



THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION

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Contents

Chairman's Report	3
Mission Statement	4
About the Foundation	5
Sovereign Art Foundation structure	6
Who we have helped	7
Project Highlight: M'Lop Tapang (Cambodia)	8
Project Highlight: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (Vietnam & Mongolia)	9
Project Highlight: The Child Welfare Scheme (Nepal)	10
Project Highlight: The Make It Better Project (Hong Kong)	11
The Sovereign Asian Art Prize	12
Financial Report: Where have SAF donations come from?	13
Financial Report: How the money was spent	14
The Future	15
Sponsors	17

Chairman's Report

The idea for an art prize was hatched a very long time ago but it was only in 2003 that I decided to get on with it and get moving.

I wanted to put the best of Asian art in front of the Hong Kong public so that they could appreciate art for art's sake whilst at the same time, and most importantly for me personally, raise money which we could use to assist disadvantaged children.

The main motivation was always philanthropic but we quickly realized that if we wanted to raise decent sums of money we had to produce a world class art prize which would get the best artists entering so we had to offer the artists a decent prize fund and a platform which gave them international exposure to new audiences around the region. Everything had to come together.

Now we would argue that everybody wins. The artists reach new audiences and get welcome international exposure for their work. Our supporters get the opportunity to buy work which has been vetted by two levels of independent experts – our nominators and the judges – so have an excellent chance of picking up a really good investment. Indeed, over the years, many of our artists have quickly gone on to achieve record prices at auction and international fame and fortune so many of our buyers own valuable pieces of work which they picked up at very reasonable prices. And many children around the region have had their lives dramatically improved.

Over the last 10 years we have raised over US\$4 million which we have used to assist many thousands of children. In some of our earliest projects we are now seeing the children we helped coming back as teachers, some have established businesses of their own, others

have managed to reintegrate themselves into society. With your assistance we believe we have made a real difference to the communities in which we operate.

Our first exhibition was in Pacific Place. Our fundraising dinner was held in Cinecitta restaurant in Star Street for 70 enthusiastic supporters. We sold all the work.

Originally entry to the prize was open but quickly we got swamped so reverted to entry by nomination only. Our nominators are hand-picked independent experts, typically curators, museum directors, art critics, art curators. It is this process which guarantees the quality of the entries. Our esteemed judges then mark each entry out of five and the 30 works with the highest scores become our finalists. The judges then mark them again to give us a winner.

We also have a separate prize voted for purely by the public. We introduced this element to try and get the public to really look at the works critically. At the exhibition it was interesting to note that many would spend no more than 5 minutes. But if we thrust a voting slip into their hands and they would go back and spend up to 30 minutes closely looking at the work, reading the story about it and making a considered judgment on its quality. We think this is an important element within the prize.

The last ten years have been a lot of hard work but a lot of fun. We have had assistance from many different sponsors, hundreds of nominators, our judges and of course many thousands of you who have come to our exhibitions and dinners. We are extremely grateful to you all.

The work of the Foundation continues to expand. We are spending more of the money we raise locally in Hong Kong and are looking to expand the work of the Foundation with plans to have art prizes in both the Middle East and Africa. Our Hong Kong Schools Prize helps encourage young artists who are producing work of a remarkable standard.

We look forward to the next ten years and hope that the Foundation can grow at the same pace as the artistic community in Hong Kong. The quality of the work being produced by Hong Kong artists has improved remarkably over the last ten years and it looks set to continue. We look forward to a bigger and better public art scene in Hong Kong which will undoubtedly happen with the opening of the Central Police Station project and the West Kowloon Cultural District. These projects will make Hong Kong a truly world class centre for the arts and we look forward to being part of that artistic scene for many years to come.



Howard Bilton
Founder and Chairman
The Sovereign Art Foundation & The Sovereign Group

Mission Statement

The Sovereign Art Foundation has two primary objectives:

1. To give recognition to some of the most important artists of our time through The Sovereign Art Prize.
2. To use funds raised by The Sovereign Art Foundation to help disadvantaged children using the arts as rehabilitation, education and therapy.

ABOUT THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION

The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charity established in 2003 in Hong Kong, which is now also registered in the UK and South Africa. SAF runs the annual Sovereign Asian Art Prize with the purpose of recognizing some of the best mid-career artists while raising money to help disadvantaged children. Since its inception, SAF has become the largest Asian art award and has raised over US\$4.5 million for charities worldwide.

THE SOVEREIGN ASIAN ART PRIZE

Entry to The Prize is by nomination. SAF appoints independent nominators who select the best mid-career artists. The artists can enter up to three pieces of work. Entries are then presented to a panel of judges who select their best 30.

The 30 works are brought to Hong Kong and exhibited in a public space and the judges pick the winner who is awarded a prize of US\$30,000, a trophy and the title. The winning piece becomes property of SAF (who then lends the work out to patrons, partners and institutions) and the remaining 29 finalists are auctioned with the proceeds being split evenly between the artists and SAF.

To encourage interaction with the prize and to increase exposure for the artists, the public are invited to cast their vote online or in person for their favourite piece displayed in the exhibition. This artist is awarded The Schoeni Prize and US\$1,000.

CHARITABLE PROJECTS

Money raised by SAF funds community arts programmes around the region. These programmes have helped thousands of children using art as a way to heal and educate. Different art forms can work as effective therapy for children that have gone or are going through abuse, neglect, family problems and other traumatic events. Art allows the children to express themselves in their own way, at their own pace under their total control. As well as allowing them to share their feelings, art allows even the most timid or troubled child to build confidence and self-esteem.

The sponsored arts programmes are also used as a way to engage troubled children and get them involved with the community centres we work with. Once the children are enrolled in the programmes, the social teams are able to work with the families to confront the core problems while the children go back to school.

We are currently supporting programmes in Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and have launched our own Make It Better project in Hong Kong, working specifically with children living in the sub-divided homes of Sham Shui Po. These workshops started as monthly activities but as the programme gained popularity we increased the frequency and now run them weekly. We have seen and proved the value of this work so now we plan to expand our work and produce workshops for similar organisations around Hong Kong.

THE SOVEREIGN ART FOUNDATION SCHOOL'S PRIZE

We believe that art plays a vital role in fostering creativity and building confidence within young adults, a connection that sadly is often under emphasised at school. The Foundation aims to use the School's Prize to encourage artistic talent and showcase the efforts of the talented students within Hong Kong.

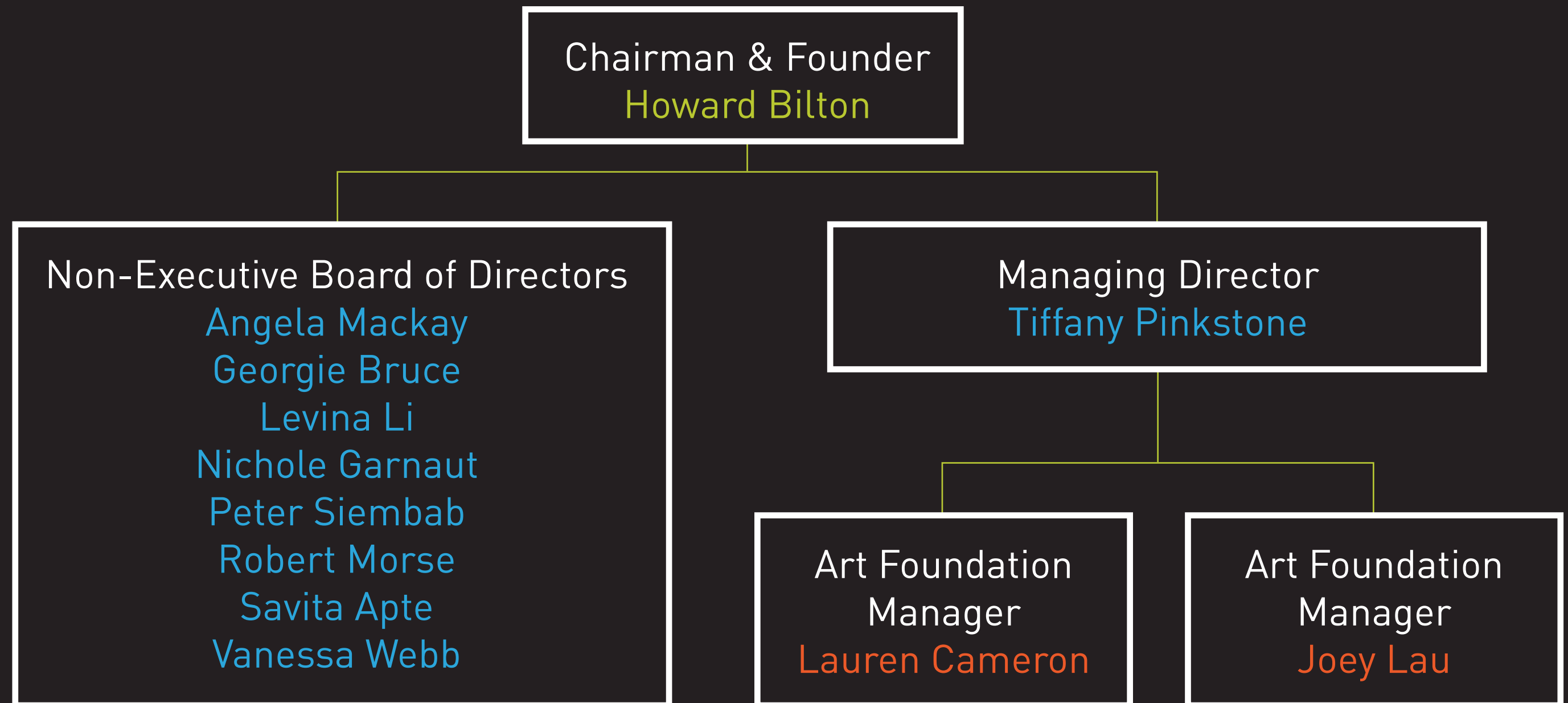
The prize recognises both the best students and the best art programmes within secondary schools in Hong Kong. The winning student receives HK\$5,000 while the student's school will be awarded HK\$30,000. The second and third-placed students will receive HK\$3,000 and HK\$1,000 and their schools will be awarded HK\$15,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

The prize is open to all secondary schools in Hong Kong. 20 Finalists are selected and exhibited in a public space giving the students experience and exposure.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help SAF expand its work by becoming a corporate sponsor, a private patron or by simply making a direct donation. We are also always looking for volunteers for our arts programmes as well as interns looking to develop a career either in the arts or with an NGO.

Sovereign Art Foundation Structure

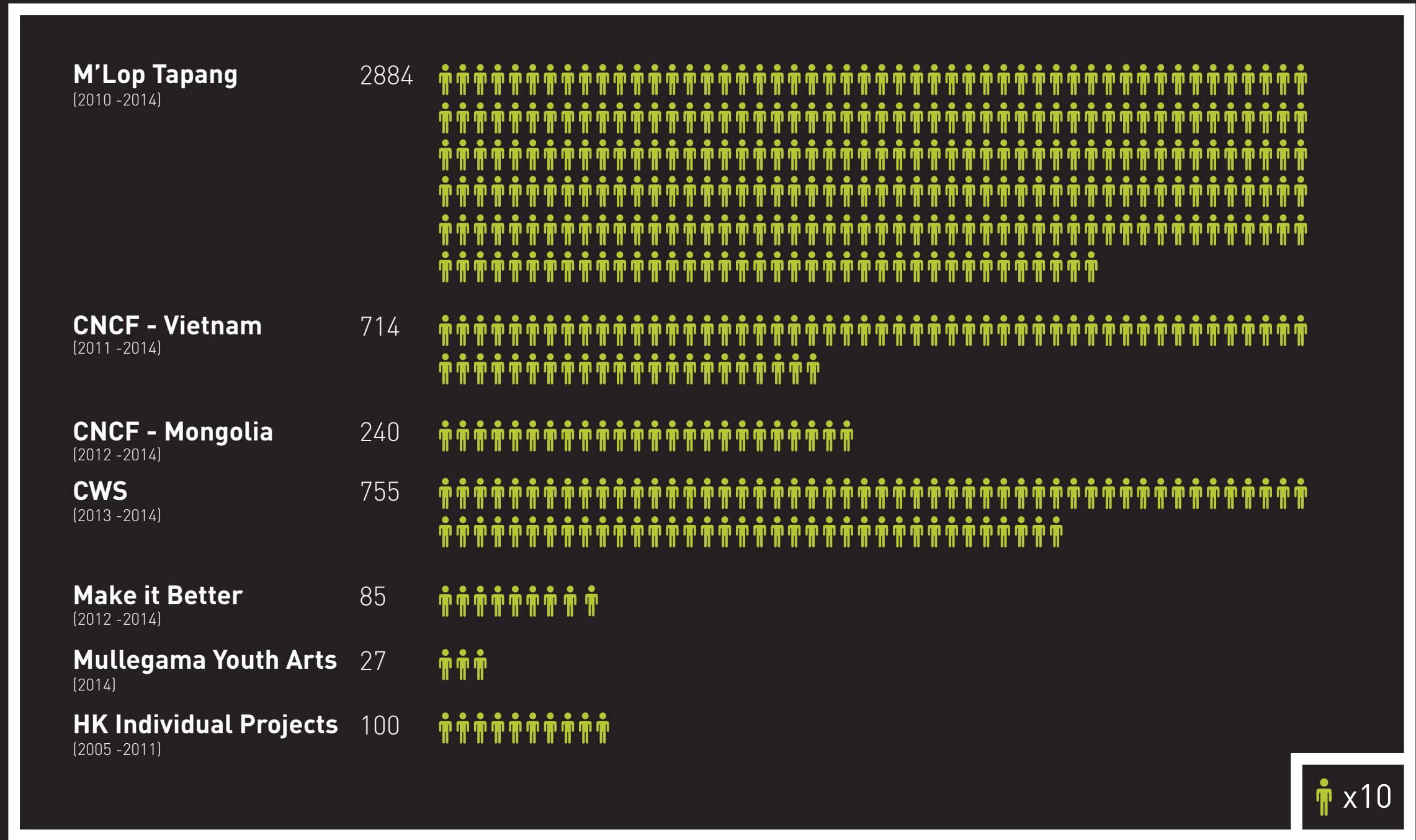


Who have we helped

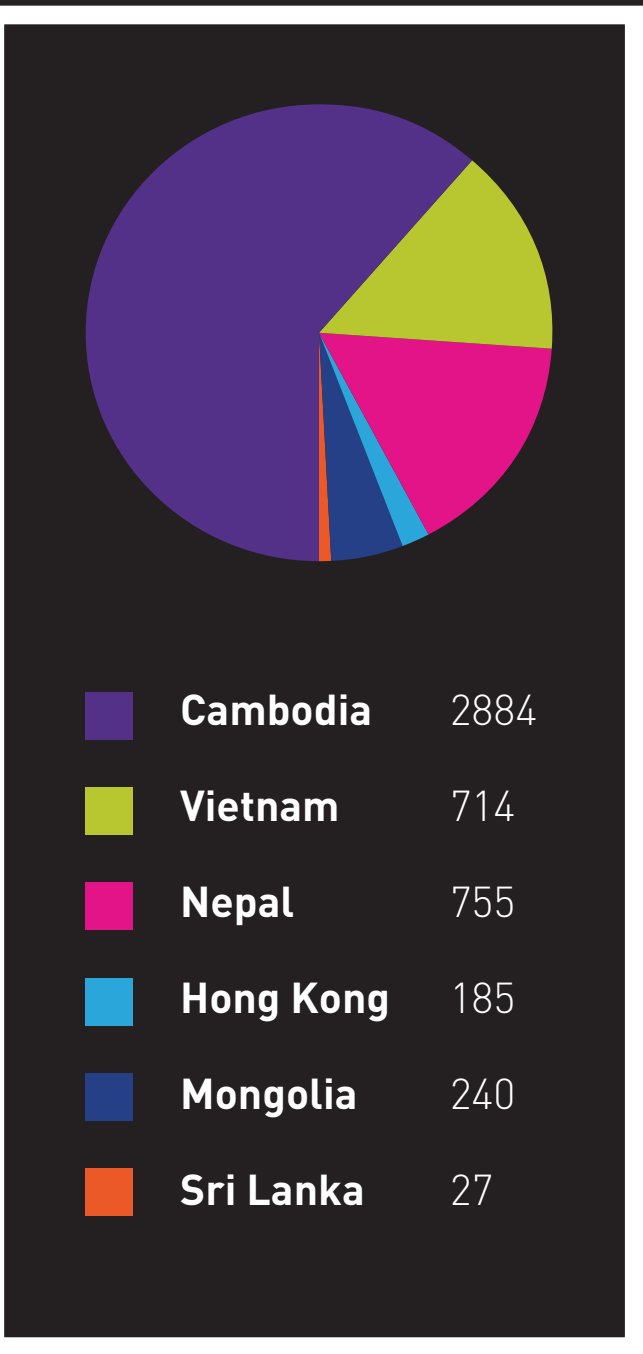
The projects that we support have both direct and indirect beneficiaries.

We have supported **4805** children directly through sponsoring art projects and charities throughout the region.

ORGANISATION



COUNTRY



However, we have supported many more children than this indirectly by initiating projects, funding construction for a school and providing materials and teacher training throughout the region.

Project Highlight: M'Lop Tapang (Cambodia)

"Without the close support of SAF, this tremendous development and success could not be possible. Over 400 students a month are now enjoying and benefiting from having creativity and arts in their daily lives!"

Maggie Eno, Coordinator at M'Lop Tapang

M'Lop Tapang Arts

For seven years, The Sovereign Art Foundation has partnered with Sihanoukville-based charity M'Lop Tapang and in doing so has helped to provide thousands of disadvantaged Cambodian children and youth with shelter, medical care, sports and arts, education and training, counselling, family support and protection from all types of abuse. Specifically, The Sovereign Art Foundation has directly given 2884 street children (and many more, indirectly) the opportunity as well as the tools to try something new and to cultivate their own unique talent.

Through dance, music, acrobatic and circus programs, as well as painting and drawing classes at M'Lop Tapang's 10 specialised centres, these children have had the chance to express themselves creatively. Perhaps more importantly, these programs have allowed former street kids to simply have fun; something that is a true rarity for many of them.

The Sovereign Art Foundation has supported M'Lop Tapang in providing the tools and training for children to practise different art forms - an amazing therapy for children who have experienced or are experiencing abuse, neglect, family problems and other traumatic events.

At its annual Gala Dinner in February 2013, The Sovereign Art Foundation accepted direct donations to M'Lop Tapang, which were then kindly matched by ADM Capital. As a result, The Sovereign Art Foundation was able to give a total of HK\$1 million to M'Lop Tapang, in addition to its regular fundraising.

In 2013, M'Lop Tapang expanded its arts program by introducing dance as part of its vocational training program. Cambodian youth are now learning professional skills that they can use as a safe form of income generation for their futures.

The skills and confidence that students gain from M'Lop Tapang's arts program has transformed former drug-addicted street children into competent circus trainers, and homeless children into proud unicyclists or dancers, performing shows to governmental and international visitors.



Project Highlight: The Christina Noble Children's Foundation (Vietnam & Mongolia)



Christina Noble Children's Foundation

As the sole sponsor of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation's Arts and Music Programme, The Sovereign Art Foundation has played a significant role in helping the many disadvantaged Vietnamese and Mongolian children in their care. CNCF, which is dedicated to protecting children at risk of economic and sexual exploitation, and ensuring these and other children in need have access to basic care and educational opportunities, has supported hundreds of thousands of children since 1991, offering programmes including emergency and long-term medical care, nutritional rehabilitation, educational and vocational training, job placement and emergency shelter.

Recognising that art and music play an important role in helping children overcome adversity and develop confidence, CNCF began the Vietnam Music and Arts Programme in 1997. The programme's aim has always been to nurture each child's creative talents, allowing them to express themselves freely in a safe, loving and supportive environment. The support of the Sovereign Art Foundation since 2011 has enabled the CNCF Arts and Music programme to grow ever stronger, and has made it possible for the Sunshine School in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam to integrate a general art and music class for all its students, as part of their standard curriculum.

Sovereign Art Foundation sponsored art classes in both Vietnam and Mongolia have directly allowed over 690 students the opportunity to create, explore and learn different creative techniques and methods of expression – and have benefited many more indirectly. Recent projects in Vietnam have included acrylic paintings, pastel drawing and handicrafts, while visiting artists have conducted interactive art workshops, and students have taken great joy in exhibiting at local art galleries, allowing them both to connect with the art community and feel a real sense of pride in the pieces they produce.

In Mongolia, CNCF children enjoy landscape drawing, portraiture and paper maché mask making and during the warmer summer months, these art workshops are able to take place outdoors. Children with an aptitude for music have been able to take up the opportunity of playing a wide-range of musical instruments in national and international performances – an admirable feat to say the least.

With The Sovereign Art Foundation's support, the CNCF Arts and Music Programme continues to grow in strength, bringing the children together whilst promoting creative play, imagination building and self-expression. Most importantly, the programme has fostered within the children a real sense of pride in their accomplishments, which will undeniably go a long way towards making them confident and responsible citizens of tomorrow.



"By creating and exploring different creative techniques and methods of expression, the children develop a real sense of pride in their accomplishments and as they do so, their self-belief grows ever stronger, something which we believe will go a long way towards making them confident, responsible citizens of tomorrow."

Jo Simmonds, Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Project Highlight: The Child Welfare Scheme (Nepal)

“SAF supports the Child Welfare Scheme by providing funding for art materials and art trainings for children in remote mountain villages and urban slums in Nepal. Art plays a significant role in early years education and creativity, but above all it brings joy and colour into the lives of children and their community.”
Zein Williams, Child Welfare Scheme



The Child Welfare Scheme

Since March 2013 The Sovereign Art Foundation has been supporting The Child Welfare Scheme (CWS) to bring art to the children of remote villages in Nepal. More recently, the Sovereign Art Foundation has extended its support by bringing art to the street children of Pokhara, and by helping children in Nepal learn and advocate for Child Rights through art.

There are a total of 13 CWS centres that provide early childhood care and education (ECCE) to children aged 2 to 5. These centres not only provide a safe place for children to be left while their parents work, but it has also been shown that ECCE is crucial for the development of children.

Before The Sovereign Art Foundation stepped in, these centres lacked art supplies, and the facilitators lacked the knowledge of how to stimulate children's creativity through art specifically. In 2013 alone, over 507 children benefited from art supplies and activities, as well as the 29 facilitators who had the opportunity to receive art training in techniques to teach to the children.

Another Sovereign Art Foundation sponsored CWS project; the JYOTI Street Project, supports over 750 street kids each year, providing them with shelter, food, showers, healthcare and Non Formal Education (NFE) classes. Thanks to SAF support, children taking part in this scheme will also have the opportunity and joy of taking art classes from trained instructors.

The latest Sovereign Art Foundation/CWS initiative has involved partnering with Right4Children in Nepal to begin a new pilot project “Education and Advocacy for Child Rights”. This project aims to raise awareness about child right abuses suffered by so many in Nepal and is achieved via two mediums: media/radio and art.

The Sovereign Art Foundation is supporting the art component of this project, which includes the creation of an educational art booklet that has been created by children from 20 Nepalese child clubs, the creation of art murals in community spaces which raise child rights awareness, an art competition to engage children on issues and topics which affect them, as well as regular art activities.



Project Highlight: The Make It Better Project (Hong Kong)



The Make it Better Project

The Make It Better Project is a Sovereign Art Foundation initiated project, developed in collaboration with Lizzie Bee Foundation Ltd; a Hong Kong Registered Charity that delivers art workshops which bring art, artists and communities together in Hong Kong.

The Make It Better Project has for two years provided a series of workshops to underprivileged children living in Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong, an area known for its cramped living conditions and dense population. It is the poorest district in Hong Kong, with some residents living in shocking conditions such as caged homes, subdivided flats, rooftop homes and even public car parks.

The Sovereign Art Foundation works with Society for Community Organisation (SoCO) to workshops for the affected children, empowering them through art and creativity.

Make It Better gives these children the time and attention they may not otherwise receive and, with the help of volunteers from SCAD (The Savannah College of Art and Design), Make It Better is able to provide one-on-one assistance, allowing the children to discover more challenging art and craft techniques.

The workshops began with the idea of giving the children an opportunity to make something for themselves, something they could bring home to make their surroundings more pleasant. These projects have been developed so that now the children make paintings, murals and handicrafts to give to hospitals, nursing homes and organisations for physically handicapped children; giving the participants a sense they can also help make other people's lives better.



The Sovereign Asian Art Prize

Nomination and Judging Process

Entry into the Asian Art Prize is through nomination. The Sovereign Art Foundation appoints independent art professionals from around the Asia Pacific Region who select the best mid-career artists from within their territory to enter the prize. Each nominated artist can enter up to three artworks into the competition. Entries are then presented to a panel of judges who short-list 30 finalists.

The Exhibition, Auction and the Prize

The 30 short-listed artworks are brought to Hong Kong and exhibited in a public space. The judges then score the artworks live and pick the winner who is awarded a prize of US\$30,000, a trophy and the title. The winning artwork becomes property of The Sovereign Art Foundation (who then lends the work out to patrons, partners and institutions) and the remaining 29 finalist artworks are sold at auction with the proceeds being split evenly between the artists and The Sovereign Art Foundation.

The Public Vote Prize

To encourage interaction with the prize and to increase exposure for the artists, the public are invited to cast their vote online or in person for their favourite artwork displayed in the exhibition. This artist is awarded The Schoeni Prize and US\$1,000.



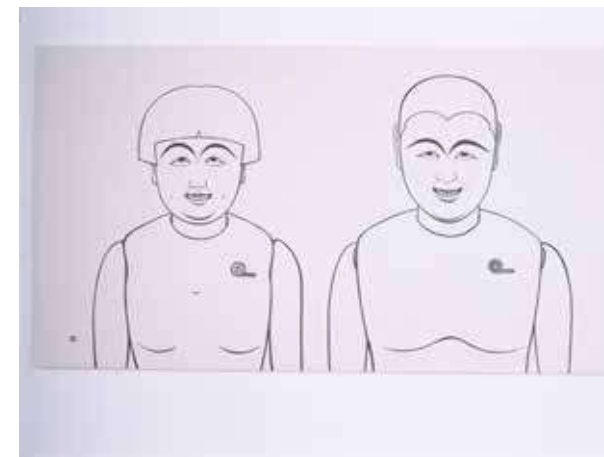
Jeffrey Du Vallier D'Aragon ARANITA
1st Prize Winner
2004 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



I Love You by Tsang Kin Wah
1st Prize Winner
2005 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



Body (Mom) No. 8 by Uttaporn NIMMALAIKAEW
1st Prize Winner
2006 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



A Boy And A Girl by Kumi Machida
1st Prize Winner
2007 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



Once A Thief, "Any Self-respecting Thief Would Be Proud To Steal
This Painting by Chow Chun Fai
1st Prize Winner
2008 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



Seated Thres Graces by Debbie Han
1st Prize Winner
2009 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



Jaffna Map by Pala Pothupitiye
1st Prize Winner
2010 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



The Pink Project II - Lauren & Carolyn And Their Pink & Purple
Things by JeongMee Yoon
1st Prize Winner
2011 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



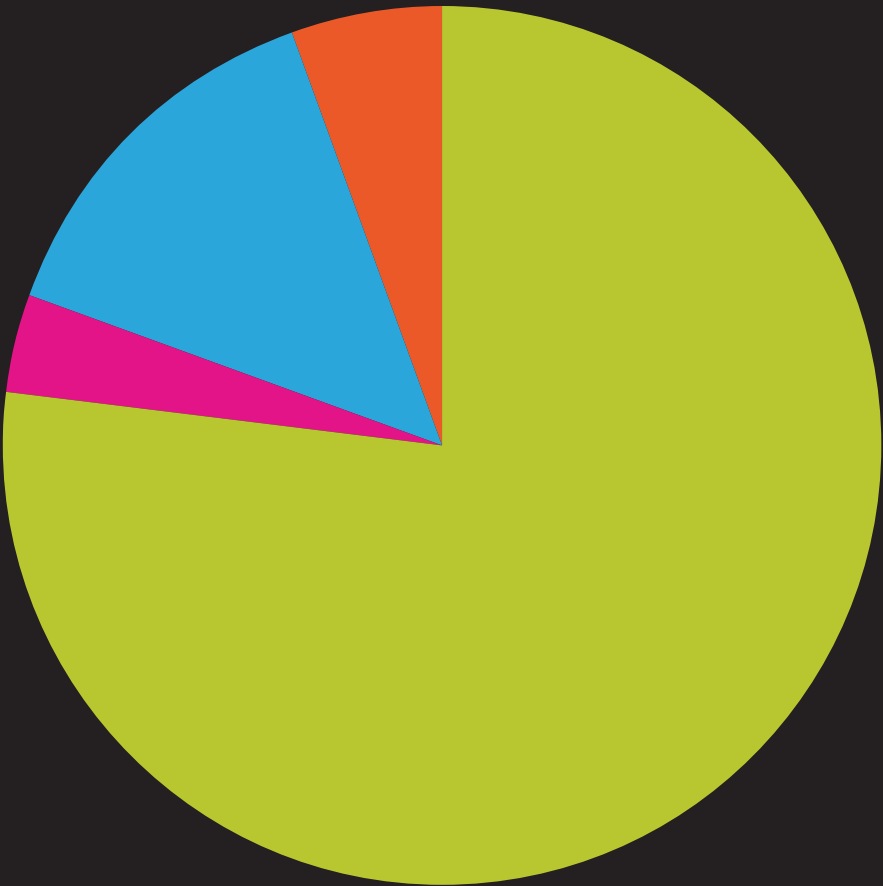
Back Home With Baudelaire No.5 by MAP Office [Gutierrez + Portefaix]
1st Prize Winner
2012 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner



Untitled [GRATES III/IV: Golden Electrical Company/
Sheng Kung Hui Kei Yan Primary School]
Adrian Wong
1st Prize Winner
2013-14 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner

Where have SAF donations come from?

	Source	Amount (US\$)
	Auction proceeds	2,586,532
	General donations	156,263
	Patronage	425,732
	Child education sponsorships	162,125
	Total	3,330,652

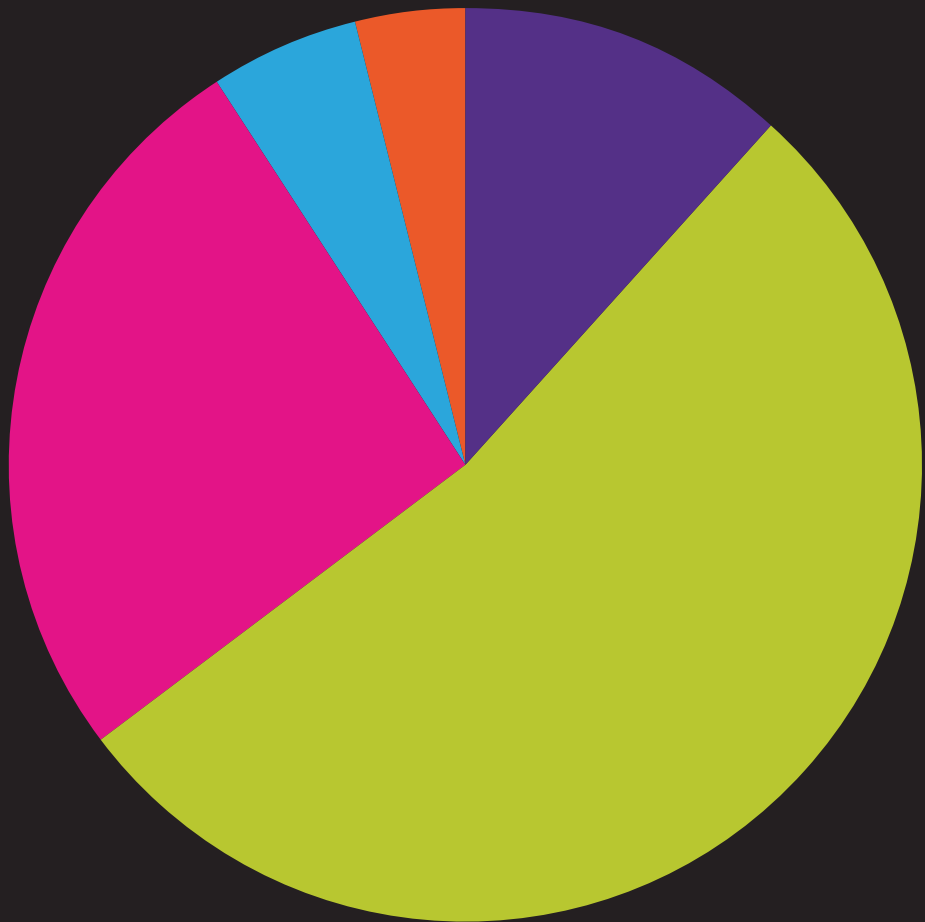


Left in bank as at 31st May 2014 US\$699,481 *

*This figure represents proceeds received from 2013/14 Gala fundraising dinner which had not yet been allocated to beneficiaries for 2014.

How the money was spent

	Beneficiary	Amount (US\$)
■	Artists' share from auction	1,497,741
■	Art institutions	246,268
■	Art and programmes for children	481,277
■	Child education sponsorships	107,280
■	Other donations	79,545
	Total	2,412,111



Ten year summary of accounts from Cheng and Cheng (in USD)



	(25/06/2003 - 31/05/2005)	1st 3 Full Year 2006 - 2008	2nd 3 Full Year 2009 - 2011	3rd 3 Full Year 2012 - 2014	Total	2nd vs 1st	3rd vs 2nd
Income							
Auction proceeds	197,060	773,502	758,191	857,779	2,586,532	(1.98%)	13.13%
Auction dinner tickets	23,138	107,814	193,253	244,381	568,587	79.25%	26.46%
Direct sponsorship	112,206	52,000	230,770	484,738	879,714	343.79%	110.05%
Overseas SAF events	-	-	-	224,792	224,792		
Other events	-	-	-	40,649	40,649		
General donations and patronage	4,266	52,965	155,200	369,564	581,995	193.02%	138.12%
Entry Fees	1,413	2,870	10,109	13,645	28,038	252.26%	34.97%
	338,085	989,151	1,347,524	2,235,548	4,910,307	36.23%	65.90%
Deductions							
Art prize and artist grants	132,706	420,900	435,738	508,397	1,497,741	3.53%	16.67%
Gala and Auction costs	10,223	103,803	264,837	319,675	698,538	155.13%	20.71%
Overseas SAF events	-	-	-	160,186	160,186		
Other events	-	-	-	32,208	32,208		
Donations	21,641	195,016	266,481	431,232	914,370	36.65%	61.82%
Exhibition costs	78,255	66,668	95,493	269,016	509,433	43.24%	181.71%
	242,825	786,387	1,062,549	1,720,713	3,812,475		
Net Income	95, 259	202,764	284,974	514,835	1,097,502	40.55%	80.66%
Add: Other revenue	11,802	38,293	36,276	13,299	99,670		
	107,062	241,057	321,250	528,133	1,197,502		
Deduct: Miscellaneous costs	16,474	191,234	179,352	236,920	623,980		
Net surplus for the period before taxation	90,588	49,823	141,898	291,214	573,522	184.81%	105.23%
Cash		209,002	253,003	391,074		21.05%	54.57%

The Future

We are proud of what The Sovereign Art Foundation has achieved so far and are excited to now be taking the Foundation to the next level. Until recently, we focused solely on supporting existing art programmes around the region - the main reason for this being that we did not have the experience or expertise to run our own programmes independently. We also didn't see the value in creating new programmes when there were already so many wonderful, existing programmes that simply needed more funding. We are proud to have supported those programmes and will continue to do so. It was through supporting such initiatives that we realised Hong Kong is truly lacking in support and understanding of art therapy. Our focus is now on developing and expanding our very own grassroots project, the Make it Better project, in the hope that in time The Sovereign Art Foundation becomes the go-to arts organisation in Hong Kong. We look forward to being approached by every kind of children's group, charity and organisation in Hong Kong, ultimately helping children who are disadvantaged through poverty, disability or illness.

We firmly believe that the use of art media, the creative process and resulting art works can greatly help in the exploration of a child's emotional conflict, as well as help foster self-awareness, manage behaviour and addictions, develop social skills, reduce anxiety and increase self-esteem. We are determined to help young children cope more effectively with the often overwhelming circumstances they are surrounded by, through providing them with familiar experiences such as play, art, school, and socialising with peers.

- Tiffany Pinkstone
Director, Sovereign Art Foundation

Sponsors



Julius Bär

CHRISTIE'S

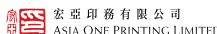
BVLGARI



LOUIS VUITTON



Aēsop.



PAL ZILERI

PIPELINE



SUTTON^{PR}
ASIA



HONG KONG
TATLER

HOWARD'S FOYL



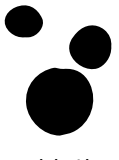
youngpost



Wallpaper*



LEESON
MEDIA



Pearl Lam
Galleries

Sotheby's

