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02

Reliving your childhood dreams

Tim Cheng's paintings depict children's yearning to grow up

BY PEARLIE YIU

Most of us have dreamt about being an adult when we were small. We tried to look old by wearing our mother's high-heel shoes or carrying our father's oversized suitcase. And when we have grown up, we miss the time when we were small and carefree.

Do you treasure and enjoy every moment of your yearning for adulthood?

If you are looking for something to help you relive your childhood, then "30+ Children", an exhibition of Mr Tim Cheng Chi-shing's paintings, might just be what you need.

Using simple lines and sharp colours, Mr Cheng projects the world from a child's perspective in his paintings.

One depicts a child playing with his parents' gramophone records. Another features a child pretending to smoke like adults.

All these paintings illustrate what children like to do most in their own world.

The painting entitled *My Cave* is the one that has strongest effect in awakening my childhood memories. It shows a boy hiding himself in a little box.

My sister and I used to move chairs to the corner of my mother's bedroom and created a room exclusive for us. We covered ourselves with a quilt and made that our own private place.

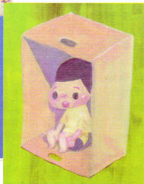
Mr Cheng's paintings provide us with the warmest reminder of our childhood, the precious moments that we may have forgotten bit by bit when we grew up.

Are we able to pursue the same happiness even though we are no longer children anymore?

There are two series of works named "Before" and "After". "Before" depicts a little boy holding a bottle of drink while "After" shows a teenager holding the same bottle of drink.

Such a contrast conveys the message that we should cherish every single moment of adulthood as we are now able to do the things that we had been longing to do when we were small.

Unlike most other painting exhibi-



Mr Tim Cheng uses simple lines and sharp colours to illustrate childhood. By Tim Cheng

tions, "30+ Children" is not held in a gallery but a café.

The organiser of the exhibition, Mr Jarvis Luk Chun-wing, who is also art coordinator of MobArt Gallery, said the idea was to let the audience enjoy the exhibition in the most comfortable way.

"This setup suits the aim of Tim's solo exhibition and aims to make people feel relax," he said.

According to Mr Luk, in traditional exhibitions, when you walk in the gallery, a staff member will follow you to offer help. But here, you can view the paintings with no one watching you.

The cozy café provides the audience with a sense of harmony between music, food and dessert, and of course Mr Cheng's paintings.

In such a setting, customers do not have to view the paintings purposefully. Rather they can have a look at the works when they are sitting in the café, having a drink with their friends.

"We can easily bring art into our daily life," Mr Luk said. "Art is not that far away from us. Everyone can view that."

I have found my precious memories in this exhibition. Have you?

30+ Children Exhibition

Time

Sept 30 to Nov 27, 2010

Venue

Pop Bites, UG/F,
3-5 Old Bailey Street, Soho, Central

Opening hours

Mon - Thu: 12 noon - 11 pm;
Fri: 12 noon - 1 am;
Sat: 10 am - 1 am;
Sun & Public Holidays: 10 am - 11 pm

Cost

Free admission

EDITED BY VIVIAN CHUI