

**Used stationery and found objects get second life as art  
in first collaboration between HKYAF and Citibank Plaza**

## **Citibank Plaza Recycled Nutcracker Project**

1 December 2013 – 2 January 2014, Citibank Plaza (Upper Ground Lobby)

High-res images download: <http://ftp.hkyaf.com/press@hkyaf.com/CitibankPlazaNutcrackerRecycledProject.zip>

Where other people see trash or non-art, four artists see art – or at least the raw materials for art. This winter, Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation's (HKYAF) artists Kevin Cheung, Hanison Lau, Karen Pow and Chao Harn Kae use discarded materials collected from local waste and recycling centres, used stationery from Citibank Plaza's offices, plus found objects including ceramic ware and birdcages to create four larger-than-life nutcrackers. Standing seven-feet tall in the award-winning Citibank Plaza's lobby, these traditional guardians of Christmas help to celebrate the festive season, but more importantly, they serve as a reminder to be less wasteful this giving season.



Statistics show that 13,800 tonnes of waste are disposed of in Hong Kong's landfills everyday, and this figure increases exponentially every festive season. It is estimated that if each person wraps just one present this winter, a total of 138 tonnes of wrapping paper will be used. Seizing the opportunity to highlight this alarming situation, HKYAF and Citibank Plaza have commissioned four young and accomplished Hong Kong artists to help create recycled and found object art this Christmas.

Local upcycling product designer **Kevin Cheung**, who was recently named one of 'Hong Kong's 10 Young Talents' by industry magazine RMM and won much praise for his 'boombottles' – locally produced portable speakers made from recycled vinegar containers – is working with local disposal and recycling centres to collect used ring binders and plastic bottles to create his nutcracker.

<http://www.kevin-cheung.com>.

**Hanison Lau**, whose work was recently seen in the *Young Talent Hong Kong Exhibition* as part of *The Affordable Art Fair 2013*, is another artist who produces art almost exclusively from items of waste picked up on streets, construction sites or waste transfer stations. For this exhibition, he is using collected materials from the offices of Citibank Plaza, including discarded paper boxes, paper clips, split pins, and plastic folders. <http://hanisonlau.weebly.com/>

Joining Kevin and Hanison are mural and mosaic artist and sculptor, **Karen Pow**, who is using found objects including ceramic teapots, chopstick holders, cups and vases for her creation, and visual artist **Chao Harn Kae**, who takes inspiration from the ultimate traditional symbol of Hong Kong – the birdcage.

**Lindsey McAlister**, Founder and Artistic Director of HKYAF said “Our consumerist culture continually encourages us to buy things we don’t really need that soon land in the bin. But what if we put these unwanted items to another use? What if we ask some of Hong Kong’s best young artists to create art using discarded and found objects, objects not usually considered art? We want people – whether they work at Citibank Plaza or are just strolling through – to do a double take when they pass these nutcrackers. A traditional symbolic Christmas decoration with a twist: a fun but solemn reminder that during this generous season, we should still be mindful of the materials we use and give.”

#### **Citibank Plaza Recycled Nutcracker Project**

Dates: 1 December 2013 – 2 January 2014  
Time: 10am – 8pm  
Venue: Upper Ground Lobby, Citibank Plaza,  
3 Garden Road, Central  
Admission free. Suitable for all ages.  
Enquiries: 2214 0177



#### **About Citibank Plaza**

Citibank Plaza, a property of Champion REIT, is a modern Grade A office complex that comprises Citibank Tower, a 47-storey building, and ICBC Tower, a 37-storey building, as well as a retail podium. Completed in 1992, Citibank Plaza was designed as one of the first office buildings in Hong Kong to incorporate Intelligent Building and Environmentally Friendly features. Citibank Plaza was awarded the Hong Kong Institute of Architects' highest award, the Silver Medal, in 1995 in recognition of its architectural design excellence.

#### **About Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation**

Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation ([www.hkyaf.com](http://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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