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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Art! WeCan – Exhibition Launch

Over 300 student artworks adorn Central Pier and the Star Ferry illustrating the creativity of Hong Kong youth



#### High-resolution photos:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/y1w8w47yjh0u0wde6wwc/ABaxltFEr30eL5UIA\\_SCr0?rlkey=o2a7kku4pq76bi5fntk1qzbw0&st=n6x9499c&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/y1w8w47yjh0u0wde6wwc/ABaxltFEr30eL5UIA_SCr0?rlkey=o2a7kku4pq76bi5fntk1qzbw0&st=n6x9499c&dl=0)

(21 May 2025, Hong Kong) – When young people are given the chance to explore their potential and let their imaginations fly, their creativity can be astounding.

From now until 5 June, **Art! WeCan 2025 Exhibition** is on display at Central Pier No. 7 and the upper deck of the Star Ferry, “Twinkling Star”. As one of Project WeCan’s joint-school programmes, Art! WeCan is co-organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF). Around 500 local secondary students from 42 Project WeCan participating schools took part in the programme, collaborating with professional artists in creating nine sets of more than 300 pieces of locally inspired artworks. By engaging the community through art, the exhibition showcases the vibrant energy and creativity of Hong Kong youth to travellers at the iconic Victoria Harbour.

“Every young person deserves opportunities to thrive. Art! WeCan fosters interaction between artists and students, allowing students not just to learn techniques, but also to unlock confidence, resilience and new horizons. Each art piece tells a story - of Hong Kong’s culture, of the young people’s dreams and the unique light within them,” said Mr Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of the Project WeCan Foundation.

“Star Ferry is Hong Kong’s icon. The transformation of the Central Pier and the “Twinkling Star” ferry to an art space where Hong Kong’s heritage to meet its future allows thousands of daily commuters and visitors to witness the artistic talent of our young generation,” added Mr Ng.

The principal of Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College Mr Wan Ka Fai said, “Art! *WeCan* not only allows students to unleash their creativity and enhance their art horizons, but also has brought them a life mentor. The students have been inspired by artist Ms Ma Wing-man who shared with the students during the workshops about her experience and challenges in becoming an artist, as well as how she continuously pursues her art profession.”

The exhibition is the result of the second year of collaboration between Project *WeCan* and HKYAF. In the past six months, local artists conducted Artist-in-Resident workshops in 13 Project *WeCan* network schools, and hosted two Art Fun Days that engaged around 500 students in creating more than 300 site-specific art pieces. The works on display include bird house installations (*Songs of Youth*); a large bird sculpture (*Taking Flight*); fabric bird sculptures (*Flying Nestlings*); bunting designs (*Castles in the Sky* and *Cities in Nature*); large-scale arched window stickers (*Colourful Deep Dive*); woollen weaving installations (*Journey amid the Starlit Waves*); laser-cut wooden reliefs (*City Odyssey*); and posters illustrating Cantonese slang expressions (*Play with Slang*).

**Image 1:** Mr Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of the Project *WeCan* Foundation (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Mr Frankie Yick, GBS, JP, Director of The “Star” Ferry Company, Limited (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Ms Wendy Tsang, Director of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (2<sup>nd</sup> right), Miss Tammy Li, Executive Officer of the Secretariat of Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged (1<sup>st</sup> right), Mr Wan Ka Fai, Principal of Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and student representative from WEO Chang Pui Chung Memorial School (1<sup>st</sup> left).



**Image 2:** School principals, teachers, and other distinguished guests showed their support for the participating students.



**Image 3:** Mr Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of the Project WeCan Foundation, delivered his opening remarks.



**Image 4:** Mr Wan Ka Fai, Principal of Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College, shared how the Artist-in-Residence programme has inspired students.





**Image 5:** *Play with Slang*, a series of posters illustrating Hong Kong slang expressions, are displayed on the ceiling of the “Twinkling Star” Ferry until 5 June. Each design creatively pairs Cantonese slang terms with English translation and transliteration, offering tourists a playful gateway into the local language.



**Image 6:** The *City Odyssey* series merges traditional wooden relief craftsmanship with modern laser-cutting technology. Displayed on the “Twinkling Star” Ferry’s glass frames, the hand-painted reliefs depict Hong Kong’s iconic streetscapes and festivities, showing tourists the vibrant local culture.



**Image 7:** Two collaborative sets of artworks adorn Central Pier No. 7. The *Colourful Deep Dive* window stickers showcase the beauty of the ocean and bring awareness to marine conservation; while the *Journey amid the Starlit Waves* woollen weaving installations depict the experience students had while taking the Star Ferry.



For more information and programme updates, visit the HKYAF website at [www.hkyaf.com](http://www.hkyaf.com), and follow the HKYAF [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages @hkyaf.

## NOTE TO EDITORS

### Art! WeCan exhibition

Date: 20 May to 5 June 2025

Time: 6:30am – 11:30pm

Venue: Central Pier No. 7 and the upper deck of the Star Ferry, “Twinkling Star” (Central / Tsim Sha Tsui Service; subject to change based on the day’s ferry operation arrangements)

Fee: Free admission, no ticket required for the exhibition at Central Pier No. 7; Star Ferry fee: \$5.0 (Mon to Fri) and \$6.5 (Sat and public holidays)

More information: [www.hkyaf.com](http://www.hkyaf.com) ([Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) @hkyaf)

## Art! WeCan Exhibition Artwork Highlights

### ***Songs of Youth***

*Songs of Youth* is a collection of bird houses designed by more than 240 students from 29 secondary schools from the Project WeCan network during two Art Fun Days.

Working with instructing artists, students learned how to stain wood, draw stencils, create decorations with strings and elements of graphic design, adding unique colours, patterns, and styles to the birdhouses. The birds perched on the chimneys symbolise teenagers’ dreams for their future, extending the concept of the surrounding bird sculpture series.



### ***Taking Flight***

Artist: Breakthrough Art Studio

Participating School: Caritas Yuen Long Chan Chun Ha Secondary School

This collaborative work depicts the bird mid take-off, symbolising the energy and optimism of young people setting out on their own journeys. It inspires the public to be resilient and positive even in the face of challenges. Like the bird, if we have a clear goal, we will eventually reach the utopia in our hearts.

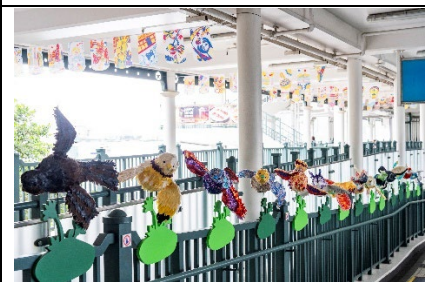


### ***Flying Nestlings***

Artist: Breakthrough Art Studio

Participating Schools: CCC Kei Heep Secondary School and CCC Fung Leung Kit Memorial Secondary School

The birds that make up the collection *Flying Nestlings* were crafted using wire weaving and fabric collage techniques. Perched on the bridge's railings at Central Pier, they represent the importance of courage and determination in chasing our dreams.



**Castles in the Sky**

Artist: Venus Lo (LOSZEHAHA)

Participating School: Tin Shui Wai Methodist College

These playful designs, created using primary colours red, blue and yellow, reflect the students' adventurous, creative energy. Each design is displayed on three connected flags hung from the footbridge ceiling, illustrating the students' imaginative visions of fantasy worlds in the clouds.

**Cities in Nature**

Artist: Venus Lo (LOSZEHAHA)

Participating School: Tin Shui Wai Methodist College

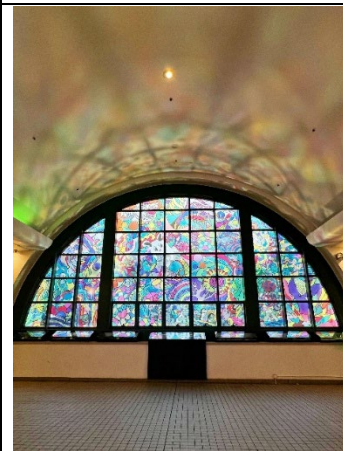
This set of bunting design blends city elements, such as skyscrapers and transportation into natural landscapes using primary colours. The intentionally abstract scales of these elements create a striking contrast. The illustrations showcased on the bunting represent the students' visions of an ideal city.

**Colourful Deep Dive**

Artist: Cecilia Ho

Participating Schools: Concordia Lutheran School – North Point and Buddhist Tai Kwong Chi Hong College

The colourful mosaic stickers on the large arched windows at Central Pier No. 7 are created using geometric designs. They reflect Hong Kong's rich marine ecosystem and the beauty of the ocean. We hope that displaying them at Victoria Harbour will help raise awareness of the importance of marine conservation.

**Journey amid the Starlit Waves**

Artist: Mandy Ma Wing-man

Participating Schools: Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College and Notre Dame College

The colourful pieces that make up this collection were inspired by the students' memories of the Star Ferry and its route.

With the limited details beginners could convey through weaving, the students embraced creative challenges. Working in groups, they collaboratively transformed their ideas into drafts and abstract images created with woven yarn. The project honed their skills in weaving and yarning, and deepened their connection to Hong Kong's local culture.





### **City Odyssey**

Artist: IOll Studio

Participating Schools: Catholic Ming Yuen Secondary School and WEO Chang Pui Chung Memorial School

After the students designed their 2D images inspired by Hong Kong's iconic scenes, they used laser cutting techniques to create layered wooden reliefs and added hand-painted pictures of their favourite Hong Kong landmarks, local shops, traditions and food. The artworks are displayed on board the "Twinkling Star" Ferry – offering visitors an immersive representation of the essence of Hong Kong.



### **Play with Slang**

Artist: Karen Pow Cheuk-mei

Participating Schools: The Methodist Lee Wai Lee College and CCC Rotary Secondary School

This set of posters is inspired by the vivid imagery of eleven unique Hong Kong slang expressions. To show foreign tourists our local expressions, each design includes English translation and transliteration. Taking reference from old-time advertising posters, the images feature symmetrical frames, bright colours, screentone shading and nostalgic, old-style patterns.



## **About Project WeCan Foundation**

Launched in 2011, Project *WeCan* is a Business-in-Community initiative providing students who are disadvantaged in learning with opportunities and care to empower them for pursuing higher studies and future careers. As of the 2024/25 school year, Project *WeCan* Foundation is supported by over 70 partner organisations for helping 82 participating schools, benefitting over 98,000 students.

Please visit the following platforms for more details:

Website: <http://www.projectwecan.org/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/projectwecanhk](http://www.facebook.com/projectwecanhk)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/projectwecan>

## **About 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 all 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.

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