



**Project Co-organiser:** Southern District Office

**Sponsored by** A Better Tomorrow, Mr Hans Michael Jebsen

**Supported by** Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre, Green Glass Green

## OCEAN ART WALK 2014 IN STANLEY

### 'THE OCEAN AND YOU'

12 April – 4 May 2014, Stanley Plaza and Stanley Promenade

#### Using art to illustrate the impact of everyday actions on the world's ocean

*Did you know that Hong Kong has more coral species than the entire Caribbean? Or that our love of shark fin soup has indirectly put 141 shark species at risk of extinction? Or that plastic waste dumped in Hong Kong waters can travel all the way to California?*

This April, Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, Ocean Recovery Alliance, The Link, Stanley Plaza and Southern District Office proudly present the 2nd annual *Ocean Art Walk 2014 in Stanley*. Set against the city's beautiful ocean backdrop, this three-week event features visual art and performance to raise awareness of the connection between our everyday behaviour and the health of our ocean, and to encourage everyone to take action to save our waters.

Hong Kong may be small geographically, but the behaviour and actions of its 7.2 million inhabitants have far-reaching consequences for marine environments worldwide. Some of the impacts are clearly visible on local beaches and waterfronts where large amounts of plastic waste regularly wash up – but many of the effects remain unseen and are rarely discussed.

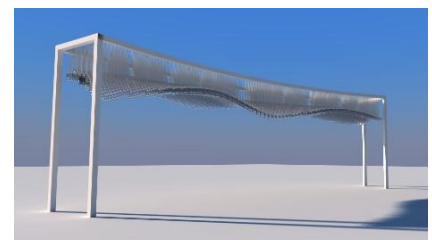
Between 12 April and 4 May, *Ocean Art Walk 2014 in Stanley* will take place along Stanley Promenade and at Stanley Plaza. The art walk features six sculptures and installations, a photography collection and a series of dance performances – created by 12 local and international artists and over 50 young people.

The installations and sculptures are created primarily from waste and recycled materials, with artists collectively using over 4,200 plastic bottles, 500 discarded CDs, 350 glass bottles collected from the glass recycling program at Stanley Plaza, bottle lids, key chains, toothbrushes and other found objects. The works illustrate issues relevant to Hong Kong, such as the need to protect our marine life, to encourage sustainable fishing and to manage plastic consumption and waste.

Renowned German-born Hong Kong environmental artist **liina klaus** has adopted her signature style of using local beach rubbish and redefining waste through art with an interactive 'hawker stall' titled *lost'n'found*. From a distance the stall looks colourful and attractive. Up close, visitors will see that the objects 'for sale' are actually broken toys, twigs, old shoes and other waste items. To 'buy' these objects, visitors will be asked to offer their own definitions of various concepts – such as responsibility, awareness, and consequences – written on each price tag.



**Hkartbeat**, a collective of local architects and artists, has created *Horizon*, a striking canopy installation – made from over 1,500 discarded bottles collected from the Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre – that mimicks the movement of a wave. The coloured bottles refract the sunlight to create an area of fluid, calm shade. The statement of the piece is that everything comes at a cost. Cool bottled drinks may be refreshing, and the 'wave' of plastic bottles may create cooling shade, but a wave of plastic



bottles at sea will do immeasurable harm to our oceans and the creatures that live there.

Local artist **Candice Keung**, who has been working with 25 secondary school students as an artist-in-residence at G.T. (Ellen Yeung) College, says, "Most people think that using waste materials for art is a simple option in terms of time and cost. But actually it can be more challenging than using conventional materials. We first have to find an organisation that will let us collect or buy their waste, then trawl through mounds of unsorted materials and wash everything before we begin. But this project has also helped me discover many hidden green heroes, like **Green Glass Green** – a volunteer organisation that collects glass bottles in Stanley, Soho and Wanchai."

Other artists participating in *Ocean Art Walk* include Ada Chan, Alex Hofford, Karen Pow, Chao Harn Kae, Violet Shum, Shawn Heinrichs, Anca Chung, Desiree Ho and Lindsey McAlister.

**Douglas Woodring**, Founder of **Ocean Recovery Alliance** says, "People have become desensitised to messages about the environment, and are often unaware of the potential consequences of their behaviour. Instead of taking the usual approach of trying to shock people with facts, we hope to use art to capture people's attention and inspire positive action." **Lindsey McAlister**, Artistic Director of the **Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation** adds, "Artists have increasingly realised their role as one of social responsibility, to advocate for social issues and the improvement of the community. *Ocean Art Walk 2014 in Stanley* is a meaningful platform for artists and young people to discuss the effects of their actions, and to use creativity to ask each and everyone one of us to take responsibility for our surroundings."

All events are free, with guided tours offered on Saturdays and Sundays at 11am and 1pm. Dance performances will take place on 12 April at 2.30pm and on 13, 19 and 20 April at 12pm, 2pm and 4pm.

Also taking place from 6 – 11 May is Asia's only ocean film festival, the 3rd annual **Hong Kong – San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival**. The festival takes place at various venues across Hong Kong, with a number of pre-festival screenings scheduled to coordinate with *Ocean Art Walk 2014 in Stanley*. More details to be announced shortly at <http://www.oceanrecov.org>

Download high res photos: [http://ftp.hkyaf.com/press@hkyaf.com/HKYAF\\_Ocean\\_Art\\_Walk\\_Photos.zip](http://ftp.hkyaf.com/press@hkyaf.com/HKYAF_Ocean_Art_Walk_Photos.zip)

## **Notes to Editor**

### **Ocean Art Walk 2014 in Stanley**

Dates: 12 April – 4 May

Venue: Stanley Promenade and Stanley Plaza

Free exhibition: Daily

Free dance performances: 12 April (2:30pm), plus 13, 19 and 20 April (12pm, 2pm and 4pm)

Free guided tours: 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 April, 3, 4 May (11am, 1pm), pre-registration required at [yan@hkyaf.com](mailto:yan@hkyaf.com)

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**Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (YAF)** is a charity that provides access to high quality, non-competitive arts experiences for young people aged 5 to 25. Since 1993, YAF has been organising inclusive and inspirational projects that reach out to youngsters of all cultures, backgrounds, languages and abilities, and actively creating opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and underprivileged. Each year we reach over 800,000 young people with our projects, in the form of workshops, exhibitions, performances and more.

**Ocean Recovery Alliance** brings together new ways of thinking, technologies, creativity and collaborations in order to introduce innovative projects and initiatives that help to improve our ocean environment. It has two projects with the Clinton Global Initiative focused on the reduction of plastic pollution, and is one of the only NGOs in the world to be working with both the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank's Global Partnership for Oceans. It also organises Kids Ocean Day in Hong Kong, and 2014 marks the third Hong Kong-San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival.

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