

HOTEL STAGE UNVEILS COMMUNITY ARTIST EXHIBITION

Déjà Vu Collection by Monique Lai 賴昱蓉

Hong Kong (May 25, 2016) –Hotel Stage, the dynamic urban boutique hotel with a mission to develop itself as a community arts and culture platform, has unveiled its latest artist exhibition, initiated from its unique in-house art programme.

The Art Bridge programme invites artists in Hong Kong to submit their concepts to showcase their works inspired by the dynamism and diversity of Hong Kong. Selected artists are then invited to use Hotel Stage as their gallery. The exhibition, called the Déjà Vu Collection by Monique Lai (賴昱蓉), features photographs on simple details that are taken for granted.

Monique Lai who also has a background as a film-maker, makes an unflinching statement and deep dive into the beauty of Hong Kong. The photographs are a visual feast of the most traditional and yet bold culture of life aspects of the city.

Showcasing a fine eye for detail, the Déjà Vu Collection features images that highlight design and thought as simple gestures; and they are appreciated as a matter of fact. All the pieces of art were photographed in Kowloon City and features imagery in both black and white, and in colour. All titles are a Cantonese pronunciation of the image, a nod to the native language of the city.

In one of the works, Lai depicts an abundance of cherries for sale. In “*Chay Lay Gi*” (車厘子), the focus of the eye seems to instead move upward to land more heavily on the recycled cardboard.

Lai says: “This may be overlooked by many people but the style of this handwriting is large as it is distinct. I love the fact this vendor took great care to label all her fruits in this manner and to re-use the basic material, cardboard.

“Viewing a group of labels in this manner, was as strong a message as any that these smallest of acts to recycle can make a difference,” she added.

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Born and raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica, Lai's work has been exhibited in Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Provincetown, New York, and Beijing. She lives and works in Hong Kong.

James Hung, General Manager said: "We are driven by a passion for this diverse and inspirational community and lending Hotel Stage as a platform for artists to showcase their locally-inspired ideas will foster creative exchanges between our guests and the rich cultural fabric of our community."

"With Art Bridge, we can unearth artists that showcase our culture – our first collaboration with Monique Lai and her distinctive photographic perspective clearly showcases an aspect of Hong Kong that is taken for granted every day."

Hotel Stage, Muse daily show time hours are from 16:00 - 22:00. The exhibition runs until June 30, 2016. Located at 1 Chi Wo Street, Jordan, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

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Issued on behalf of Hotel Stage by Qi Communications. For more information and images, please contact:

Ainslie Cheung E: Ainslie.cheung@theqiasia.com T: +852 9311 3256
Mandy Soh E: Mandy.Soh@theqiasia.com T: +852 9504 7748