

Project Organiser



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The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project 2021

Creatively tackling climate change through the arts

Exhibition open: Now until 9 April



Download high-resolution photos here: <http://bit.ly/startup2021Exhibition>

(18 March 2021, Hong Kong) Our planet is endangered! Consumer culture has convinced us that convenience is a priority and the latest trends are a must. Before we exhaust our natural resources, it's time to rethink and reflect on our consumption habits before it's too late.

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and funded by **The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project 2021** has brought together 20 professional artists and over 500 youth participants who created 12 series of artworks to raise awareness and express their thoughts on climate change. From now until 9 April, the public are invited to view the creative results at an exhibition of visual artworks and original dance and spoken word pieces at Y Square in Chai Wan, as well as a series of online art activities and video performances. Each of the works explores themes related to overconsumption, electronic waste, fast fashion, plastic waste, light pollution, coral bleaching, rising sea levels, endangered wildlife and more – encouraging visitors to learn more about these issues and help take a stand to protect our planet!

The artwork showcased in three-week exhibition was created as part of 12 visual and performing arts projects: the photography series *Trails of Destruction*; two series of original dance and spoken word films *#BeTheChange: Journey to the Top* and *#BeTheChange: Haste Makes E-waste*; the sculpture series *Plastic Waste Upcycling*; the painting series *The Classic of the Future: Artificial Animals*; the experiential installation *Light Room*; the clay sculpture series *The Coral That Lost Its Splendour*; the hand-drawn pattern panel series *Bio-Kaleidoscope*; the multimedia installation *Re-worm We-Born*; the installation art series *The “Submerged” City*; the illustration series *The Climate Crisis: Causes and Effects*; and the original performance series *Why on Earth?*.

In the photography series *Trails of Destruction*, artist and photography director Maysum symbolically explores how human beings pollute and damage the environment, demonstrating the causes and effects through images of five dancers. The “cause” images, depicted in close-up with exaggerated makeup, expressions and shapes, explore how our greed and selfishness create environmental pollution through the manufacture and disposal of plastics and consumer electronics, deforestation caused by agriculture and livestock farming, and excessive consumerism and consumption of red meat. In the “effect” images, the camera pulls away as the dancers depict the consequences of our behaviour.

The installation artwork *Light Room* – created by commissioned artists Keith Lam and Dimension Plus – explores the impact of light pollution on residents living close to giant advertising screens. Recreating this environment through washes of intense lighting effects and images and data from actual situations of light pollution, the work allows visitors to physically experience the disorienting effects of living with light pollution, and helps raise awareness of its harmful impact on our mental and physical health.

During the exhibition period, a series of free-of-charge online activities and video performances will also be launched at www.hkyaf.com, offering visitors the opportunity to explore climate change issues through original performing arts pieces and tutorials. The art pieces include performances of dance, spoken word, a capella voice and songwriting, and encourage visitors to reconsider their daily habits and advocate for a better, greener, more sustainable path for our future. The tutorial videos, led by professional artists, demonstrate how audiences can turn waste material into their own artistic animal sculptures. Streaming links for the visual art activities can be accessed by completing an online registration form: bit.ly/cpg2021_online (Chinese only).

Notes to Editors

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project 2021 – Exhibition

Date: 17 March – 9 April 2021

Time: 10am – 7pm

Venue: Y Platform, Youth Square, Chai Wan

Free admission, no ticket required

Online Activities: www.hkyaf.com

Online Activities Registration Link: bit.ly/cpg2021_online

Enquiries: [Facebook/ Instagram](#) (@hkyaf)

**Exhibition details may change according to the latest health and safety measures of COVID-19.*

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Community Project Grant: stART Up Community Arts Project 2021 – Exhibition Artworks

Trail of Destruction

Director: Maysum

Photographer: Lo Wong (Bako Studio)

Makeup Artists: Maysum and Yellow Lam

Hair Stylist: Green Cheung (AdmiX Hair Styling)

As a species, human beings create constant pollution and damage to the environment. But as individuals, we often find it hard to recognise that we are also responsible. This photography series symbolically explores the causes and effects of environmental pollution through images of five dancers. The “cause” images, depicted in close-up with exaggerated makeup, expressions and shapes, explore how our greed and selfishness cause environmental pollution through excessive consumerism and consumption of red meat, manufacturing plastics and consumer electronics and deforestation caused by agriculture and livestock ranching. In the “effect” images, the camera pulls away as the dancers depict the consequences of our behaviour.



#BeTheChange: Journey to the Top

Concept, Text & Spoken Word Director:

Yasmin Hingun

Choreography: Jacqueline Lo, Natalie Hsu

From distant dusty cotton fields to your local polished shopping mall, explore the creation of a garment in *Journey to the Top*. The dance and spoken word film spins a new thread of hope within the devastating environmental impact of fast fashion, and encourages viewers to rethink and reflect on our values as consumers before making a purchase. For every piece of fast fashion we refuse to buy, we are also making a difference to the future of our planet.



Haste Makes E-waste

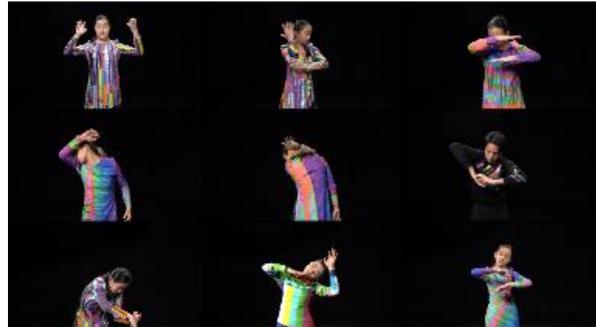
Choreographer: Priscilla Lai

Spoken Word Director: Malvina Tam

Illustrator & Animator: Nico Cheung

Cinematographer: Ifan Yu

Look around your home. How many electronic gadgets and appliances do you own, and how many do you actually use? Most of us own more products than we realise. Apart from our phones, computers, air conditioning and washing machines, many of these products are rarely used or never used at all! *Haste Makes E-waste* is a short dance film that invites us to think about why we purchase electronic items that we don't need and don't use. It also asks us, as consumers, to think twice before buying new gadgets and be honest with ourselves about how much we really need the things we want to own.



Plastic Waste Upcycling

Artists: Violet Shum, Plastic Wood Studio

Plastic Waste Upcycling is a series of sculptures created collaboratively by professional artist Violet Shum, Plastic Wood Studio and participating primary and secondary school students. Made from remoulded plastic waste collected in the community, the works are inspired by endangered animals – such as sea turtles, polar bears and penguins – and designed to raise awareness of the problems that man-made pollution causes for the natural world. By collecting plastic waste in the community, students also learnt about the different categories of plastic waste, about recycling, and about how discarded items can be creatively upcycled.



The Classic of the Future: Artificial Animals

Artist: Michelle Fung

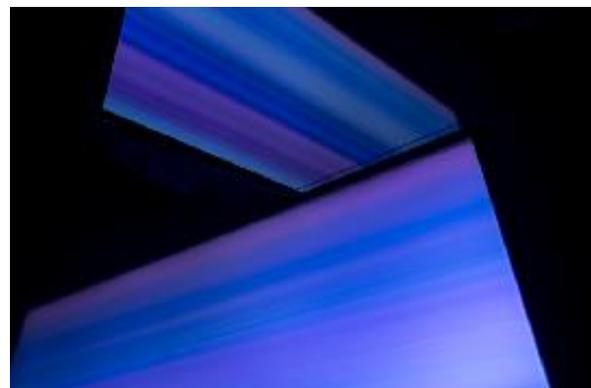
The year is 2084, and all animals are extinct. As the technological imbalance causes havoc in human society, the imaginary country Contradictoria creates a series of artificial animals to serve its people and restore peace and order. Could ideas like this really help solve the devastating problem of mass extinctions facing the world today?



Light Room

Artists: Keith Lam, Dimension Plus

The installation artwork *Light Room* allows audience to experience the impact of living with light pollution. Featuring washes of intense lighting effects, as well as images and data of actual situations of light pollution, the installation helps raise awareness of the harmful effects of light pollution on our mental and physical wellbeing.



The Coral That Lost Its Splendor

Artist: Violet Shum

The Coral That Lost Its Splendour is a series of clay sculptures created by professional artist Violet Shum and a group of local primary and secondary school students that captures both the vibrant natural beauty of coral reefs and the destructive process of coral bleaching. Designed to show the devastating effects that rising sea temperatures can have on marine life and reef ecosystems around the world, the series encourages audiences to take a stand and protect the ocean before our splendid coral reefs lose their colours forever.



Bio-Kaleidoscope

Artist: Candice Keung

Created by student participants, this series of hand-drawn pattern panels was inspired by Hong Kong's rich biodiversity. During the process, participants learnt to design intricate wallpaper-like patterns that draw on the appearance and natural habitats of their favourite native species, including birds, fish, butterflies and reptiles, and painted these onto wooden panels. Through their research and creative work, students gained a deeper appreciation for local species and the importance of Hong Kong's rich biodiversity.



Re-worm We-born

Artists: Making on Loft Community Design and Research Studio

The multimedia installation *Re-worm We-born* documents an experiment to rear plastic-eating larvae that have the potential to help tackle plastic waste issues. During the project, participating students from Hong Chi Morninghope kept mealworms that they fed on a diet of waste polystyrene, and collected their excrement to use as fertiliser for growing plants. With its unusual perspective on waste management, the installation encourages visitors to think of new ways of integrating sustainable habits into their daily lives.



The "Submerged" City

Artists: Chao Harn-kae, Karen Pow

The "Submerged" City is a series of imaginative architectural paper sculptures exploring the impact of rising sea levels on coastal cities like Hong Kong, such as Venice in Italy, New Orleans in the US and Jakarta in Indonesia. The sculptures, shaped to resemble Hong Kong's high-rise buildings, show deteriorating exteriors with permanent traces of water level marks and patches of mould – as if the buildings had been repeatedly submerged in the ocean. The series offers a stark visual representation of the city's future if sea levels continue to rise, and asks audiences to take action to help slow global warming before it's too late.



The Climate Crisis: Causes and Effects

Artist: Pearl Law

The Climate Crisis: Causes and Effects is a series of illustrated stories created by students under the guidance of local illustrator Pearl Law. After researching and analysing climate change, participants transformed their findings into illustrations and put them together in scroll-like form inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry – an ancient embroidered cloth depicting the Norman conquest of England by France in the 11th century. The students' scroll is divided into three main themes – "Causes of Climate Change", "The Current Crisis" and "Future Actions of Humanity" – and encourages visitors to reflect on how our individual decisions and behaviour can help make a difference in the fight against climate change.



Why on Earth?

Why on Earth? features a series of original dance, music and spoken word creations that highlight the issues posed by climate change, the challenges we face in our daily lives, and what we can do to help preserve our planet in the best way possible. The works capture the voices of young environmental advocates working to create a better, greener, more sustainable path for our future.



Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive free-of-charge arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organises inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creates opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year, HKYAF reaches over 800,000 people through its projects, exhibitions and performances.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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