

FACE SLAP!

THE ASIA PACIFIC CREATIVE MAGAZINE

FREE | SUMMER 2016

ISSUE 2 | QUARTERLY

ON THE COVER!

Katarina Blazhievskaya

Photoshopping the
Imagination



Mugshot Zoo

Erica Chen & Inking Creatures

Battle of the Bokeh!

DigitalRev and Face Slap!
Create Body Paint Spectrums!

Short Straws & Smiles

Traveling Butterflies in Cambodia & Beijing

ART & DESIGN | FASHION | FILM | MAKEUP | PHOTOGRAPHY



FACESLAP!

BODY PAINT | MAKEUP | FACE PAINT
WWW.FACESLAP.NET | 15210017548



Hey there!

Thanks for picking up our magazine, we really hope you enjoy it, and if you don't mind reading a little extra I'm going to tell you a bit more about it.

This is our second issue; our first was only a digital publication but did super well and had over 15,000 readers (of what we were actually able to measure). Face Slap! Is better known to most of you as a makeup and body painting company, which is what we remain to be, but did you know that each of us do this art form only as a hobby? We are actually all professional designers who could be described as workaholics and during our free time just love to squeeze in some more practical creative work (a similar story to most artists). We have Graphic Designers, Interior Designers, Fashion Designers and even DJ's... the list is a little too much to go into right now.

Over the years our interaction with unbelievably talented people has become so wide that we were keen to create this publication firstly as a bit of show and tell, and purely to make something beautiful for you to enjoy. I hope you want to secretly tear out the pages and stick them in your notebooks or keep them for your artist friends you think may want to contact us.

This magazine is in its infancy and we want your input in several areas, to start with we want you to contact us, and show us your creative work, don't be shy & if you want to advertise with us the prices are at the back. Next (and on a more serious note), we cannot continue to print this magazine without funding of some sort, we are looking for investors or sponsors and have some pretty exciting plans in the pipeline - contact us and we can chat more about this :)

All jibber jabber aside, we are truly happy to bring issue 2 and hope you enjoy the visual feast!

Much Love! The Face Slap! Team X X X



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Face Slap is a Body Art company offering Face and Body paint & Makeup services in Mainland and Greater China since 2009. These years of working in the creative industry has provided Face Slap the amazing opportunity to meet exciting individuals and visionaries. This quarterly magazine serves and honors these talented people with the help of our lovely contributors and colleagues. Enjoy!



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MUGSHOT ZOO

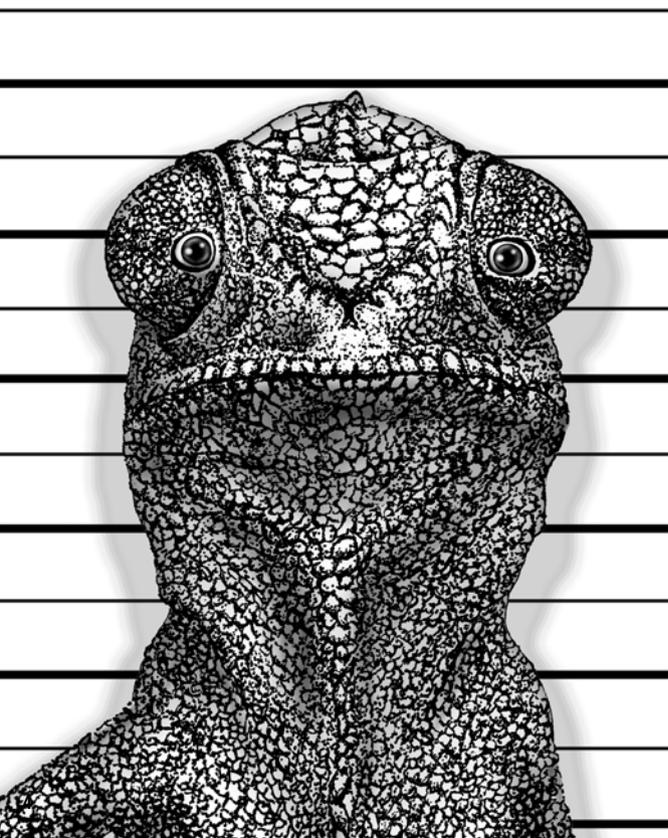
Erica Chen gives us the story on her fantasil ink animals.

Most of your illustrations feature animals with clear personalities tell us more!

I sit down with a pencil and paper and what happens next sort of occurs naturally, or accidentally depending on how you look at it. I wouldn't necessarily say that I gravitate towards animals as subject matter. I often go through phases where all I draw is people; however, most of these pieces stay forever unfinished or end up in the trash so they don't receive the same amount of exposure.

What inspired your series of animal Mug shots?

Like everything else, it developed on its own. At the time, I was beginning to experiment with pen and ink and stippling. I had already completed a few simple drawings when I decided to tackle something a little more complex and time intensive. Five hours into drawing my characters, the idea of adding a criminal card just popped into my head and the series was born.



If I wanted to hire you to create an illustration for me, what's the price range?

As always, price depends on the complexity and size of the piece. On average, commissions will run from USD100 and up. I should mention that I'm not always keen on commissions and will usually only take them if the subject matter interests me. Sounds awful, I know!

What projects are you currently working on ?

I'm currently working on a conservation-themed series titled "Fins, Not Food" which draws attention to the terrible practices of shark finning and whaling, as well as the hazards of environmental pollution. It is wonderful to be creating artwork with real purpose and significance.

Article by Nina Griffiee

9'

8'

7'

6'

5'



**OSTRICH
OFFENSES**

09-08470

02-18-2015



9'

8'

7'

6'

RHINO
RUMPUS
21-4600R
02-10-2015



8'

7'

6'

5'

**WALRUS
WILES**

04-02684

05-1-2015

STEEL PIXIES

Sam Chun tells us all about the artist behind these mystical steel structures lurking in the forests of England

If you go down to the woods today... You may well be in for a surprise! Thanks to Artist Robin Wight, the founder of Fantasy Wire, some beautiful sculptures have been appearing in and around the woods and homes of Staffordshire (UK).

These unique and beautiful wire fairies have recently been brought to our attention thanks to a photograph taken by hobby photographer Jo Fitzpatrick going viral on social media, and have now reached millions of people. We at Face Slap!

were lucky enough to speak with Robin himself about his success and the inspirations behind these beautiful sculptures!

Robin's artistic career started long before these sculptures, working half of his life in engineering, and the latter part in software and design. Robin has always been artistic, opting for more conventional pencil drawing in his younger years and combining those skills with engineering to create all sorts of things; from copper and brass ornaments to wooden chess pieces and rocking horses. As his children grew he used his skills and

passion for 3D sculptures to create elaborate sandcastles, often, to his wife's annoyance, tourists would flock around to watch.

It wasn't until Robin and his family moved to a nature reserve in 2009 that his career took a different direction... He started to create large wooden sculptures using wood and a chainsaw, although he enjoyed it, he longed for a sturdier medium that could support the more intricate elements such as limbs and hair.

Inspired by the wire he used to mend a fence and a photograph he'd taken of his surrounding home that





*Her name was glance,
and albeit being a little
overweight for a fairy she
was a success!*

gave the illusion of a fairy in a tree, Robin created his first fairy sculpture. The result was crude, and nothing like the stunning works of art you see in the trees today, but this marks

the beginning of the journey! 5 failed attempts later, and after taking measurements of the human form, the proportions finally started to look reasonably accurate and the





first successful fairy was born. Her name was Glance, and albeit being a little overweight for a fairy she was a success! Next came new techniques for hair, and then intricate dandelions were introduced.

With each fairy made, Robin's technique improved and developed into the beautiful pieces seen today! Unfortunately for us, they are in

such high demand that Fantasy Wire aren't able to respond to the large request for orders, which makes these rare works of art all the more special. DIY kits are available though, for the creatives out there who wish to try recreate their own. For the rest, these fairies can be spotted along the Trentham trail, as well as a growing number of other places

around the Staffordshire area.

You may also occasionally hear of a fairy being put on eBay for a one-off auction- but Robin, like most artists much prefer seeing and hearing your responses to their art as opposed to shipping pieces off for money never to be seen again...

Article by Sam Chun

FACE & BODY PAINT

www.faceslap.net



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WORK JON VS ART JON

Jon Miller dishes the real deal on much romanticised ‘nomadic designer’ dream...turns out it sorta is one.

I’ve always struggled when people ask ‘so, what do you do?’ Firstly I dislike the assumption the answer should be what you do for a living, as though your job defines who you are and what you’re all about. I also have trouble giving what I ‘do’ a title. I guess I do a lot of things, things that blur into one another, things that have different titles depending on who you’re working for. If I had to call myself anything though, I guess I’m a creative.

I’m 35 years old and I live in Sydney, Australia. I haven’t always been here, I grew up in the UK and I’ve spent 5 out of the last ten years backpacking and travelling the world. Like most people I have a job. I also have hobbies and passions and right now, at this stage of my life I find myself in a constant struggle to balance all of this.

Paid work vs personal work

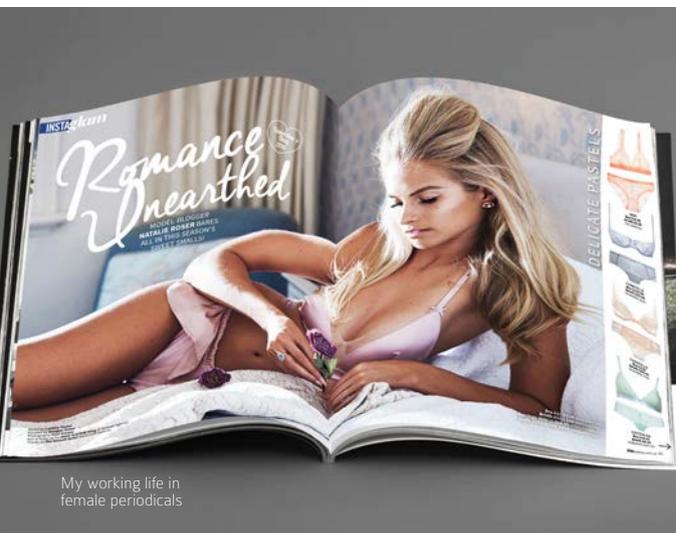
Let’s start with what I do for a living, to earn money. If I’m giving that a title the easiest is ‘graphic designer’. Most of my professional career has been spent working in publishing, mainly

magazine work, creating layouts in Indesign and making everything look pretty. Within those jobs I’ve moved around a bit. I’ve worked as an Art Director, a more managerial type role overseeing design teams and directing photoshoots.

Don’t get me wrong, I love it. I love that I have a job where I get to be creative every day. Every day is different, every day presents a new challenge and I thrive on that. But to be honest, when I talk about this to anyone else it’s just not that interesting. I’m not saving lives, I’m not going into space I’m just doing a job that needs to be done for a client who is paying me.

Outside of work is different. When you’re not confined to a job you’re free to do what you want. There is no-one pushing you in any sort of direction, telling what you can and can’t do. There is no client and no deadline, you are free to express yourself in whatever fashion you choose.

Until recently I didn’t get much time to do personal work. It was always something I’d try to make space for, but after a long day in a stressful office you just want to slump into your sofa and watch bad TV. I now have a pretty sweet deal though, I work full time 3 days a week, outside of that I have the choice to find additional paid work or do my own thing. While money is important to me I’ve found myself doing the latter a lot more.



My working life in female periodicals



'Business Acumen'
Pencil and pen on
moleskine paper

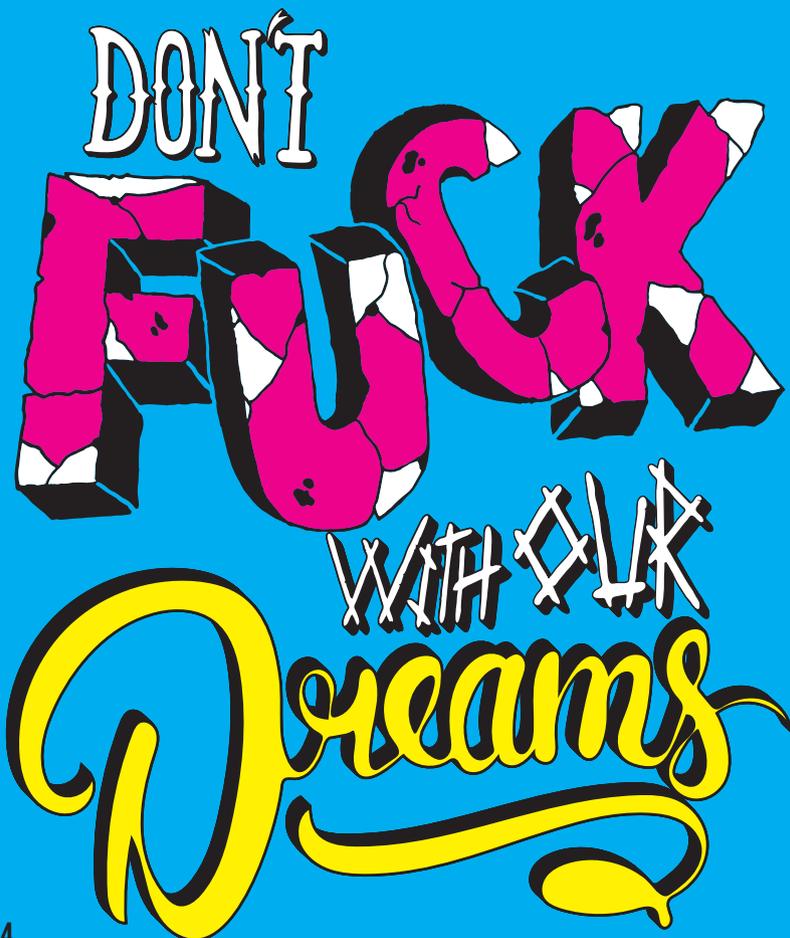
ART & DESIGN



'OutThere'
A real magazine
for a paying client

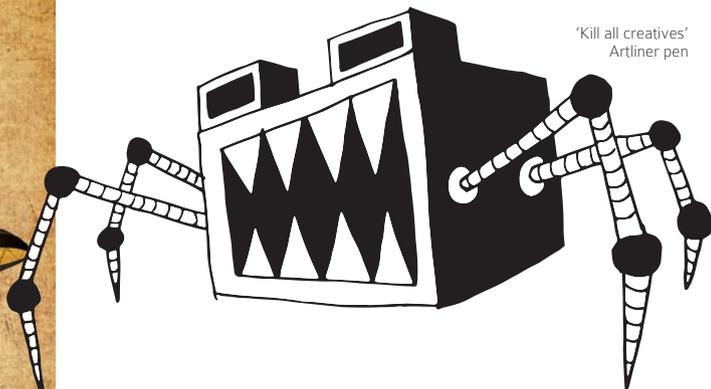


'I don't speak Mexican'
Pencil, felt tip and
photoshop





My travel blog
www.twistedatlas.com



'Kill all creatives'
Artliner pen

Digital vs hand drawn

Ideas for my own personal artwork come out of the blue. I don't have a style or a look, I just draw what I feel like drawing. One thing I do take joy in though is the opportunity to draw with my hands using a pencil or a pen. I don't have to use a computer if I don't want. My professional life is all about doing things digitally, touching up photos in photoshop, dealing with precision fonts and making everything line up perfectly. It is a world of order but my personal work has no structure, no form, it is just whatever it is and there's no-one around to question that.

My favourite thing to draw at the moment is hand type. I've always been fascinated by words, and typography is an amazing way to bring them to life. I enjoy working with fonts digitally but there is a real joy in creating your own by hand. The same rules apply, x-height, ascenders and descenders, but you're allowed to skew those rules, to play with them a little more, to make each letter sing. I love taking inspirational quotes and finding letterforms to suit the phrase. Each piece is different and unique, you can add layers of meaning to something that's already been said a million times.

Does this sort of thing sell? I have no idea as I've never tried to sell anything. My art is more personal doodles and sketches. It's probably not that original or impressive but I'm not doing it to impress anyone, I'm doing it because I want to. It's not

even really what I'd like to call 'art', I mostly just draw silly animals and robots. There is a definite child like quality to it, I just see it as a break from the working corporate world. It's the playtime of my work/life balance.

Art vs everything else

Art, be it paid or not, still isn't everything to me. It's important but it can lead to a fairly solitary life. Life is all about balance for me so I try to have some hobbies that are a little more sociable. I love to travel as it opens up the world and the people you meet on the road can change your entire perception of the universe and your place in it. I've recently started a travel blog with another creative friend called Twisted Atlas where we try to encourage people to get out there and have an adventure, to start living their life the way they want to live it. Check it out at www.twistedatlas.com

Work is important, it makes the world go round. We all want nice houses and nice comfortable lives for ourselves and our families, it's a very human desire that drives us. Taking time out however is just as important, getting paid might be a necessity but living is a luxury. We all want work/life balance but it can seem like an impossible goal. I don't think I will ever get it spot on but we should all take time and take stock. Are we really happy? Are we working too much? Make some time for art, make some time for travel, whatever drives you just get out there and do it.

FISHNETS & PURSES

It was a particularly steamy afternoon when we met this duo in their pretty Phnom Penh workshop. Before we had the opportunity to grill them on their brand, they swept us away on a whirlwind tour.

As we explored the site, we were struck by the good vibes and positive energy that seemed to emanate from all of their employees. The workforce was around 95% women, all of whom bore a smile on their face. As we moved higher through the building, room after room of rainbow varieties of fishnets, threads, linings, zippers, fastenings and fabrics greeted us. The top floor held an unexpected surprise: a fully-equipped kindergarten full of the workers' children. Elisa and Jennifer explained that by having the children close by, the mothers (and some fathers) were in fact happier, more productive and more likely to continue working to earn a wage for their families. Everything was sounding unbelievably sensible so far.



*"If you work too much
with your brain, you will be
unable to use your hands,"*



"I have been in Cambodia for 15 years, and I am a bit sick of people saying 'poor Cambodia'. Cambodians are extremely talented and should not just be identified with their tragic past."

Already fairly impressed, we sat down with Elisa and Jen in their office to have a chat with them about the design of their accessories and the cogs of the business. They explained they started Smateria ten years ago, pretty much immediately after they had first met. Elisa had come to Cambodia armed with 10 years of experience in China, a logo, and a vision to create accessories using local materials. Jennifer had five years of experience in Cambodia under her belt and what began as a part-time commitment became a full-time job within a month as they found themselves off to a speedier start than anticipated. They now

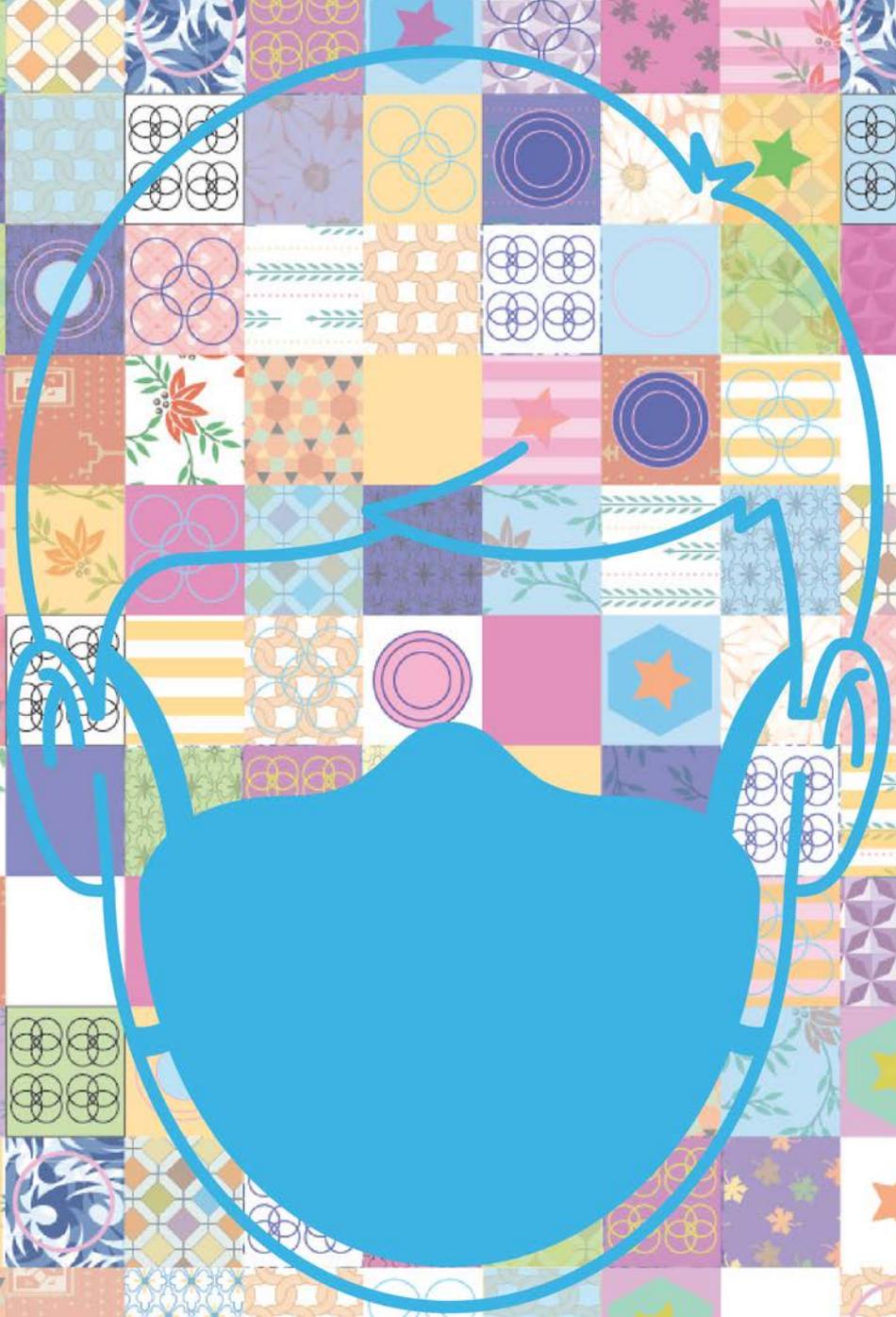
have 5 stores in Cambodia, export to 17 countries and have 112 employees.

Jennifer is the brain behind all client servicing and transactions with wholesalers; for sure her role has its traditional corporate moments, but it's clear the original ethic behind the business stands firm and strong. She describes Smateria as being a company on paper, but running similar to an NGO – backed by the strong work ethic of Cambodians. The two owners pour almost 100% of their profits back into the business, which the workers then see returned to them in the form

of kindergarten, fully paid holidays according to Cambodian law and insurance for them and their families. Smateria's staff know the company belongs to its workers as well as their managers.

With this said, Jennifer was very particular about Smateria being known not just as a socially responsibly enterprise, but as a strong business with a quality product. "I have been in Cambodia for 15 years, and I am a bit sick of people saying 'poor Cambodia'. Cambodians are extremely talented and should not just be identified with their tragic past."





WWW.CAMBRIDGEMASK.COM

Elisa is the designer of all of the products. She is passionate about transformation: repurposing objects and materials to create new ones. Though in the past she had more involvement of the corporate side of the business, she now prefers to focus on the ideas. "If you work too much with your brain, you will be unable to use your hands," she explains.

Local raw fabric is not widely available in Cambodia; it is almost

always imported from neighbouring countries. However fishing net is abundant and is often sold as multipurpose netting in a wide variety of colours. This is the core material they work with, and, after many years of perfecting their techniques, they have become quite the tailors when manipulating this agricultural product. Smateria is mostly a womenswear product, but also creates bags for children and some items for men.

To say that we were impressed with Smateria would be an understatement. In the space of an hour we saw how design, talent and social responsibility had been rolled together to create a beautiful business. Most of us can only hope to achieve the standards that Elisa and Jennifer have set for their business and for the world.

Article by Nina Griffiee





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EYEWEAR

www.dienastie.com



COLOR BOMB

Meggings, Jeggings and Leggings... Sam Chun's witty account of all things spandex from Color Explosion

As an avid wearer of leggings and an artist who loves to express herself -maybe a little too much sometimes -I cannot begin to express how excited I am about this new up and coming clothing company bursting onto the scene!

Based in South East Asia (hurry up with the world domination already- so we can all share the awesomeness) there is an interesting E-retail brand named Colour Explosion! Originally started as an idea for a thesis paper by then Student Carmela, the idea grew from strength to strength and has

just launched its Website -YAY!

So, I hear you say, what exactly makes Colour explosion different from the rest!? Well there isn't your usual in-house team of designers deciding what they THINK we want to wear, oh no... The designs are all created by different artists!



“Soon we could see men everywhere squeezing their junk and trunk into a funky pair of stretchy comfy goodness.”



People like you and I, the people that actually wear the clothes! Whether you're a big shot artist or have just that spark of creativity that you want to share... You too could have a chance to turn your artwork, be it graphic, sculpture, photograph, paint, into something equally as awesome and share it with the world in a way you'd not even think of!

The company is growing everyday with plans for sports and children's wear, but these designs are currently available in the form of leggings, pencil dresses and... wait for it... MEGGINGS! You heard right!!! Just in case you were wondering (I know you're dying to

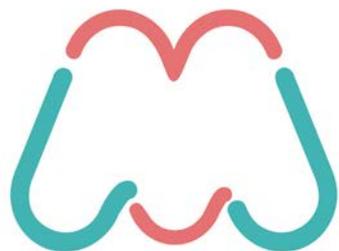
know) meggings are leggings for men! Not everyone's cup of tea, along with man buns and glitter beards (and those weird toe shoes I just can't get over) but I'm all for expressing yourself so why not eh!?

Technically speaking, men have been wearing some version of leggings throughout history, just think of the Tudors, or those hair metal dudes from the 80s, and if you were to look up current fashion trends in Tokyo right now I'm sure you'll spot them wearing meggings under shorts- let's face it, they aren't exactly a mile away from skinny jeans either! So watch this space, they don't only have to be used

for sports, soon we could see men everywhere squeezing their junk and trunk into a funky pair of stretchy comfy goodness.

If you, like myself, are interested in adding to your wardrobe with some fresh looking garb then check out their website www.colourexplosionhk.com for current designs, or look out for the products coming soon on Zalora. You can also find them on Facebook [CEX Colour explosion] for updates on new collections and design competitions -so what are you waiting for!? Get your creative juices flowing and get on over there!

Article by Sam Chun



LIVE AND LOVE MACAU

Sally Victoria Benson talks us through her new creative endeavour, a long overdue community site for Macau.

A lot of People have heard about the city of Macau, located 65km west of Hong Kong, its one of the worlds richest cities, and though most people know it as the casino town of Asia or what used to be a Portuguese colony, it actually has a long rich cultural history dating back centuries.

Macau is home to me, having spent most of my childhood growing up in what once was this small fishing village, is now a bustling city with over 11 million tourists a year. Since its return to Mainland China in 1999, the economy has boomed. Casinos have sprung up just about

everywhere producing new jobs and with it demand for a better quality of lifestyle. But in a city where the official languages are Cantonese and Portuguese, where does one find a soy cappuccino besides Starbucks? Where could I even begin to look for vegetarian food online – In English?!

After becoming great friends with a fellow expat Katya Maia, who had moved from Moscow and was struggling with the same issues we eventually took the natural decision to co-found Live and Love Macau. We both love this city for so much more than its casinos, Live and Love Macau is not only fabulously named

after our passion for the city, but soon to be a hub for all businesses, hidden hotspots, essential service providers, and reviews on cuisine and entertainment. We also profile the local characters that enrich the city; it's basically your one stop shop for all you would ever want to do here.

Our creative section is brimming with stories about independent designers, creative studios, innovative professionals with projects in a wide range of industries. Our fashion stories are written by Macau's leading fashion bloggers, Carla Florendo and Kate

#macaustreetstyle

Our creative section is brimming with independent designers, creative studios and those with interesting and innovative careers or projects in a wide range of industries.

Canon who cover topics from designer interviews, where to shop for vintage clothes, as well as reviews on shop openings and shows.

An exciting section of Live Love Macau is #macaustreetstyle. We wanted to add something new and community based, so we played around with a few ideas and settled on Macau Street Style, an Instagram page dedicated to locals and visitors to post their own fashion pics. Every Sunday we feature the most exciting pic from our Instagram that week! Local designers and the general community are really pushing forward to improve the creative industries in Macau, so slowly but surely things will improve and we know that #macaustreetstyle will add to this albeit infant but exciting hub of creativity.

We run two Instagram feeds, @livelovemacau and @macaustreetstyle. Our Live and Love Macau feed is a place for all beautiful photos about Macau and is growing daily with followers and those who put #livelovemacau on their photos.

Article by Sally Victoria Benson
www.LIVELOVEMACAU.com



aiMe

Irene Lu, creator of 'Pillowbook' talks about her lingerie designs in Asia.

What is your background, why lingerie?

I studied Intimate Apparel at Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC because lingerie was a step away from fashion design. It's a very particular garment item that is interconnected to the wearer's character, sexuality, vanity, and even current social, political position that I always found so fascinating.

Your collections seem to be inspired from lots of Asian features, tell us about that!

It's very simple actually; I got so tired of seeing other designers (usually non-Asian) create "Asian-inspired" collections that feature the stereotypical dragons, phoenixes and fans. It's quite offensive actually if you think deeper into it, so as an Asian American trying to uproot my heritage, I saw more beauty in modern Asia and wanted to share that through my chosen medium.

Why are you doing this in Asia as opposed to the USA, is the market better?

For inspiration and technique, I learn and sustain old traditional Chinese handcraft as much as possible such as silk piping, embroidery etc. If I were to stay in NYC, I would probably end up slapping dragons and phoenixes on my collections. I get a lot of inspiration just by living in the old Beijing Hutong districts, hoping that PILLOWBOOK collections end up more authentic. In a nutshell, I heart BJ!

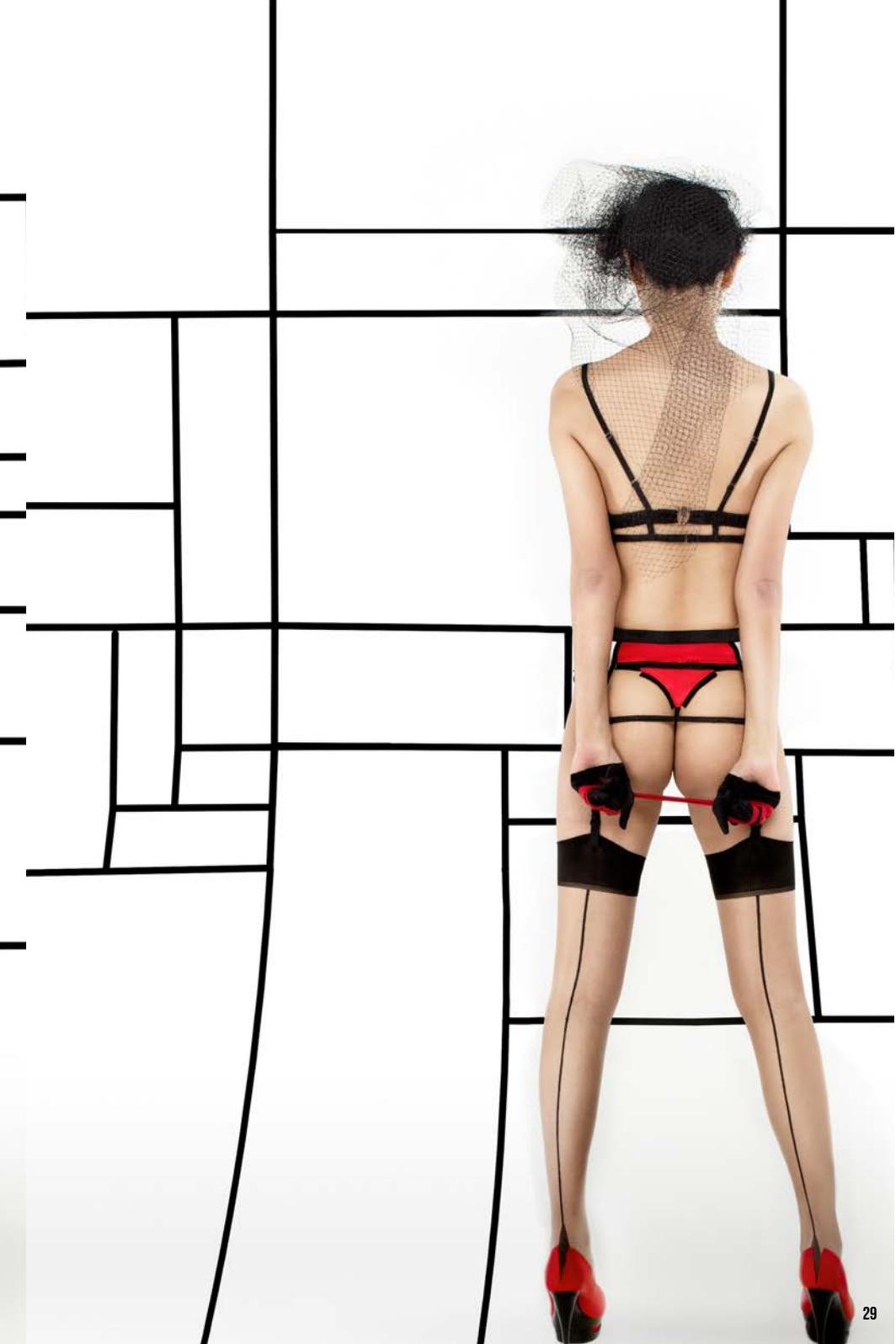
Briefly describe the personalities for aiMe.

I would say it was playful, quirky & free-spirited. It's a capsule collection for Beijing Design week, inspired by Mondrian and Marlow Moss. 'aiMe' also means love in French.

Article by Linda Miao Li
Photography by Phoebe Cheong







CARTOONS, CULTURES & CHARACTERS

Linda Miao Li Tells all on Hong Kong's 2016 independent film event of the year, an interview with Third Culture Film Festival



As the lights dimmed after a beautiful live guitar performance, the first set of short films were beginning. I looked around at my surroundings taking in the view at the inauguration of the Third Culture Film Festival in Hong Kong.



With beers in our hands and laughter roaring from the comedic animation, the series shown throughout the night captivated the audience. The variety of the animations was what blew my mind the first night; stop motion, hand-drawn, computer animated, and so on, I couldn't possibly envision the amount of imagination and time that went into each independent movie.

The stories had unexpected dips, turns and surreal endings. I frequently whispered to my neighboring friend to see if he understood the underlying themes behind the story.

Harry Oram & Faiyaz Jafri are the brains behind the Third culture Film Festival and Faiyaz was kind enough

to sit down with me for a chat so I could delve a little deeper into the inner workings of the festivities. As third culture children, their lively childhoods are the constant inspiration behind their brand. As artists and film makers themselves they were dismayed to find Hong Kong lacked this sort of event and endeavored to make their own.

So how did it go???

I was very happy with the turnout, the audience seemed extremely entertained and happy. For next year I would like to see more submissions from local Hong Kong filmmakers and students as well attendance by more foreign filmmakers. The audience really loved the short film festival format.

They were happily surprised by the quality of the films. One of the biggest misconceptions about short films and low budget films is that the quality is less than say a Hollywood blockbuster.

Which movies really stood out for you?

As I watched all the submissions (1800 in total) and selected the 70 films we screened it's hard to pick a real favourite. But, if I had to pick a few films that stick out it would be these: Wolf by Nadan Pines (Ambiguous narrative, it feels totally off and it is very funny) , Extreme Pinnocchio by Pascal Chind (I love Disney distortions) & Familymeal by Park Soo-Min (It makes me cry every time I watch it). Ask me tomorrow and I will give you 3 different ones.

Plans for next year?

Submissions are open from July 1st till the end of the year and submissions are free during the month of July! As we want more filmmakers in attendance next year, we are looking for hotel and travel sponsors to get special deals for them. We also really want to expand on our children's program and are looking into partnerships with local educational institutions.

Article by Linda Miao Li





Matthew Leonhart on 'Sick to My Bones'

Please tell us about your journey to filmmaking.

I go by the name NOMATTSLAND when I work on my art. I started in the visual arts, doing paintings and art exhibitions in Hong Kong. Before moving to my now home in London, I was in Los Angeles to study acting and puppetry. I wondered what would be the best way to incorporate all the fields and filmmaking seemed like the best option!

The puppetry in STMB is quite dramatic! Why did you choose this over computer graphics?

I worked in puppetry for a number of years and grew up watching 80s and 90s movies before the age of CGI. When you watch an animatronic creature instead of a CG creature you can feel the difference. Something tangible onscreen feels more real, and nurtures the imagination.

STMB was filmed in Scotland but the sequel MYND in Hong Kong. Why is Hong Kong chosen as the location?

Hong Kong is a beautiful city, but I also love how dark and disgusting it can look as well - especially a night. It has such a flavor of characters and is the perfect place to depict an end of the world scenarios with its dark alleyways. It's a great contrast with how green Sick To My Bones looked.



Matthew & Harry

How was STMB perceived and where was it showcased?

“Sick to My Bones” has been accepted in almost 20 festivals worldwide, some of which are Oscar-qualifying festivals and BAFTA-qualifying festivals such as the Palm Springs Short Fest, Rhode Island International Film Festival and the Rio de Janeiro Film Festival.

We’ve won a couple of awards and been nominated for quite a few! We’ve also had several distribution companies interested in buying the film. The cinematography particularly has been impressive to many.

We noticed your new puppet on Facebook for MYND...

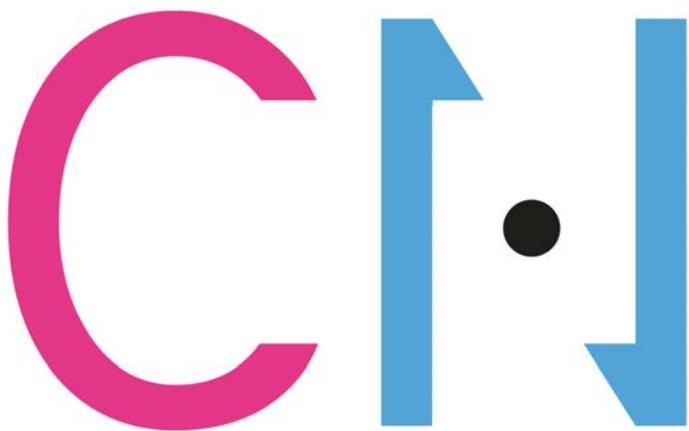
I’m excited to see the puppet!

have built to move in action and we’re going to be shooting at the end of June. We would love to have anyone who’s interested to be involved. We’re looking for extras for a pivotal scene and also crew members! You can email me at: nomattisland@gmail.com for more details!

Article by Linda Miao Li



‘Sick To My Bones’



Stay up to date
with the latest
Exciting Art News
in China. Brought
to you by Lucas
and Misha

C R E A T E



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CANDY KAREN

Karen Yiu on The World Body Painting Festival, *By Linda Miao Li*

The world body painting festival is an old haunt for Karen, and in fact where her body painting career began. In a quick chat with Linda Miao Li Karen tells us what she and her team can expect from this year's festivities.

Tell us how it all began!

I discovered the World Body Painting Festival in Austria after I graduated from London College of Fashion. Body art is very expressive and I found a passion in this form of art and quickly got involved. I wanted

to bring a piece of this back with me when I returned to Hong Kong and started to collaborate with local photographers.

So why start your own studio & body painting workshops?

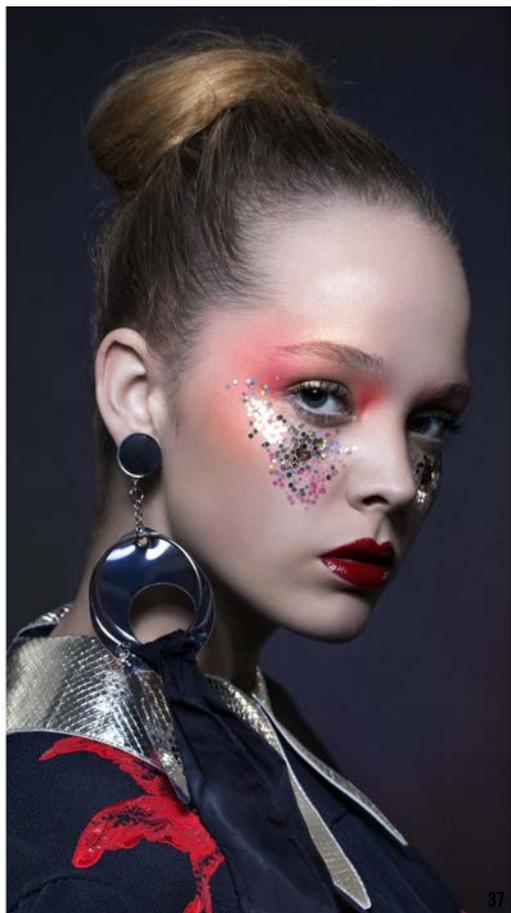
Body painting has been growing very fast in Europe, the US and Korea and it's time to introduce this to the Hong Kong Public. I believe being in a team is more important than being alone as individual artists. With over 10 years in the industry of body art and makeup, I am now confident to give lessons and share my experiences with students.

What kind of students take part in the classes?

Students of any level who show interest in body art & makeup take part in my classes. I show them professional techniques to compliment their creativity.

What are your plans for this year's festival?

I will bring new students on board with me in the competitions this year. Since this is their first time participating in the festival, this is always very exciting. Please watch out for updates on social media for our designs to represent the Hong Kong team!



SHORT STRAWS & SMILES

The Traveling
Butterflies



Yinmai O'Connor Introduces you to The Traveling Butterflies

Historically artists have served the gods or lords. They have strived to make something grand, unique, and lasting. From statues in a city park to paintings in a family home, the creator gets to indulge in knowing they have left a piece of themselves behind. Mediums such as stone and metal have ensured a maker's mark will last long after their flesh.

This was the hardest vanity to let go of when I became a face and body painter and flesh became my canvas. We put hours into a project

while having to accept that a drop of water can erase our endeavor. Our art is as ephemeral as the smile we see on a child's face when they catch their reflection ornamented with a sparkling butterfly, but nowhere near as valuable.

The Traveling Butterflies were started because of the smiles we have seen and wish to bring. The girls of Face Slap! have created joy and laughter with their washable art at cake-filled birthday parties and game-filled children's fairs for years, but we realized it is where children's smiles are already rare

'Art was long an extravagance reserved for the wealthy'

that they are most valuable. Art was long an extravagance reserved for the wealthy and during my time as a member of the Face Slap! team I have been to some extravagant events, but it is the children who have been given so little whom the Traveling Butterflies hope to bring flutters of smiles to. The Traveling Butterflies is a charity organization started by Face Slap! members Linda Miao Li and Nina Griffiee and quickly embraced by all members of Face Slap, that brings face painting and children's entertainment to orphanages and children's homes across Asia.

I recently had my first experience as a traveling butterfly at Alenah's Home in Beijing. It is not only an orphanage, but also a place for children with special needs ranging from congenital heat disease to autism and deafness. For the twenty-two children living there smiles and laughter are all too uncommon. When we entered the converted building on the outskirts of the city we heard the tears and





'Our art is as ephemeral as the smile we see on a child's face when they catch their reflection ornamented with a sparkling butterfly, but nowhere near as valuable.'

cries for attention of kids who have been deprived the basic joy of a parent's love on top of the comfort of a healthy body. At first it almost seemed as self-aggrandizing as the artists of the past to think that our little paintings could make a difference in these children's lives, but it wasn't long before I was reminded of the power and worth of a smile.

Within minutes of the Magician I had come with and my fellow traveling butterflies beginning our work, the orphanage was transformed by cries of laughter and literally lit by shining grins. The

'At first it almost seemed as self-aggrandizing as the artists of the past to think that our little paintings could make a difference in these children's lives.'

children who could be painted ran back between magic tricks asking for more until their arms and legs were hodgepodes of cartoon characters and mythical creatures. I had never felt like my art has made such a lasting impression. It was more rewarding than seeing my work on walls and worth more than any commission. Strangely it wasn't just the smiles we brought

the kids that brought me joy. It was also the light on the slightly worn faces of the adults that had chosen to work everyday in a strenuous job that's reward could get lost in the despondency. They seemed to enjoy themselves as much if not more than the children. They got to see the kids they give their hearts to daily feel the happiness they deserve. Even though I know every dragon and transformer I painted that day has long been washed away, the smiles we created will resonate for a lifetime.

Article by Yinmai O'Connor
Photography by Sam Hesketh



MIND MAGIC

This issue's cover feature is the overwhelmingly talented Photoshop Artist, Katarina Blazhievskaya from Odessa, Ukraine who takes us into the mind behind the canvases.

This issue Nina Griffee had the exciting opportunity to meet with Katarina and see what happens to her imagination when she creates one of her masterpieces, get ready to meet a pure artist.

Katarina, lets start with you, tell us all about 'La Katarina!'

My name is Katarina Blazhievskaya and I sign my photos as 'La Katarina,' as you can see my real name is too long, so I needed a nickname, I actually stole it from Carlos Castaneda stories when I

was 18 years old. It's the name of one of the Native American Witches he encountered noted in his "field notes". Originally I used it as an online name, and after all these years I grew to like it, so now it's my pseudonym for all photographic activity. I became a photographer accidentally, my first career was as an accountant and when I was asked to model for a photographer friend I thought I'd try it out. Step by step I realized that I wanted to create something by myself, and so I bought my first camera. After that I realized that I needed something more than just my current habit of

"hunting for smiles" and I fell in love with Photoshop manipulations.

When you start a creative project, do you know what it is going to look like at the end?

Absolutely not. While working on an image or series the concept can change 1000 times and every new person (stylist or model) brings something new. My husband is included too, since he has extensive experience as an art-photographer he can be my greatest influence in the process of postproduction and sometimes guide me on how to do better.



Are the contents of these pieces directly drawn from your imagination?

All comes from the imagination! Sometimes it's not so easy to "switch it on", especially when I have to focus on other work, but I do my best. Without dreaming and creating life is really boring. I try not to see what other photographers and designers do, because I am afraid of accidentally regenerating their ideas, I take my inspiration from books, and this combined with emotions gives me absolutely enough to work with.



Colors

"I needed something more than just my current habit of "hunting for smiles" and I fell in love with Photoshop manipulations."



Buddah 2

The cover piece 'Colors' is really mind blowing, how did you create it?

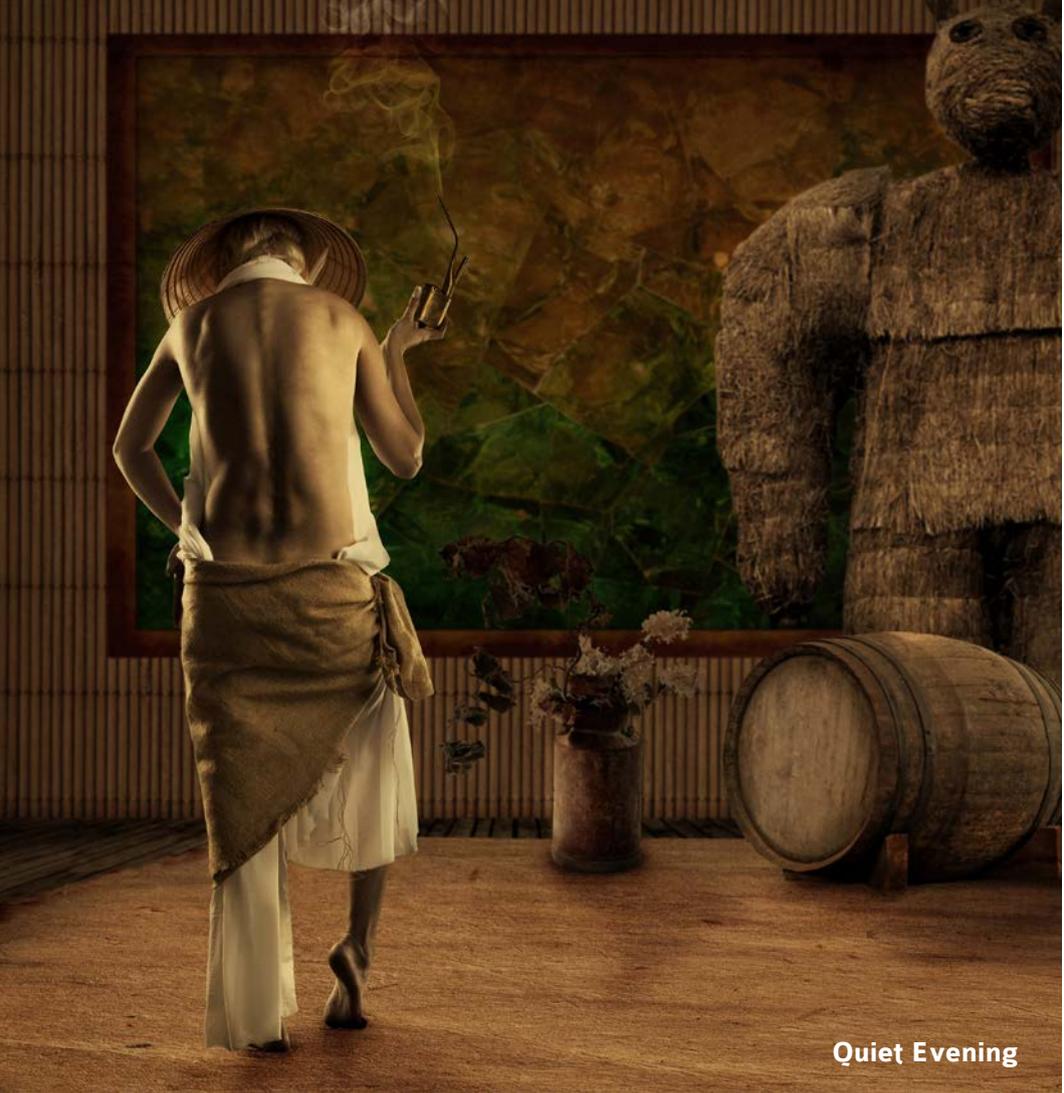
Inspiration came to me one morning, I wanted to make a dynamic piece of final work, something that would give you the feeling of movement. It's an abstract impression of thoughts inside of ones self. As for actually making the image, the top layer is a large, wet (and cold) piece of a

fabric laid out over a model. Then I took around 100 shots of different poses to document the shapes and finally applied some digital magic, the colors were applied after I had settled on the main idea.

I've noticed that your images can often be dark, how has this theme developed?

Everything I make is beyond daily

occurrence and predictability, I don't want to scare people and I hope that indeed they are not too dark! I like everything that is connected with mysticism, imagination, and magic, they are all very esoteric to me. During the processing phase I try to plunge into some kind of meditation, undistracted from other ideas and problems. This is how they turn out, and I sincerely hope that it is something interesting!



Quiet Evening

The image, 'Summer' - What's this all about?

That's a really hard question! Sometimes I just feel the image, I don't know how to express it in words, it is about magic again. Have you ever heard the sounds of nature at night? How the insects talk to each other? This image is the mind inside of this wild night mystery.

Your Self Portraits - What do they mean?

Nothing serious to be honest I am not a big narcissist, if we are talking about psychology. When you work with photographs and nobody else is waiting for the finished product, it's very relaxing; I am responsible for only myself, and my own expectations. And the second reason for using myself is when an

idea comes suddenly and I have no patience to wait, (call a model & organize the logistics of a shoot etc) then I can use my own body in the best way I can.

Katarina is currently working on a 2-year project based on Shamans' Tales which is soon to be released, to follow her work please add her on WeChat: Katarinaart

Article by Nina Griffie



Summer

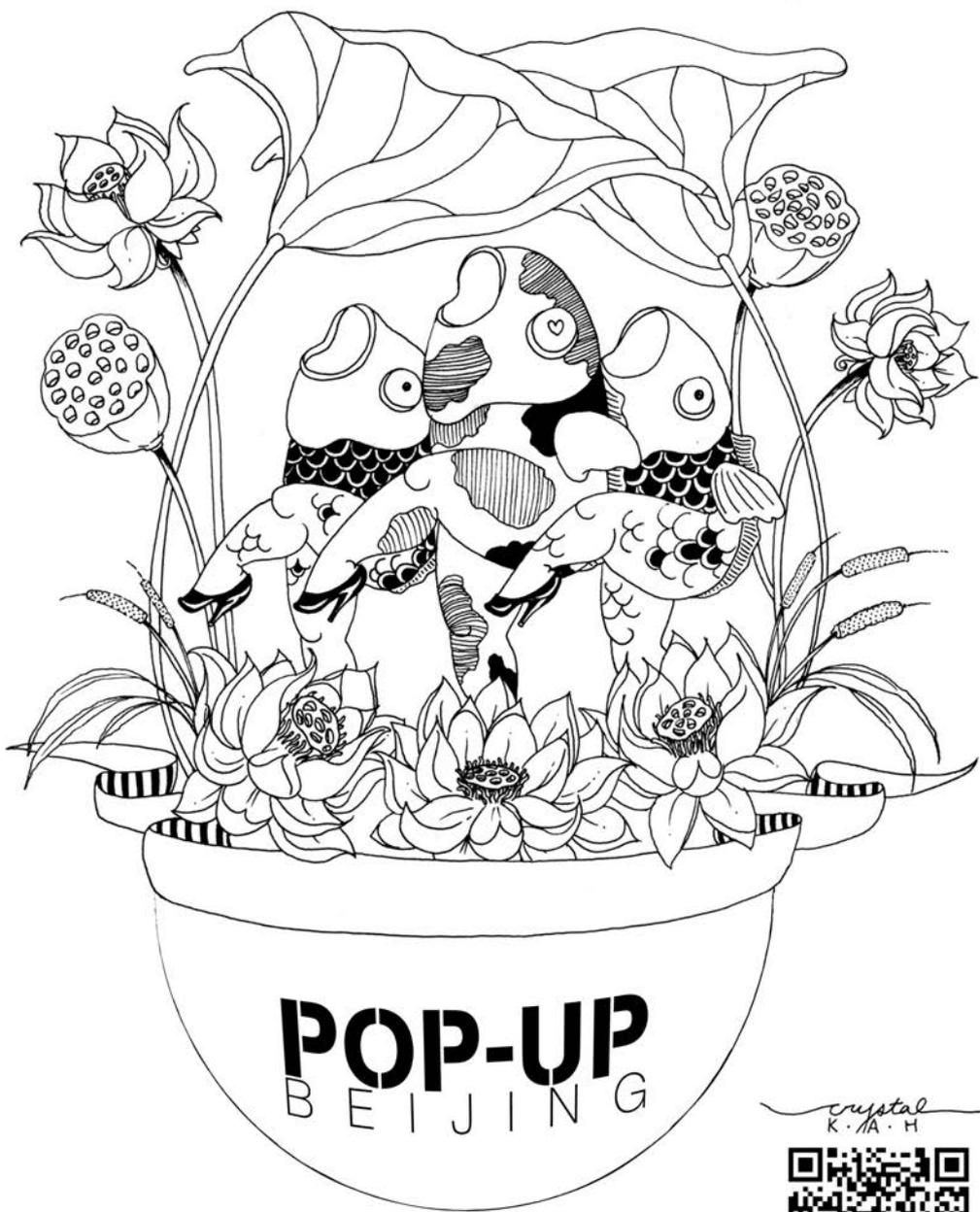
“Have you ever heard the sounds of nature at night? How the insects talk to each other?”

Katarina on her piece, ‘Summer.’

Thoughts



Dreamcatcher



POP-UP
BEIJING

crystal
K · A · H



DERRYOGRAPHY

Derry Ainsworth, up and coming UK Photographer in Hong Kong gives us a beautiful insight to his mind bending cityscapes.

"Hong Kong is such an interesting place to photograph, there are huge disparities between big and small, rich and poor, light and dark. Each district has its own character but overall they share the same sense of epic scale. My 'look up' series tries to emphasise that overwhelming feeling of feeling tiny in this city. Using wide angle lenses, I try to bend all the surroundings into the

I would be happy if my work encouraged people to look at their surroundings a little bit more, look up from their phone screens and maybe take a second look at what's around them.

centre of the frame - creating really unique, striking images.

I would be happy if my work encouraged people to look at their surroundings a little bit more, look up from their phone screens and maybe take a second look at what's around them. There are a lot of amazing views and perspectives in this city and I hope my work helps people to see that."









BATTLE OF THE BOKEH

Linda Miao Li tells about Face Slap's body painting experience on a Youtube Channel production of camera lens comparison.

As of today with over 1 million subscribers, Digital Rev is the most subscribed photography channel on YouTube. Their website is a social network as well on an online store for photographer lovers from around the world.

On an early morning, Nina and I met the production crew and presenters with an element of nervousness due to our limited knowledge of professional cameras. With no set script in mind for us, we had to improvise what we

would be saying, like most of any media exposure events we seem to do these days. Ian and Lok, the presenters, were also going to be working off a vague script and fortunately it worked very well for what they were trying to achieve. With random awkward moments and nerdy camera jokes, we knew our day would be exciting. Before we know it our beautiful model, Katya arrives and we set to work to create somewhat of a color spectrum bodypaint style to commence DigitalRev's Battle of the Bokeh!

Our body paint was to be the

testing content for the bokeh between the Zeiss Otus 85 mm and the Sony 85mm. For those unfamiliar with the term 'bokeh' it is the visual quality of the blur in out of focus areas of the image produced by a lens. As we set up the small table for our working station, Lok and Ian came up with the idea of pretending to be the makeup artists; jokingly calling their review "Makeup Rev"... oh the randomness is endless! As the production crew began filming us with their ultra expensive looking equipment, I knew the results of the photos and video will be spectacular. As the boys shot



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with the cameras at our live artwork, Ian told us to slow down in order for the Zeiss Otus to manually focus, also the more expensive and heavier camera at 1180kg. The 800g Sony has auto-focus, making it easier for the user, but overall is the quality better? To be honest, from the photos Lok and Ian shown us, they look quite similar? Or perhaps Lok just has really good shooting skills!

The hours went by fast and soon our artwork was done, shot, then washed off. Digital Rev worked quite fast and finished the YouTube video within a week. Turns out the Zeiss Lens won... at a pretty price of \$5000 USD, you would hope so.

Article by Linda Miao Li

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