

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Hysan and Lee Gardens Association Launch the “Art Too” Festival Commemorating a Century of Art, Culture and Community in the Lee Gardens Area

From Lee Gardens’ centenary murals, HKWALLS’ special edition of the “Tools of the Trade” exhibition to hands-on workshops, guided tours and interactive demonstrations, the Festival invites U.S. artist Spenser Little, Hong Kong sign painter Katol and fine artist Wong Ting-fung to celebrate the community spirit that has made Lee Gardens a cultural home across generations.



Hong Kong, 22 November 2024 – To enervise the community through street art and culture, while showcasing Lee Gardens’ century-long progression as an art and entertainment hub, **Hysan Development Company Limited (“Hysan”)** and **Lee Gardens Association** have jointly launched the **“Art Too” Festival**. The Festival runs from today to 1 December 2024 (closed on 25 and 26 November) on the G/F, 5 Sharp Street East.

Hysan and Lee Gardens Association have partnered with **HKWALLS** to present a special edition of **the “Tools of the Trade” exhibition**. The curated art space features creative works paying tribute to the area’s heritage by U.S. artist Spenser Little, Hong Kong sign painter Katol and fine artist Wong Ting-fung. The Festival commemorates pivotal moments in Lee Gardens through guided art tours, hands-on workshops and live demonstrations. Visitors can move beyond observation to engagement, with the opportunity to learn craft techniques and create their own artwork using authentic tools of the trade.

Mr Ricky Lui, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Hysan Development Company Limited, said, “Art and culture have always been crucial in Hysan’s placemaking vision for Lee Gardens. From the Bei Shan Poets Society at the Lee Garden Amusement Park to the legendary Lee Theatre that made countless dreams come true, our spaces have consistently celebrated creativity. Today, art is seamlessly integrated into our ongoing efforts in area rejuvenation. Through the ‘Art Too’ Festival, we are recreating the spirit of community that began with the gatherings among literati at one of the Taipan houses in the 1920s. Visitors can explore paints, brushes and other tools of the trade by popular

artists, participate in craft workshops, and discover our area’s heritage through immersive experiences and live demonstrations.”

This Festival not only pays tribute to our artistic legacy, but also creates new opportunities for creative expression and community engagement. “It is our way of honouring the generations of memorable moments that have shaped Lee Gardens, while inspiring new stories for the future,” Mr Lui added.

An Intimate Look inside Artists’ Studios at “Tools of the Trade”

The three artists will unveil **new public artworks** created around the Lee Gardens Area throughout the festival period. Each art piece is designed to celebrate happiness, dreams, and shared moments that have made Lee Gardens a home for art and culture. Members of the public can sign up for an **in-depth tour** of the rich history surrounding Lee Gardens and Causeway Bay, led by HKWALLS and enriched by the newest murals and site-specific installations by the artists.

Another key highlight of the festival is the special edition of **the “Tools of the Trade”** exhibition. This exhibition frames street art through the lens of the tools that artists use to create their works, and features intimate replicas of the artists’ personal studios. The exhibition also showcases a variety of art pieces that demonstrate the creative possibilities these tools can inspire.

Making Art Too

Spenser Little, Katol and Wong Ting-fung are also hosting hands-on workshops for the public to try their hand at creating different types of art. **Spenser Little’s Wire Art masterclass**, using the sky and streets as canvas, guides participants in wire art creation by transforming simple wire through cutting and bending techniques to create their names. **The Lettering and Sign Painting masterclass by Katol** showcases the art of lettering and brushwork techniques, to create signs on A3 paper. **The Deconstructing Text and Visualising Characters masterclass, led by Wong Ting-fung**, teaches participants how to cut and rearrange the strokes, lines, and dots into a unique piece of art, highlighting the complexity of Chinese words and the beauty of their composition.

The three artists also plan to share details of their creative process through **live demonstrations and interactive dialogues**. Through these live demonstrations, they will reveal how art evolves from concept to finished pieces. Audiences will have the opportunity to interact with the artists to learn about the ingenuity and personal inspirations that drive their artistic journeys.

Hysan100 has launched an online campaign titled **“This is Art, Too”** on its Hysan100’s Facebook and Instagram where users are invited to share their artistic discoveries in Lee Gardens, from unorthodox art tools to unexpected, impromptu artistic scenes and moments, from architectural designs to intricate latte art in cafes, and many more. Participants can share their discoveries with [@Hysan100](#) and the hashtag [#thisisarttoo](#), and become active participants in this artistic journey, with a chance to win Lee Gardens Coupons to explore more of what Lee Gardens offers.

Stepping into the next century, Hysan remains committed to its vision for Causeway Bay and nurturing this legacy of artistic expression and community connection. “Art Too” not just aims to bring to the public a variety of unique experiences and engaging activities, it also aims to encourage them to become a part of the district’s continuing story.

Members of the public can learn more and sign up the free tours and workshops through [this link](#).

Photos



In collaboration with HKWALLS, “Art Too” features a special edition of the “Tools of the Trade” Exhibition at the G/F of 5 Sharp Street East.



U.S. artist Spenser Little



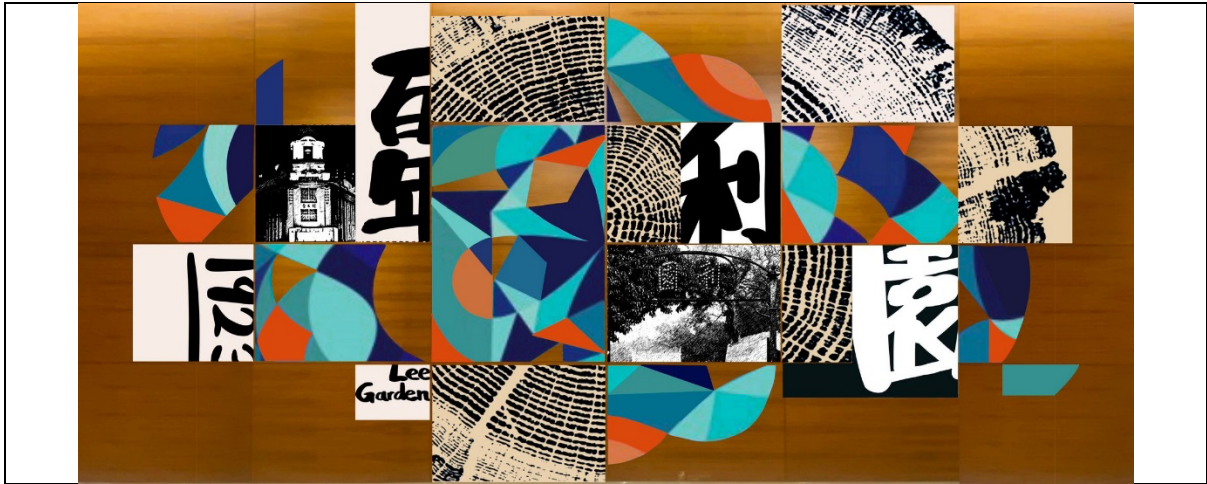
Hong Kong sign painter Katol



Fine artist Wong Ting-fung



Hong Kong sign painter Katol created a colourful work mural of hand-lettering which blends American-influenced calligraphy with nostalgic elements featuring Lee Gardens' legendary visitors - Roman Lo, football legend Pelé, Teresa Teng and Anita Mui - celebrating their roles in the precinct's cultural legacy.



Fine artist Wong Ting-fung will paint “Lee Gardens Centenary” adjacent to Urban Sky, 9/F, Hysan Place , with the features of tree rings and iconic landmarks like the Amusement Park and Lee Theatre representing traces of the precinct’s development over time.



U.S. artist Spenser Little, known for creating sculptures modelled with a single continuous wire, will create site specific installations in the Lee Gardens Area.



Street artists will demonstrate techniques for workshop participants to get hands-on experience with tools of the trade, including brushes, markers and stencils.

-END-

Lee Gardens Art Festival “Art Too” – About the Artists

Spenser Little

Spenser Little is a self-taught artist from Southern California and has gained recognition for his innovative and thought-provoking sculptures. His artistic development was shaped by a distinctive combination of literary and mechanical influences.

For over 25 years, Little has been creating sculptures by bending and cutting steel and wire into figurative portraits and phrases. His work, ranging from playful figures to pointed social commentaries and elaborate masterpieces, has adorned the walls of esteemed galleries such as Thinkspace Gallery and has been installed in public spaces around the world—most recently Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Sweden.

Spenser’s sculptures invite audiences into a dialogue with the piece and, by extension, with each other. Little’s practice also includes mixed media works like kinetic lamps and the automata hugging machine. These works seamlessly integrate functionality with artistic flair, challenging the conventions of traditional sculpture.

Throughout his life, Little has championed the causes of marginalised communities, actively working to uplift those who are underserved. His previous motto, “Create Instead”, has evolved into the inquiry, “What Can I Create In The Face Of Everything That’s Going On In The World?” This shift reflects his continued commitment to using art as a tool for social commentary and change.

Katol

As a Hong Kong artist, Katol had his claim to fame from his exceptional graphic design. Being the co-founder of Social Nerd and Coffee & Laundry, he has worked with hundreds of brands and artist studios around the globe. In recent years, he researched hand-painted sign lettering techniques, combining them with his experience in graphic design to create a unique and personal sense of style. Aside from continuous multidisciplinary collaborative efforts, his recent signature creation of hand-painted signage had garnered praise from the local artist community. Katol adores traditional Hong Kong culture and has always sought inspiration from it. His work adorns multiple local shops and restaurants.

Wong Ting-fung

Wong Ting-fung is a Hong Kong-based artist focusing on collages of illustration, graphic design and lettering. He has been working in the advertising and design industry for over a decade. His career has been influential to his artistic inspiration. With a focus on deconstructing and rearranging different things by various forms, his work represents the complicated and contradictions in life, as well as the rich and diversified emotions.