋

Poker



GO

MONOPOLY

大富翁

This is one of my personal favourites. Monopoly is a game of power, to try to be rich, buy as much land as possible. Kids play it, adults too. It also suits Hong Kong's competitive nature.

HONG KONG

© M2L

These are two images of people playing mahjong. Due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the images is provided.

The game was widely played in various housing estates, corridors and open areas. It was so popular that the click-clack of mahjong echoes through day or night.

This is an image of people playing mahjong, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

The game was ubiquitous.

People, with visit these → kind of shops to play mahjong after the government banned the playing from public housing estates. They pay hourly rates to play mahjong with friends for hours.

This is an image of people playing mahjong, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

EXPERIMENT



After tracing sketches with markers/liners, the drawing is scanned onto the computer for further processing.

Question:

How Should I do it?
What Styles should I adapt?

Therefore, the experiment process is to find out or discover a style to see what produces a better visual effect and viewing experience.

Mainly, I would like to experiment with:

- ① Background colour
- ② Line colour
- ③ Colouring

① LINE COLOUR

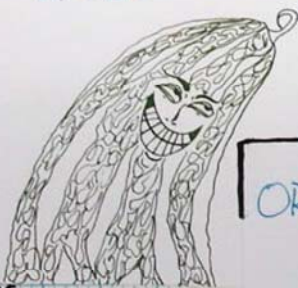
Traditionally Black? Green?

GREEN

GREEN

✓ It suits the character, since Bitter melons are green.

✗ The expressions are not as clear and expressive as the black one.



OR



BLACK

✓ The lines are clear

✓ Gives a "traditional" feel.

BLACK

✗ Doesn't suit the character as well as the green lines.

① LINE COLOUR

(mini) Conclusion



Expressions

BLACK

Lines

Green

Since I liked the green, melon-like lines, I decided to go with it. However, I also wanted the face and expressions to be more expressive. SO, I compromised.

② BACKGROUND COLOUR

BLACK?

WHITE?

WHITE

✓ simple, clean

✗ Boring.

BLACK

✓ Great contrast.

✓ Dark, suits theme.



CONCLUSION:

My final choice was black, since I am trying to create a hidden sorrow behind the happiness.

③ COLOURING!

PLAIN? SOLID COLOURS? WITH GRADIENT(MIX)?



✗ BORING!

CONCLUSION:

Mixed colours with solid colours on some objects like mahjong.

✓ interesting colour schemes can be used

✗ lots of lines are not close ended, hard to fix

WIN! ✓ nice effect visual

Some parts can be filled with solid colours. (less effort needed to fix loose ends)