

ATTN: News Desks, Arts Editors, Features Editor.

For Immediate Release

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## **Umbrella Movement artist calls on arts community to support**

### **Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize 2014**

Umbrella Movement artist and activist Kacey Wong is calling on locally-based artists to enter the Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize 2014.

Established in 2013, the Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize aims to harness the power of the visual arts – painting, photography, graphics and video amongst them – to promote awareness, provoke dialogue, inspire action and ultimately, bring about change in the area of human rights.

Organised by Justice Centre Hong Kong, the theme of this year's Prize is modern slavery and human trafficking. Entries will be judged by an eminent panel of prominent art experts and human rights specialists, including Wong; Claire Hsu, co-founder and Director of Asia Art Archive; and Judge Kevin Zervos, a judge of the High Court in Hong Kong.

The judges will announce the winners on the night of Wednesday December 10, International Human Rights Day, at the exhibition and one-night-only [Christie's](#) charity auction at [Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#) on Hollywood Road. The overall winner will be awarded HK\$ 30, 000. All funds raised on the night will go to support Justice Centre Hong Kong's work to protect the rights of refugees and survivors of modern slavery.

Artists can enter the Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize by downloading the application form at [www.justicecentre.org.hk/artsprize](http://www.justicecentre.org.hk/artsprize). Deadline for entries is **6pm on Monday November 10, 2014**.

Arts Prize judge Wong has been at the core of the Umbrella Movement, using his social networks to create action through art. Mr. Wong created an image of a red umbrella as his version of a logo for the protest, and then asked other artists to submit their own interpretations, collecting the submissions on a gallery on his [Facebook page](#). He has since been working to collect, archive and preserve many of the art works that have sprung up as part of the movement.

Wong was also a judge for the Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize last year, which attracted over 50 entries and had over 300 people attend the event at Sundaram Tagore.

**Kacey Wong** said:

*"I believe art can change the world. Art doesn't really solve the problem but it brings forward the problem. Art arouses emotion towards the problem; when enough attention is created, the problem might eventually be resolved. Be it photography, a flag, or a song that was sung in a*

*rally, art has its place and it is one of the best weapons that will free us and bring positive change to the world.*

*I am a participant as well as a performance artist and an art preservationist and activist in the Umbrella Movement supporting the students to lead political reform for high quality democratic development in Hong Kong. It is a very tiring battle but every time I see the students out there sleeping on the streets, fighting for the freedom I desired, it gives me internal strength to go out to support in any artistic way I can. I don't think this conflict will end before I die, so let's be professional about it and go for the long haul and dig in. Sometimes it is not that you see hope then you become persistent, rather it is because of your persistence there will come hope."*

**Aleta Miller**, Executive Director of Justice Centre Hong Kong, said:

*"The Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize is a great opportunity for artists to have their work judged by distinguished members of the art community and human rights specialists, to exhibit their work at the Sundaram Tagore Gallery, but also to engage with one of the biggest human rights issues in the world today.*

*Modern slavery and human trafficking is on our doorstep: as an important regional hub and both a destination and transit territory for human trafficking, Hong Kong is currently failing to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. We want to raise this issue amongst the Hong Kong public."*

**Claire Hsu**, Executive Director of Asia Art Archive, said:

*"While we in Hong Kong may think that the plight of refugees, human rights violations, human trafficking and modern day slavery are the concerns of other geographies, it is essential that we acknowledge that they are very real issues in our city, and understand that as a society and as human beings, it is something that we need to address together.*

*I believe in the potential of artists to address and raise awareness of issues that many societies find difficult to discuss or deal with. While the immediate effects of art on society may not always be apparent, what the arts does - like nothing else - is open up a very different kind of space for the discussion and imagination of an alternate future. While artists can help us to challenge preconceptions and offer different perspectives from which to view these issues, the real change needs to come in a shift in attitude about benefiting the common good."*

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

Listings Info:

**What:** Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize. Justice Centre Hong Kong's annual art prize to engage the Hong Kong arts community and public in human rights.

**When:** Wednesday December 10, 2014, International Human Rights Day, 7-10pm.

**Where:** Sundaram Tagore Gallery, 57-59 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong.

**Enquiries and information:** 3109

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Lo-res images of 2013 winning piece 'Family Photo Album: Washing' and artist Elva Lai are available

at [https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BzQiUQr01KT\\_V2hpTWITTUFIT3M&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BzQiUQr01KT_V2hpTWITTUFIT3M&usp=sharing)

Please contact [adela@justicecentre.org.hk](mailto:adela@justicecentre.org.hk) for hi-res files.

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit human rights organisation working fearlessly to protect the rights of Hong Kong's most vulnerable forced migrants - refugees, other people seeking protection and survivors of modern slavery. Launched in 2014, Justice Centre Hong Kong was formerly Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (HKRAC) which, over a period of seven years, helped more than 2,000 refugee men, women and children on the road to a new life. [www.justicecentre.org.hk](http://www.justicecentre.org.hk).