

Project Report

Hongkong-Asia Exchange Project – the Philippines

Prepared for: Research Committee, HKAS

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A. Project Implementation

This was the second half of Hongkong-Asia Exchange Project, another collaborative project, conducted by Tad Ermitano, a Filipino Artist-in-Residence of Hong Kong Art School (HKAS) and Tse Ming-chong, a local artist who was also a lecturer/ Subject Coordinator of HKAS. The project is based on the observation of the artists in pursuit of discovering stories behind the Filipinos in Hong Kong who are engaged to work far away from their homeland. The homesickness and their situations are revealed by the metaphor of an Astronaut. The artists gathered all the scenes that they have been working on in the workshops to exhibit their explorations through a multimedia installation work. The artists also hosted an Artist Talk to share their experiences gained during the research process with the audience, the events were structured as follows:

Session	Date and Time	No. of People enrolled	Venue
Workshop	2:00pm – 5:00pm 15 / 11 / 2009(Sun)	11	Room 1501A and Room 1204, Hong Kong Art School Main Campus (15/F. &12/F., Hong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong)
	2:00pm – 6:00pm 22 / 11 / 2009(Sun)	7	

Session	Date and Time	No. of People enrolled	Venue
	2:00pm – 6:00pm 29 / 11 / 2009(Sun)	9	
Artist Talk	4:00pm – 6:00pm 5 / 12 / 2009 (Sat)	9	2/F., Hong Kong Arts Centre, (2 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong)
Exhibition	10:00am – 9:00pm (daily) 6 - 19 / 12 / 2009	Nil	

Workshop

Began with Philippines-related objects brought in by participants, two artists also organized field trips for looking closer to the real living of the Philippina workers in Hong Kong. Participants also observed and helped as part of the crew to collect visual materials for the multimedia work.

Artists Talk

There are lots of inspiring narratives and sincere souls were discovered in this creative project. Tad and Ming Cheong hosted the Artist Talk to share their experiences gained during the research process with the audience.

Exhibition

After the presentation in the Artists Talk, the exhibition of the multimedia artwork, created by Tad and Ming-chong, combining sounds, screen-based media and photographs, was opened on 2/F of HKAC for the publics.

Project Team

Curator	Jamsen Law
Coordinator	Chris Cheng

Concept

Tad Ermitano, Tse Ming Chong

Researcher

Tsang Wen Jie Basil, Lau Tak Shing

Publicity

The project was promoted through an ample range of publicity channels, which included: promoted the project via the internet (e.g. make use of email and facebook); distributed the leaflet and poster to different parties (e.g. galleries, bookshops etc); sent out the press release to media (e.g. newspaper, radio, magazines etc.) and present the interview between Curator and Artists at Artslink.

For details, please refer the chart below:

Date	Item	Outcome
Early October 2009	Kick started publicity for recruitment	
Mid October 2009	Shared workshop information via internet (e.g. HKAS website, facebook etc) Sent out e-mailer to HKAS FANS	Started the enrollment of workshop at HKAS website
End October 2009	Distributed leaflet for recruitment. Send out press release for promotion.	Send out leaflet to different parties (e.g. HKAC, bookshop, galleries, Universities, etc.) Send press release to media
Early November 2009	Post the write-up article and project details in the "Artslink"	Send out Artslink to different parties.

There was an critique article which written by Dr Tang Ying Chi, Stella in "WEN WEI PO" on 24th January 2010 (APP A)

B. Artistic Evaluation

This project was a true experimental collaborative project. Two artists made good uses of this chance to rethink a lot of the issues regarding their creative materials and

concepts. Their continuous discussion and exchange since the summer allowed them departing from the initial ideas about historical figures and coming up with an extremely interesting symbol representing the people carrying those “drifted narratives”, astronaut. Their creative process at the same time demonstrated the significance of experimentation and artistic development to the participants.

New experience for new inspiration is the No. 1 thing in a residency programme. The time and space allowing artist to think and digest give chances for our culture to evolve. I was very pleased to realize both artists gained a great deal in the creative process by the end of the project. They both had things to go through in the process and which may not be easy. However, this is what art and culture are about. They are about not procedures and expected results. They are about enlightenments.

C. Difficulties

Coordinators and assistants gave a big help in the progress in spite of varied restrictions and limitations. Technical constraints were reported by artists. Lack of flexibility in terms of the use of space and equipments also discourages the development of such kinds of artistic research in long run. Again, the contribution from coordinators and students made the end result beyond satisfactory.