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Lee Man Sang 李文生



Lee Man Sang was born in a small Hakka village in the New Territories of Hong Kong. At the age of 14 he moved to England, where he worked in his family's restaurant and studied modern art. In 1992, Lee returned to Hong Kong and set up an art studio in a 300-year-old schoolhouse in his native village. He works primarily as a sculptor, using wood and other natural materials to create both formalist and functional art, including musical instruments of his own invention. Many of his recent sculptural works incorporate concepts derived from traditional Chinese culture, such as the logographic form of Chinese characters. Lee is also active as a performance artist and improvisational musician, collaborating with Hong Kong artists working in various media to create performance events.

At once a master craftsman, musician and sculptor, Lee lives a reclusive life in the rural part of Hong Kong and his art reflects his love of nature and rhythm with strong solitary sentiment. Lee's sculptures combine traditional function of the Chinese seal and the beautiful natural texture of timber wood. They are carved with precision to illustrate rivers and farmlands that surround his home. In the recent years Lee has been focusing on assembling and working with found materials and artefacts from his ancestral village and creating hand-made objects and instruments. Lee Man Sang's works have the quality of a sophisticated craft though it is his profound concept and subtlety that distinguish him as a sculptor from his contemporaries.

Exhibitions/ Performance

2021	"Roots", duet exhibition with French artist Wensen Qi at Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2014	"REVISIT", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2012	"2012 Group Show", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2010	"Group Show", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong "Alight 燈會", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
2008-2009	"from 2D to 3D", Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong "Looking for Antonio Mak", Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
2000	G.C.C. 5 th International Group Show, Osaka World Trade Center, Japan Solo Sculpture Show – Timber Works II, The Pottery Workshop, Hong Kong



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- 1999 Group Show of 3 Artists, Galerie Martini, Hong Kong
1998 Anne Mei Chadwick Gallery, London (Group Show) – ‘Visions from Hong Kong’
1997-1998 Group Show, Galerie Martini, Hong Kong – ‘salon d’hiver 1&2’
1997 G.C.C. 2nd International Group Show, La Grande Arche, La Defense, Paris
The Pottery Workshop – ‘Chops + Clay’
1996 Wo Hang Village, 300 yr. old school and surrounding garden – ‘Raw Earth’ (Part 2)
Pao Gallery, Hong Kong Arts Centre – ‘Raw Earth’ (Part 1)
1995 The Pottery Workshop – ‘Timber Works’
1994 Fringe Club, Hong Kong – ‘In the Attic’
1993 The Pottery Workshop, Fringe Club, Hong Kong – ‘Just a Family Affair’
1990 Quot Gallery, Hong Kong – ‘Tianamen Square’

Commissions

- 1999 Sculpture with Chinese characters for reception area of Virtual Communities office, Melbourne
Sculpture with Co. Logo and stand for reception area of Chiaphua International, HK
1998 Set of 10 no. timber chop sculptures for Star Alliance Lounge, Chek Lap Kok Airport
Sculptural relief wall panel for Virgin Atlantic’s Clubhouse Lounge, Chek Lap Kok Airport
1996 Set of 14 no. timber chops / sculptures procured by RSD for the Regional Council Museum, HK
1995-1998 Sculptural props / musical instruments for performances by Peter Suart at HKAPA
1995 Eight sculptural pedestals for bird house exhibition by Jacqueline Li, The Pottery Workshop, HK
1994 Suspended installation art for Isshin Japanese Restaurant, Times Square, HK
1993 Suspended ‘Lantern’ Sculptures for Duty Free Shop, The Peak, HK
Poster and catalogue designs for Contemporary City Dance Company performances, HK
1993-1999 Private collections in Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, Italy, Australia and Thailand

Publications

- 1999 ‘Asian Elements’ book, by Jane Edwards & Andrew Wood, published by Octopus, US
1998 Elle Decoration (H.K.), Dec. / Jan., ‘The Next Big Thing’
1997 Radio 4 and Cable Television interviews, 6 January – ‘Chops + Clay’ Exhibition
1996 Review, South China Morning Post, 30 April – ‘An Exploration of Hakka culture’
Sing Tao, 19 April – ‘Five Hakka Artists: Raw Earth’
1995 Elle Decoration (H.K.), November, - ‘Out in Front’
Sing Tao, October, - ‘Treasures in Wood’
Hong Kong Standard, September 1 – ‘Lee rooted to his Sculptures’



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- B International magazine, July, Hong Kong – Feature Artist – ‘A Spirit that Burns Within’
- 1994 Asia Magazine, of the South China Morning Post, - ‘Young Artists on Display’
Feature Story on Hong Kong TVB Jade programme, 23 April – ‘Hong Kong Life and Culture’
The Sunday Standard, 26 June, Hong Kong – ‘Lofty Artistic Ideals’
Interiors Quarterly, March-May, Singapore – ‘Lee Man Sang Self Taught Artist’
Eastern Express, Weekend February 12, Hong Kong – ‘Crafting a Career’
- 1993 The Sunday Standard, 19 September, Hong Kong – ‘Keeping it in the Family’

Performance Art

- 1999 ‘Festival Der Geister’ (Spirit and Ghost Festival), Tacheles in Berlin, Germany as a member of the new improvisation band, FUBAR
- 1997 Collaboration of five Artists of a new ethnic, ritual village music and dance, HK
- 1996 Multi-media performance – group of five Hakka Artists sculptor, ceramist, dancer, vocalist, musician) – ‘Raw Earth’, Hong Kong Arts Centre, and Wo Hang Village
- 1990-1994 Crafting and performing the traditional Hakka arts of both Unicorn Dancing and Hot Air Balloons – at various cultural festivals, celebrations and ceremonies, Hong Kong
- 1994 Group concert performed with mixed percussion and wind instruments crafted by Lee Man Sang, Fringe Club
Background soundtrack to ‘Hong Kong Life and Culture’ television programme – hand crafted flutes