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### Art! WeCan – Exhibition Launch

The creative potential of Hong Kong youth  
illustrated through 13 sets of student artwork



**High-resolution photos: <https://tinyurl.com/ArtWeCan>**

(28 June 2023, Hong Kong) – We all have our own strengths and weaknesses – by making the most of our skills we can shine!

From now until 5 July, 13 sets of student artwork resulting from the Art! WeCan education initiative – a project designed to help students explore their creative potential, enhance self-confidence and achieve self-empowerment through the arts – are on display at our free exhibition at Plaza Hollywood, Diamond Hill. The exhibition includes decorated lamps, embroidery, graffiti, glass-coloured portraits, self-portraits on t-shirts, and puppets, all created through a variety of workshops, and each expressing the youngsters' individuality and imagination.

Organised as one of Project WeCan's joint-school programmes, co-organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) and sponsored by the Social Welfare Department's Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, the Art! WeCan programme took place between March and June this year, with local artists and 200 students from 13 secondary schools coming together for a series of artist-in-residence workshops.

“Arts enrich life and enable ones to express themselves. We are glad to see that the artworks on display look spectacular and show personal style. We hope that this programme would inspire our youth to discover their true selves, help boost their self-confidence, derive their value from their own art creation,

and add colours to their lives. A big thank-you to the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and the 13 local artists for making this initiative happen and enabling Project WeCan students to learn from the experienced artists,” said Mr Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of Project WeCan Foundation.

During the workshops, students explored a range of creative formats: In the workshop *Light Us Up!* participants created decorated lamps; in *A Special Gift To Myself* the art form was embroidery; in *Life Motto*, graffiti; in *My Hidden Self*, glass-coloured portraits; in *We Are All Unique*, self-portraits on t-shirts; in *Another Me*, puppets; in *Live A Vibrant Life*, installations; in *Transformation*, galvanised metal robots; in *Walk In My Shoes*, decorated shoes; in *Unforgettable Moments*, block prints; in *Our Communities*, installations; in *My Favourite Things*, quilling art; and in *Zentangle World*, zentangle drawings.

### Participating Schools and Artworks

Buddhist Wong Wan Tin College	<i>Another Me</i> , puppets
Caritas Tuen Mun Marden Foundation Secondary School	<i>Live A Vibrant Life</i> , installations
CCC Tam Lee Lai Fun Memorial Secondary School	<i>Light Us Up!</i> , decorated lamps
CCC Yenching College	<i>A Special Gift To Myself</i> , embroidery
Chiu Chow Association Secondary School	<i>My Hidden Self</i> , glass-coloured portraits
Cotton Spinners Association Secondary School	<i>Walk In My Shoes</i> , decorated shoes
Hong Kong Sea School	<i>Our Communities</i> , installations
Lions College	<i>Life Motto</i> , graffiti
Lock Tao Secondary School	<i>Zentangle World</i> , zentangle drawings
Nam Wah Catholic Secondary School	<i>My Favourite Things</i> , quilling art
Salesians of Don Bosco Ng Siu Mui Secondary School	<i>Unforgettable Moments</i> , block prints
The Salvation Army William Booth Secondary School	<i>We Are All Unique</i> , self-portraits on t-shirts
Yan Oi Tong Chan Wong Suk Fong Memorial Secondary School	<i>Transformation</i> , galvanised metal robots



Committee Chairman of Project WeCan Foundation, Mr Stephen Ng (center, back row), Director of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, Ms Wendy Tsang (eighth left, back row), guests, school principals and teachers showing support for participating students.

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

## Editor Notes

### Art! *WeCan* exhibition

Date: 27 June to 5 July 2023




Time: 10:30am – 7:00pm

Venue: Stars Atrium, 1/F, Plaza Hollywood, Diamond Hill, Kowloon

Free admission, no ticket required. Suitable for all ages.

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

## Art! *WeCan* exhibition artwork highlights

<p><b>We Are All Unique</b>            Artist: Molly Wong Man-yui            School: The Salvation Army William Booth Secondary School</p> <p>We all have our own strengths and weaknesses. Let's be proud of our individuality rather than compare ourselves to others.</p> <p>In this workshop, artist Molly Wong Man-yui encouraged students to reflect on their individual strengths and create their own unique self-portraits on t-shirts and vests. Taking inspiration from the work of Picasso and French artist Sonia Delaunay, students created their work using abstract images and geometric shapes. They also included embroidery patches and a motto or slogan to represent their personality. After completing their work, students took part in a professional photo shoot, modelling their creations with confidence and pride.</p>	
<p><b>A Special Gift To Myself</b>            Artist: Karen Pow Cheuk-mei            School: CCC Yenching College</p> <p>With persistence and effort, dreams may come true.</p> <p>Led by artist Karen Pow Cheuk-mei, <i>A Special Gift To Myself</i> helped students give free rein to their imaginations and voice their dreams for the future. After reflecting on how to convey their thoughts, students created photographic images of themselves and enhanced them with pieces of hand-embroidered tulle to give shape to their dreams. Through the process, students learnt the importance of persistence and effort to achieve the things they desire. Working through their mistakes, they were encouraged not to give up.</p>	
<p><b>Light Us Up!</b>            Artist: Chung Wai-ian            School: CCC Tam Lee Lai Fun Memorial Secondary School</p>	

Lights illuminate us, the world, and everything and everyone around us.

Taking students on a journey of hope and self-discovery, artist Chung Wai-ian opened this workshop with guided body movements and encouraged participants to observe the environment around their campus with a torch. Inspired by their exploration of shadows and motion, students created imaginative stories and paintings and transformed them into designs for wooden lampshades. One student's painting of a lifebelt floating on the ocean, a metaphor for freedom, became the inspiration for a lamp with a jellyfish design that reflected her desire to roam the world freely like marine life. After this exhibition, the lamps will continue the next stage of their journeys, stepping into the homes of the students who created them.



### **Our Communities**

Artist: Mable Wun Chun-sze

School: Hong Kong Sea School

Inspiration can be found all around us in our daily lives.

Working with students from the Hong Kong Sea School – a secondary school founded in 1946 in Stanley that incorporates maritime skills and local seafaring traditions in the curriculum – artist Mable Wun Chun-sze encouraged participants to explore their unique community culture.

First, students painted and renovated a disused small boat as the foundation of their installation. They then constructed foamboard boxes that they filled with tiny objects, creating dioramas reflecting their ideal community. Look carefully and you can see all kinds of details illustrating their hopes and dreams!



### **My Hidden Self**

Artist: Candice Keung Lap-yu

School: Chiu Chow Association Secondary School

Self-portraits are a reflection of our inner self, revealing aspects of our character that our physical appearance may hide.

In the workshop *My Hidden Self*, artist Candice Keung used self-portraits as a tool to help students gain a deeper understanding of themselves. To encourage them reflect, students first completed a fun personality test and asked their peers for their thoughts and perceptions. Using this information they planned their compositions, enriching their self-portraits with the details they had uncovered. Finally they created a coloured image on a transparent acrylic film to represent their thoughts, interests and



personalities. The exhibition displays the painted images as well as projections of the transparencies, reflecting the tension between our inner and outer selves, and the students' journey of self exploration.	
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### **About Project *WeCan* Foundation**

Project *WeCan* Foundation, a Business-in-Community initiative started in 2011, aims to provide secondary school students who are disadvantaged in learning with additional resources and care to empower them for pursuing higher education and future careers. As of 2022/23 school year, Project *WeCan* Foundation is supported by more than 70 partner organisations for helping 82 participating schools, benefitting about 87,000 students.

Please visit the following platforms for more details:

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

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

Instagram page: <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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