

In the studio *Adrian Wong and Magdalen Wong*

Super HK Art Team Hooray! at 1a Space sees 23 artists participating in a collaborative project as part of the October Contemporary arts festival. Team leaders Adrian Wong, Magdalen Wong, and Lee Kit lead separate squads of artists against each other in a down-and-dirty art brawl. **Bourree Lam** gets the lowdown

So, this isn't your studio...

Adrian Wong: It will become ours for six weeks starting October 4. *Magdalen Wong:* There will be three teams. We wanted to make it really fun, like a TV game show. At the same time, it's also playing around with the idea of space. We talk about Hong Kong spaces being really small, so we want to use this space to make something big. We tend to make things that are small and intimate – a lot of artists are really solitary – and this will be a group of people making one giant work that's constantly changing and evolving.

How is this going to work?

AW: There are a series of tasks that need to be accomplished. If the objective is met, [the teams] will be given a point and move onto the next task. These are going to

be elaborate, construction-based objectives, and the other teams can either cooperate with, or sabotage, their efforts.

It's about prodding these students out of their normal routine. All three of us are art educators. Hong Kong is a place that fosters a very particular type of activity, partly because of the housing constraints, but also [because] of the cultural context from which the works are made. Hong Kong creates introspection; it's economically stable, politically stable, most people aren't facing serious difficulties, it has low crime rates, a strong sense of family... I think what that generates is a particular practice that is naturally inward focused. Even though we have all these structures and places where artists can come together and work, I find that it is difficult to get students to collaborate. Part of the concept is to get the artists and the teams to interact with each other. Basically, what we're trying to do is to shake some promising new artists out of their routines.

MW: It's also the idea of instruction; people seem to be so satisfied with their state of being that they don't seem to rebel. I feel like people in Hong Kong rarely go against what is given to them. [This show] forces them to think about instruction and what it

means, and to open it to all kinds of interpretations.

Will the artists come in at scheduled times?

AW: We'll have public performances on a couple of days that will serve as focuses of activity, where people can come in and watch the artists work. People will come in and out for six weeks, progressively building up work through the course of the exhibition.

MW: You'll see the space being

transformed, every week there will be something new and different. [And] as the space evolves, you have to change your tactics.

How clean of an art fight can we expect?

AW: I think when you bring a group of artists together, you have a certain amount of mischief. So I don't expect a clean competition.

MW: I'm fine with that, I'm totally prepared.



HK Hooray How clean will the Super HK Art Team keep the fight?