

PRESS RELEASE (27/2/2007)

Macao's works of art show up for the 52nd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

In order to introduce Macao art to the world and facilitate local creation of art, the Macao Museum of Art is leading a team of Macao artists to participate the 52nd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale, which will take place from June to November in Venice this year.

The Macao Museum of Art has called for public participations and received 42 pieces of artworks created by 34 artists/ teams. The professional judging panel, which includes **Yin Shuangxi**, famous exhibition coordinator and professor from China Central Academy of Fine Arts, **Gao Shiming**, art critic and exhibition coordinator from the Visual Culture Centre of China Academy of Art and **Ung Vai Meng**, curator of Macao Museum of Art, selected two pieces of works to participate the big event. They are 'Macao's Gondola' created by Lui Chak Hong and Lui Chak Keong, and 'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice' created by Konstantin Bessmertny.

The brother team Lui Chak Hong and Lui Chak Keong created the work 'Macao's Gondola' with elements drawing from the two Macao landmarks—the A-Ma Temple and the Grand Façade of the Ruins St. Paul's. Their concept originated from the fact that Macao and Venice are cities with world heritage and both of the cities were once important ports in the past. Despite the similar historical backgrounds, there is no direct relation between them over the history. Nowadays, the thriving economy of Macao has attracted a large number of foreign investments. A Venice-themed commercial project will be completed in 2007. People in Macao can also take Gondola and experience the romance of Venice on the artificial canals. With more and more foreign investments rush into Macao, what the outlook of Macao will be under the impact of globalization? Can Macao really attract visitors by imitating other famous cities? What role are Macao's culture and heritages playing in this new era? Being inspired by the recent development of Macao, the brother artists want to express the aforementioned doubts through their work of art.

'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice' created by Konstantin Bessmertny is mainly made of recycled plywood, iron, perforated metal, mechanical parts, found objects, wallpaper, paint, acrylic, framed small copies made from images of original works by different artists and chandelier, etc. The artist uses found and recycled materials to create an airplane that cannot fly. The interior of the plane is decorated with kitsch and garish works of art. Through this piece of art, the artist wants to satirize the vanity of the new-rich in Macao and other parts of the world.