

**“Hong Kong: Our Home” Launch Ceremony
– Contributors and Participants**

‘Art jam’

Today’s art jam has been organised by the Community Art Network (CAN), a non-profit organisation devoted to serving society through public and community art.

CAN’s mission is to link different communities and promote arts for the public through different media including visual, performing and multi-media arts, to use arts activities to help build community links and to share their maxim: “Art is life, Life is Art”.

Design of backdrop paintings – Margaret Chu

The two colourful backdrops for today’s ceremony were designed by local artist Margaret Chu. After attaining her Bachelor’s degree from the Fine Arts Department at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Margaret gained in-depth experience in the creative field, including design, art creation, art administration and art teaching. Recently she concentrated on sculpture and execution of displays. Since 2009, Margaret has focused her artistic endeavors on creating lively artworks through ordinary materials such as paper and plastics. Her artworks usually take the forms of animals such as mouse, rabbit, sheep that are common but nonetheless intriguing with distorted proportions in a cosmopolitan context.

Artist’s statement

Hong Kong is a beautiful picture in my eyes. It’s a place where the old blends with the new in a distinct Chinese and Western way. It keeps changing every

day. There are internationally well-known skyscrapers, and old public transport vehicles. These old and new stories are now combined into the colorful puzzles of Hong Kong.

I used to live in Sha Tin and I would joyfully take a bus ride through the Lion Rock Tunnel to Kowloon during my schooldays. The Lion Rock looked so solemn and yet intimate. During holidays, my mother would take me to Central by ferry and wait for my father to finish his work. Then we would go to the Peak to have ice cream, hang round in the Space Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui or go to Sham Shui Po to buy some electrical household goods.

The human touch and my feelings about different places in my memories are all closely linked to what are shown on the paintings. I love Hong Kong, and I feel lucky to be living here. When I have time, I will roam around to enjoy the sights in different parts of Hong Kong taking different modes of transportation. I enjoy every moment in my hometown.

Art Ambassadors

Our Art Ambassadors included 22 students (F4-F5), three art teachers and Principal Lau Chun-hung from the Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School at Ma On Shan. Our Ambassadors have helped teach the youngsters to paint, provided logistics support and provided some artistic direction to our budding artists.

Art jammers

Our artists today (almost 180 of them!) come from a wide cross section of the community, including district councils, leading businesses, commercial and industrial organisations, NGOs and volunteer agencies, cultural and sporting associations, uniformed groups, professional institutes, the tourism sector, quasi-government bodies and a government primary school (and a few proud parents as well!)

School Choir

The Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School choir that joined us today included 51 students from P4-5 aged 9 - 11. The piano music for today's performance was recorded by Vice Headmistress Ms Leung Ching Yee.

Essay Contest Winners

The two students joining the CS and SHA on stage were winners of the Senior Primary Group of the Hong Kong Public Libraries "4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition" in 2013 on the theme "Love and Affection in Family" in support of the World Book Day on April 23.

The competition encouraged children and youth to widen their horizons and enrich their own life through extensive reading as well as to express their love to their families, and to develop and further extend their concerns, gratefulness and love to other people for a harmonious community.

Students in this category were asked to write a letter to a family member(s) to express their love and concern after reading a book.

Cheng Hon-ming, 9, Aberdeen St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Essay theme: I miss my father

Book read: *Beautiful Mother and Ugly Maid*

Dear Daddy,

It has been two months since you left to work in Beijing. How are you?

We are all fine! Mum is busy with her job and has to look after me and my sister after work, I'm not sure when the wrinkles appear under her eyes, but when I see her exertions I think of a storybook that I have just finished recently called "A Beautiful Mother and an Ugly Maid". The story is about a child who treated his mother as if she were his maid. He did not appreciate his mother's love and only cared for her after she was injured in a car accident.

I reflected on my own experience when I read the story. I did not want to listen to you in the past and felt that you are very annoying. But now I feel something is missing when you are not at home! Dad, when will you come back? I miss you a lot especially at night, I miss the times when you chat to us and the stern look in your eyes when you're supervising our homework.

I have exams next month and I promise that I will study hard for good results. I hope you come back home before Chinese New Year to be with us again.

*Your son,
Hon-ming*

Wong On-yu, 11, St. Mary's Canossian School
Essay theme: Let me say I love you (to mother)
Book read: "Bèiyīng" *Retreating Figure*

Dear Mum,

I know that the pain in your back returned recently. Do you feel better now? I recently read a book called "Bèiyīng" and found it very impressive. In the book, the author wrote about a father who overcame various problems to buy oranges for his son. I remember when I was small, we had to walk for 20 minutes from the bus station to the school, and you always carried our heavy bags on the long journey. But we did not have any strong feelings about it then.

Later, when we were in primary three and we had even more textbooks to carry, I was aware that you were shouldering our heavy bags. I felt ashamed when I saw you carrying those heavy bags, which made you walk so slowly. My sister and I suggested carrying our own bags, but you never agreed because we had scoliosis and you did not want to make it worse.

Now my sister is at secondary school and I am a primary six student, and our scoliosis has improved. Whenever I carry the heavy, stone-like bag, I can feel the difficulty you had at that time. I can remember the sight of your back carrying the heavy school bags. You seemed so big, which shows how small we were then.

Mum, thank you so much for your love and care. I love you.

*Your daughter,
On-yu*

Ends/April 23, 2013