

An innovative exhibition by the winners of the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative 2013

][LIMINAL][

12 October – 3 November 2013, K11 art space (B207)

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) is delighted to present *][LIMINAL][*, an innovative digital art exhibition by the winner of this year's Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative. Hong Kong-based digital artist duo Kenny Wong and Marco De Mutiis uses swarms of quadcopters to force viewers to re-examine the surrounding space, or lack thereof, in their daily lives.

In recent years, quadcopters have continuously featured in headline news and TED talks. Inspired by the potential of quadcopters for encouraging community interactions and activism through art, Wong and De Mutiis send swarms of quadcopters flying through Hong Kong. Programmed using open source code to mimic the city's crowds, these quadcopters sense each other and fly in teams to occupy the in-between spaces of buildings, carparks and stairwells. Equipped with loudspeakers that emit amplified composed soundscapes and cameras that monitor motion, an eerie tense atmosphere is created, acting as a solemn reminder of our crowded daily existence.

At the exhibition running for three weeks only, the quadcopters' flights through the city will be showcased through large video projections and installations. Narrow corridors will be filled with images and sounds of quadcopters and its mechanical parts. In a corner, quadcopters in flight will detect and imitate behaviours of crowds walking past in real-time, creating a tense sense of surveillance and intrusion. Two educational apps will be made available onsite via tablets, giving viewers greater behind-the-scenes insight. Schools tours will be available and the artists will run workshops throughout the weeks, sharing programming code to encourage participants to create their own works.

Delighted emerging artists Kenny Wong and Marco De Mutiis said '*][LIMINAL][* is not just where art meets technology, but it is an intervention of the public space. We hope to inspire communities to (re)explore unfamiliar places in the city they call home and to become more aware of their daily interactions with other people. We want to bring this technology to the mass, and to inspire them to use it to make their voices heard and creativity seen.'

HKYAF created the Bloomberg Emerging Artists Programme in 2007 to provide an artistic and community engagement platform for local emerging artists. In 2013, HKYAF and Bloomberg shifted the programme to the next level and launched the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative. This initiative aims to encourage artistic innovation and to develop new audiences for digital art in Hong Kong. It is an extension of a wider partnership focused on education and audiences for the arts in Asia. During a four-month arts residency which culminates in a debut solo exhibition, the selected artist(s) receives an artist fee of HK\$50,000, an art material budget amounting to HK\$100,000 and professional support from the HKYAF team.

Wong's first neuroscience-art work *10Hz* received the Gold Award at the 16th Hong Kong Independent Short Film

and Video Awards. De Mutiis' works have been exhibited at *Art HK*, Brazil's *File Festival* and *ISEA - International Symposium for Electronic Arts*. In April, these two recent City University of Hong Kong (Creative Media) graduates were unanimously selected amongst 70 applications as the winners of the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative 2013. They were hailed by the panel of judges for their creativity, innovative spirit and commitment towards inspiring young people to be experimental.

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation Founder and Artistic Director Lindsey McAlister said, 'We are very pleased to be working with two of Hong Kong's most promising young artists, Kenny Wong and Marco De Mutiis. We would like to thank Bloomberg for their huge support in enabling us to create this unique platform, a place where we can further challenge and blur the boundaries between science, technology and the arts. We are sure this exhibition will ignite the imagination of all – young and old.'

Exhibition details:

Dates: 12 October – 3 November 2013

Time: 12 noon – 10pm

Venue: K11 art space (B207)

Admission free; Enquiries, tours and workshops: adam@hkyaf.com

<https://www.facebook.com/BloombergDigitalArtsInitiative2013>

Notes to the Editor

About Bloomberg

Bloomberg supports innovation, access, and new technology in the arts. Through a wide range of dynamic partnerships with visual, performing and literary arts organizations, Bloomberg supports initiatives that break new ground, promote artistic excellence and engage as wide an audience as possible. Bloomberg, the global business and financial information and news leader, gives influential decision makers a critical edge by connecting them to a dynamic network of information, people and ideas. The company's strength - delivering data, news and analytics through innovative technology, quickly and accurately - is at the core of the Bloomberg Professional service, which provides real time financial information to more than 300,000 subscribers globally. Bloomberg's enterprise solutions build on the company's core strength, leveraging technology to allow customers to access, integrate, distribute and manage data and information across organizations more efficiently and effectively. Through Bloomberg Law, Bloomberg Government and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, the company provides data, news and analytics to decision makers in industries beyond finance. And Bloomberg News, delivered through the Bloomberg Professional service, television, radio, mobile, the Internet and two magazines, Bloomberg Businessweek and Bloomberg Markets, covers the world with more than 2,300 news and multimedia professionals at 146 bureaus in 72 countries. Headquartered in New York, Bloomberg employs more than 13,000 people in 185 locations around the world.

About Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

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

Media Enquiries

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