

# DAPHNÉ MANDEL

BLUE LOTUS GALLERY



## BIOGRAPHY



Daphné explores Hong Kong's architecture while introducing imaginary and whimsical elements as a way to exploit the urban paradoxes of this city in constant metamorphosis. The evolution of her work is tied to her evolving perception of the city. In her first years in Hong Kong, her work depicted Hong Kong's facades while catching glimpses of the inside. Over the years, Daphne's works evolved into imaginary cityscapes incorporating poetry and illusion. Architectural rendering techniques permitting ultra-realism is used in contrast with more organic expressions such as painting and crayon. In Daphne's view the perfect aesthetic is the right balance between possibilities offered by contemporary digital tools and the more tactile traditional techniques. This concept mirrors Hong Kong's urban aesthetic: the luxurious and polished juxtaposed with the untidied and derelict.

Daphné MANDEL was born in 1975 in Lausanne, Switzerland to a French father and a Dutch mother and grew up in Paris. She credits her Dutch grandmother, a respected textile artist, with instilling in her a deep appreciation of art and painting. Daphné studied architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning in Versailles and graduated in 2000. She co-founded the Paris based landscape architecture and urban planning firm Gilot&Mandel Paysage. She and her partner were named "Best Young Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture Professionals" by the French Ministry of Culture (2006). As a result, a number of public parks, city centres, cultural sites, and sports venues in France and abroad bear Daphne's touch. She found inspiration in her move to Hong Kong in 2008 to explore other means of creative and artistic expression.

Daphné has been featured extensively in local and international press including the Wall Street Journal, the South China Morning Post, RTHK Radio4, BlouinArt Info, Home Journal, Zolima CityMag, Elle Décor and Architectural Digest.

# **“HONG KONG DIMENSIONS”**

Blue Lotus Gallery  
12 May – 16 June, 2018



This new body of work continues Mandel's exploration of Hong Kong's landscape. Her mixed media works on paper and digital moving collages play with the city's abrupt contrasts. The city becomes a decor and the dark alleys a stage for whimsical tales.



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*"This series is about celebrating the back alleys in an overly dense and compact city. I wanted to bring these narrow gaps and urban fractures into the light. Today these alleys are behind the scenes. They are dark. They are dirty. They are smelly. In my works, it is the rest of the city that becomes a shallow decor. They're staged dramatically using the whole theatre imagery, such as red velvet, smoke, spot lights and the red velvet curtain opens and closes on these magical scenes and blurry visions. That's my little fantasy world... reversing, the front becomes the back and that back becomes the front."*

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– Daphné Mandel, 2018



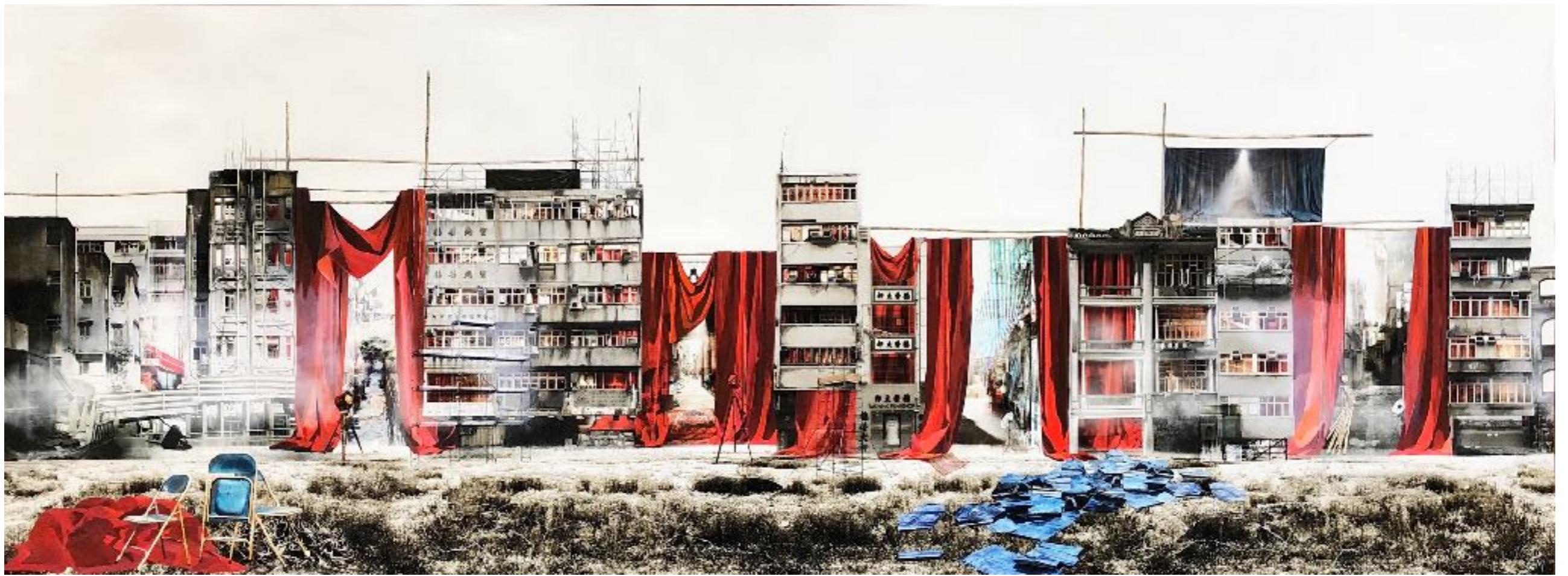
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## Daphné Mandel

*Back Alleys Backstage*  
(Hong Kong, 2018)

Size: 51 x 140 cm: \$51,500 + \$4500 frame

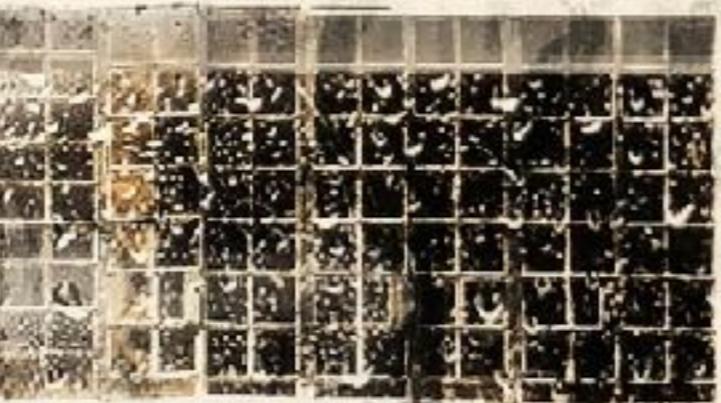
Unique Piece  
Mixed media work on paper:  
Collage, digital printing, acrylic painting, crayon

- \* Above prices are in \$ HKD
- \* Each work is signed by the Artist
- \* Price includes frame: white wooden frame with UV acrylic

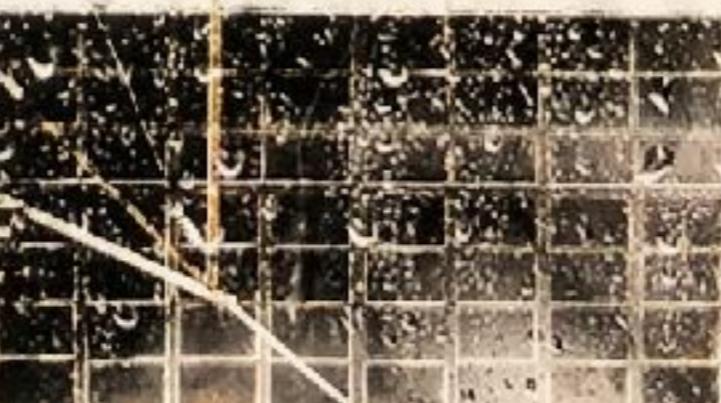
*“Mandel grew up in Paris, France, and later studied in the city of Versailles. Leaving the grandiose, 17th-century architecture of Versailles for Hong Kong's modern mash-up of shiny skyscrapers and concrete monstrosities shocked the urban planner and landscape architect into setting free her inner artist...Mandel's works makes use of acrylic paint, pastel, crayons, collage and digital printing. The multimedia approach reflects the many textures and materials used in Hong Kong architecture. The result is bright, colourful art that is somewhat surreal, but also has a sense of humour.”*

– Olivia Rosenman for SCMP, 2014

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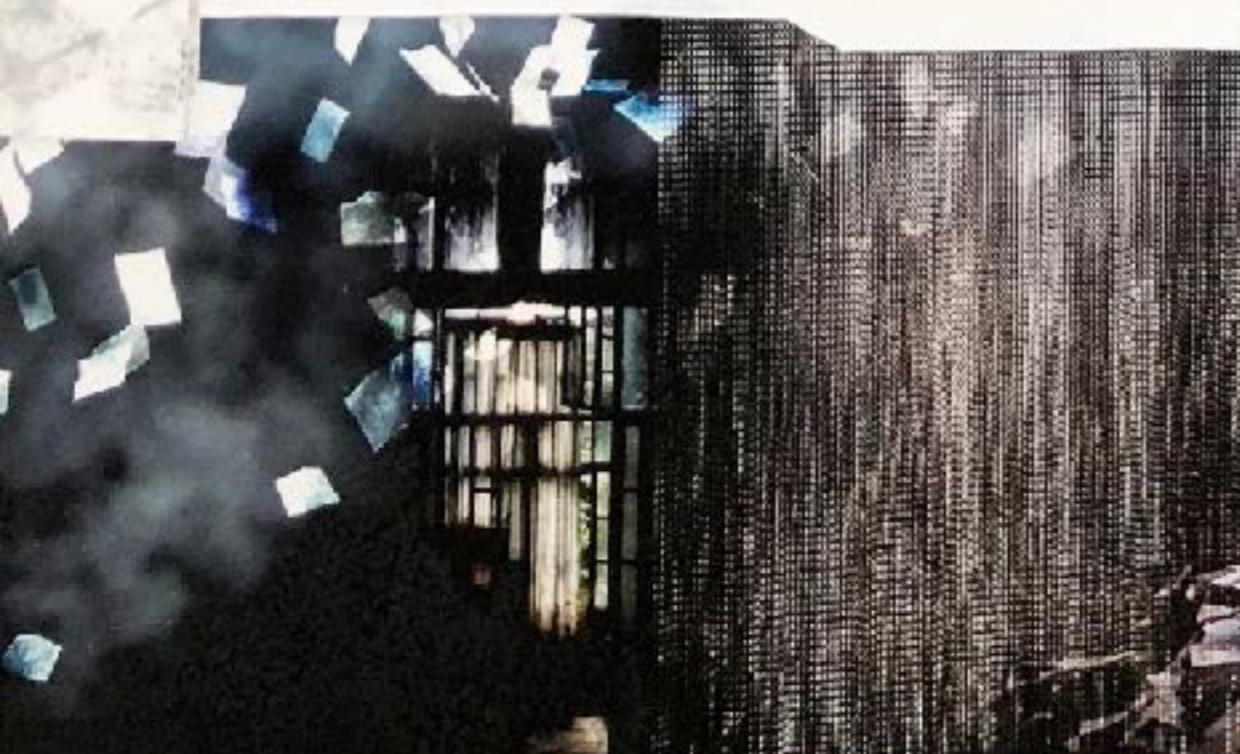
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*“Take a stroll along Hollywood Road and you’ll see that most of the buildings are rough around the edges and nowhere near as eye-catching as the glistening skyscrapers that have come to define Hong Kong. Although these rundown relics are often ignored, one French-born artist is on a mission to bring them back to life with the flick of the paintbrush and a lick of imagination.”*

– Stasia Fong for LOCALIZZ, 2014

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**Daphné Mandel**

*Dark Alleys Part 1*

(Hong Kong, 2018)

Size: 70 x 116 cm: \$48,500 + \$4500 frame

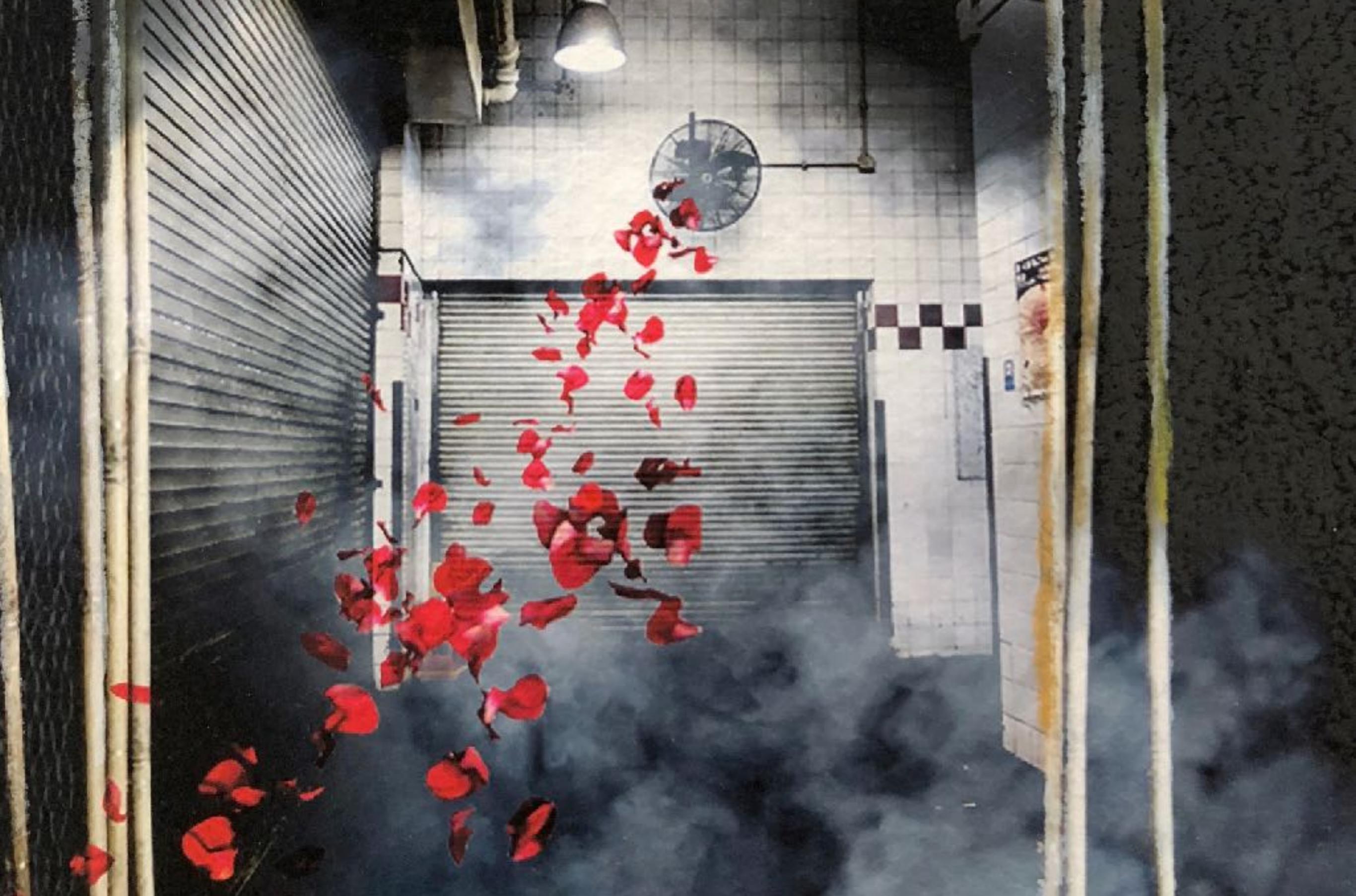
Unique Piece

Mixed media work on paper:

Collage, digital printing, acrylic painting, crayon

- \* Above prices are in \$ HKD
- \* Each work is signed by the Artist
- \* Price includes frame: white wooden frame with UV acrylic











**Daphné Mandel**

*Dark Alleys Part 2*

(Hong Kong, 2018)

Size: 70 x 130 cm: \$45,500 + \$4500 frame

Unique Piece

Mixed media work on paper:

Collage, digital printing, acrylic painting, crayon

- \* Above prices are in \$ HKD
- \* Each work is signed by the Artist
- \* Price includes frame: white wooden frame with UV acrylic

*"In my new series of work, there is a digitally animated piece called "Magic in the Dark Alleys." I collected footage in my studio and on site during many, many night walks in the alleys. Both dimensions, staged and real, were combined digitally, to tell this unique story with the back alleys as a backdrop. I guess recently I have started to explore more the motion as opposed to just the collage. Using this mode of expression allows me to go further in the story I tell. The starting point is always the walks, the exploration, both by day and night."*

– Daphné Mandel, 2018

## Daphné Mandel

*Magic in the Dark Alleys*  
(Hong Kong, 2018)

Sound by Kevin Chau (Gold Mountain)  
Digital Animated Work with Audio Track  
Mp4 File with audio track, 4min 14sec duration  
Limited Edition of 5 + 2 APs

\$28,000



\* Above prices are in \$ HKD

\* The artwork comes in the form of a USB drive in a box w/ Certificate of Authenticity signed by the Artist

\* Screens are purchased separately depending on desired size and framing [frames are available in any size]











*“Mandel, a French landscape architect turned artist, creates paintings that meld together digital photography, prints, pastel and collage. She transforms the facades of the city’s older concrete structures by giving them a makeover. Mandel found plenty to spark her creativity in Hong Kong, where she was inspired by the mix of “extreme places, people living in small apartments, the rundown buildings, the luxury shops.” She started to take photos of the buildings she encountered every day, but instead of trying to paint them literally, she experimented with cobbling together her favourite architectural elements.”*

– Corinne Adams for Wall Street Journal, 2014

PRESS RECEIVED

# Hong Kong Dimensions

12 May — 15 Jun 2018 at the Blue Lotus Gallery in Hong Kong, Hong Kong

21 APRIL 2018

Wall Street International Magazine | 23 April 2018



Daphné Mandel "Back Alleys Backstage" [Hong Kong, 2018]. Courtesy of Blue Lotus Gallery

Blue Lotus Gallery is proud to present a new and fascinating group exhibition showcasing the incredible work of award winning French and Hong Kong Artists, curated by Blue Lotus Gallery and selected for the official program of Le French May 2018.

**BLUE LOTUS**  
GALLERY & ART CONSULTANCY

# Four artists' contrasting visions of Hong Kong come together in gallery show

Using a variety of mediums, local and expatriate artists interpret Hong Kong life

PUBLISHED : Friday, 11 May, 2018, 6:00pm  
UPDATED : Friday, 11 May, 2018, 6:00pm

COMMENTS: 0



Kylie Knott

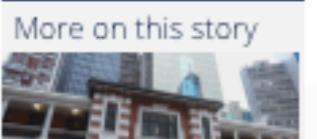
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Four artists, with four very different views of Hong Kong. That is the premise for Hong Kong Dimensions, a group exhibition featuring the works of Alexis Ip, Daphné Mandel, Pete Ross and Romain Jacquet-Lagrèze at Blue Lotus Gallery in Chai Wan from May 12 to June 16.



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The collective result is a mesmerising portrait of the city.

Hong Kong-born Ip distorts dimensions with his photos of everyday Hong Kong. "As a result the most ordinary street scenes, like a vegetable or fruit vendor, which people hardly pay attention to, become magical," Ip says.



French artist Mandel continues to explore the city's landscape, her curiosity taking her down back alleys using paper and digital moving collages. "This series is about celebrating the back alleys in this overly dense and compact city. I wanted to bring these narrow gaps and urban fractures into the light," says Mandel.

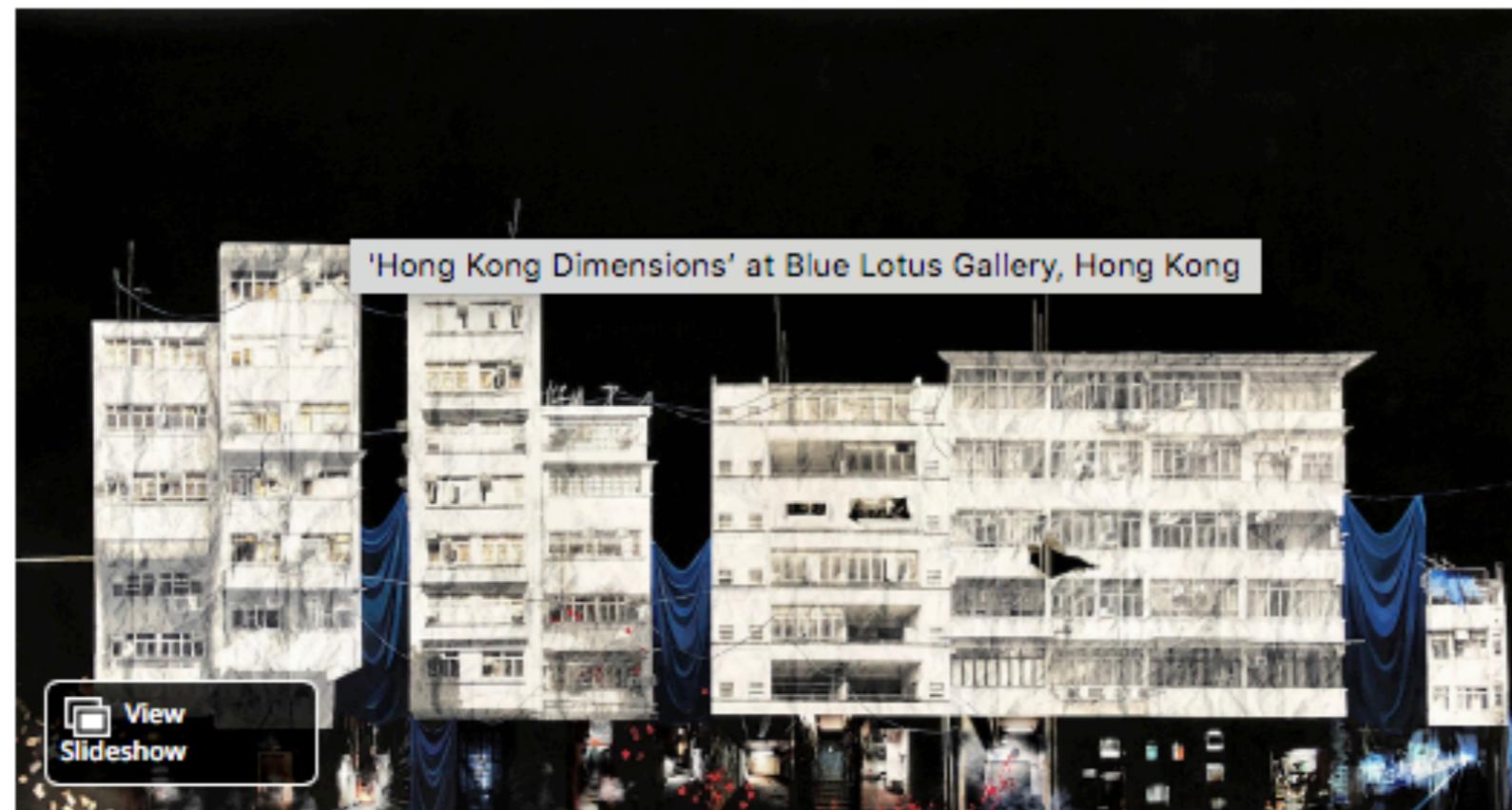


Hong Kong-born architect and artist Pete Ross is fascinated by how the city's people

VISUAL ARTS / GALLERIES / ARTICLE

## 'Hong Kong Dimensions' at Blue Lotus Gallery, Hong Kong

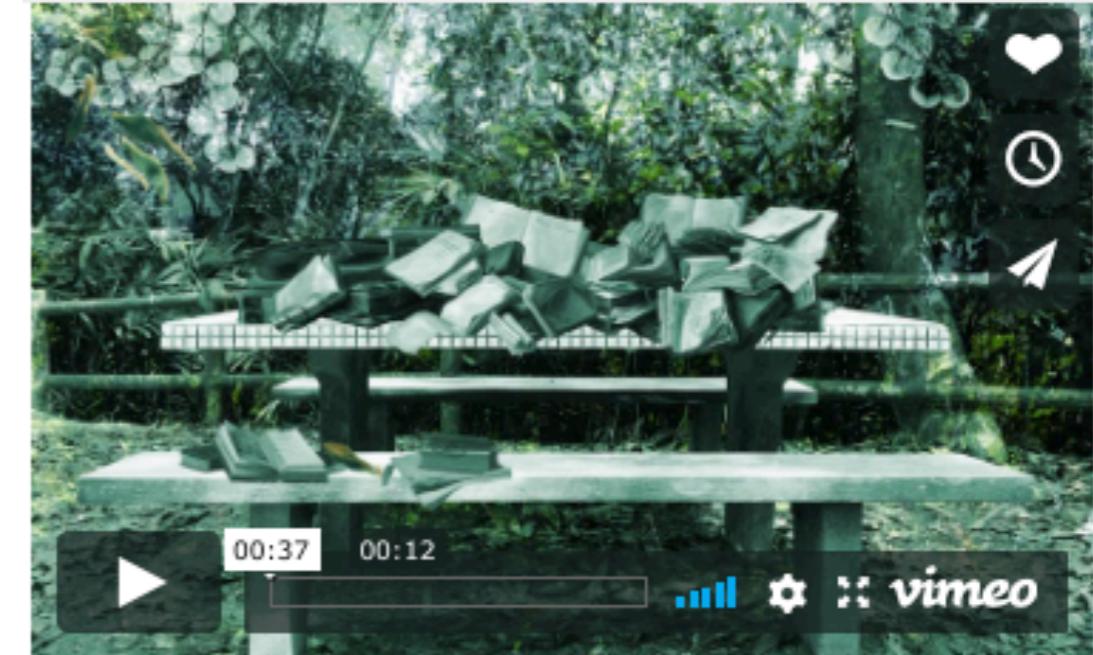
BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | APRIL 23, 2018



"Dark Alleys Part 2" (2018) Daphné Mandel

(Courtesy: Blue Lotus Gallery)

Blue Lotus Gallery will be hosting a group exhibition "Hong Kong Dimensions" featuring the incredible work of award winning French and Hong Kong artists.



Half of the fun is simply exploring the historic building, with its elegantly tiled balconies, stained glass windows and Chinese-style tiled roof. It's these details that first caught the eye of Daphné Mandel. Although she had passed by the building many times, she went inside for the first time last August. She was charmed by the architecture and the homespun feel of many exhibits. "It's hard not to fall in love with this place," she says.

Mandel's exhibition, *Still Life Comes to Life [Hong Kong Vanitas]*, opens December 7 in the museum's annex. Mandel is an avid hiker and she found herself fascinated by the way manmade objects — tile picnic tables, concrete drainage channels, stone staircases — have been absorbed into the humid, mossy jungle of Hong Kong's country parks. "When I first came to Hong Kong, I wouldn't figure out what was real rock and what was fake rock," she says.

She decided to treat them the way Cézanne treated baskets of fruit. "I love the idea that everyday objects can be set up in such a pompous way they become noble and precious," she says. The resulting works pay tribute to the things that fade into the background of Hong Kong life: wheeled suitcases, rubbish bins, cup noodle containers. One work, "Cliff Dwellings," evokes the future ruins of Hong Kong, with tong lau and shophouses nestled into a hill, overtaken by vegetation.

Other works were inspired by the museum itself, including Mandel's first foray into video art. One piece reimagines one of the museum's storage units as a cabinet of curiosities. "It's full of mini-stories," she says. In a way, just like Tai Ping Shan, its landscape marked by past trauma — and a new city that emerged in response.



## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:**

2018: Blue Lotus Gallery, Hong Kong - "Hong Kong Dimensions" [group]

2017: Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences - "Hong Kong Vanitas" [solo]

2017: Arcane, Hong Kong - "Urban Puzzle" [group]

2016: The Warehouse, Hong Kong - "Hong Kong Funfair" [solo]

2016: Arcane, Hong Kong - "Cristal Sewing Factory" [group]

2016: Private Home, Hong Kong - "Enchantments" [solo]

2014: Man Mo Cafe, Hong Kong - "Behind Hong Kong Facades" [solo]

2014: Avenue des Arts Gallery, Hong Kong - "Elles" [group]

2014: Man Mo Cafe, Hong Kong - "Hong Kong Façades" [solo]

## **SELECTED WORKSHOPS & TALKS:**

2018: HKU - Department of Architecture / Undergraduate

Member of review panel of Natalia Echeverri and Susanne Trumpf's class - "Designing public space incorporating steep terrain and historical site"

2017: HKU - Department of Architecture / Undergraduate

Member of review panel of Valerie Portefaix (Map Office)'s class - "Ecology, sustainability, regeneration workshop"

2017: GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - Primary Classes

Workshop (collage) - "Imagine your Hong Kong"

2016: SCAD / Motion Media Design Department

Talk - "Combining digital rendering tools with artisanal modes of expressions"

2016: INSIGHT SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN

Talk - "Hong Kong facades revisited"

# BLUE LOTUS GALLERY

Website: [www.bluelotus-gallery.com](http://www.bluelotus-gallery.com)

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News & Events related to the gallery: <https://www.facebook.com/bluelotusgalleryhk/>

Website Artist: <https://www.daphnemandel.com>