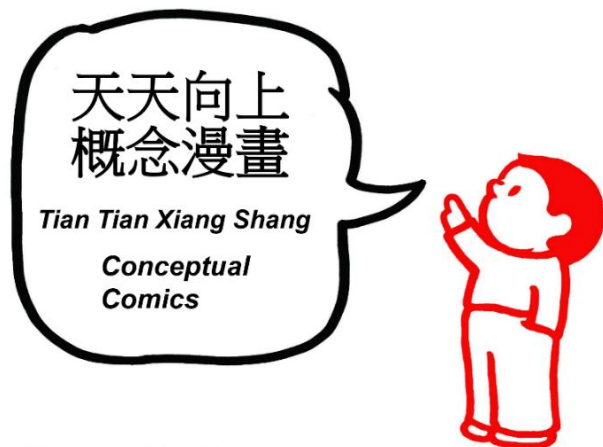


Tian Tian Xiang Shang at Vancouver

Date: 21 April 2017, 6:00pm (Friday)

Place: Nelson Square (808 Nelson Street, Vancouver, BC)

Exhibition Period: 22 Apr – 21 May 2017



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Curator's Words – Danny Yung

The Chinese proverb ***Tian Tian Xiang Shang*** appeared in the front gate of every primary school in the 1950s in China. Danny Yung has become utterly concerned about the education system of Hong Kong and Greater China, this concern also goes to the whole world. Institutional reform is slow and affected by institution culture. Advocacy, creativity and cross sectors discourses are missing in our education and cultural institutes. I have created the Black Box Exercise for the children in the 1990's, it was a game designed with critical review of our arts institution (museum and cultural center). The project was widely discussed in Europe. In the mid 2000, I expanded my conceptual comic strip of same name, ***Tian Tian Xiang Shang***, to include 3D workshops, education forum and cross sector exhibition, the workshop involved full participation of children, parents, teachers and artists. The forum involved front line education practitioners, while the exhibits brought along creativity, dialogue and advocacy of all sectors; business, political, social and educational, especially with our coming generations.



TTXS Concept

Tian Tian Xiang Shang (make progress everyday) is a Chinese proverb that once used in 1950s in China to motivate children. This proverb inspired me to create a conceptual comic in 1970s in which I drew children who asked an un-ending barrage of questions and refused to focus on their studies. To me, ***Tian Tian***'s white, three-dimensional body is like a blank piece of paper full of possibilities that people can write or draw on. The person who invented blank paper is a truly artistic designer: the material, dimensions, shape and texture of blank paper are all measures of the designer's

creativity. A blank sheet of paper is a platform or vessel that people can write on, express themselves and discuss things. Our thoughts are expressed in what we write; this expression of our thoughts can be discussed; and the contents of these discussions could become further platforms or vessels for creativity. The more that is written, expressed and discussed, the more likely it is that creativity will be brought forth.

The TTXS Creative Collaboration Programme

The TTXS Creative Collaboration Programme will focus specifically on bringing about social changes; and unifying arts, design and culture through tri-sector partnerships that will provides rigorous content – for instance, proposing relevant skills, models, and tools to develop sustainable solutions. Tri-sector collaboration provides rigorous interdisciplinary dialogues that delve deeply into strategic thinking on partnerships that connect government, business, and creative practitioners. Professionals and stakeholders from all sectors are increasingly aware of the importance of multi-sector partnerships. Singapore and Seoul government officials, for example, are more often saying they need to work with other sectors. It is vital to ensure that leaders in the public and private sectors are able to engage closely with one another. This programme aptly provides the basis for this to occur even more effectively in future.

In each edition of the TTXS roving exhibition, we invited local artists, designers and city mayors or cultural ministers of our close network to participate. Our objective is to brand Hong Kong's creative industry through the cross-cultural dialogue and the international network initiated and built by TTXS, Zuni Icosahedron and Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture.

TTXS @ Vancouver

All of the Tian Tian exhibits included in this programme brochure will be taking turns exhibited in Nelson Square, exhibition goers and passers-by would have different experience of every visit.

These exhibits will also be shown online at curiousandcreative.com

TTXS Conceptual Comic Collaboration

The conceptual comic collection is characterized into one-frame, three-frame, four-frame and nine-frame creations. The nine-frame series which were further developed in 2008, mainly sets out to explore Space, Narrative Structure and Perception. Twenty four pieces are created by Yung while another ten of them are Yung's collaboration with prominent artists/creative talents based in Hong Kong.

BLANK BOY CANVAS EXHIBITS

Blank Boy Canvas is a spin-off collaboration project that unifies modern art culture and North American talents with Hong Kong's creative godfather, Danny Yung and his comic strip character ***Tian Tian***. Yung derived ***Tian Tian***'s name from the Chinese proverb Tian Tian Xiang Shang (Everyday Looking Up). The 50cm tall three-dimensional canvas has been given to artists to freely express, create or alter the subject while exploring the theme of infinite possibilities while capturing the inquisitive and innocent nature of youth. The collaboration has been brought to North America in an exhibit designed to stimulate conversation about creative reasoning and the individual approach to creative execution and will be exhibited throughout North American and Asian cities in 2016 through 2017.

Contact Person

YueWai (yuewai@gmail.com),
International Exchange Director
Zuni Icosahedron www.zuni.org.hk