

Antonio MAK Hin-Yeung

Born in the Philippines and moved to Hong Kong when he was one month old, Antonio Mak Hin-Yeung (1951-1994) was one of the most prominent figures belonging to an exciting, pioneering generation of Hong Kong young artists who challenged the art establishment and created a new and unprecedented alternative art scene in the 1980s. Through sculpture-making, especially using the bronze casting technique, painting, and drawing, he experimented with icons, symbolism, and homonymic word plays in his works, which contemplates on the complexities of human existence and meditated on the socio-political climate of colonial Hong Kong.

Mak studied painting at Goldsmith's College, University of London in 1971-1975. From 1975-77, Mak undertook studies in sculptures at the Slade School of Art, University of London and worked under supervision at the Bronze Foundry of The Royal College of Art in London. He also won the UK Delegacy Prize in 1975. In the late 1980s, Mak travelled to US for intensive training in the latest technical methodologies of bronze casting at the Johnson Foundry in New York.

From 1975 to 1994, Mak held six solo exhibitions in Hong Kong and UK and participated in various group exhibitions in UK, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. He also participated in the seminal self-organized group exhibition, "Out of Context" (1987), an important chapter in the history of Hong Kong contemporary art. After his premature passing, his retrospectives held in institutions and museums include "Looking for Antonio Mak" (Hong Kong Museum of Art, 2008) and "The Art of Antonio Mak – A Retrospective" (Hong Kong Arts Centre, 1995).

Championed new modes of artistic debate and display, Mak was a core instigator of the Rooftop Studio and the Out of Context project, which were important forerunners of new art spaces including E-Zone and Quart Society in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In spite of their very ephemeral nature, all of these activities laid the groundwork for the independent art space movement in Hong Kong in the 1990s.

Education

1971-1975 Studied painting at Goldsmith's College, School of Art, University of London (First Hon)

1975-77 Studied sculpture at the Slade School of Art, University of London, UK

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 Alisan Fine Arts booth, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2011 "A Limited Collection of Antonio Mak Sculptures", Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
- 2008 "Looking for Antonio Mak", Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
- 1996 "The Grand Opening Exhibition: A Tribute o Antonio Mak", China Oil Painting Gallery, Hong Kong

1995 "The Art of Antonio Mak – A Retrospective", Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong

1992 "Recent Works by Antonio Mak", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1984-86 Club 97, Hong Kong

1982 Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1980 Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1978 Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1975 Caius College, Cambridge University, UK

Group Exhibitions

2024 "Hong Kong's Forgotten Masters", Ping Pong Gintoneria, Hong Kong

2019 Blindspot Gallery booth, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong

2015 "Container and Contained", Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
"The Human Body: Measure and Norms", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2010 "Echo-Classic: Hong Kong Sculpture Biennial", Hong Kong Art School, Hong Kong

2009 "Selected Hong Kong Artists", Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
Alisan Fine Arts booth, Hong Kong International Arts & Antiques Fair, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong

1993 "Art & Space: from sculpture to installation", Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
"Portraits of Life: A Joint Exhibition of Antonio Mak and Almond Chu", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1992 "City Vibrance: Recent Works in Western Media by Hong Kong Artists", Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong

1991 "The Book as an Object of Art", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

1990s Group Exhibitions of Quart Society, Hong Kong

1989 "The Sculpture Walk", Kowloon Park, Hong Kong

1988 "Mobile Art Show", multiple outdoor locations, Hong Kong
"Ten Years of Hong Kong Sculpture: 10th Anniversary Programme of Hong Kong Arts Centre", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
"Group Exhibition of Works by Hong Kong Artists", Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Hong Kong
"Exhibition of Hong Kong Modern Art in Beijing", National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

- 1987 "Out of Context", 15 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong
- 1984 "Contemporary Open-Air Sculpture Exhibition", Hong Kong Coliseum, Hong Kong
- 1983 "The Inaugural Exhibition of Taipei Fine Arts Museum", Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1982-87 "Exhibitions of Hong Kong Sculptors Association", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
- 1982 "Figures of Earth: exhibition of works in clay by Mak Hin-Yeung & Mak Yee-fun", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
"Towards a Fuller Life", ICAC, Hong Kong
"Contemporary Hong Kong Art", Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines
- 1981 "Hong Kong Contemporaries", Guangdong, China
- 1975 "London Art Student", Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
- 1974 "The Young Contemporaries", Camden Art Centre, London, UK

Selected Collections

M+, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan
Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada