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Hong Kong Arts Centre The 24th **ifva** Festival Artists From All Over the World Counter Negativity with Creativity

Organised by Hong Kong Arts Centre and sponsored by Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the press conference of the 24th **ifva** Festival was held today to announce programme details. Guests in attendance included: cinematographer and director **O Sing-pui**, **Amos Why**, director of *Napping Kid*, **Andrew Choi**, producer of *Ten Years*, experienced animator **Albert Yu Ka-ho**, **Ng Seung Ho**, chairman of the Hong Kong Society of Illustrators, media artist **Bryan Chung**, independent director **Wong Fei-Pang**, Hong Kong Arts Centre Programme Director **Teresa Kwong**, **ifva** director **Kattie Fan**, as well as various supporting organisations. Jury members from various categories awarded finalist certificates to Hong Kong-based artists in the Open, Youth, Animation and Media Arts categories, who also took the opportunity to introduce their works and explain the creative ideas behind them.

The 24th **ifva** Festival will begin on 6 March 2019, and the opening act is media arts exhibition “CINEMA 2.0: Acrylic Dreams” and exhibition of Media Arts Category finalist works. Finalist shorts from the **ifva** awards will be shown during the festival while award winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on 16 March 2019.

Competition Finalists Showcasing Various Aspects of the City

This edition of **ifva** showcases 50 finalist works from 5 categories, selected from a total of 796 applications this year. The 10 finalists in the Open Category include narrative works as well as several documentaries and experimental films. These works probe the various relationships between people in addition to that between people and the city. Law Wai-leung’s mockumentary *Be a Rider or a Fool* features a locally-born ethnic minority youth as the protagonist; Jun Li’s experimental short *My World* is a fantastical ode to youth; true to its name, Chau Po-kit’s *busydoingnothing* expresses the attitude of young people nowadays; the two documentaries *Home Change* and *Family Family Day* depict unusual home and lives in matter-of-fact ways. Youth category works continue to explore realistic issues that even adults are powerless to solve, such as school bullying, animal abuse, academic pressure, which serve as accurate portraits of current society.

Among this year’s Animation Category local finalists, Mak Siu-fung’s *Infidelity* and Chan Kwun-chung, Wong Tsz-yin, Chang See-wan’s *Kin’s Hair* were nominated for Golden Horse awards, while Asian finalists include many stop motion animations such as the Singaporean work *Automatonomy* by Jerrold Chong and Mark Wee, the Japanese work *imai / Fly feat. 79, Kaho Nakamura* by Baku Hashimoto, and the Chinese work *Bye bye, Comrade* by Xu Tianlin, all of which testify to the creativity and vitality of animation artists. The ten works in the Asian New Force Category tackle issues such as gender, family, politics, and welfare, which depict life and survival in a visual manner. The finalists in the Media Art Category originate from artists from all over Asia, and the ten works use various technologies and communication methods as points of entry to explore inter-personal relationships, as well as our relationships with space and the environment, examining such familiar matters and topics from unusual perspectives.

Tickets for Open, Youth, Animation and Asian New Force Categories Finalist Showcases can be purchased at all URBTEXT outlets starting from 30 January.

CINEMA 2.0 Probes Future Myths

Cinema can be seen as modern-day myths. This year's "CINEMA 2.0: Acrylic Dreams" constructs a dreamscape using the works of four artists to imagine the shape of myths to come. Russian artist ::vtol::'s ***Umbilical Digital*** replaces the human-fed electronic pet tamagotchi with a computer algorithm; ***Oil*** crushes visitors' belongings, transforms them into sound and burns it onto discs for them to take away; Japanese artist UJINO's ***Lives in Japan*** is a six-channel video installation that records different electrical appliances and sounds. The artist will collect various items on the streets of Hong Kong and install them into a new sculpture device. ***Something Like Me / About Seeing Things*** by another Japanese artist, Akihiko Taniguchi, constructs two virtual avatars using three-dimensional scanning. The audience can take on one of the avatars and move around in virtual space. Irish artist David O'Reilly's ***Everything*** is an interactive experience that simulates various systems in nature with artificial intelligence, and ***Eye of the Dream***, which is derived from ***Everything***, depicts the evolution of the universe from the big bang to the contemporary world.

The finalists of the Media Art Group will be on display at the same venue. This exhibition will be held from 6 to 20 March at the Hong Kong Art Center's Pao Galleries and admission is free of charge.

Filmorphosis Evinces Local Artist's Evolution

This year, ifva introduces a new programme, entitled "Filmorphosis", which aims to recognise professional filmmakers who persist in their creative paths. The inaugural programme features ifva alumnus Wong Fei-pang, whose works encompass a wide variety of genres and styles, all of which display a social consciousness. This programme of Wong Fei-pang films includes his debut feature, *An Odd Fish* and five short films, which evinces his continual creative evolution.

ifva has invited Golden Horse Award-winning director Yang Li-chou to Hong Kong to conduct a Master Class and act as jury member for the Asian New Force Category. He will be bringing with him his new documentary, entitled ***Father***. In addition to attending the after-screening talk, Yang will mentor selected local artists on a one-on-one basis in his Master Class.

Jockey Club **ifva** Everywhere – People Cinema will screen ***On Trial***, featuring Leslie Cheung and Danny Chan on 1 March at the open-air Piazza at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Let us chase after our dreams together with these two late, great megastars.

For more information about programs and a complete list of **ifva** awards finalists, please visit **ifva** website (www.ifva.com/festival).

Tickets for the 24th ifva Festival will be on sale starting from 30 January 2019 (Wednesday).

Dates: 6 – 17 March 2019

Details and trailer: www.ifva.com/festival

Inquiries: ifva@hkac.org.hk / 3761 6661

ifva festival programme and booking brochure:

<https://bit.ly/2RbnzV1>

Theme design: This year, ifva has invited **ifva** alumnus Wong Fei-pang to work on its theme design. Wong and his team have created a series of promotional materials and promotional videos for the event.



About ifva

ifva, formerly the Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards, was founded by the Hong Kong Arts Centre in 1995. Over the years, **ifva** has established itself as Asia's pioneering force in short film, animation and media arts, by providing a unique and professional platform for Hong Kong and Asian creative talents to unite, exchange and promote their works.

With the aims to promote short film and media arts and defend independent creative spirit, every year in March, in addition to the professionally renowned **ifva** Awards and **ifva** Festival, **ifva** also organises a series of extended programmes including the followings: "CINEMA 2.0" media arts exhibition examines different subject matters at the intersection of arts, culture, technology and society; "All About Us" celebrates diversity and the creative voices of young people from the ethnic minority backgrounds; "Jockey Club **ifva** Everywhere" makes film and media arts accessible to people from all walks of life; and Community and School Tour encourages students to experience and appreciate different media art forms.

ifva
Hong Kong Arts Centre

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