Project Title	憑歌寄意 Songs of the Heart
Project Description	An exhibition that examines the close relationship and mutual influences between Hong Kong pop music and visual arts.
Project Date and location	Sheffield C&G in the UK on January 2025
Project Content	Hong Kong pop music, characterized by its straightforward lyrics and upbeat rhythms, has given rise to a number of iconic hits that have won over the hearts of generations of people living in Hong Kong and aboard. Examples of these include the humorous songs of Sam Hui, the bold and varied music of Anita Mui, Leslie Cheung, Beyond, as well as the melancholic and lyrical love songs by indie band My Little Airport and many others. With their widespread influences over decades, Hong Kong pop songs not only provide an emotional comfort for life, but also form an important agency in bridging the emotional bonding between Chinese communities of all ages and backgrounds.
	The proposed exhibition aims to focus on the mutual influences and interactions between Hong Kong pop songs and visual culture, exploring how Hong Kong artists develop their works by adapting and translating the rhyme, lyrics, and emotional depth of Cantonese pop songs into unique forms of visual languages. In doing so, the exhibition tries to break away from the idea that 'pop music is only a music genre' and 'pop music belongs to entertainment'. Instead, it strives to emphasize the vibrant and rich cultural aspects of Hong Kong pop music, understanding how it continues to interact with artistic creations, re-establish human relationships, and draw attention to marginalized groups and untold histories in Hong Kong.

Artists

The exhibition plans to feature a total of five Hong Kong artists, with works spanning from calligraphy, paintings, and videos. Below is the proposed artist list and details of the work can be found at p.2.

- 1. Harrison Tso
- 2. Apple and Goodbye Victoria
- 3. Siu Hak
- 4. Chow Chun Fai
- 5. Yip Kai Chun

Proposed Artwork List and Images

Harrison Tso, *Star*, installation with light box and paper, each 180 x 49cm

He uses running script to write the song Stars (凡星) composed by Hong Kong singer Panther Chan, transforming the cadence of the song into a lyrical flow of pauses and turns in calligraphy and expressing his feelings in the process of pursing dreams.





Apple Wong and Goodbye Victoria, *Painting with Music*, 2021 acrylic paintings and digital illustrations, dimension variable https://hkartion.com/2021/08/17/listening-to-cantopop-through-art/

They extract parts of lyrics from well-known songs in the 1980s and 90s and transform them into pop art paintings, enabling the textual and poetic meanings in songs to become visible.

Siu Hak, <i>One Must be Hung</i> , 2010, video with sound, 3 min 38 sec https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idJLb6equVU He rewrites the lovelorn lyrics of Eason Chan's Nakedness (一絲不掛) and create a derivative
piece in motion comics called <i>One Must be Hung</i> (一支得掛) that encourages people to face the absurd and dumfounding life with an openminded attitude.
Chow Chun Fai, <i>Reproducing "Front Page" theme song</i> , 2009, video with sound, 1 min 50 sec https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnnA4fjbUSo
He reproduces the song <i>Who Cares 97</i> in the film <i>Front Page</i> using motion hand-drawn paintings. The combination of the bustling Hong Kong city scenes and the humorous lyrics sang by Sam Hui swept away concerns about migration and the economy before the 97 handovers, encouraging viewers to take an optimistic attitude in facing social changes in HK.
Yip Kai Chun, <i>Hakkaoke</i> , 2020, video with sounds, 30 min https://yipkaichuns.com/hakkaoke/
He develops a participatory karaoke programme to invite villagers in Chuen Lung Village in Hong Kong to sing pop song in Hakka dialect, a language that used by very few people nowadays. The video is a recording of these Hakka pop songs and through them explore themes of identities, social engagement, and indigenous languages in Hong Kong.

Schedule and Implementation Plan

September 2024	- Confirm artwork list	
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October 2024	Text writingDevelop publicity visuals and exhibition designHire helper/security
Early November	- Confirm exhibition plan and installation setup plan
Mid November	Start publicityArtwork Shipping and custom clearing
Early December	Artwork arrivesPrinting matters ready
Mid of December	- Exhibition setup
End of December 2024 / early 2025	- Exhibition starts
End of January 2026	- Exhibition deinstalls

Budget

Items	Price
Artwork loan Fees Loan fee for six works for a month – HKD10,000 x 5 artists	HKD50,000
Exhibition installation - Audio and Lighting	HKD10,000
Exhibition installation – purchase AV equipment such as projectors and TVs	HKD10,000
Exhibition Technician for installation and mounting	HKD10,000
Exhibition Visual Design and Poster Design	HKD10,000
Printing	HKD5,000
Translation and Editing	HKD5,000
Packing and Shipping (inbound and outbound)	HKD20,000
Deinstallation	HKD10,000

Security and/or helper for the one-month exhibition (£ 15/hour x 9 hr work x 28 days)	HKD40,000
Return Flight Ticket for Exhibition Setup (if any)	HKD20,000
Hotel for Exhibition Setup (assume a week) (£50 per day x 7 days)	HKD3,500
Decoration and Refreshment for Exhibition Opening (if any)	HKD2,000
Contingency	HKD10,000
Total	HKD205,550