

Fan Sai Hong's First Solo Exhibition In Macau

Taipa Village Art Space presents sketchbook drawings of the artist's 15-year long journey of discovery

By Macau Tatler on Apr 26, 2017

While the art world in Asia is primarily market-driven, that of Macau is not really based on rankings or sales. The local art scene is, in a sense, at a more primitive stage, one where the focus is still on culture and how it contributes to society. While that makes it a difficult place for artists to survive, at the same time it does allow them to focus on creating good art. And that benefits the entire community.



From the series Fai Chi Kei 6th Andar (2002) (Photo: Courtesy of Taipa Village Cultural Association)

Take, for example, Macau-born sketch artist Fan Sai Hong, whose first solo exhibition, titled *Simple Things*, highlights not only his intellectual and artistic evolution but the key role both public and private funding have in presenting contemporary art to the public.

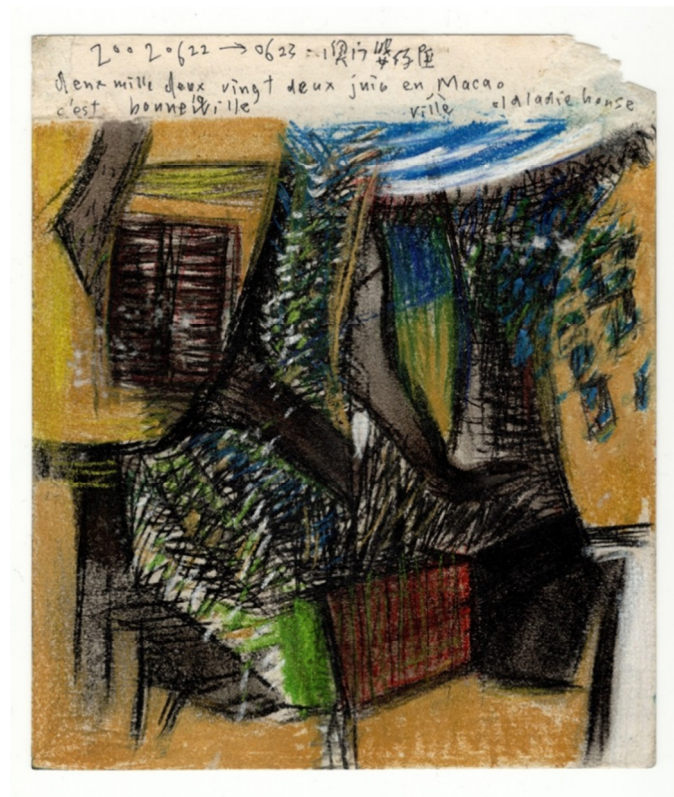
Macau's art scene, with few commercially viable galleries, is supported with government funding—more than 50 are provided free of charge for exhibitions. Private enterprise also plays a key role in promoting and sustaining the city's unique cultural endeavours with its contribution to the development of non-gaming tourism in the territory. Indeed, *Simple Things* marks another step in the transformation of Taipa Village into a lively centre for the arts.



From the series New Zealand (2005-06) (Photo: Courtesy of Taipa Village Cultural Association)

On exhibition from April 26–June 30, this private collection of Hong’s sketchbook drawings document his personal journey of discovery through life in a freewheeling style, using a range of media, formats and artistic expressions.

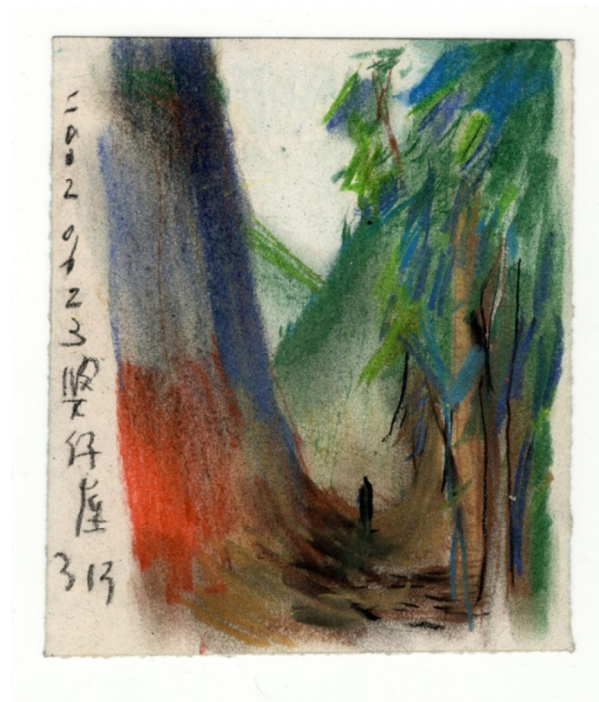
This exhibition also marks the launch of Hong’s comic book series, No Name, featuring 40 drawings that tell the story of a young boy who enters into a lonely journey through the wilderness as a way to make the spiritual transition to manhood. The storyboard reveals Hong’s belief in the ideal relationship between human and nature, in which the simple things in life prevail and are manifested in their purest state.



From the series Old Ladies House-01(2002) (Photo: Courtesy of Taipa Village Cultural Association)

“This selection brings together a wide range of drawing styles, reflecting Hong’s mood at each specific period in time through his different stages of life encounters, such as when he was involved in different lines of work, learning different skills, travelling in foreign landscapes and testing himself in other forms of art,” says Joao O, president of the executive board, Taipa Village Cultural Association.

“The aim of this exhibition is to convey the idea of the simplicity of his drawings, which are created spontaneously and in an unprompted manner. As a result, these sketchbook drawings collectively reflect a direct outcome of his state of mind at the time of a circumstantial event in his life, which evolves and changes organically as he grows older.”



From the series Old Ladies House-02 (2002) (Photo: Courtesy of Taipa Village Cultural Association)

This free exhibition highlights not only the intellectual and artistic evolution of a Macau-born artist, but is a further sign of the rapid flourishing of the city's cultural and creative industries, and their role in nurturing and raising the profile of new local talents. Gaming may still be the city's lifeblood, but it's not the only game in town.

April 26– June 30

Admission: *Free*

12 noon-8.00pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa

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