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Press Release

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## Hong Kong Arts Centre 23rd ifva Festival Creative Talents Gathered for Mind-blowing Creativity

Organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre, sponsored by Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the curtain for the 23rd **ifva** Festival was lifted with the press conference held today. Guests included: **producer of *Ten Years* Andrew Choi, renowned film and cultural studies scholar Dr. Mary Wong, curator of M+ Moving Image Ulanda Blair, media artist Tamás Waliczsky, veteran animator Lo Che-ying, animation creator Paperbox Creations, Head of Film Programmes of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department Mable Ho, Programme Director of Hong Kong Arts Centre Teresa Kwong, and ifva Director Kattie Fan** and the different sponsoring parties. Finalists of Open, Youth, Media Art and Animation Categories received certificates from the jurors at today's press conference, and also introduced and shared their thoughts on their works. The 23rd **ifva** Festival will commence on 6 March with media art exhibition "CINEMA 2.0: Dark Mirrors", which is to be held concurrently with the finalist showcase of the Media Art Category of the **ifva** Awards. Works by finalists of other categories will be screened during the festival, and winners will be announced on 17 March at the Awards Presentation Ceremony.

### Finalists Depicting Contemporary Struggle in the World

With an overwhelming of 1216 applications, the jury panel of **ifva** carefully selected 49 finalist works for the five categories. Among the ten finalist shorts of Open Category, same as their predecessors, touch on the different aspects of urban lives: Chan Hau-chun and Chui Chi-yin's *Call Me Mrs Chan* documents the daily life of a cleaner for public housing estate; award-winning final year project of PolyU Digital Media students *Horizon* is a sci-fi of an ordinary man trying to fly to the universe; and Ren Xia's black metaphor *Even Ants Strive for Survival* is a prophecy of a near future where names are replaced by numbers. Pressure from schoolwork and studies become the most popular topic for Youth Category finalists, making the playful entries even more precious. Animation Category accepts entries from the rest of Asia area, which includes *Stories About Him* from Taiwan and *Watching* from China. Golden Horse-winning *Losing Sight of a Longed Place*, and *Wind Fire Lam Chung* which features the hero from *The Water Margin* are among the great works by local animators. Asian New Force Category opens for all Asian talents, and audience will be able to experience the different culture and aesthetics from Southeast Asia and Middle East all at once. Media Art Category showcases works from local and Asian creative, in nine pieces of works, familiar issues such as personal perceptions, urban environment, and cryptocurrency, are defamiliarised by media with which boundaries are being pushed by the respective artists.

Tickets for Finalist Showcases of Open Category, Youth Category, Animation Category and Asian New Force Category will be on sale on 2 February at URBTIX.

### CINEMA 2.0 Exhibition reflecting the Different Faces Beyond Cinema

Media Art Exhibition "CINEMA 2.0: Dark Mirrors" discusses cinema as a medium of faces, the difference faces which we encounter or never thought of which we see ourselves as much as we see others. Works include: Heather Dewey-Hagborg's controversial series *Stranger Vision*, a collection of 3D printed life size portraits based on the DNA

extracted from hair, cigarette butts and chewed gums from New York City. Korean duo Shinseungback Kimyonghun brings with them four works that put audiences' ability of face detection into challenge. Acci Baba hopes to convey an immortal message to mankind through a 3D animated ape which sings golden classic song and reads philosophy writings. Media Art Category Finalist Showcase will be held concurrently. Exhibition runs from 6 - 20 March at Hong Kong Arts Centre Pao Galleries. Free admission.

### Golden Horse-winning Directors Sharing and Screening

ifva is honoured to have two Golden Horse directors to visit Hong Kong. Juror of Asian New Force Category, Taiwan director Tom Lin will be present for a sharing session to talk about the challenging journey of creating, where two of his award-winning short films *The Olfactory System* and *The Pain of Others* will be shown. Animation Category juror, renowned animator Liu Jian from China will also lead a master class along with a couple of his animated short films. There will be an open-air screening at Tamar Park on 2 Mar, showing Open Category juror, local independent director Fruit Chan's *Little Cheung*, as one of the Jockey Club ifva Everywhere – People Cinema screenings. This Golden Horse-winning film not only is the final episode of Fruit Chan's "1997 Trilogy" but is also his love letter to Hong Kong.

For programme details and the list of ifva Finalists, please visit [www.ifva.com/Festival](http://www.ifva.com/Festival).

### 23rd ifva Festival tickets will be on sale on 2 Feb at URBTIX.

Date : 6 – 20 March 2018

Details and Trailer : [www.ifva.com/Festival](http://www.ifva.com/Festival)

Enquiry : [ifva@hkac.org.hk](mailto:ifva@hkac.org.hk) / 2824 5329

ifva Festival Programme and Ticketing Brochure:

<http://www.ifva.com/wp-content/uploads/23rd-ifva-Festival-Programme-and-Booking-Brochure.pdf>

Art Direction: This edition of ifva has invited Animation Silver Award winning team Paperbox Creations from 21st ifva to design promotional items and trailer with the theme of "mind-blowing creativity".



#### About ifva

Organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre, ifva is an incubator for film and visual media in Asia (formerly the Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards). Founded in 1995, ifva serves as a platform that actively promotes and encourages creative talents in Asia, making short films, videos, animation and media arts. With a cutting-edge vision and highlight independent spirit, ifva has evolved to promote different visual cultures while exploring the boundless potential of creative media. In addition to the annual competition and festival, ifva curates a host of programmes under two initiatives, "Cultivation" and "Engagement". By connecting creative communities all over the world, ifva aims to engage everyone in the art of creation. ifva is also a core event of Entertainment Expo Hong Kong.



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