

unusual paths  
to success

# Artist driven by passion

Wilson Lau

People looking bewildered inside a lift, close-ups of individuals sound asleep and workers taking a break on the pavement at Hollywood Road are some of the scenes captured in Silas Fong's videos and installation works.

The award-winning artist, who seeks to challenge existing values and inspire audiences, is a recent graduate of the visual arts programme at Baptist University. He has enrolled in a postgraduate course in fine arts at the Chinese University.

### Why did you become an artist?

I have always been passionate about the arts. On my first day at Baptist University, the professor asked my class of 20 if anyone wanted to become an artist after graduating. I was the only one to put up my hand.

### What has been the biggest influence on your career?

It would be my part-time work at the Asia Art Archive where I researched and studied contemporary art. I'm exposed to the thinking of artists, critics and event organisers from around the world, which has broadened my horizons. I realise that art creation is an intensive and continuous process of contemplation.

My time at Universiteit van Amsterdam [in the Netherlands where I was an exchange student] was also instrumental. I learned to be more independent, and have adopted a different perspective to examine how most Hongkongers view time and values. Many are materialistic and think "time is money". I expressed my thoughts on this issue through the video, "Stolen Time for Sale".

### What aspects of your work do you like most?

I enjoy research and the creative process, which helps me understand a subject before developing an approach to express my thoughts about it.

### What are the challenges of being an artist in Hong Kong?

Most artists take up part-time jobs because the market is small. While there has been a recent surge in contemporary arts exhibitions and an increase in exhibition venues for local artists, they don't get enough feedback from the audience. There is also a shortage of publications devoted to contemporary art. Art critics have few outlets to voice their views.

### What's your advice for young people who aspire to be artists?

The most important thing is to perfect their work. They can seek exposure by taking part in exhibitions held locally, such as the Para/Site Art Space. Young artists should not be disheartened by the lack of venues to present their work. Persevere and explore the possibility of promoting your work on the internet. Also, they should be ready to make some sacrifices, as they may need to find jobs to support their creative work.

For the full interview, go to [www.classifiedpost.com/upts](http://www.classifiedpost.com/upts)



Silas Fong

top jobs

### Airport operation agent

If you want your career to take you places, then don't miss this opportunity to join the aviation sector.

Vietnam Airlines is on the lookout for high-calibre, customer-oriented professionals to join its expanding team. The role suits proactive individuals, with a friendly disposition and who thrive under pressure, as the person will serve people from all walks of life. Some experience with airlines is preferred - in the cargo and passenger fields.

The airline offers staff a friendly work environment, flexible working conditions, attractive benefits and career opportunities. The role is based at the Hong Kong International Airport and is on a shift basis.

Computer literate and post-secondary school graduates, fluent in spoken and written English, should apply.

### Banquet sales manager

A thriving hotel is expanding its team and has an opening for a high-calibre sales professional.

The role requires a minimum of three years' relevant experience in a similar capacity, with at least one year at a managerial level. It suits an ambitious and organised individual who is driven to achieve revenue and profit targets, and is passionate about the industry.

Strong knowledge of market trends and market intelligence is necessary, as are excellent communication and negotiation skills for day-to-day dealings with guests. A positive attitude and outgoing personality, and proficiency in English, Cantonese and Putonghua, are essential. Staff are valued as an asset to the hotel, and it encourages continuous learning and offers staff opportunities for career growth.



Vietnam Airlines is the national flag carrier of Vietnam and is headquartered in Hanoi. It operates a young fleet of 70 modern aircraft, flying 75 routes to 20 domestic and 26 international destinations, with more than 290 daily flights. Vietnam Airlines is also a member of the SkyTeam global airline alliance. For more information, visit [www.vietnamairlines.com](http://www.vietnamairlines.com)

To apply, please mail applications to Unit 1004, 10th Floor, Tower 1, Lippo Centre, 89 Queensway, Admiralty, or by fax to 2869 8856. For inquiries related to the position, please call 2810 4896.



Panda Hotel is a subsidiary of Hopewell Holdings and is one of the largest hotels in Hong Kong. Situated in the heart of Tsuen Wan, the 1,026-room hotel is a popular choice for vacation and business travellers. Its vision is to ensure an environment of "Home Away From Home" for guests. Visit [www.pandahotel.com.hk](http://www.pandahotel.com.hk) for more details.

Please send full résumés with expected salary to Human Resources Department, Panda Hotel, 3 Tsuen Wah Street, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong or via e-mail to [hrm@pandahotel.com.hk](mailto:hrm@pandahotel.com.hk)

## 1st

- Young Artist Award, Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards, given out by the Hong Kong Museum of Art (2009)
- Gold award, Interactive Media Category, 14th Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards (2009)
- "40 under 40", awarded by *Perspective Magazine* this year
- One of the featured artists in the *Move On Asia 2010 Single Channel Video Art Festival* touring exhibition, which was staged at the Tate Modern in London and Para/Site Art Space in Hong Kong

## industry tracker

### Cathay aims high in recruitment drive

To cope with its expansion, Cathay Pacific plans to hire more than 300 flight attendants.

Candidates will undergo a stringent series of assessments and interviews. These include career talks, tests measuring arm reach, group discussions, proficiency tests in Putonghua and English, presentations and debates, assessments of work preferences, and one-on-one interviews.

"We will select outstanding candidates from each round, who then go on to the next stage of the selection process," says Melody Keung, career development and resourcing manager for the airline's in-flight service

department. "However, we will still consider candidates who don't pass every test. We may take more time to review their qualifications and performance, and contact them a couple of weeks later."

Applicants should have an excellent service mindset and a genuine interest in a career involving extensive customer contact. They should also be culturally sensitive since they will deal with passengers from all over the world.

Fresh graduates without significant work experience are welcome to apply.

New recruits will complete five weeks of classroom training, covering safety, emergency procedures, technical and service skills, grooming, and knowledge of different types of aircraft.

"All cabin crew are required to attend the annual emergency and safety training," Keung says.

"Special training is provided to prepare high-potential staff at different levels for future promotions." Jan Chan



### How much you earn

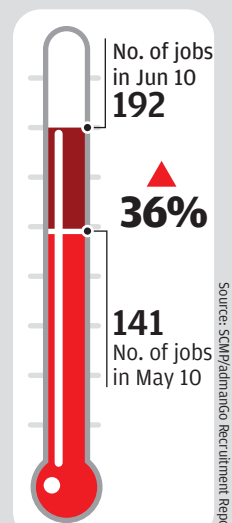
- **Senior flight purser**  
HK\$15,000 or more  
*Five years up*
- **Flight purser**  
HK\$12,000 to HK\$15,000  
*Two to five years*
- **Flight attendant**  
HK\$8,000 to HK\$10,000  
*Entry-level position*

Credit: Levin Human Capital Consulting Group

### Travel and Tourism

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the industry employed more than 235 million people around the world - 8.2 per cent of all employment - and generated 9.2 per cent of the world's GDP.

Growth in the industry in Hong Kong will have a direct impact on transportation companies, and tour operators here will have to engage highly skilled staff in multiple disciplines. For those considering a career change, or with highly transferable skills, this represents an ideal opportunity to join a sector which is expected to grow by 4.4 per cent annually for the next few years.



Source: SQMP/Admanco Recruitment Report

Paul Hotchan, head of hospitality, tourism and leisure (Asia-Pacific), Manpower Professional