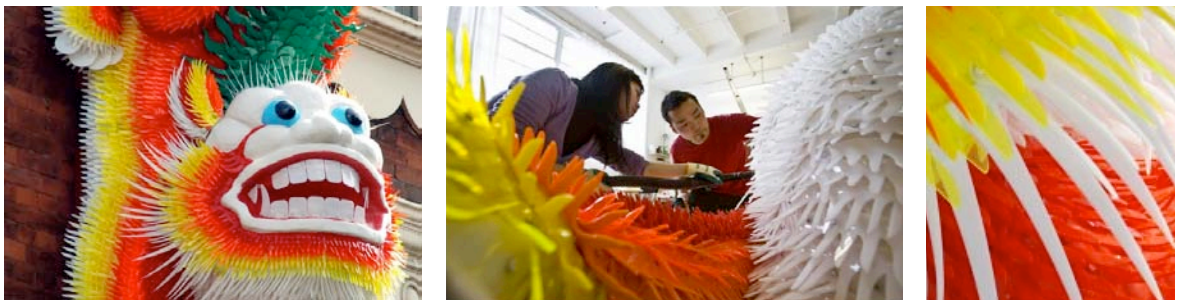


Chinatown's young contenders roar with *The Lion* at 2009's Marsh Award

Just three years after graduating from the RCA, East Asian artists Hsiao-Chi Tsai and Kimiya Yoshikawa receive the joint runner-up award at 2009's Marsh Award for Public Sculpture – in recognition of their striking London's Chinatown installation - *The Lion*

Walk down London's Wardour Street towards bustling Chinatown and you can't miss the area's newest, most colourful resident: three and half metre high, multicoloured guardian lion perching above the corner of Wardour Street and Shaftesbury Avenue. Unveiled in April 2009 and will be in place for the next 10 years, described by the BBC as 'a striking new landmark', '**The Lion**' is a collaborative work between two emerging young East Asian artists Hsiao-Chi Tsai and Kimiya Yoshikawa.

The pair shared a podium with renowned sculptors Sarah Lucas and Jaume Plensa at the Marsh Award for Public Sculpture 2009, an prestigious annual award of finding the UK's best newly commissioned or restored public sculpture, where they received the joint runner-up award for their bold and eye-catching installation-The Lion.



Textile designer Hsiao-Chi Tsai, from Taiwan, and sculptor Kimiya Yoshikawa, from Japan, are both 2006 MA graduates of the Royal College of Art in London. Experts in bold use of colour, pattern, form and structure, the duo share an interest in modern materials and finding new methods of manipulating them. The Lion is 360cm long by 145cm wide and is made of jesmonite, steel, and comprised of thousands of brightly coloured Perspex, with a splendid array of colours ranging from red, white, and yellow to orange and green, which gives out crystallised transparency under the sun.

David Tse Ka-shing (Creative Director of Chinatown Arts Space): *'This is a vibrant, playful, modern interpretation of a traditional East Asian icon using colourful Perspex material, and will be a striking addition to Chinatown's increasing public artwork.'*

'The Lion' is a contemporary interpretation of a traditional Chinese symbol of greeting and guardianship. This exciting iconic sculpture encapsulates the vibrancy and diversity of Chinatown and its community.

“The thousands of colourful, individually-cut pieces of Perspex symbolise the varied and diverse range of East Asians living in the UK today,” say the artists. “Assembling this diversity of shapes and colours into The Lion symbolises the aspiration to unify the disparate elements of the East Asian communities into a strong, harmonious whole.”

About Tsai and Yoshikawa

Hsiao-Chi Tsai and Kimiya Yoshikawa are currently based in London, and work and exhibit internationally. Tsai and Yoshikawa’s different creative histories richly combine in their joint practice to provide forward thinking ideas. The duo design and produce unique sculptures and art installations, which are eye-catching, dynamic, and have intricate detail.

Tsai and Yoshikawa met in the Chelsea College of Art and Design in 2000. After gaining BA degrees in 2004, they continued their studies at the Royal college of Art, graduating with Masters of Art in Mixed-media textiles, and Sculpture respectively.

Since graduating from Royal College of Art in 2006, Tsai and Yoshikawa started to work collaboratively on large-scale projects and commissions. This includes a large three metres chandelier installation at the South Bank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall for the 2006 Poetry International Festival; a series of seven sculptural art installations called ‘Futuristic Flowers’ commissioned by Harvey Nichols for their Spring/Summer 2007 windows during London Fashion Week. In 2008, they won two public art sculpture commissions, including Chinatown’s The Lion, and ‘Origin of The Secret Two’, a seven metre tall colourful steel public sculpture for Catford Town Centre in Lewisham, which is expected to complete in 2010.

Tsai and Yoshikawa continue to work on diverse projects with councils, organisations, and private companies, for both permanent and temporary site-specific art commission projects for indoor and outdoor spaces. Every piece of artwork is created specifically to a brief and purposely for a particular space. Their public artwork is often celebrative, inspired by the local history and identity of the site.

For more information or high-res images, please contact Hsiao-Chi Tsai on 07900810576 or at info@tsai-yoshikawa.com

Hsiao-Chi Tsai & Kimiya Yoshikawa’s website : www.tsai-yoshikawa.com



'The Lion', Chinatown.



Kimiya Yoshikawa (left) & Hsiao-Chi Tsai (right)



'Futuristic Flowers', Harvey Nichols



Visualisation of 'Origin of The Secret Two', Lewisham