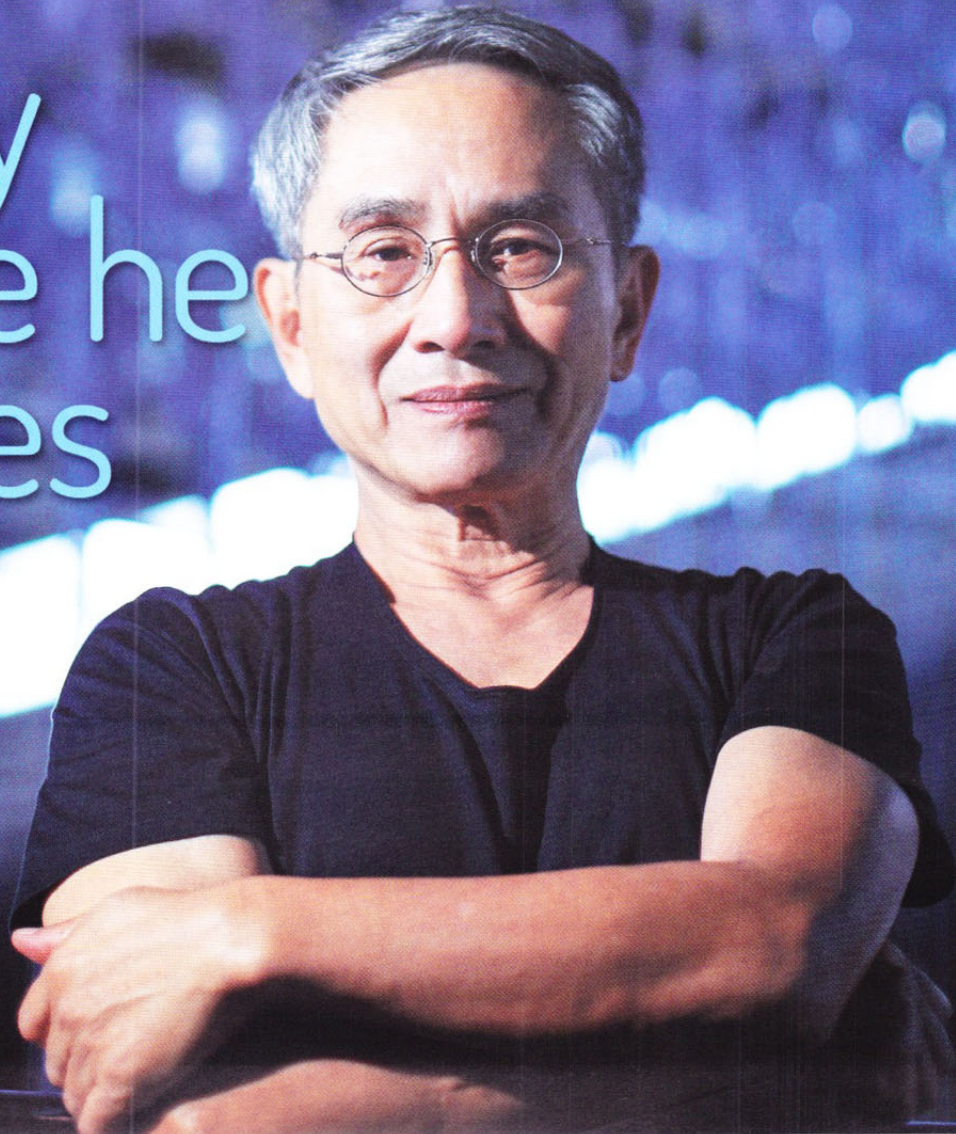


48 HOURS

Cloud Gate choreographer looks back on a life dedicated to dance

Every move he makes



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PET SHOP BOYS
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RISING SON
OF MENSWEAR**



EXHIBITION

PEEK SEASON

Text: VANESSA YUNG

MARTIN PARR
Blindspot Gallery

VETERAN BRITISH photographer Martin Parr had a packed schedule during his two-week visit to Hong Kong last year. Commissioned by Blindspot Gallery, he travelled all over the city, visiting places such as Ocean Park, Happy Valley Racecourse and Wong Tai Sin Temple to capture his artistic impressions of the city.

A selection of 52 images from the project, which features Parr's satirical narrative on contemporary living, is now on show at Blindspot Gallery in Wong Chuk Hang, alongside works from his previous series "The Last Resort" (1983-85) and "Luxury" (1995 to the present) which helped to make his name.

"I'm always trying to explore the contradictions of modern society. I don't go to wars or famine. I'm interested in photographing the wealthy world that we all live in," says the 62-year-old, who studied

photography at Manchester Polytechnic in the 1970s.

"Our world is getting wealthier and that's an issue as well as being a good thing, as there are problems that arise in the wake of that. But I'm trying to illustrate the leisure time and the welfare activities of this new world."

China is a good place to examine this theme, he says. "There's no better place for mainlanders to come and spend their money than Hong Kong. There are issues about that – it's not so straightforward – and that to me is one of the starting points for this recent exploration."

One of Parr's favourite photos shows a queue of mainlanders outside a Louis Vuitton shop on Canton Road. Parr also explored how the property market works here by visiting show apartments and speaking to property agents.

"That was a big revelation. I realised how hot the property

market is in Hong Kong and noticed that most people buying are mainlanders," Parr says.

But rich mainlanders were not his only subjects. "We did portraits of all kinds of people. It was interesting to see everyone is on the phone all the time. And there are also couples who go around with similar T-shirts; that's a trend in Asia and Hong Kong is a good place to see it," he says.

"The project touches on many things that come together to form contemporary Hong Kong. But it's very subjective. It's almost like my personal, fictitious look at Hong Kong, in a way. But the issues are just below the surface, if you look hard enough," he says.

Blindspot Gallery, 15/F Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Tuesday-Saturday, 10.30am-6.30pm. Ends November 1. Inquiries: 2517 6238



PASSING FANCIES: an ice cream shop in New Brighton, northwest England (above); mainland shoppers on Canton Road (top).