



[Press Release | Immediate Release]

4th May 2017

**Stratagems in Architecture Hong Kong in Venice - "The 15th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition" Hong Kong Response Exhibition
Opens Today**

Showcasing the Architectural Wisdom of Hong Kong Young Architects and Artists

[Hong Kong, 4th May 2017] After the success of the Hong Kong Exhibition "Stratagems in Architecture: Hong Kong in Venice" at the 15th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition, a Hong Kong Response Exhibition is officially opened today in Oi!.

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation co-organises the Hong Kong Response Exhibition with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Oi!, with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects as partner. The exhibition is sponsored by Create Hong Kong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Hong Kong Response Exhibition has been accredited as an event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The exhibition led by the Chief Curator, Mr. SIU Kwok Kin Stanley, presents the battlefield in which the **16 exhibiting young architects and artists** have fought and is still fighting to break new ground. In response to the 15th Venice Biennale Architecture Exhibition's theme "REPORTING FROM THE FRONT", the curatorial team merged the wisdom of ancient Chinese military strategies with contemporary solutions to create their own **Stratagems in Architecture** and apply the **36 Stratagems** to the varied challenges they face as compassionate professionals in the current social climate. The 13 exhibits that were originally displayed in Venice are now presented in a new perspective in the Hong Kong Response Exhibition. "As the Chief Curator of the 15th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition - Hong Kong Exhibition, I want to showcase the artistic and architectural talents we have here in Hong Kong, to shine and bedazzle on a local and international platform in our unique way," said Mr. SIU at the grand opening of the Hong Kong Response Exhibition.

These passionate strategists in art and architecture demonstrated their resilience to the constant change faced in the modern city through their exhibits, and Mr. SIU in

particular has transformed his exhibit into a completely new form. His original exhibit displayed in Venice, “First Confession”, has been transformed from the towering stacks of metal bunk beds into a pristine new form named “Confessional”. A pure white exterior is constructed with wax bricks to represent the candles that were lit for prayers at a cathedral. The exhibit is designed to create a tranquil space for visitors’ own reflection in the mist of the densely packed concrete jungle Hong Kong people are used to.

Returning home to its roots, the Hong Kong Response Exhibition was officially opened today in Oi! which is located at the heart of the city. The organisers are honoured to have Mr. SO Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, as the Guest of Honour, and Ms. LI Mei Sheung, Michelle, JP, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Ms. Fiona LAM, Acting Head of CreateHK, Mr. TSENG Yen Wei, William, Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation, Ms. Winsome CHOW, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Mr. Marvin CHEN, President of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects as officiating guests at the opening ceremony.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr. So said that the “Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition” is a major event in the architecture industry, showcasing outstanding works of architects from all over the world and facilitating architectural, cultural interaction. It is also regarded as the “hall of fame” for contemporary architectural art. Also participated in this exhibition last year in Venice, Hong Kong has shown its unique architectural features to the world, said Mr. So. He added that as this year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Administrative Region, and the Hong Kong Response Exhibition is currently being held to further promote Hong Kong’s creativity and achievements in the architectural sector.

The Hong Kong Response Exhibition is open to public for free admission from 2nd – 30th May 2017. In parallel with the exhibition, a “Space, life, exploration” workshops series will also be held on the weekends starting from 6th till 27th May. The workshop will be hosted by architects and artists for participants to reflect on and learn more about the community they share. More information on the workshops can be found on www.facebook.com/VABHK/.



Photo 1: President of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Mr. Marvin Chen, presents a wax brick, which is designed by the Chief Curator, Mr. Stanley Siu, for the Hong Kong Response Exhibition, to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr. So Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP.



Photo 2: Group photo of Guest of Honour, Officiating Guests and the Chief Curator (from left to right) - Mr. Tseng Yen Wei, William, Mr. Marvin Chen, Ms. Li Mei Sheung, Michelle, JP, Mr. So Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP, Ms. Fiona Lam, Ms. Winsome Chow and Mr. Stanley Siu



Photo 3: Group photo of Guest of Honour, Mr. So Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP, and Officiating Guests, Other Honourable Guests and the Chief Curator



Photo 4: Group photo of Guest of Honour, Mr. So Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP, and Officiating Guests, Other Honourable Guests, the Chief Curator, Sponsors, Curators and Exhibitors

(Ends)

*To download photos in high resolution, please click this link:

<https://goo.gl/Nfdea7>

Curatorial Statement

Our society is constantly evolving since its existence. For decades, Hong Kong has been dominated by progressive development to sustain our city's economic growth, from a fishing village to a light industrial city, and eventually became one of the top financial cities in the world. For generations, economical progression became the golden rule of success and it is the largest driving force to move forward.

"Social Fact" is a term created by the father of sociologist Emile Durkheim as to indicate the social patterns that are external to individuals. Social facts can be social norms, moral values, customs, conventions, rules and other social structures exist outside individuals. At the basis of the term lies the perception of the individual grossly conditioned by social realities that form the "Boundaries of Acceptable Behavior", but these boundaries are not static. Each generation will derive their own set of norms and values based on their particular social practice. For our new generation, the moral value is shifting from progressive development to reflexive, more concern on civil society, civil right, minority interest, fairness, localisation, social enterprise, and sustainable life, and that forms the bottom-line of the new generation. In some areas, this bottom-line is collided with the current "Boundaries of Accepted Behavior". It creates the condition for the changes. Mary Douglas further explained these changes as breaking of rules or norms by looking for "Binary Opposition and Possibilities", the rule breakers are standing at the liminal stage or have already gone beyond them. All margins are dangerous, if they are pulled this way or that the shape of fundamental experience is altered. Any system of ideas is vulnerable at its boundary, it is our "Frontier", as known as the "Battleground".

Each of our young exhibitors is unique and having their own characteristics on architectural design or art creation with the new moral value and they are the new driving force of our society. They understand the latest trend and are equipped with advance technology. During their practice as an architect or an artist, they are consistently facing difficulties with their creation in order to survive. In response to our curatorial statement regarding the definition of our "Frontier" [Battleground], they will be looking into the Thirty-Six Stratagems and select one stratagem to demonstrate how he or she would succeed in their own battleground at the frontier of architecture or art. We want to hear their stories and their approach to the social responsibility, by reducing the gap between the private demands and public needs in the field of architecture and art. The ancient Chinese war strategies are often referring to modern business strategies and published not only in China but translated into foreign languages and published worldwide as bestsellers. The



Thirty-Six Stratagems [三十六計] was a Chinese essay used to illustrate a series of stratagems used in politics, war, and civil interaction. The Thirty-Six Stratagems are divided into a preface, six chapters containing six stratagems each, and an afterword. The first three chapters generally describe tactics for use in advantageous situations, whereas the last three chapters contain stratagems that are more suitable for disadvantageous situations. Each proverb is accompanied by a short comment, no longer than a sentence or two that explains how the said proverb is applicable to military tactics. These thirty-six Chinese proverbs are related to thirty-six battle scenarios in Chinese history and folklore, predominantly of the Warring States Period and the Three Kingdoms Period. The Thirty-Six Stratagems consists of 6 chapters and each chapter consists of 6 stratagems; Chapter 1: Winning Stratagems [勝戰計], Chapter 2: Enemy Dealing Stratagems [敵戰計], Chapter 3: Attacking Stratagems [攻戰計], Chapter 4: Chaos Stratagems [混戰計], Chapter 5: Proximate Stratagems [並戰計] and Chapter 6: Desperate Stratagems [敗戰計].

More about Stratagems in Architecture: Hong Kong in Venice

<http://2016.venicebiennale.hk/>

Themes of the past Hong Kong Exhibitions in the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition

2006 - VICE VERSA: displacing Acts, Lives and Thresholds of a Hyper City

2008 - Making of the Hong Kong Exhibition and the Making of Hong Kong

2010 - Quotidian Architecture

2012 - Inter Cities / Intra Cities: Ghostwriting the Future

2014 - Fundamentally Hong Kong? Delta Four 1984 - 2044

Stratagems in Architecture Hong Kong in Venice - "The 15th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition" Hong Kong Response Exhibition

Dates: 2nd - 3rd May 2017 (Preview)
4th May 2017 5:00pm (Grand Opening)
2nd - 30th May 2017 (Open to public)

Opening Hours: Monday: 2:00 - 8:00pm
Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Venue: Oi!, 12 Oil Street, North Point, Hong Kong
(5 mins walk from Exit A of Fortress Hill Station)

Free Admission

"Space, life, exploration" workshops series

Artists will join hands with the participants to explore the society in an innovative and interesting way, via workshops and activities to learn more about our own community. A series of workshops will be organised between 6th May and 27th May 2017 and taught by local artists.

Date & Time	Workshop	Content
6 th May (Sat) 3-5pm	Cement Workshop	Cement and architecture have a sort of kinship. It is a material of great flexibility, it can be made into a solid foundation for buildings, act as an adhesive and be molded into an accessory. Mr. YUNG Chung Kwong, Sunny, Ms. CHIU Hang Mei, Mary Grace, and Mr. Hammer will be working together to demonstrate the making of cement cube accessories.
7 th May (Sun) 3-5pm	Kite-making Workshop	Kite-making is one of the oldest folk arts and craft. Since ancient times, it undertook the wishes, dreams and hopes of people to live freely. Hong Kong artist Mr. CHAN Sim, and local architect, Mr. SIU Kwok Kin Stanley, will utilise their creativity and express their dreams and ideas via kite-making.
13 th May (Sat) 1-3pm	Clay Mug Making Workshop	Soil surrounds us in our everyday life, it is in the road we walk on, the foundation of buildings, it is both underneath us and surrounding us. Under different conditions and environment, soil will have different features as well. Architect Mr. SO Kwok Kin is invited to demonstrate the creation of handmade clay mug using soil from North Point, and in doing so leading the participants to comprehend the meaning and relationship between soil and architecture. The clay mugs will be returned to the participant a week later after the firing process.

13 th May (Sat) 4:30 – 6pm	Sketching Workshop	Hong Kong has always had the reputation of being a concrete forest, for a good reason-- the city is crammed full of buildings. However, there is always space and time for a temporary escape to fresh air. We can capture all the beautiful moment in your life through sketching, and in this workshop, artist Mr. IP Vaan will demonstrate the techniques in sketching, guiding the participants to enjoy drawing.
21 st May (Sun) 3-5pm	Oil Street - Blue House Guided Tour	North Point and Wan Chai are two of the first developed areas in Hong Kong, but the environment was then changed due to land reclamation and redevelopment projects. The declared monuments in the areas performs its duty as a historical symbol, and after revitalisation some buildings now provides space for modern use. Led by Architect and Tour guide of Hong Kong House of Stories, Mr. TSE Kam Wing Kenneth reveals the stories behind the historical building, Blue House, that are waiting for you to discover.
27 th May (Sat) 3-5pm	Handmade Candle Workshop	Candles have had a long history, at first, they were used for illuminating purposes and in the modern day they are often used to enhance the atmosphere on certain occasions. Using the main component of a candle, Architect Mr. SIU Kwok Kin Stanley utilised wax to create his exhibit "Confessional" for the Hong Kong Response Exhibition, and the exhibit was a collaborative effort with a local candle maker Angel Candle that provided the wax bricks which will then be recycled for further use after the exhibition. In this workshop, Mr. SIU will work with Angel Candle's owner to demonstrate the method of hand-making candles.

Please visit our Facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/VABHK/

* Free enrolment on a first-come-first-served basis.

Chief Curator – Stanley Siu

Stanley SIU, the principal and founder of daydreamers' design. Since graduated from UNITEC, School of Architecture, New Zealand, he developed sophisticated architectural concept and unique art perspective to articulate creative architectural solutions. Through wide range of design project in Hong Kong, Australia, Mainland China, Italy, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan and UAE, he has received numerous awards and honours including the HKIA Young Architect Awards 2013, Perspective's 40 Under 40 award 2016 and selected as the Chief Curator of the 15th Venice International Architecture Exhibition (Hong Kong Exhibition). Alongside his architectural practice, he is the assistant professor in Chu Hai College of Higher Education.

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation is a nonprofit making organization established and incorporated in 2014 for charitable purposes. The objectives for which the Biennale Foundation is established are:

- To promote creativity and advance the understanding, appreciation and interest of architectural and design excellence
- To encourage cross-border and cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration between creative professionals from Hong Kong, Greater China region and overseas
- To support art, design, architectural and cultural education for students and youth, the community, and policy makers
- To create a favorable environment for study, research and experimentation of design, art and architectural works in an exhibition scale
- To energize and revitalize specific sites of interests by introduction of cultural and creative events

Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)

Established in 1995, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) is a statutory body set up by the Government to support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. The major roles of HKADC are to fund, promote and support the broad development of the arts including literary arts, performing arts, visual arts as well as film and media arts in Hong Kong. Aiming to foster a thriving arts environment and enhancing the quality of life of the public, the HKADC is also committed to facilitating community-wide participation in the arts and arts education, encouraging arts criticism, raising the standard of arts administration and strengthening the work on policy research.

Major development strategies:

- Supporting promising artists and arts groups in the pursuit of excellence
- Promoting arts administration to improve the management of arts groups
- Focusing on the arts environment and proposing policy recommendations
- Enhancing public participation and exploring arts space
- Fostering strategic partnerships and bringing arts resources together

The HKADC has taken part in the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition since 2006.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) builds and manages a wide range of sports, recreational and cultural facilities for Hong Kong residents. The main objective of the department is to enrich the community's quality of life through the promotion and provision of recreational and cultural facilities and activities, promote the development and appreciation of performing and visual arts.

Oi!

Oi! is a platform for exchanging ideas that aims to promote community art and develop as an innovative and engaging venue for encouraging collaboration and co-creation in art. Oi! is an art space, a laboratory and a place where new possibilities in art creation realize and ideas are encouraged. Oi! welcomes creativity from everyone as it sets out to connect art with people and the community.

Create Hong Kong

Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is a dedicated office set up by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to spearhead the development of Hong Kong's creative industries. Set up in June 2009, CreateHK co-ordinates the Government policy regarding creative industries, focuses Government's resources catering for the promotion and speeding up of the development of creative industries in Hong Kong, and works closely with the trade to boost the development of creative industries. Since 2010, CreateHK sponsored the industry to set up a Hong Kong pavilion in the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition to promote Hong Kong's architecture sector.

Organisers

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Biennale Foundation
香港建築師學會 雙年展基金會



香港藝術發展局
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*This press release is issued by A-World Consulting Limited on behalf of The Hong Kong Institution of Architects Biennale Foundation and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council

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