

Hi Houses – A Chronical of Law Uk Retold By Art January to July 2017

Hong Kong Art Promotion Office commissioned me to create an installation at the Law Uk Folk Museum. I decided to collaborate with local young artists and artisan on this project to revitalize local heritage of Hong Kong using art.

Law Uk, namely a house owned by Law Family, built 200 years ago, is the only Hakka House on Hong Kong Island remained and graded historical building. Hakka People moved from the northern part of China to the south since 200AD. They become a major component of Hong Kong. Their women are famous for tough and uncompromised quality of life.

The Law Uk now surrounded by factory high rise, composes of 5 rooms. Each room is installed with art works telling the origin of the house history as well as that of the development of Hong Kong. Outdoor parasol was made in the shape of Hakka Hat.



Outlook of Law Uk. Joe Chan creates these hats according to plan, a sound installation was embedded in the poles that allows audience to listen to Hakka songs when taking a rest in shade.



Dinning room, left hand side are handmade furniture in colonial style when Hong Kong was still the British Colony. Inside the cabinet are old documents transformed into stone clay. Far end is the window and lamp showing the popular native plant surrounding the house in the old days.



Translucent Ficus leaves window, frame made by local carpenter Lam Che



Kitchen fills with multiples of pigs, chickens and fish to symbolize the congested life in the old days. Ray Chan transferred the skill in Hakka cooking into the making of clay.





Store room, glowing mountains symbolize the tough journey from the north to south. The projection is a newly composed mountain song sung by Hakka people to ease out hard feeling in daily life.



Bedroom to pay tribute to Hakka women who work hard in day time and still need to take care of the family in the evening. Left hand side is a screen with engraved porcelain and far ends with pomegranate lamp that symbolize many children and prosperous life.



Farming room to turn into a potter studio, Nick Poon show his process of creating vessels that hybridize the shape of Hakka building, Hakka hat and works on the wheel.