YES BUT WHY?

王天仁 拾萬個為甚麼 **WONG TIN YAN**

「M+敢探號」 教材套

M+ ROVER TEACHER'S RESOURCE **PACK**

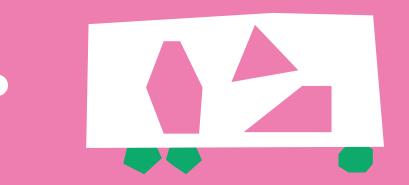


M+ROVER/ 政採號 2020 — 2021

Mナ敢探號 ROVER!







「M+ 敢探號」自2016年起穿梭香港各中學校園和社區, 既是流動展覽空間,又是創作教室。2020年,這輛 特製拖車初次啟航到小學校園,藉着專為小學生而設 的教學活動,鼓勵學生與創作人交流對話,並記錄學生 自然流露的想法與回應。展覽隨藝術家及學生的參與而 每天蛻變,並在校園及社區展出不斷演化的創作成果。 M+ Rover is a travelling creative studio and exhibition space that has visited local secondary schools and community spaces since 2016. In 2020, it reaches out for the first time to primary-school students. Through learning activities specially designed for students in this age group, the programme encourages dialogue between students and creative practitioners. Documenting the students' intuitive ways of thinking and responses, M+ Rover features an exhibition that evolves as it travels from school to school and as artists and students contribute to it.

參與學校的師生可參與展覽導賞,以及兩節由藝術家 主導的校內活動。此外,教師可使用此教材套,帶領學生 深入認識藝術家及其創作意念,並以此為起點,討論及 組織相關活動,延展「M+ 敢探號」的學習體驗。 Teachers and students from the participating schools can join guided tours and two sessions of artist-led school activities. In addition, teachers can initiate discussions and related activities with this resource pack, enhancing students' experience.

本教材套簡介王天仁及其委約作品 《拾萬個為甚麼?》,並藉着簡介其過 往作品概述藝術家的創作意念。教師 可按課堂所需,讓學生在「M+ 敢探號」 訪校前,了解王天仁的背景與創作,更可 運用其中內容以設計延伸活動,作為 訪校體驗的延展或未來計劃的起點。

This resource pack explores
Wong Tin Yan's artistic practice
through his commissioned work
Yes but Why? and his other
projects. The information provided
can be used to fit your lesson plan,
helping students learn about the
artist and his work before they join
M+ Rover. This can also be used for
extended activities to follow up on
experiences or as starting points
for further projects.

關於王天仁

《拾萬個為甚麼?》

作品選輯

藝術實踐—— 系列—

卡通木雕

《怪獸》、《大鵬鳥》

爲列二

參與式創作

《動物三輪車》、《變色龍》、《木卡板遊樂園》、《天問》

爲刚三

策展與合作

《合舍》

系列四

大眾媒介

《好想藝術》(2018)

ABOUT WONG TIN YAN

YES BUT WHY?

SELECTED WORKS

ARTISTIC PRACTICE— SERIES ①

WOODEN CARTOON SCULPTURES

Monster, Big Bird

SERIES @

PARTICIPATORY WORK

Animal Bicycles, Chameleon,
The Wooden Pallet Playground, No Question Allowed

SERIES ®

CURATION AND COLLABORATION

Form Society

SERIES @

MASS MEDIA

Artspiration (2018)

18

22

26

大學畢業後,王天仁沒有當全職藝術家, 而是選擇投身於兒童藝術教育的工作, 並在工餘時間持續創作。儘管事業漸趨 穩定,他仍樂於接受不同形式的委約 創作機會,在內心不懈探索的欲望湧動 之下,他辭去全職的教學工作,專注於 木雕創作,同時參與各種被視為與藝術 無關的計劃,如撰寫報章和雜誌專欄等。 他更於 2017 年創辦自資藝術空間 「合舍」,集合來自不同界別的人, 舉辦各類型的文化藝術活動。翌年更 擔任香港電台電視節目《好想藝術》 主持,一反固有的想法,由廢木創作 拓展至更開闊的領域。 在二十年創作生涯中,王天仁不斷思考何謂藝術。擔任《好想藝術》節目主持期間,他與觀眾討論了有關創意、社區藝術、文化消費及藝術教育等議題。每集節目均以輕鬆的戲劇開場,向我們習以為常的社會現象提出疑問,從中引導觀眾思考藝術之於生活的用處。對王天仁來說,這些問題從來沒有單一答案,而提問就是為了引起觀眾參與對話的興趣,藉此啟發不一樣的思考和想像。

据方令 形式 二

ABOUT ABOUT

Wong Tin Yan, known for his wooden sculptures, is a sculptor, art educator, TV host, founder of a self-funded art space, and elected district councillor. His wideranging career is characterised by an eagerness to question the norms of society. A graduate of the Department of Fine Arts of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2000, Wong has maintained an inquisitive spirit since his college days. He questions the established definitions of art practice and has created a series of sculptures with discarded wooden pallets that challenge the conventional perception of 'high art'. With a seemingly random yet practical choice of materials, he incorporates humour and playfulness in his work, displaying a carefree approach to art-making.

Unlike some of his classmates, Wong did not become a full-time artist after graduation. Instead, he devoted himself to teaching art to children while creating works during his free time. Yet, despite a stable career and family life, he felt unfulfilled during this period. Motivated by an inner urge to continuously inquire, explore, and

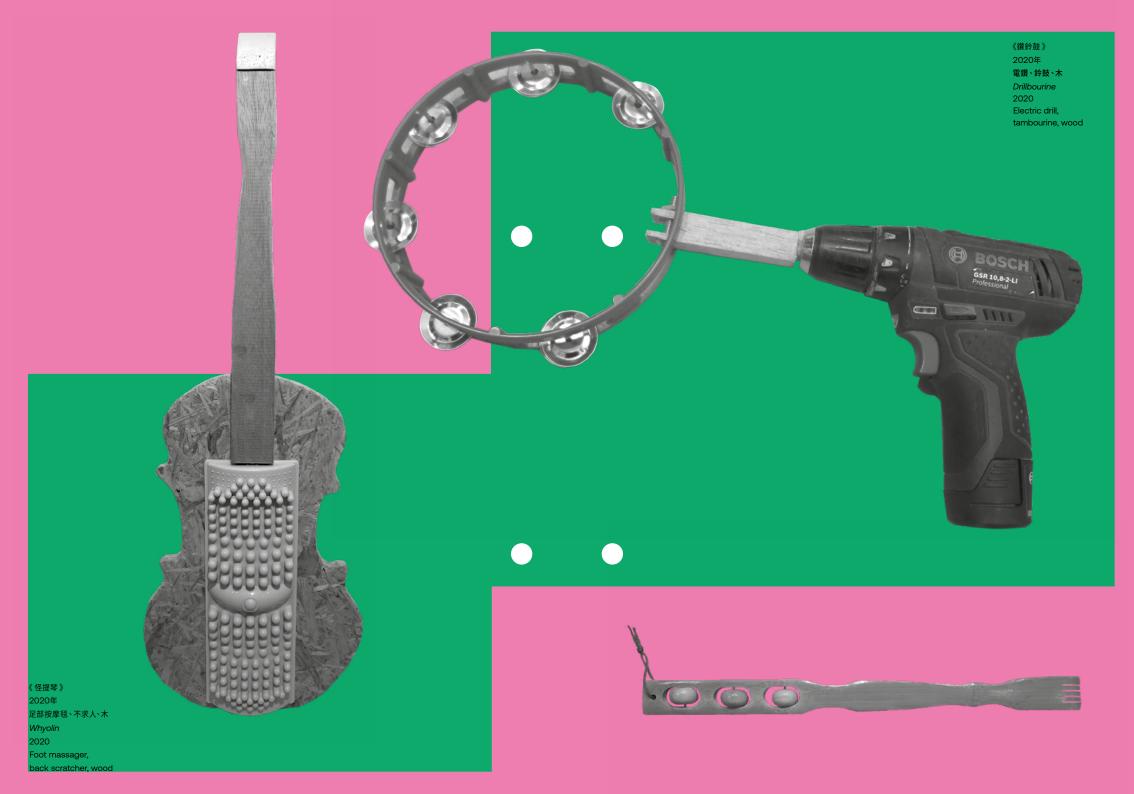
discover, he quit his full-time teaching job and focused on creating wooden sculptures. He also ventured into projects that were considered by some as irrelevant to art, such as writing columns for newspapers and magazines. His interests in the concept of bricolage and tinkering with materials led to his founding of the self-funded art space Form Society in 2017 and participation as a host of the RTHK television programme Artspiration in the following year. Through these activities, Wong expanded his artistic practice, as he sought to challenge assumptions and look for alternative approaches to art and life.

For instance, Form Society was an attempt to seek alternatives to the local industry's long-standing practice of relying on the government and commercial galleries to provide venues for art and culture. By establishing the art space in the bustling neighbourhood of Sham Shui Po, Wong turned it into a venue for mini-exhibitions, workshops, and gatherings, making art more accessible to the public.

To preserve the culture of tinkering, Wong invited a group of local carpenters and metal workers to help repair the broken objects in the neighbourhood. Bringing together members of the community and cultural practitioners from various disciplines, these art spaces became important sites for exchanges and gathering insights into issues related to art, education, urban development, and the general well-being of the city.

Throughout the twenty years of his practice, Wong has continued to reflect on questions surrounding art and its relationship to society. In hosting the weekly programme Artspiration, he discussed topics related to creativity, communitybased art, cultural consumption, and art education. He raised questions in the form of a lighthearted play at the opening of each show, prompting viewers to reconsider the relevance of art to life. To Wong, these questions do not lead to a single answer or solution. Instead, they are intended to initiate and engage viewers in a dialogue that generates alternative ways of thinking.

MONGTINXAN



YESBUT WHY?

拾萬個為甚麼?

「點解唔可以問點解?」提問有助我們質疑既定的成見,也反映了我們學習和探索的渴望。

「M+ 敢探號」巡迴香港不同小學, 為學生在校園內提供與別不同的學習 空間,從中獲取知識、表達思想,以及 最重要的是,提出問題。藝術家王天仁 相信,提問是學習的重要工具,而他就 藉其作品《拾萬個為甚麼?》,為學生 營造一個鼓勵他們尋根究底的學習 環境。藝術家邀請學生寫下他們對日常 生活的疑問,張貼在展覽空間。隨着 學生的提問在校園巡迴期間不斷累積, 他希望藉着記錄大家出於直覺的想法 和回應,把「M+ 敢探號」化身成求知 探索的場地。

王天仁特意邀請不同界別的文化工作者 參與這趟探索旅程,開拓學生對創作 的想像。合作單位包括致力推廣聲音 藝術的團體「聲音掏腰包」,着眼於 探索建築與周邊環境連繫的設計及 建築工作室「東西建築」,還有「深食」 這個設計師組合,他們發掘食物背後種 種與世界的聯繫,對日常進食體驗給予 新的理解。于天仁從這些合作者和其他 創作人的作品中汲取靈感,提出一連串問題,從而啟發學生以手來「回應」, 隨自己的想法發展出與別不同的方案, 擺脫既有的思考框架。王天仁以鎚子、 橡筋和衣架等日常用品為素材,創作 《怪提琴》及《鑽鈴鼓》等雕塑及裝置 作品。他透過這些外形趣怪的創作, 一反物料和工具慣有的使用方式,再把 尋常的工具陳列在作品一旁,以這種 並置對照的手法,激發學生跳出慣常 思維,培養出自己一套看待事物的眼光。

王天仁在好奇心驅使下,馳騁於聲音、 建築和食物等不同領域,不僅為學生, 也為自己帶來新的洞見。他藉着與各 範疇的文化工作者交流,對身處的世界、 自己的興趣和人生取向等都有了更深刻 的了解。因此,「M+ 敢探號」提供了 難得的平台,讓藝術家、合作者、教師 和學生交流對話。參與計劃的各人可以 汲取彼此的知識和經驗,成為對方的 重要資源,互相啟示探索的新方向, 而在此持續學習的過程中,大家得以 用不一樣的世界觀繼續尋究探索之旅。 'Why do we need to question?'
Questioning is an effective way to
challenge assumptions, and it reflects
a desire to learn and explore.

Touring to primary schools across Hong Kong, M+ Rover offers students an alternative space on campus to acquire knowledge, express their thoughts, and importantly, ask questions. Yes but Why? is artist Wong Tin Yan's effort to create an environment that motivates students to stay curious and that emphasises questioning as an important tool for learning. In this exhibition, Wong invites students to write down questions and post them around the exhibition space, including the exterior walls and the surfaces of the outdoor installations built from classroom furniture. In documenting these intuitive ideas and responses, the artist transforms M+ Rover into a site of inquiry.

To broaden students' creative horizons, Wong invites collaborators from a wide range of fields to join in this adventure of inquiry. The collaborators include soundpocket, an organisation which promotes sound art; Orient Occident Atelier, a design and architecture studio looking into the connection between structures and surrounding spaces; and Deep Food, a team of designers who seek to create 'edible experiences' by unearthing the potential of food. Drawing inspiration from the work of these collaborators and other practitioners, Wong poses a series of questions that help students liberate themselves from habitual ways of thinking. These questions have no definite answers and students may 'respond' with their hands by creating works of their own. To expose students to different possibilities, Wong places in the M+ Rover space everyday tools such as hammers, elastic bands, and clothes hangers, alongside his works of art like Whyolin and Drillbourine, which are composed of these objects. This juxtaposition challenges the traditional understanding of the items that surround us in daily life and inspires students to think unconventionally.

Driven by a curious spirit, Wong's venturing into the fields of music, culinary arts, and architecture brings new insights not only to the students, but also to himself. In his exchange with the various cultural practitioners, Wong has discovered more about himself and the world around him, including his interests and preferences in life. In this light, M+ Rover is a valuable platform for artists, collaborating practitioners, teachers, and students to interact and engage in dialogues with one another to provoke fresh thinking and inquiry. Drawing on the knowledge and experience of different parties in the programme, participants become important resources for each other, and in this ongoing process of learning, they come to view the world through a different lens, continuing on their journey of questioning with renewed perspectives.

觀看展覽介紹短片

An introductory video of the exhibition is available at https://youtu.be/zP2expF9t2s

作品選輯

SELECTED WORKS

ARTISTIC PRACTICE — SERIES

WOODEN CARTOON SCULPTURES

藝術家藉着非主流的創作形式、 物料及作品造型,使那些只被少數 人接受和認可,甚至被忽視的事物 能被看見。

王天仁早期的木雕創作沒寄語甚麼 大道理,旨為用雙手及手邊有限的工具 和物料,創造出外型趣怪的作品,吸引 觀眾的目光。

王天仁相信「朽木都可雕」,即使破爛 的物料也有其用處。修讀藝術期間, 身邊同學普遍鍾情於創作繪畫等平面 作品,他則選用鮮有人青睞的木卡板為 媒材,創作以動物造型為基礎的雕塑 及裝置,其似是而非的形態,配上一雙 卡通眼睛後,外觀更顯怪誕,與傳統 觀念中的藝術品截然不同。他的作品 捨棄深遠的寓意,但求簡單直接,讓 觀眾感受箇中的幽默及童趣。

對王天仁來說,藝術沒有特定框架, 能容納任何可能,而他奇形怪狀的 作品放在畫廊之中,與其他精緻亮麗 的作品相映成趣時,便有助激發觀眾 對習以為常的事物提出疑問,藉此 探問一種觀賞藝術的新方法。



Through their choice of materials, designs, or an unconventional approach to art, artists can bring into view things that are generally overlooked but deserve attention.

Wong Tin Yan did not introduce any big ideas in his early sculptures. Instead, he sought to create art with his hands and the limited tools and materials available at the time, drawing the audience's attention to the unique playfulness of his works.

Wong has worked with sculptures and installations since his years as an art student. His choice of using wooden pallets to create his works was a rare artistic decision among his class, who focused mostly on graphic art and painting. Most of his sculptures cannot be identified as specific objects but suggest the shapes of animals. The cartoonish eyes add to the absurdity of these sculptures, which defy traditional understandings of aesthetics and evaluation of art. In favour of simplicity and directness, Wong seeks to convey in his works a childlike sense of humour-rather than profound meanings—with the hope of bringing joy and amusement to the audience. By making his works easily approachable, Wong subverts the common perception that art is difficult to understand.

Seeing distinctive patterns on wood as unique features, Wong retains the original appearance of the materials used in his works. To him, his sculptures of bulky, irregular forms create an interesting contrast with other delicate works when they are displayed in the same gallery, and the contrast prompts viewers to question the norms and conventions.

WOODEN CARTOON SCULPTURES

Chameleon

參與式創作



Animal Bicycles 2013年

Wooden pallets and bicycles

藝術不一定能解決生活難題,但其 可「用」之處,在於能逐漸顯現乍看 之下隱而不顯的情境,把人與人、 人與環境莫可名狀的關係展現於 觀眾的視野之下。

王天仁藉着其公共藝術作品,嘗試 搭建一個隨觀眾自主參與的平台, 透過觀眾與作品的互動,把人的行為 習慣、想法,甚至個體與環境的牽繫, 都一一呈現出來。

王天仁曾以卡通動物造型來設計椅子 及單車等實用的休憩設施,創作出互動 裝置作品《變色龍》、《動物三輪車》 及《木卡板遊樂園》。《變色龍》於台北 東區當代藝術展「粉樂町」的場地展出, 置身在公園之中,鼓勵遊人與作品互動。 至於曾展示於香港文化博物館展覽 「藝想天開:啟迪潛能之旅」,擺放在

博物館露天中庭的《動物三輪車》及 《木卡板遊樂園》,則把觀眾的參與變為 其作品的一部分。觀眾可自行把《動物 三輪車》騎到休憩空間的不同角落,也 可在《木卡板遊樂園》中放聲喧嘩、四處 攀爬,令原本靜態的雕塑隨觀眾的參與 轉變外貌,由此讓公共空間的風景不斷 變化,與玻璃幕牆內安靜的展館形成 強列對比。

另一件場域特定作品《天問》設於香港 政府總部,作品的涵意與設置的場地 相互關聯,其周圍的空間也構成作品 本身。王天仁邀請觀眾在作品寫上觀後 感,在公共場域提供一片記載及展示 個人情感或思考的空間。對藝術家而言, 由背景中高聳的辦公大樓,以至圍着 木雕裝置在海旁參觀的觀眾,也在勾勒 這件作品的輪廓,將箇中各方的權力 關係娓娓道來。

PARTICIPATORY



The value of art lies in its potential to open up possibilities for creative interventions, thinking, and expression that leave the underlying meanings open to interpretation.

Wong Tin Yan's public art encourages the audience's participation and interaction, bringing to light people's behaviours, habits, thoughts, and the relationships between individuals and the environment. He designed a series of recreational facilities inspired by cartoon animals, such as benches and bicycles, which have been showcased in different venues. For instance, his Animal Bicycles and The Wooden Pallet Playground were featured in the exhibition Intelligence Infinity: Inspiration through Art organised in 2013 by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Visitors were free to ride and experience the bikes to stimulate different understandings and interpretations of the work. Displayed in the open-air atrium of the museum, The Wooden Pallet Playground was designed to be climbed upon. By allowing viewers to freely play with the work, Wong transformed the exhibition space into a site of participation and social engagement. These activities changed the surrounding landscape and scenery,

which was a stark contrast to the quiet indoor spaces in the museum.

In 2015, an interactive installation designed by Wong, titled *Chameleon*, was highlighted in *The Very Fun Park Contemporary Art Exhibition* in Taipei. The animal sculptures were presented in public playgrounds and parks in the Eastern District of the city, inviting viewers to interact with the work.

No Question Allowed, another site-specific work of Wong's, was mounted outside Hong Kong's Central Government Complex in 2018. Viewers were invited to write their thoughts on the sculptures. Through this work, Wong created a space for expressing and documenting personal feelings and ideas on a public site. To him, the high-rise buildings in the backdrop and the viewers at the waterfront helped to situate the work, displaying the underlying power relations between the various stakeholders in the city.

《木卡板遊樂園》 2013年 木卡板 The Wooden Pallet Playground 2013

Wooden pallets

WORK



(4)

在自己定立的創作框架下,邀請 他人加入一起創作,當中所帶來 的不確定性,能打開及拓展局限 的概念,給予大家在創作過程中 更多選擇。

在2017年,王天仁在深水埗大南街開設了「合舍」(Form Society)。他視這個置身於社區的空間為作品,讓自己能就地取材,實踐各式各樣的藝術及文化項目,從而匯聚社區之中的人和事。藝術家從字面解讀「合舍」:「就是一個由不同的團體組成(form)的自主部分,讓人積極地實驗不同想法,藉此連成一個網絡,甚至組織(society)。」

王天仁銳意從人與人的差異之中找到 互相協作的契機。他自稱是二房東, 意謂自己出租「合舍」地舖的空間予 不同的團體來舉辦展覽、放映會及 文化沙龍等活動,一方面平衡營運的 開支,另一方面了解自己所熟悉範疇 以外的知識。他從協商活動的過程中, 融匯自己與合作單位各方面的想法, 使原定的內容延伸至更多面向。面對 陌生或一竅不通的知識領域,王天仁 就是以「先學習」的態度,使自己大開 眼界,從中尋找更多貼近自己心意的 可行選擇。

街道旁設有可活動式開合的舖面,即使街坊匆匆走過,也能探頭一窺舖內的活動,甚至隨意參與或交流意見。 王天仁認為,在「合舍」這個倡議共學及凝聚社群資源的平台,知識不再限於專家,門外漢也可是知識分子,不同 背景的人也能在此發揮所長。



Bringing others into your own creative framework may lead to uncertainties but can also result in greater possibilities, enabling more options for creativity.

In 2017, Wong Tin Yan founded Form Society, an art and cultural space on Tai Nan Street in Sham Shui Po. He sees this four-year project as an artwork, in which he draws on materials available at hand to realise his visions. In this autonomous space, individuals and groups have the freedom to experiment with different ideas, through which they form together a meaningful network.

Wong seeks collaborative opportunities in differences. He sees himself as the 'landlord' in this project, who sublets the ground-floor space of Form Society to groups for exhibitions, screenings, and art salons. It is a way for the artist to support the operation of the art space and introduce himself to people with different interests and specialties. Motivated by a desire to learn, Wong broadens his own horizons by venturing into unfamiliar territory, where he discovers new possibilities for autonomy.

Featuring a movable storefront, the entrance of the art space allows people on the street to see what is happening inside, inviting them to go in and share their thoughts. Wong considers Form Society as a platform for co-learning and bringing together community resources. There, all members are equal in terms of knowledge and experience and are free to share their ideas and values.

CURATION AND COLLABORATION

FORM SOCIETY ARTISTIC PRACTICE - SERIES **® CURATION AND COLLABORATION** 圖片由 Kris Kang 提供 Image courtesy of Kris Kang 2017至今 2017-present Art space

「抄考定致敬?究竟點樣秤?」及「全職藝術家,實係會餓瓜?」等押韻的節目命題,是王天仁擔任香港電台電視節目《好想藝術》主持時的創作。他為每集制定一個與藝術和生活相關的主題,設計並自演一段開場白,在泳池及茶餐廳等熟悉的生活場景中,輕鬆地提出問題,回應及轉變大眾對文化藝術的普遍觀念。

王天仁跨越藝術家角色和身分的邊界, 由作品背後走到幕前,借用大眾媒介的 影響力,讓電視節目中演員的動作、對白, 甚至佈景,也可成為嶄新的藝術語言,使 藝術的概念普及至更廣大的觀眾層面。 藝術家在節目中經常以一種「眾人皆醉我獨醒」的姿態背向其他人物角色,臉向鏡頭獨白,彷彿是一位不願隨波逐流的人,能於群體之中獨立思考、保持清醒。他更稱主持這個角色為「導想員」,相較於傳統展覽的「導賞員」,「導想員」不着重提供實際資料或答案,反之強調啟發思考和想像;電視機則成了引起好奇心的匣子,即使觀眾安坐家中,也能想多一點點。對王天仁而言,他嚮往的創作就像一條打開不同匣子的百合匙,打開通往不同知識領域的門,重新審視對事物既定的理解,由此尋找標準答案以外不一樣的觀點。

The way we perceive art can be an important source of inspiration for artistic creation.

In the RTHK television programme, Artspiration, Wong Tin Yan discussed topics that explore the relevance of art to life. For instance, where is the line between plagiarism and tribute? Is an artist doomed to starve? In the form of a light-hearted play directed and performed by himself, he raised questions at the opening of each show that often features everyday scenes of people. Filmed in local places, such as swimming pools and Hong Kong-style restaurants, the programme prompts viewers to reflect on the general perception of art and its societal functions.

Playing multiple roles as a sculptor, educator, and TV host, Wong has

expanded his practice by bringing his ideas to the television screen. Making use of the power of mass media, he has developed a new artistic language through the actors' movements, dialogues, and scene designs, promoting different ways of thinking about art to a wider audience.

In his one-man plays, Wong often performs with his back facing the other characters to project the image of an independent thinker who refuses to follow others blindly. He calls himself 'the thinking docent' of the show, who seeks to encourage thinking and imagination, rather than offering an answer or a solution to the audience. He envisages artmaking as a key to broadening knowledge, and by subverting viewers' preconceptions, he hopes to inspire them to consider different perspectives in life.

《好想藝術》 2018年 電視節目 Artspiration 2018

Television programme





ARTISTIC PRACTICE — SERIES® MASS MEDIA



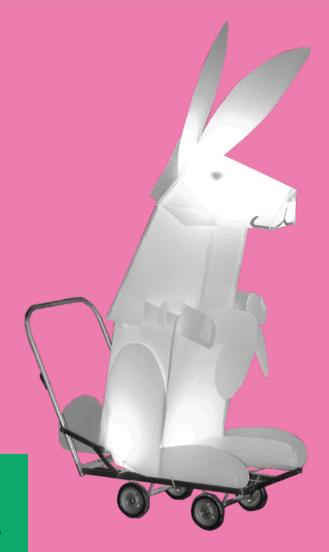






《好想藝術》 Artspiration 2018年 2018 電視節目 Television programme 圖片由香港電台提供 Images courtesy of Radio Television Hong Kong

「M+ 敢探號」 王天仁:《拾萬個為甚麼?》 由M+教學及詮釋組策劃 2020至2021年 M+ Rover
Yes but Why?
by Wong Tin Yan
Is curated by the
M+ Learning and Interpretation team
2020–2021



2019年 瓦坑膠板、LED燈管 Rabbit lantern

2019 PP hollow board, LED tubes

在此感謝王天仁構思 《拾萬個為甚麼?》及黃國才 參與「M+ 敢探號」的設計。 Special thanks to Wong Tin Yan for envisioning Yes but Why? and Kacey Wong for contributing to the design of M+ Rover.

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