



FAVOURITE PLACE

Riding on the ferry and looking out at the sea and waves. It makes me feel the sorrow and uncertainty of life



walls of wonder

Tsang Kin-wah,

AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARTIST, HAS A HEART-TO-HEART CHAT WITH *HJ* 國際知名的藝術家曾建華·跟美好家居分享心底話 BY EMILY LEUNG



Born in Guangdong in 1976, Tsang Kin-wah moved to Hong Kong in 1982. After graduating with a Fine Arts degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he won the British Chevening Postgraduate scholarship to study a Masters in Book Arts at the London Institute. Specialising in wallpaper and installation art, Tsang has held solo exhibitions at the Yvon Lambert Gallery in New York, Art-U room in Tokyo, and the Picasso Mio Gallery in Barcelona and Madrid. This talent was awarded the Sovereign Asian Art Prize in 2005 and the Tokyo TDC Prize in 2007. Prepare to be wowed by his works at www.tsangkinwah.com.

曾建華於1976年在廣東出生，後於1982年移居香港。於中文大學藝術系畢業後，他獲得志奮領留英研究生獎學金，並在倫敦學院修讀書藝藝術碩士。他擅長設計牆紙和裝置藝術，曾在紐約Yvon Lambert畫廊、東京Art-U room畫廊和巴塞隆拿及馬德里Picasso Mio畫廊舉行畫展。他於2005及2007年分別贏得Sovereign當代亞洲藝術獎和東京TDC賞。如欲欣賞他更多作品，可瀏覽www.tsangkinwah.com。



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WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

Read books, listen to music and play with my cat, Gibson



IF YOU WEREN'T AN ARTIST, YOU WOULD BE?

Probably a construction worker



1. "Pattern Series" T-shirt, silkscreen on T-shirt 2. *I Shop You Shop He Shop She Shop* silkscreen on paper and cushion, at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, 2006 3. "interior" print 3 edition: 20, signed 4. Untitled-Hong Kong, Pattern installation, The Room With A View Gallery, Shanghai, 2003-4 5. Car illustration for MINI International #20, 2006 6. Permanent installation, commissioned by Shu Uemura, California, 2006 7. *I Love U* (Pink on white) silkscreen and acrylic on canvas 8. Exhibition at Yvon Lambert Gallery New York, 2007



How did you discover your passion for art?

I've always liked traditional Chinese arts like woodblock print, stone carving and especially Chinese calligraphy – the use of a brush, the stroke, the ink and characters just fascinated me. In university, I learnt all the different styles of calligraphy and practiced them quite a lot.

When I started to create my own work, I found there were lots of elements I could use to express my thoughts and feelings. So, I started to use the character and text to tell different stories. Later, I became attracted to the relationship of space between a piece of work and the viewer so I did a lot of experimentation. After studying in London, I found a way to work with space and started my installation works

Where do you see the design scene in Hong Kong heading?

I don't have a very positive view of it. Though, there are some talented designers who are passionate and enthusiastic about design, there are a small number. Even some famous fashion designers I've met before are like brainless robots who don't know how to generate ideas

What's the hardest part of your job?

To generate and develop ideas and concepts because they are the core of my work that inject the meaning into it. Otherwise, they would just be decoration pieces that look flat and shallow. Researching is also one of the hardest parts. It takes me a long time to conduct, and most of the time, I have to go back and modify my initial ideas

What's your personality?

I'm generally quite shy, pessimistic and can stay silent for hours, but there are moments when I can be talkative and silly. I know that I'm a bit harsh to myself and also to others, which is why I prefer to be alone and do things by myself

你怎樣發掘自己對藝術的熱情?

我喜歡傳統中國藝術，例如木刻、石刻，特別是中國書法——毛筆、筆劃、墨和字都令我深感著迷。最初我發覺有很多元素也能用來表達自我，所以我開始利用字句來說故事；後來我發現作品與觀賞者之間存在一種空間關係，於是便為此進行多次實驗。在倫敦留學期間，我學會運用空間，然後便開始創作藝術裝置。

你如何看香港的設計業前途?

我並不十分樂觀，雖然有出色的設計師對設計充滿熱誠，但為數不多。有些著名的設計師更有如機械人，缺乏創意。

工作最困難的地方是什麼?

最困難是創造和發展意念，因它們是我的作品之核心。沒有意念，就只有一堆平平無奇的裝飾品。資料搜集也是一大難題，有時花上一大段時間後還得改變我原本的意念。

你的性格是怎樣?

我較為害羞和悲觀，可以連續數小時也默不作聲，但有時候也會變得很健談和傻氣。我對自己和別人的要求太高，所以我寧願獨處和獨個兒工作。



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WHAT ARE YOUR RESOLUTIONS FOR 2008?

To push my works further and hold some interesting shows



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