

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Every Shop Has A History Every Shutter Tells A Story  
**“HK Urban Canvas” Exhibition Opens!**

450 young people honour members of the local community through art



High resolution pictures can be downloaded from:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/44cbabh3ikalixn/AACcdD-ejfGpY\\_KSJxVN\\_oTla?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/44cbabh3ikalixn/AACcdD-ejfGpY_KSJxVN_oTla?dl=0)

(HONG KONG – 1 June 2017) Security guards, hawkers, sweet makers, hairstylists, bank staff, tailors, tattoo artists, puppeteers ... How well do we know the members of our community who help our lives run smoothly in small but essential ways every day?

Organised by Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and sponsored by the Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation, Hong Kong Urban Canvas is a community art project devised to enhance community inclusion and highlight unique aspects of local culture through oral history. HK Urban Canvas is divided into two phases. The main focus of phase one is public art. Six groups of artists designed unique works of shutter art that reflect the personalities and histories of the owners of 20 neighbourhood shops on Hong Kong Island. The focus of phase two is youth art education. Through a series of art education programmes, over 450 young people and teachers have worked with professional artists, reaching out to the community and collecting local stories that they used as inspiration for different forms of art creation – paper relief, graffiti, block print, clay head sculptures and wooden puppets – that remind us to cherish the contributions of all of our community neighbours. From today until 12 June 2017, the resulting work will be on show at the HK Urban Canvas Exhibition in Comix Home Base, Wan Chai, daily from 10am to 8pm.

### Seven artwork themes pay tribute to community neighbours

The HK Urban Canvas Exhibition is divided into seven themed sections. “**Bank Note**” is about the banking industry. Through a sharing with Ms Mary Huen, the Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered (Hong Kong) Limited, artist Castaly Leung led a group of secondary school students to explore the hidden stories of the banking industry and to use block printing to design new bank notes and spread Standard Chartered’s message of “here for good” in their artwork. The CEO was so impressed by the students’ creative work.

In “**Many Faces**”, led by artist Chao Harn Kae, students created pinched clay sculptures to express their thoughts on different trades and industries, observing and visualising different career characteristics and the attitudes of individual workers. In “**People on Paper**”, led by artist Candice Keung, more than a hundred students collected the stories of different local tradespeople and used cardboard to create a series of multi-layered portraits to honour them. In “**Shine**”, led by artist Wong Wing Fung, young people used red lamp shades as the creative medium to highlight the stories of different local industries.



In “**Transform and Transcend**”, the professional puppetry skills of Cantonese opera rod-puppet master, Chan Hung Yue and CK Yung, an artist who uses robots as his creative medium, were brought together in a fresh look at the community value of traditional puppetry. The artwork series is based on the classic Chinese novel “Journey to the West”. The Monkey King figure was co-created by master Chan and artist Yung. The other characters were created by participants of a master class that offered an exciting way to transform and transcend the traditional art of Cantonese opera rod puppets.



### Additional cultural guided tours

On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays between 27 May and 11 June 2017, our expert docents will conduct free guided tours of each neighbourhood featured in the HK Urban Canvas project, sharing information about the shutter artworks and insight into interesting aspects of local history. The three sets of tours are specially designed by CACHE and led by professionally trained retired docents. To meet the overwhelming public demand, two additional cultural guided tours will be held in Sheung Wan on 11 June. Altogether we will hold a total of 26 guided tours, each lasting around 1 hour and 15 minutes. Online registration is required at [www.hkyaf.com/hkuc\\_tour](http://www.hkyaf.com/hkuc_tour). Places allocated on a first come, first served basis.

### Mobile App with AR Function for Reviewing Shutter Artwork

With the HK Urban Canvas mobile app, users can check the location of each piece of shutter art, read about the artistic concepts behind the works, learn neighbourhood stories, and follow four suggested

cultural tour routes – each of which is supported by a GPS system that makes it easy to locate checkpoints. The app has both Chinese and English interfaces. The four routes include “Explore a 100-year-old Market” and “Wan Chai Penguin Story” in Wan Chai, and “Chinese Communities in Colonial Hong Kong” and “A Hillside Full of Shops” in Central and Western. The estimated time for each route is between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours.

The app also has an augmented reality (AR) function that allows users to view the works on their smartphone even when the shops are open and the shutters are not visible. By selecting the location, turning on the AR camera and “targeting” the shop, users will be able to view the artwork, an animation and a related ‘Making of’ video. The app also allows users to take “selfies” with the artworks and share them with friends on social media. The app can be downloaded at the App Store or Google Play, please visit <https://appurl.io/j2wspheX> for details.

“Target” the shop through the app



Shutter artwork as seen through AR function



### HK Urban Canvas limited-edition souvenirs

During the HK Urban Canvas exhibition period, we will be giving away limited-edition sets of printed tape and postcards to users of the HK Urban Canvas mobile app and fans who “like” our HK Urban Canvas Facebook page. We will also give away a limited edition totebag! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for details!



## NOTES TO EDITOR

**Project Organiser:** Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF)  
**Project Sponsor:** Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Foundation  
**Project Partner:** The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage (CACHE)  
St. James' Settlement  
**Facebook Page:** 城市聞誌 HK Urban Canvas (@HKUrbanCanvas)  
**Hashtag:** #城市聞誌 # HKUrbanCanvas

*As some of the shops are close to busy roads, users must pay special attention when using the mobile app.*

### HK Urban Canvas Exhibition

**Date:** From today until 12 | 06 | 2017  
**Time:** 10am – 8pm  
**Venue:** 3/F, Comix Home Base, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai  
**Admission:** Free admission, no ticket required

### Limited Period: Free Guided Cultural Tours

Route	Date	Time	Meeting Point	Duration
<b>Wan Chai</b>	June 03, 04, 10, 11	2:00pm & 3:30pm	Comix Home Base 7 Mallory St, Wan Chai	Approximately 1 hour
<b>Sai Ying Pun</b>	June 03, 10	2:30pm & 4:15pm	The Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage. Annex Block, 36A Western Street, Sai Ying Pun	Approximately 1 hour 15 mins
<b>Sheung Wan</b>	June 04, 11	2:30pm & 4:15pm	PMQ 35 Aberdeen St, Central	Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes

## “HK Urban Canvas” Exhibition Artwork Description

### Bank Note

**Artist: Leung Ching Man Castaly**

**Medium: Block print**

Participating school:

Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai  
Secondary and Primary School

Money is something we come into contact with every day. But how often do we think about the individual stories behind the transactions we make? Banks provide all kinds of services – deposits, payments, savings, loans, transfers – but what are the processes behind them? Through a sharing with Ms Mary Huen, the Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered (Hong Kong) Limited, artist Castaly Leung led a group of secondary school students to explore the hidden stories of the banking industry and to use block printing to design new bank notes and spread Standard Chartered’s message of “here for good” in their artwork.



### Many Faces

**Artist: Chao Harn Kae**

**Medium: Clay sculpture**

Participating schools:

Buddhist Kok Kwong Secondary School, Caritas Chong Yuet Ming Secondary School, Kau Yan College, Our Lady’s College, Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School

Led by artist Chao Harn Kae, students created pinched clay sculptures to express their thoughts on different trades and industries, observing and visualising different career characteristics and the attitudes of individual workers. The tradespeople they studied included ice-cream truck workers, pedicab drivers, herb tea masters, candy art masters, clowns, tailors, Cantonese opera performers, paper craft masters, hawkers, clock and watch masters, beauty therapists and garment workers.

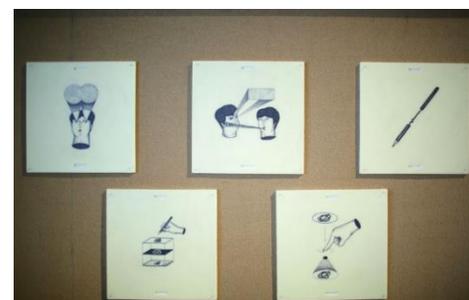


### Ritual

**Artist: Dirty Paper**

**Medium: Tattoo ink, tattoo practice skin and animation**

Tattoo art involves inserting ink and dyes into the dermis layer of the skin to change its colour. A tattoo artist designs and applies permanent tattoos on human bodies. The process of tattooing is a ritual of overcoming pain and transforming a story or image into a unique mark on a person’s skin. For this work, artist Dirty Paper used tattoo tools and techniques to draw and create an animation about the birth of a tattoo artwork, revealing the amusing stories behind this ritual.



## People on Paper

**Artist: Keung Lap Yu Candice**

**Medium: Cardboard**

Artist-in-resident workshop:  
St. Antonius Girls' College

Teacher workshop:

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Islamic Dharwood Pau Memorial Primary School, Munsang College Primary School, Pui Ching Primary School, Sham Tseng Catholic Primary School, S.K.H. Chi Fu Chi Nam Primary School, TWGHs Tang Shiu Kin Primary School

Cardboard is tough, useful and so ubiquitous that we hardly notice it! As a metaphor, it reflects the lives of many ordinary people whose stories may be overlooked but who still possess a distinct character and individual worth. Led by artist Candice Keung, more than a hundred participants collected the stories of different local tradespeople and used cardboard to create a series of multi-layered portraits to honour them.



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## Graffiti is Life

**Artist: Smile Maker**

**Medium: Mixed media**

Participating schools:

Chinese YMCA Secondary School, Man Kiu College, S.K.H. Lam Kau Mow Secondary School, S.K.H. St. Mary's Church Mok Hing Yiu College

For some people, "Graffiti" is something negative, for others it's rebellious. Graffiti artist group Smile Maker introduced a group of students to their life as graffiti artists, sharing their experiences and telling them about the different cultures within the community. Graffiti art is special because the artist cannot take the work home and because it can be erased at any time. The students learnt how to draw graffiti tags, how to respond to each other's work and how to quickly express their thoughts on a wall. The main focus of the workshop was the creation process and showing respect through art. As graffiti artists do not use their real names when they work, the large canvas is a graffiti "throw-up" style collection of the "artist names" the students created for themselves.



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## Shine

**Artist: Wong Wing Fung**  
**Medium: Paper mache**

Artist-in-resident workshop:  
Christ College

Teacher workshop:  
Pooi To Middle School, S.K.H. Holy Trinity Church Secondary School, St. Rose of Lima's College, St. Stephen's Church College, The Church of Christ in China Fung Leung Kit Memorial Secondary School, Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School, TWGHs S. C. Gaw Memorial College

Red lamp shades are very familiar to people in Hong Kong, and artist Wong Wing Fung uses them as his creative medium to highlight the stories of different local industries. Since the 1970s, red lamp shades have been widely used in local market stalls. And we can still find them at some of the city's more traditional neighbourhood markets, where they're used to help people choose their goods. After conducting online research and talking with stall owners, two hundred participants painted the insides of lamp shades with images inspired by the personal stories they had heard, shining a light on individuals in the community.



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## Transform and Transcend

**Artist: Chan Hung Yue, C.K. Yung**  
**Medium: Mixed media**

Participating schools (teachers):  
St. Clare's Girls' School, The Yuen Yuen Institute MFBM Nei Ming Chan Lui Chung Tak Memorial College, Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School, TWGHs Lee Ching Dea Memorial College, Yan Oi Tong Chan Wong Suk Fong Memorial Secondary School

The professional puppetry skills of Cantonese opera rod-puppet master Chan Hung Yue and CK Yung, an artist who uses robots as his creative medium, are reflective of their generations. Although the two art forms have different traditions and techniques, they also share common aspects and complement each other, and can be combined to create interesting new crossover work.

In this collaboration, robotic components were used with traditional puppet structures to explore the possibility of transforming and reinterpreting the role of traditional hand-held puppets for contemporary society. By blending the old and the new, the artists rediscovered the community value of this traditional art form. The artwork series is based on the classic Chinese novel "Journey to the West". The Monkey King was co-created by master Chan and artist Yung. The other characters were created by participants of a master class that offered an exciting way to transform and transcend the traditional art of Cantonese opera rod puppets.



### **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 young people aged 5 to 25. Established in 1993 by Lindsey McAlister OBE, JP, HKYAF organizes 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.

### **Hong Kong 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Foundation**

In 2009, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited issued the Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Commemorative Charity Banknote – the first banknote in \$150 denomination in the world – to celebrate the Bank's 150 years of presence in Hong Kong. Dedicated to the people who have contributed to the development of Hong Kong, net proceeds from the sale of the Commemorative Charity Banknote have been donated to the "Standard Chartered Hong Kong 150th Anniversary Community Foundation", established in 2009, in support of the local community and charities.

### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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