



For Immediate Release

**Taipa Village Cultural Association Proudly Presents
Tong Chong's Wooden Sculpture Exhibition – “Restless Nature”**

Discovering new techniques with plywood from three years of dedicated research



Cloud 1, 2016 - 2017; Fishes 2, 2016 - 2017

Macau, 5th July 2017 – Taipa Village Cultural Association takes great pleasure in presenting accomplished local artist Tong Chong's wooden sculpture exhibition “Restless Nature” in Taipa Village Art Space. The exhibition showcases Tong's new collection, created using pioneering plywood techniques, and reflects the results of his three years of research on using the material.

As an established wood-carving artist, Tong is a skilled creator of sculptures that depict fictional creatures and figurative forms in natural wood block. His creations reflect the modern society and culture as well as everyday habitual human activity, emphasising a return to the nature of humanity and an orientation of roles, and examining human behaviour in modern society.

In this exhibition, Tong showcases a unique collection of seven sculptures developed based on research of new plywood techniques, revealing meticulous craftsmanship in the art of



wood. Each piece took four to six months to complete, involving complex gluing processes and the act of sculpting itself, which requires considerable physical and psychological stamina. The results reflect Tong's determination to achieve his goals and perfect his technical skills.

“The nature of sculpture enacts a haptic relationship with the observer,” says Joao O, President of the Executive Board. Taipa Village Cultural Association. “However, what is experienced in this new series, besides the obvious contours differentiating the foreground and the background, is a cognitive exaltation – the clear emergence of the negative space. This can be discovered in the spaces in-between the schooling in ‘Fishes’, the carved space in ‘Cloud’, and the intertwined space of the endless line in ‘Circular’. The suggestion of movement is manifested by the sculptures’ missing parts, forcing the human eye to attempt to fill the void, thus creating a psychological restlessness in the act of perception.”

As the first sculpture show at Taipa Village Art Space, this exhibition marks another step in the transformation of Taipa Village into a lively centre for artistic and cultural endeavours, and contributes to the development of non-gaming tourism in Macau. The diversity of artworks on show, and the variety of local artists demonstrate the ongoing evolution of Taipa Village Cultural Association as it fosters new talent in the cultural and creative industries, adding appeal to the artistic offerings in this culturally-rich destination.

Exhibition period	: 5 th July – 6 th September 2017
Opening hours	: 12 noon to 8:00pm (Tuesday to Sunday)
Venue	: Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa, Macau
Artist	: Tong Chong
Media	: Sculptures
Admission	: Free

- Ends -



About Taipa Village Cultural Association

Taipa Village Cultural Association was established in 2016, it is a non-profit association comprised of representatives from both local community and wider Macau. The association aims to highlight the uniqueness of Taipa Village's heritage by raising awareness of its attractions and cementing its position as a distinctive community that benefits all of Macau.

Numerous initiatives are planned to preserve, enrich and cement the village as a tourist and cultural destination, including a diverse range of artistic and cultural attractions which will allow visitors and future generations to enjoy a unique experience of the authentic Macau.

About Taipa Village

Located in an historic enclave on Taipa Island, Taipa Village was originally inhabited by fishermen – a heritage that lives on today in its quaint village street layout and evocative, pastel-hued shop houses, nestled alongside colonial churches and Chinese temples. The village, with its rich history, offers an inspiring, East-meets-West alternative to Macau's casinos, and is a must-go destination for visitors and locals alike.

www.taipavillagemacau.org.mo

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