

# Macao 澳門

## Welcoming a new era in Macao-Portugal relations



**Motorsports meets  
Madame Tussauds at  
the Grand Prix Museum**

**BEYOND:  
A global tech platform  
in the making**



# 為您提供 “全方位服務” All-round “全方位服務” Services for You

會展發展及經貿推廣活動  
Conventions and Exhibitions  
Development and  
Promotional Activities



投資者“一站式”服務  
Investor's  
“One-stop Service”



企業拓展服務  
Business  
Development Services



葡語市場服務  
Services for Portuguese-speaking  
Countries Markets



“商匯館”  
Macao Ideas



本局內地  
代表處  
Representative Offices  
of IPIM in Mainland China



“中國與葡語國家  
商貿合作服務平台展示館”  
“Pavilion of China-Portuguese-speaking  
Countries Commercial and  
Trade Service Platform”



申請居留  
Residency  
Application



  
澳門貿易投資促進局  
Instituto de Promoção do Comércio e do Investimento de Macau  
Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

澳門湖畔南街中國與葡語國家商貿合作服務平台綜合體辦公樓一至二樓  
Rua Sul de Entre Lagos, Complexo da Plataforma de Serviços para a Cooperação Comercial  
entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa, Edifício de escritório, 1.º e 2.º andar, Macau  
電話/ Tel: (853) 2871 0300  
傳真/ Fax: (853) 2859 0309

[www.ipim.gov.mo](http://www.ipim.gov.mo)



**Macao** 澳門

## PUBLISHER

Government Information Bureau of the Macao SAR  
15th Floor, China Plaza Building, Avenida da Praia Grande, 762 – 804, Macao  
T +853 2833 2886 F +853 2835 5426 [info@gcs.gov.mo](mailto:info@gcs.gov.mo)

**DIRECTOR**  
Chan Lou

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Amelia Leong Man Ieng

**EDITOR**  
Eva Lei Sao Iok

## MEET OUR TEAM

### PRODUCER AND DISTRIBUTOR

Macaolink News and Information Services, Ltd.  
Av. do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues 600-E, Edif. Centro Comercial First Nacional 2406, Macao  
T + 853 2835 5315 F +853 2835 5466 [contact@macaulink.com.mo](mailto:contact@macaulink.com.mo)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Gonçalo César de Sá  
[cesardesa@macaulink.com.mo](mailto:cesardesa@macaulink.com.mo)

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Mariana César de Sá  
[marianasa@macaulink.com.mo](mailto:marianasa@macaulink.com.mo)

**EDITOR**  
Amanda Saxton

**TRANSLATOR**  
Mani Fong

**STAFF WRITERS**  
Erico Dias, Gilbert Humphrey

**SENIOR DESIGNER**  
Sandra Norte

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Vivianna Cheong, José Luís de Sales Marques,  
Christian Ritter, Craig Sauers, Yuan Yuan

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Denzel Calangi,  
Lei Heong Ieong

**PROOFREADER**  
Anna O'Connor

**PRINTER**  
Welfare Printing Company, Ltd. Macau

ISSN 2076 – 5479 All rights reserved





**COVER IMAGE**  
Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (left) and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa meet in Lisbon

# Contents

- 04 **Ho Iat Seng’s first official visit to Portugal**  
An action-packed four days in Lisbon saw Macao’s chief executive sign deals, meet with students, and accept a prestigious medal from Portugal’s president.
- 12 **Twenty years of Forum Macao**  
The past two decades have seen a massive increase in trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries – facilitated in no small part by Forum Macao. What is its role and relevance in the post-Covid world?
- 20 **Thirty years of Basic Law**  
Macao’s unique constitutional document was created seven years before the Special Administrative Region was established. It remains as relevant as ever 23 years on.
- 24 **HKMAO director issues ‘requirements’ for Macao**  
On a visit to Macao, Xia Baolong praises progress in some areas – but notes there’s work to be done.
- 28 **Macao looks beyond**  
The three-day BEYOND International Technology and Innovation Expo 2023, held in May, gave Macao a platform to champion more than the startups shaping the future. It also allowed the city to display its potential as a hub for ground-breaking innovations.



- 36 **The Macao Grand Prix Museum comes back to life**  
New interactive displays, walk-through replicas and Madame Tussauds wax figures mean the museum has come roaring out of the pandemic better than ever.
- 44 **‘We have seen the future’**  
TheArsenale sells a vision of mobility’s future. This luxury concept store recently launched its 5th season in Macao.
- 52 **Cynical Realism comes to Macao**  
Fang Lijun’s bold, dream-like artwork has amassed fans across four decades. An ambitious exhibition attempts to capture the artist’s formidable oeuvre.
- 62 **Jacky Cheung in action**  
Shun Man Cheung, or ‘Jacky’ as friends and family know him, grew up watching Hollywood movies. Now, he gets to make them as a cinematographer in Los Angeles and Asia.



- 66 **Powering the smart city dream**  
To meet its goal of becoming a smart city, Macao needs somewhere to store and process massive quantities of data. Why is this and what implications does this have on the public and environment?
- 72 **Sharing the spirit of Canada**  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CanCham) President Howard Stribbell, PhD, talks about opportunities awaiting Canada and Macao in their growing relationship in the Greater Bay Area.
- 76 **What’s happening at Macao’s planetarium?**  
It once held the Guinness World Record for having the highest 3D resolution. While this record has since been beaten, the planetarium keeps coming up with innovative ways to get kids and adults excited over outer space.
- 82 **Connecting artists and collectors**  
The Amagao Gallery hopes to broaden the local art market, with a special focus on works by artists from Portuguese-speaking countries and regions, including Macao.



▶ SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO SUBSCRIBE TO  
OUR NEWSLETTER



## Ho Iat Seng's first official visit to Portugal

**An action-packed four days in Lisbon saw Macao's chief executive sign deals, meet with students, and accept a prestigious medal from Portugal's president.**

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa honoured Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (left) with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Infante D Henrique

(Opposite page)  
"Light Up Macao" four-day promotional event in Lisbon

Text **Christian Ritter** and **Gonçalo César de Sá**

In April, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng went overseas for the first time since taking Macao's helm in December 2019. He arrived in Lisbon on 18 April, with the aim of strengthening ties between the Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Portugal.

Ho held fruitful discussions with several high-ranking officials while there, and encouraged Portugal-based Macao people to do the SAR proud.

The Macao-Portugal Investment and Tourism Promotion Conference proved a highlight of the four-day trip, and was also attended by tourism chief Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes. Eleven cooperation agreements were signed at the conference, including commercial deals in tourism, conventions and exhibitions, professional services, cross-border e-commerce, and trade in general.

### Ideas, inspiration and international cooperation

The SAR's unique history and geographical location make it the obvious nexus for multilateral cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs). While in Portugal, Ho invited the country's minister of foreign affairs, João Gomes Cravinho, to help host the seventh Macao-Portugal Joint Committee meeting – set to be held in the SAR later this year. He also encouraged the Portuguese government to send a delegation to the next conference of Forum Macao (officially called the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries).

When Ho met with China's ambassador to Portugal, Zhao Bentang, the pair discussed how Macao's crucial role in the Forum could be promoted.

Ho attended the Global Tourism Economic Forum (GTEF) while in Lisbon. There, he promoted China's Belt and Road Initiative and met with Madrid-based World Tourism Organization Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili. Macao resort executive Pansy Ho is vice-chair and secretary-general of GTEF, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in Macao in September.

The chief executive also met with Lisbon's mayor, Carlos Moedas. The pair exchanged ideas on technological innovations in municipal administration – which Ho said will help shape Macao's approach to using new technologies for administrative tasks.

When Ho met with Macao entrepreneurs based in Portugal, he heard about how they were promoting opportunities for Portuguese businesses in Macao, the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, and the Greater Bay Area.

At a special event in Lisbon, Ho addressed the 130 Macao students present – urging them to make good use of their time overseas in order to better serve Macao and the country upon returning home. He said his government had high expectations for these students, who are studying the likes of law, translation, business administration, dentistry, marketing, criminology, bioengineering and architecture at Portuguese universities.

### High honours, and a press conference

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa honoured Ho with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Infante D Henrique – a prestigious medal awarded to those making significant contributions to the expansion of Portuguese culture.

The medal was acknowledgement of Macao's ongoing support for the Portuguese language, which has remained an official language in the territory after its administrative return to China in 1999. Almost half of Macao's schools offer lessons in Portuguese, and most tertiary institutions teach programmes in Portugal's language and culture (several specialise in Chinese-Portuguese translation).

Ho wrapped up his trip to Portugal with a press conference. He explained that he picked Portugal as his first – much delayed by Covid-19 – overseas visit due to its historic ties with Macao and prominent position in the Portuguese-speaking world.

Ho said he saw the trip as a success, strengthening bilateral ties across a number of different fields. He also reiterated the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone's investment potential. At the press conference, Ho promised that his government was trying its best to re-establish direct flights between Macao and Lisbon – possibly involving a Chinese airline.

Ho flew from Portugal to Luxembourg on 23 April, on a mission to study Europe's largest bond market. While there, he met with Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. Ho then headed to Belgium to speak with European Union officials. The European Union and Macao signed a trade and cooperation agreement in January 1993 and it has been in force ever since. ●





19 April



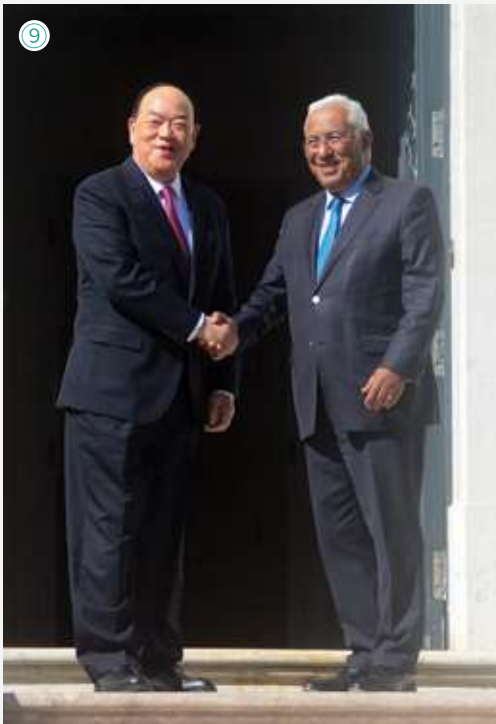
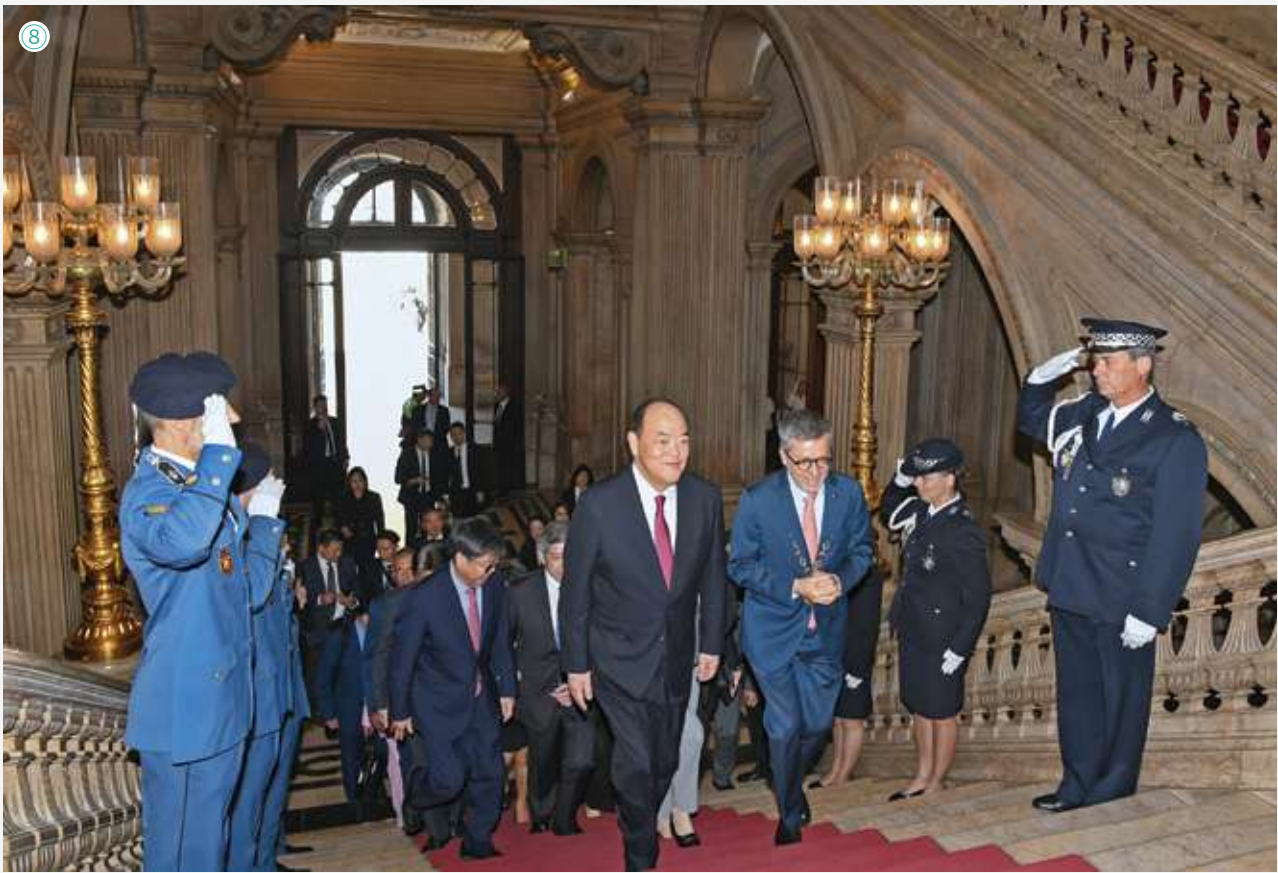
- ① Arrival in Lisbon
- ② Performers from "Experience Macao Unlimited" promotion
- ③ Macao-Portugal Investment and Tourism Promotion Conference
- ④ Memo signing between AICEP, IPIM, the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Macao Chamber of Commerce

20 April

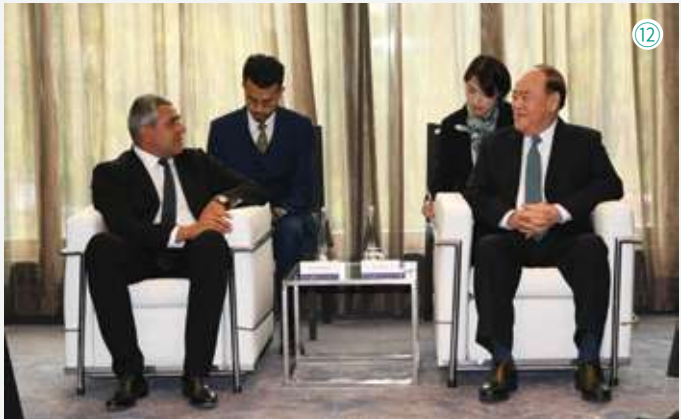


- ⑤ Champalimaud Foundation big health research centre
- ⑥ Chinese Ambassador to Portugal Zhao Bentang (centre right) at embassy
- ⑦ Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa





21 April



- ⑧ Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas (centre right)
- ⑨ Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa
- ⑩ Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs João Gomes Cravinho
- ⑪ Macao entrepreneurs delegation visiting Portugal
- ⑫ UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili
- ⑬ GTEF and World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) sign memorandum of understanding





22 April



14 Macao reception

15 Caixa Geral de Depósitos headquarters

16 Signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between University of Macau and University of Lisbon

17 Macao students studying in Portugal

18 Macao Economic and Trade Office

19 Press conference concluding Lisbon visit before departure to Luxembourg





# Twenty years of Forum Macao

The past two decades have seen a massive increase in trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries – facilitated in no small part by Forum Macao. What is its role and relevance in the post-Covid world?



Weiming Xie

For 20 years, Forum Macao has leveraged historic ties to build a stronger platform for Macao's future

Text **José Luís de Sales Marques, Economist**

2003 was a remarkable year for the young Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR). Just as the economy was busy recovering from a pre-handover recession, a strange and deadly coronavirus struck the region: severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). SARS sparked a major health crisis across the mainland, Macao and Hong Kong, hindering the region's economic rebound – and especially hurting tourism-related businesses.

Thankfully, that outbreak was contained within a few months and the latter half of the

year brought good news. Macao's economy did bounce back, achieving 11.6 percent growth by the year's end.

One reason for this was the Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a free trade agreement between the central government of China and its two Special Administrative Regions, Macao and Hong Kong. World Trade Organization (UNWTO)-compatible CEPA was signed in June 2003, boosting economic cooperation through trade in goods, services and investment facilitation. It represents a successful application of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

For Macao, the most important part of CEPA was the introduction of the "Individual Visit Scheme" (IVS). IVS allows residents of an increasing number of mainland cities to apply for travel permits to visit Macao as individuals, rather than as part of tour groups. The move transformed tourism in Macao, boosting its restructured gaming sector by millions of patrons, all eager to experience the SAR's brand new luxury hotels, restaurants and shopping facilities.

As Macao's authorities introduced new gaming concessions and integrated resorts – some operated by internationally acclaimed gaming corporations – the city finally saw

economic growth of unprecedented proportions. Since then, it has become one of the most valued gaming destinations in the world.

But Macao also has an exceptional comparative advantage as a bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs). Common history means that Macao's legal and administrative systems share similarities with other PSCs. For instance, it is easy for someone in Mozambique or Brazil to understand legal concepts and administrative behaviours in the MSAR. These commonalities foster mutual trust.





Lei Heong leong

The flags of every member nation, along with the Chinese and MSAR flags, mark the Forum Macao complex

### Forum Macao: capitalising on historical ties

In 2003, China was fast gaining momentum on the world stage. It had recently joined the UNWTO and other international multilateral institutions, and Chinese authorities were keen to capitalise on well-connected Macao's historical ties with overseas Chinese communities across

Asia, Europe and Portuguese-speaking countries around the globe.

Forum Macao – short for the Forum for the Cooperation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries – was founded in a ceremony presided by then-Vice-Premier Wu Yi in October 2003, in Macao. All Portuguese-speaking countries holding diplomatic relations with Beijing

trade promotion. But there are relational differences, too. China has had decades of political solidarity with many countries in Africa, since the early years of the People's Republic when China supported Africa's independence movements in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. There's also been economic solidarity through the substantial economic aid Beijing has supplied the continent to support nation-building in the post-decolonisation period.

Forum Macao's institutional DNA comes from a different source, however. It is based on the fact that Macao, as a Special Administrative Region of China, has the Portuguese language enshrined in its Basic Law. That commonality of language between Macao and the PSCs adds an extra dimension to institutional constructions built on the basis of political, economic and geopolitical shared interest.

Moreover, the Forum would probably have never happened if Macao's full retrocession from Portuguese-administered territory into the Chinese motherland had not been managed so smoothly by both parties. It would also have been a struggle if the majority of Portuguese-speaking countries were not already enjoying excellent relations with Beijing. Even São Tomé and Príncipe, which had no diplomatic relations with China until 2017, was still regularly invited to attend Forum Macao's events.

are part of Forum Macao. Initially, this was Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Timor-Leste. São Tomé and Príncipe joined later, in 2017, and Equatorial Guinea joined in 2022.

Forum Macao has similarities with the China-Africa Forum, founded three years earlier in 2000. Both are innovative, China-led strategies for international engagement and



(Opposite page) Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (centre), representatives and other officials mark the launching ceremony for Forum Macao's 20th anniversary celebrations

### Twenty years on

Over the past 20 years, Forum members have organised hundreds of joint initiatives to promote trade and investment. Thousands of professionals, technical experts, government officials and business people have attended these, as well as a wide number of training programmes carried out in Macao and the mainland. Such events offer the chance to learn new things and facilitate the exchange of ideas and cross-cultural dialogue between people.

But some observers question the effectiveness of the Forum, and even its relevance. Their scepticism is based on the fact that during all these years, trade between Macao and PSCs has remained so insignificant it's not even covered in relevant published statistical reports.

According to the Forum Macao, trade between China and PSCs came in at US\$215 billion in 2022 – a 36-fold increase since 2002 while Chinese investment into Portuguese-speaking countries also increased significantly between 2002 and 2021, and now exceeds US\$86 billion. These increases illustrate the deepened bilateral relations between China and PSCs, going beyond the Forum's primary role.

During Forum Macao's 20th anniversary celebrations held in Macao in March, representatives and officials called for a boost in the platform's activity. They wanted to see it further develop its horizontal

reach, particularly to address the need of small and medium-sized businesses in China and Portuguese-speaking countries. They also wanted to see more cooperation in other areas, including culture and people-to-people interaction and dialogues. The Lusophone Games, for example, should eventually be revived (they last took place in 2014) – adding to the multidimensional remit of the Forum, along with Macao's annual Lusophone Week.

It is important to note that the Forum is endowed with a permanent Macao-based secretariat, as well as permanent representatives of PSCs who are also based in Macao.

### Scope for cooperation during economic recovery

In 2020, an external evaluation conducted by the Evaluation Group of the Academy of Social Sciences based in Beijing concluded that the Forum Macao had both created a new model of intergovernmental cooperation and successfully forged a new path for economic and trade cooperation between China and the PSCs. It also noted that the MSAR had fully played its role as a platform linking China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

But that doesn't mean the job is done. The report candidly acknowledged yet-to-be explored opportunities between China and PSCs, highlighting the vast potential Forum Macao still holds as a service platform – especially as effectiveness and efficiency improve.

Macao's second five-year plan (2021-2025) identifies sectors and economic activities towards which diversification efforts must be directed or reinforced. The likes of traditional Chinese medicine in the Hengqin cooperation zone, cutting edge financial services, and sports industries present opportunities for the SAR to become the cultural hub of content exchange between China and PSCs – as well as the creative centre for the Portuguese-speaking talents in the Greater Bay Area.

Macao should be the obvious base for anyone learning the Portuguese language in the region. In the same token, universities in Macao must have better programmes to attract students from PSCs, as well as Chinese students from the mainland,

interested in studying Lusophone cultures, engineering and architecture, medicine and tourism.

Now, in 2023, Macao is again recovering from the outbreak of a virus: Covid-19. Economic recovery, centred around diversification, will be challenging and complex. Forum Macao, at the intersection between Macao's own economy and the broader Chinese economy, provides the SAR with unique and singular opportunities. Wielded effectively, it can raise Macao's role in broader national development as well as in the construction of the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative – all while diversifying its economy. It is a demanding yet potentially win-win process, promising huge rewards.







“

### Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng at the 20th anniversary of the Forum Macao

Forum Macao, in helping Macao realise its strategic position as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, has the full support of the government of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

I hope that Forum Macao would make even better use of the Macao Special Administrative Region's unique advantages, and opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, in conjunction with Macao's "1+4" strategy for appropriate economic diversification. This would help Macao enterprises to play a greater role in promoting economic and trade cooperation between the mainland and the Portuguese-speaking countries, and facilitating people-to-people exchange among these countries.

The economic and commercial cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries has achieved encouraging results, with strengthened ties in various fields. All these efforts have helped in boosting Macao's influence in the international community, and in promoting the city's development.

As such, the government of the Macao Special Administrative Region will give its full support in assisting Forum Macao and will spare no effort in expanding Macao's role as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. The result will be a joint exploration of fresh opportunities, in the interests of a brighter future for all.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng affirmed the government's commitment to Forum Macao and their shared goal of a brighter future

To make it work, Macao's government needs to use all necessary resources to develop the concept of "One Platform and Three Centres". It must intensely promote Macao's role as a platform and involve the whole of society in achieving this objective. The government also needs to make additional efforts to smooth the way for local business operators to engage in economic and cultural exchanges with Portuguese-speaking countries.

The China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund could help here. Officially launched in June 2013, with US\$1 billion funded by China

Development Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund of Macao, the fund aims to facilitate Macao's integration in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area.

So far, it has leveraged total investments by Chinese companies in PSCs to up to US\$4 billion, mostly in large-scale projects. Some observers have noted the fund should also look into economically sound investments of a smaller scale, however. Projects that would contribute to the industrial capacity of PSCs, improve livelihoods, and add jobs to local communities.

In April, Macao Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng travelled to Portugal

for the first time since becoming CE, accompanied by a formidable business delegation, to promote bilateral opportunities between the SAR and its former administrator. The fact that Portugal was so high on Ho's agenda after he spent the past three years managing the Covid-19 crisis shows how important relations between Macao and PSCs are for the city.

Most Portuguese-speaking countries are making good headway with their post-Covid recoveries. The current global environment, however, is characterised by great geopolitical competition, accelerated inflation, financial instability and the continued disruption in global

supply chains – with very negative repercussions on global value chains. In this context, solidarity and cooperation networks between countries and peoples – the likes of Forum Macao – are more important than ever.

Forum Macao is indeed a very rich and unique platform. It plays a positive institutional role in that it fosters trust and familiarity between participants. It reduces the cost of cultural distances that are a natural feature when cooperative arrangements are made with players from across separate geographical areas – even continents apart – and cultural shocks are more the norm than exception. ●





Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng marked the historic 30th anniversary alongside Macao and mainland officials

## Thirty years of Basic Law

**Macao's unique constitutional document was created seven years before the Special Administrative Region was established. It remains as relevant as ever 23 years on.**

Text **Christian Ritter**

Macao's Basic Law celebrated its 30th anniversary on 31 March. At a ceremony held at the Forum Macao complex, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng described the milestone as "historic" – and praised the 1993 legislation for setting the territory on a "magnificent route". Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC)'s Standing Committee Li Hongzhong were also in attendance.

The Basic Law serves as the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)'s constitutional document. Enacted in 1993 by then-President Jiang Zemin, the law wasn't put into practice until 20 December 1999 – the same day Macao's administration was reverted back to China.

Since then, the territory has firmly adhered to its Basic Law and successfully implemented the "One Country, Two Systems" principle codified by the legislation, said Ho. While acknowledging there was scope to better integrate Macao into overall national development, the chief executive affirmed that "One Country, Two Systems" was the best arrangement possible for Macao's long-term stability and prosperity.

"The MSAR had seen rapid development, with a focus on appropriate economic diversification," he said of the past 24 years. "Fundamental rights enjoyed by Macao residents, and their welfare and well-being, were securely protected. There had been progress in various undertakings relating to the community. Macao had strengthened its effort regarding regional cooperation, and enhanced its role in relation to external exchange and cooperation."

### A brief history of the Basic Law

The Basic Law was conceived back in 1988, by a drafting committee set up under the NPC.

The legislation was enacted on 31 March 1993, with the intention it would not be applied until Macao's administration was transferred back to China.

Macao's Basic Law is, in effect, an entrenched constitutional document.

It spells out the rules for the territory's government and grants substantive rights to its residents. It also confirms that Macao is an inalienable part of China – that only the NPC has the power to interpret and amend the Basic Law.

Hong Kong has its own, similarly structured, Basic Law. A unique part of the Macao version is its protection of possibly the world's largest Eurasian community: the Macanese. Chapter III Article 42 protects "the interests of the residents of Portuguese descent in Macao," guaranteeing respect for their customs and culture. This is in acknowledgement of the almost 450 years the territory spent under Portuguese administration.

Another key piece of legislation during the handover period was the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration, signed in 1987. This established the framework for Macao's peaceful handover from Portugal to China and confirmed the territory's then-future status as a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. It set out the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

Today, the Joint Declaration is considered an important historical document that shows how two nations, with different political systems, can peacefully solve problems stemming from the past. The Basic Law has replaced it as Macao's primary legal document, ensuring the SAR's high degree of autonomy within the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.



Li Hongzhong, vice-chairman of the NPC's Standing Committee and Politburo member, emphasised the principle of "patriots administering Macao" in his keynote

**Politburo member praises Basic Law**

Li Hongzhong, Politburo member and vice-chairman of the NPC's Standing Committee, was the keynote speaker at the 30-year anniversary ceremony. He described how the Basic Law – alongside China's national constitution – provided an all-round legal guarantee for Macao's continued development under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

Li said that since Macao's return to the motherland, the city's residents have enjoyed a wide

range of constitutionally protected rights and freedoms. These include freedom of speech, the presumption of innocence, and equality before the law. The Basic Law also enables residents to participate in State affairs through multiple channels.

"The development of the MSAR's democratic political system has fully embodied the political principles of broad representation and balanced participation," Li noted.

In his speech, Li pledged that the central government would continue to implement the Basic Law principle of "patriots governing Macao".



**Good economic prospects**

The vice-chairman also noted that since its return to the motherland, Macao had experienced rapid economic growth. While the city's economy is facing temporary difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Li stressed that its future prospects had not been affected.

He also underscored Macao's much closer ties and exchanges with the mainland and the world since the MSAR's establishment.

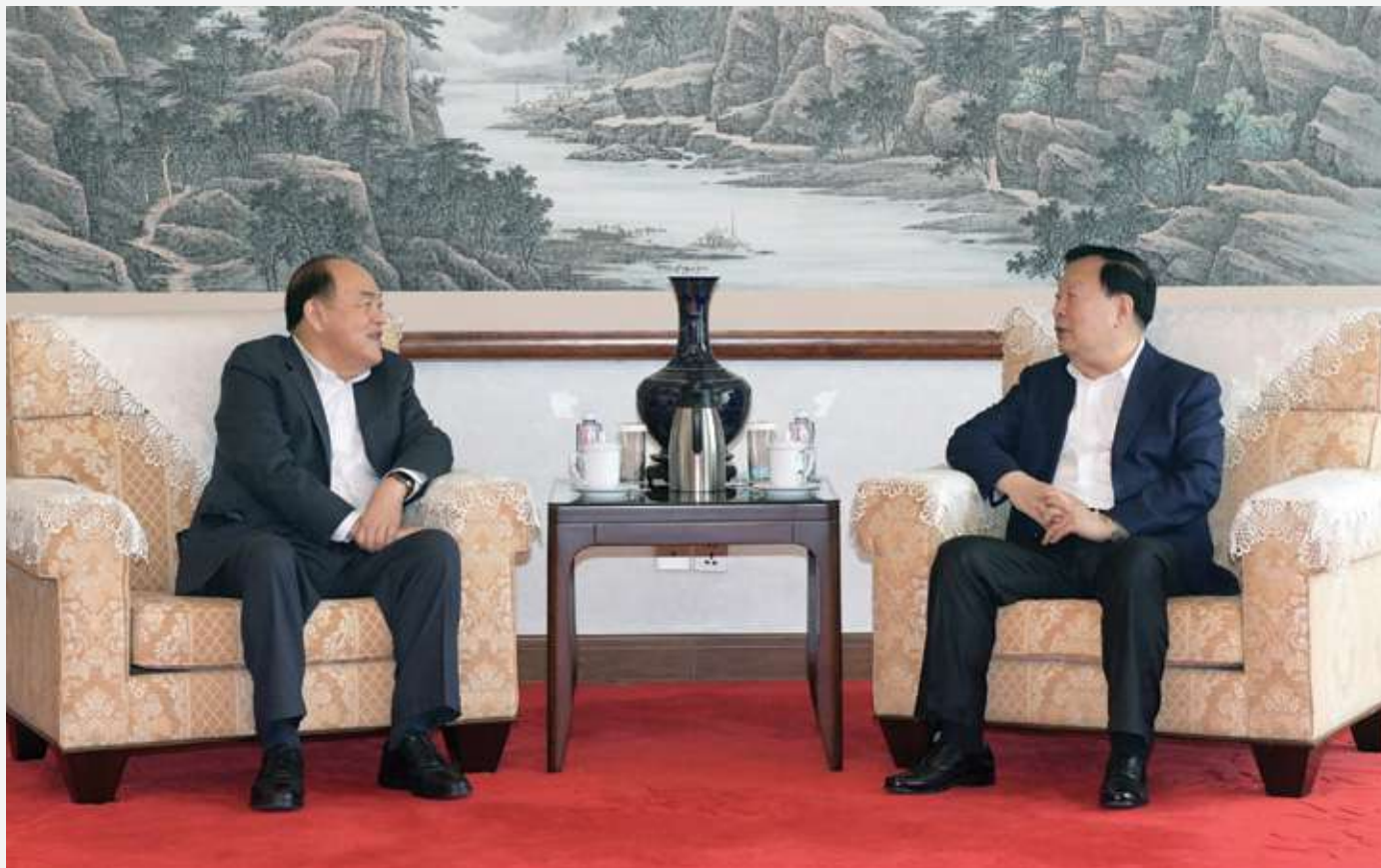
Efforts must be made to safeguard national sovereignty, security and

development interests; pragmatically implement the central authorities' overall jurisdiction; maintain the principle of "patriots administering Macao"; and promote the Basic Law as Macao's constitution, Li said.

Thirty years on, the Basic Law remains as relevant as ever. There may be amendments on the way, brought about by Macao's integration into the Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin. But these are testament to the legislation's vitality; its ability to support the city's development and progress. ●

Around 1,000 guests gathered for the ceremony, held at the Forum Macao complex





## HKMAO director issues 'requirements' for Macao

**On a visit to Macao, Xia Baolong praises progress in some areas – but notes there's work to be done.**

Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office Xia Baolong (right) meets with Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng

(Opposite page) Xia Baolong (centre) with Macao's Chief Executive, government and top mainland officials in the MSAR

Text **Christian Ritter** and **Gonçalo César de Sá**

In May, Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) Xia Baolong spent four days in the Special Administrative Region (SAR), meeting with local leaders and touring the city.

Xia's first event, on 23 May, was a meeting at the Government Guest House. The heads of Macao's legislative and judicial bodies, as well as four policy secretaries, were also in attendance. There, the 70-year-old director congratulated Ho for several "breakthrough" achievements of the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems", then raised six "requirements" – or areas to work on.

Ho's efforts to safeguard national security were praised, with Xia noting that the Macao Legislative Assembly had recently passed a bill amending an existing national security law.

He said Macao's government needed to strengthen national security education, and encourage residents to "resolutely" fight any forces attempting to undermine the SAR's prosperity and stability.

He noted the importance of protecting the SAR's constitutional order, established by the Basic Law. Part of that is the principle of "patriots governing Macao". Xia called upon civil society to firmly support its local government in amending the city's election system – to ensure that

Macao's own people would continue to hold positions of power.

In addition, he told the local government to better enforce the principle of "Loving the Country and Loving Macao". Xia told his Macao compatriots to cherish the "One Country, Two Systems" principle – and reminded them that the 'One Country' component came first.

"The implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle requires the safeguarding of the nation's sovereignty, security and development interests," he said, noting that progress was being made to better integrate Macao into the country's plan for national development.





### Economic diversification is key

Xia commended Ho's government's work to stabilise Macao's economy, protect local employment, and relieve residents' financial burdens in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Regarding the SAR's goal to diversify its economy, Xia said he approved of its government's "1+4" plan. The new strategy aims to promote Macao as a centre for integrated tourism and leisure, while developing four nascent industries: Big Health industry; modern financial services; high technology; and conferences and exhibitions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports.

In addition, Xia praised the government for its gaming law reform, which will help "promote the sound development of the city's gaming industry".

However, the HKMAO director also said the SAR could be making better progress. "Macao has to make greater achievements in promoting its appropriate economic diversification," he said. "It is needed to ensure Macao's long-term prosperity and stability, and is necessary for Macao to increase its economic resilience and its ability to counter potential risks."

Xia said he expects Hengqin, across the water in Zhuhai, to facilitate Macao's economic diversification. As such, he wanted to see "greater achievements" regarding Macao's participation in the Guangdong-

Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, in Hengqin. He urged the SAR to "firmly grasp the precious opportunities" offered by the cooperation zone, and to overcome any obstacles hindering its ongoing development.

Xia concluded his speech by urging Macao's government to push ahead with its drive to reform public administration using IT technology, which would improve overall governance.

While in Macao, Xia made a thorough tour of the city – visiting the Legislative Assembly and the Court of Final Appeal, health and education facilities, two museums, a care home for senior citizens, a new public housing project, and two integrated resorts.

Xia also stopped by the Forum Macao complex to better understand the SAR's role

as a business platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

At the end of the visit to Macao, Xia told the local government that appropriately diversifying the city's economy "is not optional but compulsory".

Ho said that Xia's four-day visit produced "fruitful and meaningful" results for Macao's development, pledging that the local government will certainly promote Macao's sustainable development in compliance with the requirements raised by the HKMAO director. Ho also said that Xia "highly praised" Macao's work on safeguarding national security and said that the central authorities are paying close attention to whether the city's gaming operators are fulfilling their respective promises to develop new non-gaming projects. ●

(Opposite page)  
Xia Baolong at  
the Court of  
Final Appeal

Xia Baolong  
visits the  
Legislative  
Assembly





BUSINESS

## MACAO LOOKS

## BEYOND



The three-day BEYOND International Technology and Innovation Expo 2023 gave Macao a platform to champion more than the startups shaping the future. It also allowed the city to display its potential as a hub for ground-breaking innovations.

Text **Craig Sauers**  
Photos courtesy of **BEYOND**

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng called innovation and technology the “brand-new name card” of Macao in his opening speech

(Inset) XPeng AeroHT showed off its fifth-generation autonomous flying EV, cleared for take off in the mainland earlier this year

Macao stands at a pivotal juncture in its development. The Greater Bay Area is growing, its economy is transforming and Macao, an historic bridge between East and West, has an opportunity to go from strength to strength by tapping into the incredible potential of technology.

This was the sentiment shared by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng in his opening remarks at the BEYOND International Technology and Innovation Expo 2023, held at an integrated resort in Macao from 10-12 May.

Macao’s top official kicked off the three-day event – which brought together hundreds of speakers, panellists and

exhibitors in the fields of sustainability, healthcare and consumer technology – with a rousing speech that emphasised the increasing importance of technology to the city.

“Innovation and technology have become the brand-new name card of Macao,” said the chief executive, thanks to “effort from the industry and support from the country.”

In his remarks, Ho also highlighted the government’s new economic diversification strategy, 1+4 – an approach aimed at advancing the tourism and leisure industries while also developing the fields of big health, hi-tech, modern finance, and

conventions and exhibitions including culture and sports.

Above all, however, Ho expressed confidence about a broader goal.

The world, he added, is undergoing “profound changes”, including an “inevitable” technological revolution, and Asia should be “more open-minded” in its exchanges and cooperation with other regions to raise the standard of living for everyone. In this era of great change, he said Macao has an opportunity not only to advance its own technological ecosystem, but also to attract top global talent to work in Macao, create a more sustainable future society and contribute to the city’s economic evolution.





Wang Weizhong, governor of Guangdong Province, cited potential in this area for the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone

(Below) BEYOND Expo co-founder Jason Ho characterised Macao as a "perfect place" for tech innovators to come together

(Opposite page) XAG debuted their P100 Pro agricultural drone at the expo



### POSITIONING THE GREATER BAY AREA FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

The chief executive's remarks set the tone for BEYOND, which aims to become Asia's leading international tech expo. Other keynote speakers echoed Ho's optimism.

Governor of Guangdong Province Wang Weizhong emphasised the importance of technology in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). "It [the GBA] is the greatest opportunity in our lifetime," Wang said. President Xi Jinping, he added, had emphasised the GBA's role as "the new driving force in the development of this region" and said that it was "important to attract talent from around the globe".

The motivation to take on this challenge is clear. In his opening remarks, BEYOND co-founder Jason Ho referred to Macao "as the bridge between Asian countries and the rest of the world". BEYOND, he added, offered an opportunity to showcase the ways technology could, and should, tackle and solve global challenges by "[uniting] new friends, old friends and potential partners".

Across three days, the tech expo achieved precisely that aim.

Following the keynote addresses, Jason Ho brought four of the speakers on stage for an engaging conversation that centred on Asia's potential to lead global development in the 21st century.

The fireside chat featured former UN Security Council President Kishore Mahhubani; Joe Tsai, executive vice-chairman of Alibaba Group and owner of the Brooklyn Nets, the American professional basketball team; Liqun Jin, president and chair of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; and Andrew Sheng, chief adviser to the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission. Touching on topics as pressing as the renminbi as a global currency and fostering peace in an era of instability, the four spoke frequently of the technology emerging from Macao and the mainland, especially artificial intelligence (AI).

They also discussed Macao's unique role in shaping the future. Tsai spoke of Macao's ability to be a hub for people-to-people exchange, thanks to its connections with Asia and the Western world. The renowned entrepreneur also agreed with Chief Executive Ho that Macao is well-positioned to transform its economy to one oriented on entertainment, healthcare, sustainability and technology.

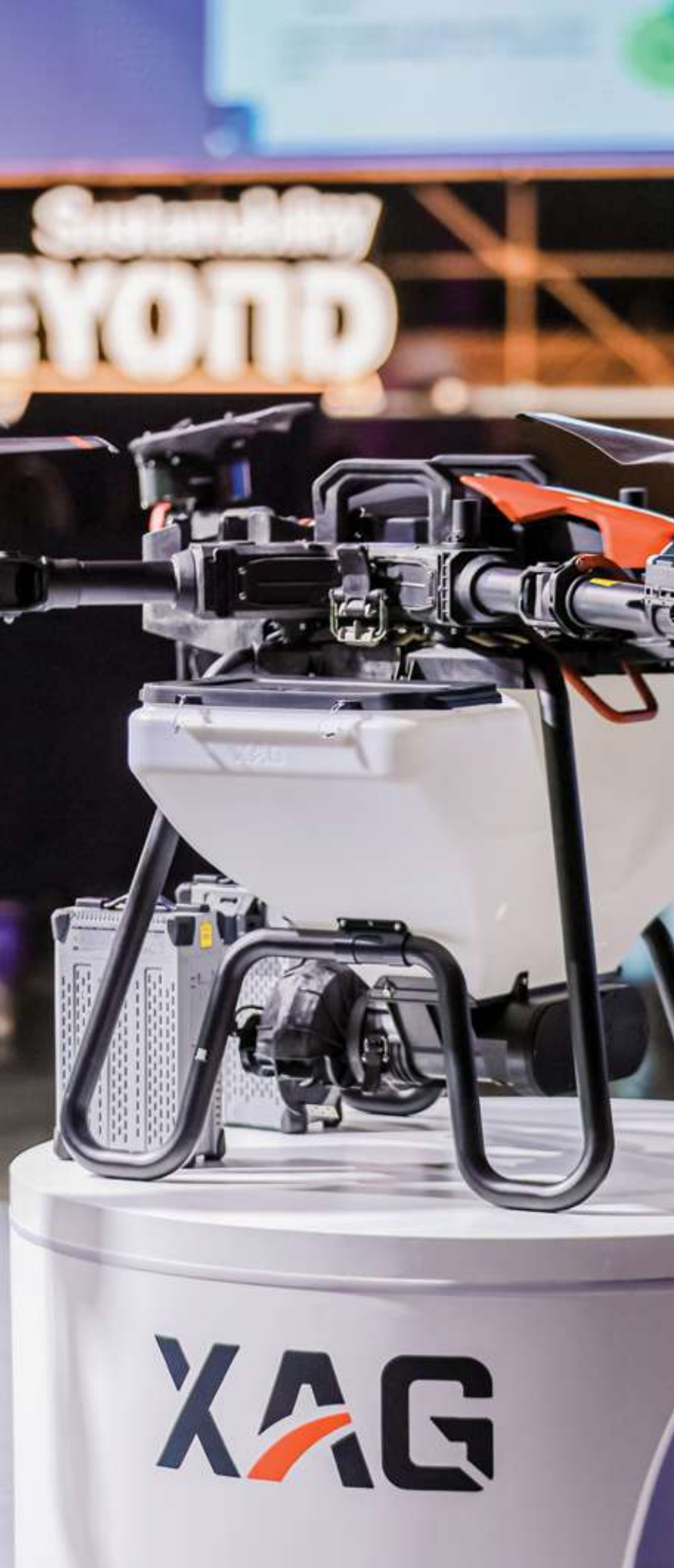
### BRINGING THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FUTURE INTO TODAY

On the floor of the expo hall, hundreds of companies displayed their pioneering technologies, ranging from autonomous flying taxis to AI-powered biochips used to detect cancer. Support from major corporate players in Macao and beyond might help some of them make an impact globally.

For example, the Sands Resorts Incubation Centre, unveiled at BEYOND, enables startups to refine and develop their tech products and services at Sands' Macao properties. At the expo, the integrated resort laid out plans to partner with Parafuturo de Macau Investment and Development (PFM), the company created by the government in 2015 to support local entrepreneurs, to help bring promising projects to market.

Other corporate giants also put their weight behind tech up-and-comers at BEYOND.

Microsoft China's incubation programme, Microsoft Accelerator, took centre stage at the consumer tech forum on day two of the expo. The software firm brought 10 of its most promising startups to BEYOND to showcase their game-changing innovations – all of which were powered by AI.







BEYOND Expo brought in more than 55,000 attendees worldwide, eager to take in the 150+ industry forums

“AI is growing so fast and changing the way we do things [almost daily]. The future is really exciting,” said Ken Wang, CEO and founder of BOOLV, a Shenzhen-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) startup that enables users to create 15-second video ads instantly, complete with clickthrough buttons to drive social media sales.

BOOLV was one of 10 startups that took stage at the consumer tech forum to discuss the role that AI and software will play in the future of human society.

In other forums at BEYOND, startups focused on sustainability and health showcased the ways technology will enable us to live better, fuller lives and improve the state of the planet.

“[Our vendors] really want to be able to tell their customers that... they do see [sustainability] as a huge impact for their own business and for everyone in the world,” said Bowie Miao, project manager for Muuse, a Singapore-based start-up that provides reusable cups and lunchboxes to help

cut down the use of disposable plastic at cafes and restaurants.

Startups like Muuse underpinned BEYOND’s mission to encourage knowledge exchange and “promote... a better global innovation ecology”.

Dr. Zhe Lin, meanwhile, reflected BEYOND’s other mission of promoting Macao as a launching pad for ideas. His Cell 4D technology, which aims to distinguish cancer and other tumour cells from normal cells, was met with keen interest from investors and decision-makers throughout the event. That interest could propel the technology to the next stage of its development and impact millions globally.

“We are collaborating with researchers and hospitals in Switzerland, the UK, the mainland and Taiwan,” Lin says. “Doctors are very impressed by this new technology.”

## CONNECTING LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES

Macao’s unique history has allowed it to punch above its weight in many respects. It has also endowed the city with a special role as a conduit between Portuguese-speaking, or Lusophone countries and Asia.

BEYOND allowed the city to showcase its unifying powers. The expo organised a roadshow for 10 technology companies from Brazil and Portugal, putting some of those countries’ most promising enterprises on stage before Chinese and international investors.

Those included Portuguese startup Biosolvit, a biotechnology company that has developed the world’s most efficient oil-absorbing materials and other products, and Key2Enable, a Brazilian digital startup that empowers people with motor and intellectual disabilities to develop their skills.

One discussion, bringing together voices from banking, security and commerce, centred on Asia’s potential to lead global development in the 21st century





Apart from exhibiting their products and services at the expo, representatives of the 10 startups were able to connect with leaders of local enterprises and government departments in Macao, Hengqin, Zhuhai and Guangzhou. The off-site visits were organised by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau of Macau (DSED) and hosted by PFM.

For many, this was their first opportunity to visit China since

the pandemic forced nations to shut their borders. In two cases, the opportunities paid immediate dividends.

During BEYOND, two firms – Virtuleap, a VR-powered health tech startup, and Biosolvit – announced their intentions to incorporate their business entities in Macao.

“[The visits] demonstrate the important role of Macao as a platform between China and

Portuguese-speaking countries,” said Tai Kin Ip, Director of DSED. “[They] create opportunities for Brazilian and Portuguese enterprises to meet and negotiate face-to-face with [Chinese] and international investors.”

These visits represented what Macao is primed to offer investors, innovators and thought leaders as the economy diversifies. Thanks to BEYOND, many were able to appreciate Macao’s distinct

advantages more fully. In a world increasingly framed by technology – one that seems to be growing closer together yet further apart – collaboration and cooperation will be ever more important.

Fortunately for Macao, the ability to link people, ideas and cultures is its greatest strength, as it has been for centuries. As BEYOND proved, few destinations capture this dynamic as neatly as Macao. ●

A roadshow at the expo introduced a delegation of Brazilian and Portuguese tech companies to potential investors

(Opposite page) The EHang EH216 series autonomous flying EV has conducted over 37,000 safe flying tests to date





## SPORTS

# The Macao Grand Prix Museum comes back to life

New interactive displays, walk-through replicas and Madame Tussauds wax figures mean the museum has come roaring out of the pandemic better than ever.



## AYRTON SENNA 冼拿

/不過他隨後完美反超這位哥倫比亞車手，最終以6秒優勢衝線，拿下冠軍。

/ Senna executed a pass that left the Columbian in awe, going on to cross the line with 6 seconds lead to take victory in the opening leg.



阿頓·冼拿 (Ayrton Senna da Silva)  
國籍：巴西

冼拿 (Ayrton Senna) 出生於1960年，在1983年第30屆澳門格蘭披治大賽車，亦是第1屆澳門格蘭披治三級方程式大賽，上場了兩圈全場第一，冼拿首次奪冠——次出征澳門，其取得兩圈全場勝利，更拿下澳門格蘭披治三級方程式大賽桂冠，且他所創立的三級方程式車隊繼續紀錄更保持了7年之久。

Ayrton Senna da Silva  
Nationalidade: Brasileira

Ayrton Senna da Silva nasceu em 1960. O 30º Grande Prêmio de Macau em 1983, decorreu em duas mangas, de grande disputa, na primeira realização da prova do Grande Prêmio de Macau de Fórmula 3. Senna, na sua primeira e única visita a Macau, venceu as duas mangas triunfando na corrida inaugural do Grande Prêmio de Macau de Fórmula 3 e a sua volta recorde na Fórmula 3 manteve-se durante 7 anos.

Ayrton Senna da Silva  
Nationality: Brazilian

Ayrton Senna da Silva was born in 1960. The 30th Macau Grand Prix in 1983 was held over two legs of fierce battle with the first-ever Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix. Senna won both legs and took the first Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix victory and it was his first and only visit to Macau, his top record of Formula 3 has been kept for 7 years.

Ayrton Senna cemented his place in Macao racing history in 1983, winning the inaugural F3 race





Text **Erico Dias**  
Photos **Lei Heong Ieong**

MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes sees a bright future for the museum

(Centre) As the racer with the most Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix wins, Michael Rutter (rear) was an obvious choice for the wax figure project

It's something for a tiny territory to celebrate: most of the world's top racing drivers have burned rubber here, in the Macau Grand Prix. Now, a selection of these greats – including Ayrton Senna and Lewis Hamilton – can be viewed at the recently revamped Macao Grand Prix Museum. Not quite in the flesh, but close. In wax, courtesy of Madame Tussauds Hong Kong.

Macao's first-ever car race took place in 1954, in a 51-lap face-off lasting four hours. Since then, the city's famous Guia Circuit has seen almost-annual fast and furious action. This year marks the storied sporting event's 70th anniversary; there's no

better place to delve into its history than at its namesake museum.

In 2017, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) decided it was time to “bring the Macao Grand Prix Museum to life,” says MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes. After a public tender, then nearly MOP 379 million (US\$46.9 million) renovation taking four years, the museum reopened in 2021.

Its four storeys are now packed with interactive displays, exhibitions and awe-inspiring vehicles from past races including the Macau Grand Prix, the Formula 3 (F3) Macau Grand Prix, the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, the Macau GT Cup and the Guia Race.

Visitors can also get a taste of race day action through life-size control rooms (where race directors manage the action on track) and pit garages, where cars stop during a race to get their tyres changed. You can experience the g-force a driver feels as they accelerate at mind-bending speeds. Or give the Batak Reaction Challenge a whirl, which is how drivers test their reaction times before a race. There's also a podium where kids can get photographed and a display that lets them suit up, virtually, in different racing outfits.

One of the notable highlights of the revamp is how the museum is more accessible for people with disabilities.

There are tactile warning strips on the floor that help visually impaired people, tactile museum maps, and tabletop induction loop systems to assist the hearing-impaired, whether at museum displays or ticket counters. There are even specially tactile racing cars so the visually impaired can get a better idea of how such vehicles work.

Then there are the wax figures of racing legends. The collaboration between MGTO and Madame Tussauds Hong Kong has been a long time coming. Conceived in 2017, it wasn't until March this year – seven days before the unveiling – that the museum announced who its eight wax racers would be.

Lewis Hamilton is considered one of the greatest F1 drivers with a joint-record seven World Drivers' Championship titles





The pandemic didn't help. With its strict border entry controls, members from Madame Tussauds Hong Kong were unable to come regularly to the city. But MGTO was in constant contact with the team at Madame Tussauds through Zoom calls. Five of the eight wax figures are brand-new waxworks, while the other three are recasts. All of them were made in England.

"We came up with a wish list," says Senna Fernandes. "Obviously more than the eight that we can finally have, but the process had to involve the personalities themselves, or their families. So that's how the final list came about."

The eight are Brazilian Ayrton Senna; Britons Lewis Hamilton, Michael Rutter, Robert Huff and Ron Haslam; German Sebastian Vettel; Swiss-Italian Edoardo Mortara; and the UK-born John

MacDonald, who raced for Hong Kong. They have all either made their mark globally or on the Guia Circuit.

The racers or their representatives "had to feel comfortable, whether or not our museum is able to host their wax figures. Are we able to provide the best possible environment so that the wax figures can stay here and have a very good way to display them? So this was a very special collaboration with Madame Tussauds," says Senna Fernandes.

Michael Rutter and Robert Huff attended the official unveiling ceremony on 27 March. According to Senna Fernandes, the two men could not believe their eyes when their respective doubles were revealed. Rutter and Huff dressed up in their racewear for an iconic photoshoot with their lookalikes.

A wax Sebastian Vettel gives his trademark "finger celebration" salute to museum visitors



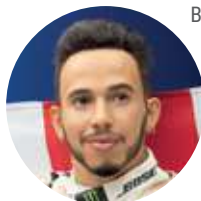
# Immortalised in wax

## AYRTON SENNA DA SILVA (B.1960, D. 1994)



The late Ayrton Senna is one of motor racing’s greats. The Brazilian started go-karting when he was 13 years old and made his Formula 1 (F1) debut in 1984. In Macao, he is remembered for his remarkable race at the Macau Grand Prix inaugural F3 race in 1983 – his last F3 season. He was invited by Theodore Racing to drive their iconic Ralt RT3 after winning the British F3 title. Senna went on to win the race before he joined the F1 team, Toleman.

## LEWIS HAMILTON (B. 1985)



British racing driver Lewis Hamilton has won seven F1 World Championship titles, a record jointly held with German racing legend Michael Schumacher. Hamilton raced in Macao twice, in 2003 and 2004, before becoming the first Black driver to win an F1 race – a feat achieved in 2008. The Brit’s first Macao race ended with a tire puncture that forced him to retire early after leading the group in the opening laps, but he managed to finish in second during during the Qualifying Classification in the following year and 14th at the race.

## SEBASTIAN VETTEL (B. 1987)



Four-time F1 World Champion Sebastian Vettel made his Macau Grand Prix debut in 2005. The recently retired German driver was racing as the favourite, but came in third place. In 2010, a 23-year-old Vettel became the youngest person to win an F1 World Championship title.

## EDOARDO MORTARA (B. 1987)



Edoardo Mortara has won at the Macau Grand Prix seven times in the Macau GT Cup race, F3 and the Audi Sport R8 LMS Cup. Nicknamed ‘Mr Macao’, Mortara is set to feature yet again at the Macau Grand Prix at the Macau GT Cup in a new Audi race car. During his teen years, Mortara enjoyed football and even saw himself going pro, but was set back due to an injury. The Swiss athlete tried to balance both football and karting, but in the end decided to choose racing and has no regrets to date.



Founder of Theodore Racing Teddy Yip is known as ‘Mr Macau Grand Prix’ for his work in making the race a success

The resulting photos make it clear: from their race suits to skin tone, hand veins to hairstyles, the wax figures do look uncannily real. To keep them in the best condition, the temperature inside the museum is now set at 24 degrees celsius or below.

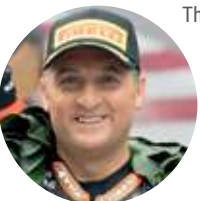
Other noteworthy attendees included Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, Vice President of Sports Bureau Lam Lin Kio, and Head of Sales and Marketing, Hong Kong Cluster, Madame Tussauds Hong Kong’s BoBo Yu and Senna Fernandes herself.

Pandemic-related restrictions meant just 35,850 people visited the Macao Grand

Prix Museum in 2022. But numbers have improved with the ending of travel curbs. The first quarter of this year alone saw 24,150 visitors. Senna Fernandes says the museum’s future looks bright, with its full calendar of family-friendly activities, workshops, and special events for the rest of 2023.

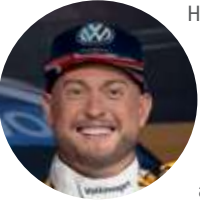
Visitors can now be assured of a welcome from some of the greatest names in racing. The figures don’t just immortalise the racers themselves but Macao’s own deep-rooted connection to motorsport. “This is very much an important step for Macao,” says Senna Fernandes. ●

## MICHAEL RUTTER (B. 1972)



The motorcycle legend got his first win in 1998 and since then, has won at the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix eight more times, making him the holder of the record number of wins. Rutter has also won 29 British Superbike Championship races, most recently in 2010.

## ROBERT HUFF (B. 1979)



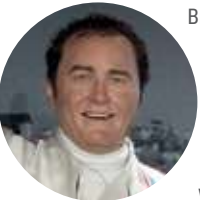
Huff is a well-known competitor driving for Zengō Motorsport at the World Touring Car Cup (WTCR). He began his career in 2000 after winning the Formula Vauxhall championship and his flair behind the wheel led him to the British Touring Car and WTCR. Huff claimed his tenth victory at the Macau Grand Prix in 2022, driving an MG5 XPower TCR.

## RON HASLAM (B. 1956)



Talk about a serial winner. British motorcyclist ‘Rocket’ Ron Haslam won each of his six Macau Grand Prix appearances, the first in 1981. Haslam, who retired in 2004, comes from a racing family. Tragically, the sport took two of his brothers’ lives. Haslam’s son, Leon Haslam, also races motorbikes.

## JOHN MACDONALD (B. 1936)



British driver who raced for Hong Kong, John MacDonald accumulated six wins in all three headline races on the Guia Circuit. MacDonald remains the only competitor to have won all three headline races on the Guia Circuit, with four Macau Grand Prix wins (1965, 1972, 1973, 1975), a win in the 1969 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, and victory in the first running of the “Guia 200” in 1972 (which is now known as the Macau Guia Race). That made him the Macau Grand Prix’s most victorious driver for a time. To this day, MacDonald is still the only racer to win all three international events: the Macau Guia Race (previously known as Guia 200), Macau Grand Prix and the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix.



## BUSINESS

# 'We have seen the future'

TheArsenale sells a vision of mobility's future. This luxury concept store recently launched its 5th season in Macao.

Founder and CEO of TheArsenale Patrice Meignan predicts that in the next five years we'll be using flying cars

(Opposite page) When TheArsenale first began, people called it a billionaires' playground. Today, however, Meignan believes it's about inspiring the young generation and bringing more design to the city



Text **Erico Dias**  
Photos courtesy  
of **TheArsenale**

As a man who spends much of his time discussing the future of mobility, Patrice Meignan knows about flying cars. The French entrepreneur even has one displayed in his concept store, TheArsenale, at an integrated resort in Cotai. This two-man self-driving quadcopter looks like an oversized drone. It's the XPeng X2, made by Guangzhou-headquartered XPeng AeroHT – Asia's largest flying car manufacturer.

While you can't buy it yet, Meignan says the carbon fibre X2 will likely be the world's first commercially available flying car. More specifically, he sees it as the up-and-coming ride-share of

the air. A (very expensive) pick-up-drop-off service is summonable by a smartphone app.

Cars, design, fashion and media have defined 47-year-old Meignan since he was a teen. His collection of pop culture magazines – the likes of *Dazed and Confused*, *The Face*, and *Brutus* – grew huge. Meignan wound up publishing several magazines himself in the late-90s and early 2000s. *Intersection* – his lifestyle magazine merging automobiles with design and architecture – was a big hit with car lovers around the world. According to Meignan, the late fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld dubbed (now defunct) *Intersection* “The *Vogue* of automobiles.”





(Opposite page) TheArsenale also has garages in Miami and New York

The Reverso Match is a fully dismountable sailboat that can fit up to two adults

Today, Meignan is best known as the founder of the ultra-luxury mobility marketplace TheArsenale. TheArsenale showcases and sells next-generation cars, boats, aircraft, motorcycles and more from what it dubs 'garages' in the US, the Middle East and Asia. TheArsenale Macao is the biggest, touted as "the most insane garage in the world".

It has just launched its fifth season with the tagline, 'We have seen the future.'

#### THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY

Based in Nice, France, Meignan started TheArsenale as a virtual store in 2015. He opened his first concept store four years later, in Miami, US. "About 20 years ago, it was difficult to just announce, 'I'm going to start a car company,'" Meignan says. "But today, because of technology, it has become possible."

Shortly after his Miami garage opened, Meignan received an Instagram message from Melco Resorts & Entertainment asking if he'd consider doing the same thing in Macao. Meignan was intrigued. Melco flew him over and showed him the space they envisioned TheArsenale inhabiting in COD. It was massive. Two thousand and fifty square metres. Meignan recalls feeling inspired. "They had been visionary and saw what I could provide," he says.





“

My point is to show something incredible through a futuristic vision of design, culture and intelligence.

– Patrice Meignan

There and then, he transformed his hotel room into a makeshift headquarters – bringing over a team from France to help him realise Melco’s dream. In just four months, TheArsenale Macao opened its doors to the public. Its first season admitted nearly one million people, between July 2019 and early 2020.

“My point is to show something incredible through a futuristic vision of design, culture and intelligence,” says Meignan. “My most important metric of success is making people happy to discover and learn things. If people visit your space and leave with a smile, you’re doing well.”

Along with its concept stores, TheArsenale boasts a boutique creative agency that dreams up innovative advertising campaigns for car manufacturers. It recently used AI technology to digitally transform the humble Renault Twingo into a futuristic space, sea, and air über-vehicle.

#### SAY HELLO TO SEASON 5

In the midst of its fifth season, TheArsenale is brimming with an array of exclusive, cutting-edge vehicles you can actually buy. There’s an Arc Vector, one of the

world’s fastest electric motorcycles; the snazzy Snoped snowmobile; a Sherp ATV; an MV Agusta motorcycle. Then, of course, there’s the XPeng X2.

Meignan predicts people will be travelling in this electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicle within the next five years. XPeng AerhoHT was launched in 2018 and started designing the XPeng X2 in 2020. Meignan hails the vehicle’s two-year journey from concept to working prototype as “really impressive”. Earlier this year, the X2 received a special permit from the

Chinese government allowing it to conduct manned flights under certain conditions. It’s the first eVTOL in the country to reach this milestone.

Not all TheArsenale’s vehicles are brand new. One of Meignan’s personal Season 5 favourites is a certified replica of the 2011 Renault F1 R31 raced by two-time Formula 1 (F1) World Champion Fernando Alonso. Meignan had been chasing this particular car for years. He finally got his chance last year, at a Parisian auction house. It’s now for sale at TheArsenale for US\$260,000.

(Opposite page) A replica of two-time Formula 1 World Champion Fernando Alonso’s 2011 Renault F1 R31

With a futuristic look to it, the Arc Vector is an electric motorcycle that goes up to 200 km/h





“

I want younger generations to believe that everything is possible in life. That is the message I want to infuse in this new season.

– Patrice Meignan

The new season took about a year to bring to life, says Meignan. Outfitting the store, choosing vehicles, building relationships with those vehicles' makers, convincing them it's a good idea to send their wares to Macao – all this takes time. “Overall, it's not about filling the space, but having the perfect story,” Meignan says.

Many of TheArsenale's vehicles represent important technological breakthroughs – flying electric cars and powerful-yet-emissionless racing bikes, for example. They aren't just fun toys for the super-rich; you could say they're ushering in an exciting, environmentally sustainable future. Meignan says he's more interested in inspiring people through state-of-the-art machines than convincing them to part with their money: “I want younger generations to believe that everything is possible in life. That is the message I want to infuse in this new season.” ●



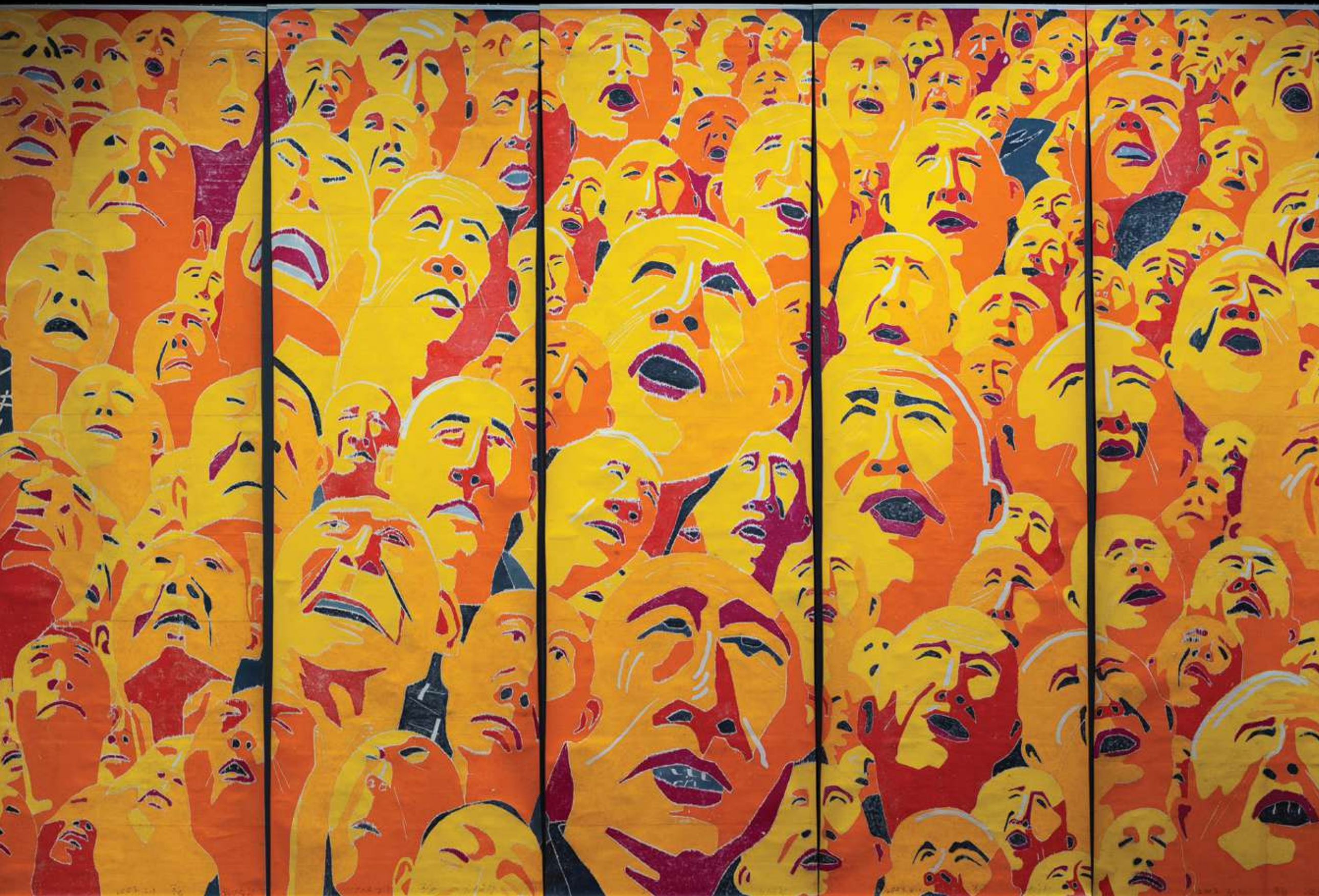
SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
WATCH THE VIDEO



(Opposite page) The XPeng X2 is the first low-altitude two-seater aerial vehicle

Meignan and TheArsenale's Fashion Director Marcela Mayorga (right)





CULTURE

## Cynical Realism comes to Macao

Fang Lijun's bold, dream-like artwork has amassed fans across four decades. An ambitious exhibition attempts to capture the artist's formidable oeuvre.

Fang Lijun's immense woodblock prints – including *Untitled* (2003) – can be found in museums and private collections around the world





Text **Vivianna Cheong**  
Photos **Denzel Calangi**

Many of Fang's works carry simple titles, like *2015-2016 Spring* (above) or *2017* (opposite page), that invite audiences to draw their own meaning

On 19 December 1993, the *New York Times Magazine* splashed an unsettling painting across its cover. This distorted, grimacing face made its Chinese painter, Fang Lijun, famous. The same year, Fang was one of 10 Chinese artists featured at the prestigious Venice Biennale. He'd captured the zeitgeist at just 30 years old.

Beijing-based Fang is part of an artistic movement known as Cynical Realism, which emerged in the early 1990s in response to socio-political changes happening across China. Cynical Realists, including the artists Yue Minjun, Zhang Peili, Wenda Gu, Wu Shanzhuan and Xu Bing, are known for using dark humour to express their disillusionment and challenge societal norms.

The movement drew significant interest throughout the 1990s and

2000s, both internationally and within China. Today, versions of Fang's iconic 2003 work, *SARS* (later named *Untitled*), are held by Paris' Centre Pompidou, New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Hong Kong's M+ Sigg Collection and the Guangdong Museum of Art. Each version is a vibrant set of seven four-metre-high panels – really unfurled paper scrolls – printed with flame-hued faces using woodblocks.

Guangdong's panels were on loan to the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) for a special exhibition titled, "Fang Lijun: The Light of Dust". The exhibition was an ambitious retrospective of Fang's work over the past four decades, in mediums spanning ceramics, sculptures, oil, woodblock printing, and ink.



## AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Fang was born in Handan, Hebei Province, to a wealthy family in 1963. An art teacher introduced him to Li Xianting, the respected art critic who named the movement Fang has become synonymous with: Cynical Realism.

Fang's artistic education was broad. He was exposed to watercolours, oil painting and ink from a young age and went on to study ceramics at the Hebei Light Industry Technology school. Then he changed tack, enrolling at Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts to specialise in printmaking. In the early '90s, Fang lived in the Yuanmingyuan Artists' Village; a place where freedom of expression was valued over financial gain.

In a 2020 collection of Fang's essays and interviews, titled *What About Art*, Fang recalls rejecting the thriving 1990s art market. "[It] felt reckless to sell my works at amazing prices," the artist wrote. "If I went on like [that], I'd become an artist who chased after the market and lost my creativity."

For his *Untitled* panels, Fang described his intention to create something impractically huge – in a style that Chinese art buyers weren't particularly interested in at the time. The fact that the piece ended up being purchased almost immediately was unexpected, he wrote. As was its influence in popularising woodblock printing in China.

Fang's ironic subject matter, bold colour palette, and humour have made him one of China's most iconic contemporary artists. He is best known for his recurring bald figures, who appear to gape, or grimace at nothing – as seen in both the *New York Times Magazine* cover and *Untitled*.





(Opposite page) 2021 captures the rhythm of swimming, a favourite pastime of Fang Lijun (pictured)



### FRIENDSHIP, PAIN AND WATER

Luo Yi curated MAM's Fang Lijun exhibition and has edited several of the artists' books. She points out that most of Fang's subjects were depicted anonymously until quite recently. "From 2018 or 2019, you can tell the figures' identities from his paintings," she says. "In the past, he didn't focus on that"

Social media – particularly, the rise of selfie culture – sparked Fang's interest in capturing existent people, in an identifiable way, says Luo. Smartphone's beautifying apps tendency to make selfie subjects pretty much unrecognisable inspired the artist to "unfold [people's] real selves, which is their most precious side," she explains.

The Covid-19 pandemic adjusted Fang's artistic focus again: towards human connection. Luo says his aim

was to create stronger bonds with his friends through painting them. Indeed, friendship is a strong theme in Fang's Macao exhibition; untitled ink-on-paper portraits of his friends are spread over an entire wall of the MAM. Luo says she placed deliberate gaps between portraits to encourage visitors to take photos alongside them. "Metaphorically, the audience became the artist's friends," she explains.

The content may have changed, but Fang's artistic essence has remained constant throughout his career. "He never casts himself as a portraitist; he never attempts to depict a person realistically, but instead aims to express a feeling of pain," says Luo. "For example, he once painted a friend who had a car crash. [Someone] asked Fang Lijun why the figure looked so pained. He answered, 'Once you feel pain, you realise the preciousness of life.'"



“

Fang Lijun unfolds  
[people's] real selves,  
which is their most  
precious side.

— Luo Yi

Fang began painting ink portraits of  
his friends during the pandemic as  
a way to strengthen their bonds







Curator Luo Yi

(Opposite page, top)  
Tong Chong, exhibition  
coordinator of Macao  
Museum of Art

(Opposite page, bottom)  
2013-2015

Fang is a keen swimmer and often depicts water in his artwork. He's painted drowning men and bald, bewildered babies who float over the ocean. One of his best-known works at M+ Sigg - 1995.2 (1995) - is of a bald figure facing the sea, his back to viewers. No one can tell how this figure feels.

"Water is very close to my understanding of human nature," Fang Lijun once said, when discussing his 1998 work *Lao Li is Swimming*. "Water is liquid, not rule-bound. When you look at it, it changes. Sometimes you think it is very beautiful, very comfortable, but sometimes you think it is terrifying."

### AT THE MAM

Water features in a stand-out piece included in "The Light of Dust" - an ink-on-paper polyptych almost six metres wide, titled *2021*. The work captures the rhythm of swimming, according to Luo. The curator describes it as a landmark achievement for its medium. In the history of Chinese ink art, portraits are seldom created in such a large size," she says. "It requires a high level of skills and experience."

The exhibition, which saw almost 30,000 visitors from March until early May, took three years to bring to life. The MAM's exhibition coordinator,



Image courtesy of Macao Museum of Art

Tong Chong, says that pandemic uncertainty added time to the process. "We had to make a lot of adjustments, changes and reorganisations," he notes. "In response to different prevention and control measures in various places, the exhibits were finally transported by sea, which takes longer than by land."

Fang travelled to Macao for the exhibition's opening event on 3 March, to meet with the city's art lovers. While there, he discussed his artistic inspiration and explained that he's never been one to paint traditionally pretty scenes and subjects. Tranquil lakes, bamboo forests, graceful birds perched in plum trees - these, and their ancient symbolism, are not for him. Rather, Fang's bold, often surreal, sometimes jarring work has its own lexicon that's heavily laden with social commentary and emotion. His use of repetition stands for conformity; his clouds for transcendent escapism. On the bald, human figures almost ubiquitous in his work, the artist speaks of people's unique ability to inspire emotion. "All my feelings - happiness, anger and sadness - come from people," he said. ●





Macao **ABROAD**

# Jacky Cheung in action

Shun Man Cheung, or 'Jacky' as friends and family know him, grew up watching Hollywood movies. Now, he gets to make them as a cinematographer in Los Angeles and Asia.

Text **Craig Sauers**  
Photos courtesy of  
**Jacky Cheung**

If his life were a movie, Jacky Cheung could use several plot devices to propel his story from "pretty lost" Macao middle-schooler to up-and-coming cinematographer in Los Angeles.

There's the "plot voucher", something a character receives before they encounter an obstacle that requires them to use it. In this case, it would be his first camera: a Canon 5D Mark III he used to create videos for the multimedia media club at Yuet Wah College.

Or he might employ the "plant and payoff". Like foreshadowing, this device involves placing an event, object or

character trait early in a story to hint at twists and turns to come. In Cheung's case, that might be the Hollywood blockbusters and Hong Kong films he used to watch on DVD with his father when he was young.

Ever since Cheung got into Dodge College at Chapman University – one of the top film schools in the US – in 2019, his journey in the film world has picked up steam. The 24-year-old has already worked as the cinematographer of award-winning short film, *Nostalgia*, and as first camera assistant for a short film called *Shaolin Avengers* with the

stunt crew from Oscar-winner *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

Now, he's preparing to work on his first feature-length film, and the rest of his story is taking shape.

## FINDING A PURPOSE IN FILM

As a young boy, Cheung says his fondest memories revolve around watching movies with his father, whose work in insurance brought the family from Hong Kong to Macao when he was in kindergarten.

"I can't really pick my favourite Hollywood movies, because there are so many, but I loved *Jurassic Park*," he says. "For Hong Kong movies, one of my favourites is [action-thriller] *Infernal Affairs*."

He didn't draw a connection between watching movies and making them until he was older. As a teenager, he considered them a welcome diversion. "I didn't have any goals," he admits. "I was pretty lost."







In secondary school, however, a friend invited him to join the multimedia club. “We filmed events, advertisements for school departments that needed to promote something – that sort of thing,” he says. Finally, he found something he was good at, “something that I wanted to learn more about.”

So much so that he decided to pursue film school in the US. But admission wouldn’t come easily. “Because I hadn’t studied at an international high school, I had to go to community college first,” he explains.

He chose Santa Monica College because of its proximity to Hollywood – the beating heart of global filmmaking. In his first film studies class, he watched old movies he hadn’t had access to before – black and white films, silent films and shorts from Europe and Hollywood. “It felt like I had opened up my world. How I watch movies now is *much* different,” he says, adding that he can’t help but view the visuals, techniques and storytelling devices through the lens of a professional.

The school also exposed him to new perspectives from fellow students. Many became good friends, going on to work for the likes of Netflix in South Korea. “There were a lot of good people and it was very international, which was exciting for me,” he says.

But the lightbulb truly turned on when he got into Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, about 40 minutes south of LA, two years later. The prestigious programme is incredibly

competitive, accepting fewer than 10 percent of transfer students. Cheung was one of just 12 to enrol in 2019.

Its status stems from the quality of its equipment, mentors and project-based programme. Cheung says the school had six or seven full-size soundstages and staff who had worked on major film and TV sets. “They even built an LED wall that shows like *The Mandalorian* use [instead of green screens],” he says. “What we did at Chapman was what the film industry was doing.”

For projects, they had to assign crew members clear roles, create production reports, bring in intimacy coordinators for kissing scenes – all common on-the-job responsibilities. It was a crash course in Hollywood standards that has motivated him to make it in the industry and change the way people work in Asia.

### ANSWERING THE CALL

When the pandemic forced Dodge College to move online in 2020, he took classes remotely while gaining practical experience in Macao.

He spent a year working as a first assistant, operating cameras on commercial and TV sets, including projects for Cartier, the Macao Grand Prix Museum Commercial, and the Macao Government Tourism Office Commercial for The Eight View of Macau. In 2021, he received an urgent call to work on a film reshoot in Macao.

It turned out to be *Shang-Chi*.

“There weren’t any crew [members] available. I got a phone call [asking if I could fill in as a 1st assistant camera]. I thought it was a TV show from the US. I didn’t know it was a Marvel film until we finished shooting,” he says with a laugh.

Around the same time, *Nostalgia*, the short he shot in Vietnam with director and fellow Dodge College student McFloyd Nguyen before the pandemic, was winning accolades. It was selected for several film festivals and won Best Cinematography at Venice Shorts 2021 and the Los Angeles Film Awards 2021.

While shooting in Vietnam, though, Cheung noticed unsafe working conditions. The technical crew worked long hours, and the hierarchy was so rigid they had to eat in the sun on plastic stools instead of indoors with the rest of the crew.

Friends who worked in Japan and Taiwan also told him about the extreme conditions, ranging from 20-hour work days to setting up camera equipment in tricky spots on the fly.

“For me, safety is everything. If something is dangerous, don’t do it,” he says.

He stresses that shoots are intense. In the US film crews work 12-hour days and usually six days a week. Shoots often run a month or more, destabilising one’s work-life balance and health.

“People sacrifice a lot of things to do this. You have to find balance. As [a mentor put it], if you don’t have a life, you will never be a complete cinematographer or filmmaker,” he says.

### RAISING THE BAR IN MACAO

Although he’s only 24, Cheung can already envision a future in which he helps shape Macao cinema.

Currently, he is working with Nguyen on a feature-length independent film based in Los Angeles. The movie – *Little Saigon*, which is being shot in the namesake neighbourhood – deals with issues relevant to second-generation immigrants in the US, ranging

from the generational gaps to family pressures to succeed. Nguyen wrote and directed the film, while Cheung managed all of the technical aspects and shooting.

By the end of the year, he plans to return to Macao, perhaps with an indie hit under his belt that propels his career forward. Like all aspiring cinematographers, he hopes to work in Hollywood someday and would love to manage the visuals and filming for a sci-fi or action movie – his favourite genres. “It would be great to bring all my friends and family along with me to the best theatre [to see a movie I made] – that’s how you want to do it,” he says.

Whether the future finds him based in Los Angeles, Hong Kong or somewhere else, he hopes to impact filmmaking in Macao.

“If I become a bigger cinematographer, I want to change the way we work in Macao. Young people here learn how things work from productions [rather than school],” he says. “I want to change the industry by having more properly organised production and [challenging] the hierarchies. When you’re the director of photography, you need to treat your crew as if they’re family.” ●

The film crew of feature film *Little Saigon* which Cheung just shot

(Opposite page)  
Cheung (left) with Mandy Walker, ASC, ACS, cinematographer for *Hidden Figures*, *Mulan* and *Elvis*, which was recently nominated for Best Cinematography at the Oscars





## ECONOMY

# Powering the smart city dream

To meet its goal of becoming a smart city, Macao needs somewhere to store and process massive quantities of data. Why is this and what implications does this have on the public and environment?

Text **Yuan Yuan**

Macao is fast-developing into a 'smart city' – one where municipal management is largely dictated by digital data. Residents already use their Macao One Accounts to pay bills, book health appointments and apply for government subsidies. Financial transactions are increasingly electronic, and the city welcomed 5G at the end of last year.

But there's still a lot of work to be done. Advanced smart cities are hailed for their high levels of convenience and eco-friendliness. They enhance public safety, personalise healthcare and optimise waste collection. They eliminate

traffic jams and empower people to participate more fully in all sorts of endeavours. Advanced smart cities also foster entrepreneurship, which is good for the economy.

Getting there requires huge quantities of information about residents, traffic flows, energy usage, waste disposal and practically anything to do with how a city operates – this is known as 'big data'. Authorities collect and collate big data, using it to streamline operations. While this information is intangible, it still needs to be stored somewhere with a tremendous amount of computing power and ultra-high security.





That’s where data centres come in. They allow massive amounts of data to be safely stored, accessed, processed and shared. Physically, they are facilities that house a network of servers, storage systems, computing infrastructure, and the utilities needed to power and cool operations.

A data centre can be as small as a cupboard, which would work for smaller companies, or take up entire buildings. Mega data centres have more than 15,000 servers. The biggest data centres are industrial-sized complexes covering hundreds of thousands of square metres.

As it stands, Macao does not have enough government-operated data centres to power a bonafide smart city. Yet building more isn’t easy.

**THE ORIGIN OF SMART CITIES**

The roots of the smart city concept are foggy, but the phrase went mainstream in the early 2000s – when US tech giants IBM and Cisco began marketing their state-of-the-art technology as ways to solve urban problems. It’s evolved to imply that the more a local government knows about

Data centres capable of powering smart cities require space, something in short supply in Macao

its residents, the better it can serve them. Smart cities aim to make people’s everyday experiences easier and efficient, while reducing emissions and saving energy.

In 2011, the first Smart City Expo World Congress was held in Barcelona. China launched 90 pilot smart cities in 2013. In 2014, Singapore declared it would become the world’s first “smart nation”. Hong Kong released its first Smart City Blueprint in 2017, then another in 2020, which includes more than 130 smart initiatives – such as on-street parking metres that support remote payments, self-cleaning public toilets and telehealth services.

China’s 14th Five-Year Plan, issued in 2021, states that the country will continue to “promote the construction of new smart cities” by incorporating Internet of Things (IoT) – smart devices that use sensors and the internet to respond to their environments or communicate with other devices – into urban planning.

In 2022, International Data Corporation estimated that the Chinese government-led smart city ICT (information and communication technologies) market was worth US\$21.4 billion – a year-on-year increase of 21 percent.



Gorodenko





Alfred Seng Fat Wong recognises the need to educate communities about smart cities

#### MACAO'S SMART CITY STATUS

Macao has been working to become a smart city since 2016, when its government's first Five-Year Development Plan outlined 10 "major tasks" to get there, including enhancing WiFi coverage and building a new public data centre. In its 2023 Fiscal Policy Address, the government reiterated its smart city goal.

While the city already has a government-owned data centre – which began operations in 2010 and is shared by all government departments – it urgently needs at least one more, according to the Smart City Alliance Association of Macau.

The association's executive director, Alfred Seng Fat Wong, notes that a sufficiently large data centre is an

industrial-sized development needing a lot of space. As Macao has very little spare land, he encourages the government to consider building one beyond the city's borders, in Hengqin.

There is nascent precedent for this: according to a white paper, telecommunications provider CTM has already partnered with the Zhuhai Huafa Group to build the first data centre with international bandwidth in Hengqin. CTM already has its own data centre in Taipa, and a backup in Hong Kong.

Aside from space, another hurdle is data privacy legislation. Collecting, processing and using big data – especially if it includes sensitive information like health records or data related to children – carries major policy and regulatory implications.

Another is data centres' environmental toll. Globally, these electricity-guzzling facilities emit roughly the same amount of carbon as the much-maligned airline industry, according to an article published by Yale University in 2018. They also produce toxic e-waste in the form of discarded electronic appliances.

When done well, however, smart cities have been heralded as an inclusive, sustainable and adaptable win-win for all. Their environmental downsides are outweighed by their environmental upsides – like using data to drive more efficient water consumption or reduce solid waste.

For a smart city to succeed, it needs the people whose data is being used to be on-board. While residents' privacy is already protected by strong laws, Wong thinks Macao's government could do a better job of teaching residents about how smart cities actually work, and the benefits they bring. He suggests incorporating smart city technology into school curriculums, and encouraging civil society organisations to help spread knowledge into different communities. ●





Q&amp;A

# Sharing the spirit of Canada

Canadian Chamber of  
Commerce (CanCham)  
President Howard  
Stribbell, PhD, talks about  
opportunities awaiting  
Canada and Macao in  
their growing relationship  
in the Greater Bay Area.

Photo courtesy of The International School of Macao



Text **Craig Sauers**

Howard Stribbell has  
been involved in building  
Canada-Macao relations  
since he came to the city  
in 2006

**T**eacher turned principal turned president of CanCham in Macao. Howard Stribbell has come a long way from the small, 1,000-person town in Alberta where he grew up. Today, when he isn't building schools in China, Thailand or Cambodia, he helps to promote Canadian relations in Macao and beyond. The education expert explains why he believes Macao and Canada's shared values of openness, hard work and respect for one another signal a bright future ahead for both in a changing world.

## When and why did you move to Macao?

I came in 2006 to work at The International School of Macao (TIS), the city's first international school. They brought me in with another administrator to help it become the first accredited Alberta high school. I was the head of TIS for 12 years. We grew the school from 300 to 1,500 students, and then I moved on to oversee a group of schools in Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai and Phnom Penh.

## What's something people don't know about TIS?

A lot of people don't realise that TIS is a Canadian school. It uses the Alberta curriculum. It's the largest Alberta school and the highest in rank in terms of accreditation level. It's also a non-profit school sponsored by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). A lot of people don't know that, either.

It exists on the MUST campus because the founders realised that the [integrated resorts] were going to need a strong international school in order to be able to recruit the top talent that they wanted.

And in the early days, many of those families would send their kids overseas or to Hong Kong. But more and more families are happy that they can send them to TIS and stay together as a family unit.

## How long have you been part of CanCham?

I've always been involved in the chamber, in one way or another, since 2006. CanCham was founded by John Crawford and Neil Johnston, the founders of TIS. Both were very heavily involved in the school and the chamber in Hong Kong, and so they brought a lot of those resources with them to Macao. Because we have the school here, it has become a hub for Canadian events and culture and hosting people. The two go hand-in-hand.

## What's the Canadian presence in Macao? Are there many Canadian residents or businesses?

For comparison, in Hong Kong, the Canadian numbers are staggering. There are about 300,000 Canadians living in Hong Kong and 180,000 university alumni. At the same time, we have 500,000 Hong Kong residents living in Canada. They have a unique history of working together. Macao, however, is much smaller. We have some Canadian businesses here, like the Four Seasons, but Canada does get involved in a number of things. The chamber was just involved in the grand opening of the Studio City waterpark. The consulate came over from Hong Kong for it, because a Canadian company does all the plumbing and pump systems for the waterpark. They also did [the plumbing] for Galaxy.





All photos on this page courtesy of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

### How does CanCham help promote relations between Canada and Macao?

Canadians are humble; we fly under the radar. Our goal as a chamber is to try to bring some of those activities to light and then also to provide opportunities for Canadian businesses to come into Macao. Hong Kong has the largest Canadian chamber in the world, and then we also have the Guangzhou chamber. The three of us work together as part of the Greater Bay Area (GBA). I think the trade environment here is [vibrant]. As Macao continues to open up, which is happening at a breakneck speed, there's going to be more people who want to take part.

The shared values [of openness, hard work and respect] between Macao, Hong Kong and Canada overlap nicely. The more that we can do cultural

exchanges, the better – whether through government sponsorship, opportunities like being involved in entertainment and diplomacy, or tertiary education.

### What kinds of opportunities for trade have you witnessed emerging?

The city has always been a popular place for Canadian beef. It's a little fatty, very marbled and – what I didn't realise until I came to Macao – people here love it for hotpot. But in 2021, Canada signed an agreement to ship pork to Macao as well. There are also high-end opportunities for people to bring in products for the resorts and hotels. We had [Quebec company] Cirque du Soleil for a long time as a resident show at The Venetian Macao, and Celine Dion headlined in Macao several years ago.

(Opposite page) Officials from CanCham, TIS, and the Canadian Consulate Trade Commission come together at TIS

CanCham collaborates with other chambers in the city to broaden members' networking and business opportunities

I think we're going to see more of that. Canada is not heavily involved in gaming, but in hospitality, in entertainment, we can come in and share our expertise. We might potentially get an ice rink. That's Canada. We know ice. We know hockey. We know figure skating. And I'm sure Canadian businesses would love to have that opportunity to share those things with Macao.

### How else does CanCham get involved with the community in Macao?

We're a small chamber, but we're growing, and we work with the other chambers to provide more networking and business opportunities. We also work with SMEs and entrepreneurs. A lot of the TIS alumni have gone out to university and come back to Macao. Now, they're running their own small businesses. I love seeing young people have that kind of initiative.

Josephine Lam, for example, went to the University of Toronto, got her art

degree, came back to Macao and started up this wonderful brand called Loving Macau. It provides Macao-branded souvenirs, t-shirts, hats and bags. We want to make sure we're supporting people like that.

### What events does CanCham lead or take part in?

The chambers here have been so collaborative. We've been involved with the France Macao Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) breakfast talks, either attending or providing our own speakers. We took part in the BritCham business trip to Hengqin Island and the King's coronation, the Queen's Jubilee, Anzac Day. Macao is one of those places where everyone wears many hats, and you get to know everyone.

Then we have our annual Canada Day event, when we put Canadian culture on display. We also work with TIS quite a bit, especially with their activist in residence program [which gets students involved in philanthropic endeavours] and TIS International Day. For that, we invite community members to come into the school and celebrate their heritage. While TIS is a Canadian school, it's made up of 40 different nationalities, and we've found that people are proud to share their culture and background.

### What does the future hold for Canadian relations in the region?

Canada is very positive about the growth of business, trade and culture in Asia. Global Affairs Canada [the country's trade and diplomatic mission] just came out with plans to connect all the chambers in the Indo-Pacific region. They plan to open a regional office and use the chambers of commerce as nodes in the network to further support the mission. As a Canadian, I'm excited to see the Canadian government acknowledging this and putting some funding in place [for businesses to benefit from]. ●





## SCIENCE

# What's happening at Macao's planetarium?

It once held the Guinness World Record for having the highest 3D resolution. While this record has since been beaten, the planetarium keeps coming up with innovative ways to get kids and adults excited over outer space.

Text **Gilbert Humphrey**

Sky Shows and full-dome movies are displayed across the 127-seater local planetarium's 15-metre-diameter replica of the night sky, allowing the audiences to be physically immersed in the story as the dome's screen gives an almost 360-degree view

A koala named GranPa, who happens to be a retired astronaut, and young Zoe the dingo enjoy chatting about science on their farm in the vast Australian Outback. One day, they notice the sunlight is fading well before dusk. To find out what's blocking the sun's rays, the pair journey into outer space – meeting GranPa's old alien nemesis along the way.

GranPa and Zoe are cartoon characters, in case that wasn't obvious. They star in one of the Macao Science Center (MSC) planetarium's five science-themed movie offerings. It is most popular, according to MSC planetarium officer Luisa Mak, a Macao-born

scientist who majored in physics at a university in the United Kingdom.

These are 'full-dome' movies, displayed across the 127-seater planetarium's 15-metre-diameter replica of the night sky. Audiences are physically immersed in the story as the dome's screen – reaching up to the ceiling and taking up a quarter of the back wall – gives an almost 360-degree view. These movie screenings at the planetarium began when the Macao Science Center opened in December 2009.

All MSC's full-dome movies are designed to appeal to children and spark an interest in science. They're animated and run for about 30 minutes. While the movies are

played through the planetarium's audio system in Cantonese, each seat is equipped with headphones and interactive controls that allow viewers to choose Mandarin, English or (for select movies) another language if they prefer.

Back in 2010, Macao's planetarium was awarded the Guinness World Record for having the highest 3D resolution in the world: 8,000 x 8,000 pixels. During Sky Show displays, its 12 digital projectors use space agencies' data – such as from the NASA Exoplanet Archive and Sloan Digital Sky Survey – to show any documented object in the universe. The local planetarium also shows images taken by the

James Webb Space Telescope, the new and largest optical space telescope that was launched on 25 December 2021.

While digital projectors haven't yet achieved the brightness and clarity of older-style planetariums' analogue projectors, those 'star-ball' systems can only show objects that are visible from Earth – and not in 3D.

Macao's world record for 3D resolution has since been beaten. France's La Coupole Planetarium, for example, boasts 10,000 x 10,000 pixels. But 38-year-old Mak says her planetarium's full-dome movies draw more visitors than its Sky Shows, anyway. Their compelling storylines and offbeat characters are the venue's biggest drawcard.



Macao Science Center planetarium officer Luisa Mak says that the planetarium's Sky Shows give visitors a view of models of the solar system and star constellations and can predict what might happen in the universe, in the future



In award-winning Polaris 3D, for example, a penguin from the South Pole named James meets Vladimir the polar bear – hailing from the North Pole – on a slab of ice in the Arctic. The two creatures become fast friends as they discuss their respective regions at the opposite ends of the Earth. Polaris addresses concepts like the Earth's tilted axis, different types of planets, and why there's ice in the solar system.

The more traditional Sky Shows – narrated tours of time and space – do remain an important part of the planetarium's offering. These journeys introduce audiences to various objects within and beyond our solar system, including planets, stars, constellations and galaxies.

“We can show models of the solar system and star constellations; we can fly from Earth to the outer galaxies using virtual reality-like technology,” says Mak. “Our system also predicts what might happen in the solar system, or the universe, in the future. Things like solar eclipses. The planetarium can simulate these events for viewers.”

#### THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

In 2019, nearly 80,000 people stopped by the planetarium's NAPE waterfront premises – 11 percent of MSC's total visitors. Even during the Covid years, the planetarium drew around 50,000 people annually.

Most visitors are school students, usually accompanied by parents. Weekends are the busiest time, attracting people all the way from Hong Kong and the mainland.

“Interest in science among locals is certainly growing,” says Mak. “Our wish is that when they go to the university, they will choose science subjects.”

Afterall, these are subjects ever-present in our daily lives. There is science in everything, Mak notes.

“For example, our mobile phones and all the technologies we use every day are part of science.”

In a bid to get more Macao youngsters signing up for science degrees, MSC teams up with local primary and secondary schools. It launched its Science Popularisation and Education Programme for Students scheme in November 2022, welcoming 99 separate classes – from various schools in Macao – across the inaugural two-month-long programme. Each visit aligned with students' school syllabus and included a visit to the planetarium, which Mak says is always a highlight.



Throughout the year, the local planetarium hosts a walk-in Starry Night programme, which sometimes allows participants to observe the real night sky using one or two giant telescopes set up outside the Macao Science Center



## Five facts about planetariums



Erik Zachte

- 1 The world's first planetarium (pictured) was a clockwork model of the solar system, known as an orrery. It was built between 1774-1781 by Eise Jeltjes Eisinga, an amateur astronomer from the present-day Netherlands. Eisinga constructed the orrery in his own home, now a museum called the Royal Eise Eisinga Planetarium.
- 2 This year marks the 100th anniversary of the world's first planetarium projector – first lit up in Germany in August 1923.
- 3 Planetarium domes tend to be in the shape of a perfect half-sphere.
- 4 Contrary to what many think, most planetariums still only offer 2D displays of the night sky. Macao's offers both 2D and 3D displays.
- 5 The disposable 3D glasses used in ordinary cinemas are not effective in planetariums offering 3D night sky displays and shows. Rather, planetariums use special electronic 3D glasses that are able to block information meant for one eye from the other.

“Instead of just reading books, these students can learn science in a more fun way in order to make them more interested in it,” she says.

For the star-struck general public, the planetarium hosts a walk-in Starry Night programme. This is a lecture series held inside the planetarium, and participants sometimes get a chance to observe the real night sky using one or two giant telescopes set up outside by planetarium staff – CFF

Telescopes Classic Cassegrain 350mm and Sky-Watcher StarGate 20” SynScan Dobsonian.

Over the past three years, Covid-19 restrictions made the Starry Night sessions difficult. Lectures would often be cancelled, or shifted online. Macao's open borders mean the events are, again, in person. In July, for example, Hong Kong-based Lydia Lung, from the astronomical NGO AstroLink, is scheduled to present a fascinating history of space suits.

Last year, the planetarium participated in “Science Dreams in Light and Shadow”. This was a national tour of ‘scientist spirit films’ celebrating Chinese pioneers in science, as organised by the Chinese Association of Natural Science Museums.

The six movies introduced viewers to the likes of female astronomer Ye Shuhua, born in 1927, who is best-known for her groundbreaking work in the 1960s measuring Universal Time (which reflects the Earth's rotation).

“Macao people should be proud of these Chinese scientists who overcame their difficulties and patiently experimented over and over again until they made their discoveries,” Mak stresses. “We want to share this spirit with our youngsters.”

The films are still available to be viewed at the planetarium, though only with a special group booking.

### A USER REVIEW

Five-year-old Jonas Wong, from Hong Kong, recently visited Macao's planetarium with his parents. He gives a rave review of the place, saying he enjoyed the way the solar system was depicted using 3D effects.

“I learned lots about the universe and sun,” he enthused.



Macao News

The kindergartener saw the full-dome movie GranPa & Zoe; he readily affirmed that the Australian characters were “so cute”. What will warm Mak's heart most, however, is Wong's assertion that he learned something new about science.

“We want kids to leave the planetarium realising that science is not boring; it is interesting, and we can learn it through entertainment,” she says. ●

Five-year-old Hong Kong kindergartener Jonas Wong, who recently visited the Macao Science Center's planetarium, says he learned about the universe from watching the full-dome movie GranPa & Zoe





**ZOOM**

**Connecting artists and collectors**  
The Amagao Gallery hopes to broaden the local art market, with a special focus on works by artists from Portuguese-speaking countries and regions, including Macao.

Text **Gilbert Humphrey**  
Photos courtesy of **Amagao Gallery**

- ① The Amagao Gallery is located on the lobby level of the Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau hotel in NAPE
- ② Amagao Gallery's managing partners (left to right) Victor Hugo Marreiros, Lina Ramadas and Jose I Duarte, posed for a photo during the gallery's grand opening last year

Macao's arts scene has made great strides in the past 20 years, thanks to generous government subsidies and the enthusiastic support of corporate partners. But while residents have become seasoned visitors to art museums and performing arts venues, many are still feeling their way when it comes to acquiring a work of art for themselves.

Enter Amagao Gallery, located on the lobby level of the Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau hotel in NAPE. It launched in March last year through a partnership between the hotel and art dealership Galeria 57, which is managing the gallery's daily operation.

"Our purpose is to contribute to developing the market for art in

Macao," says Jose I Duarte, who along with Lina Ramadas and Victor Hugo Marreiros, is a managing partner of Amagao Gallery. "The art scene in Macao is very lively but very much dependent on the public purse. I think for the market to create another dynamic, we need to go beyond that kind of dependence".

In order to do that, the gallery stresses its accessibility and local links. Duarte points out that the gallery's name corresponds to the first mention of Macao in Portuguese literature. In Chinese, "Ama gao" means "Bay of A-ma", from which the name Macao is derived, with A-Ma being a local appellation for the Chinese sea goddess Mazu or Ma-tsu.





“We wanted to give a name that would connect to the history of this place,” Duarte says.

The gallery has a strong focus on art from the Portuguese-speaking world and has held three exhibitions to date. The inaugural show, “Color Lusofonia”, ran from March to May last year and was billed as a “Sino-Portuguese artistic and creative exchange”. It was followed by the “Lusografia” exhibition from June to September 2022, featuring Portuguese engraving, serigraphy, and printing. Most recently, a one-year anniversary exhibition ended on 25 May.

The fourth exhibition, “Portuguese Contemporary Art Exhibition 2023”, opened in June and will run until 6 August.

The upcoming exhibition will showcase over 30 pieces – including paintings, sculpture and mixed media artworks – by Portuguese artists Abílio Febra, André Pedro, Carlos Neto, Cristina Vinhas, Francisco Geraldo, Gil Maia, José Luís Tinoco, Maria João Franco, Maria Leal da Costa, Pedro Proença, Raquel Gralheiro, Lourenço Vicente, Victor Hugo Marreiros and the late Isabel Laginhas.

After this, the gallery will present an exhibition of work by Mozambican artist Suzy Bila from August to October. Other activities are being planned, such as workshops and talks.

“We are committed to make this gallery a place where things happen”, Duarte says, adding that Amagao is also open to working with other galleries beyond the Lusophone areas as it seeks to gauge the taste and interests of local buyers

“We are in contact with friends from other galleries in other places like Spain and the mainland to create some kinds of exchanges and collaborations”, he says.

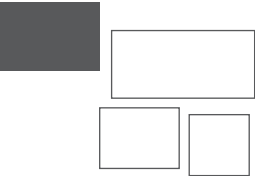


The Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau shares the same broad vision as the gallery. “Art, culture and emotional wisdom are part of our DNA”, says the hotel’s General Manager Rutger Verschuren, who is also the Area Vice President of Macao Operations for the Artyzen Hospitality Group, a Shun Tak subsidiary.

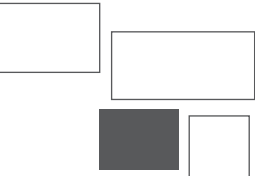
The hotel already has some important works of art in the lobby and throughout the property, notably the *Window of Tomar*, which resembles a chapterhouse window at the Convent of Christ in the Portuguese city of Tomar, as well as pieces by local artists.

Through its partnership with the Amagao Gallery, the hotel “would like to bring art closer to people”, says Verschuren. Building the market for art in Macao starts from there. ●

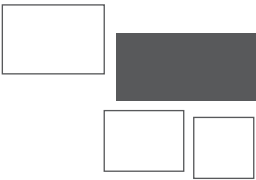
*The Amagao Gallery is open from 11 am to 8 pm, Tuesday to Sunday.*



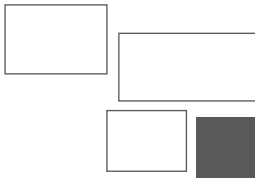
**Abílio Febra**  
*Máscara azul*  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 40 cm



**Francisco Geraldo**  
*Untitled*  
Acrylic on canvas  
73 x 92 cm



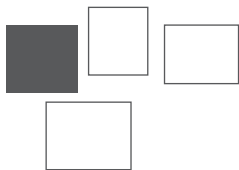
**André Pedro**  
*Untitled*  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 60 cm



**Gil Maia**  
*Construções in Platio XXV*  
Acrylic on canvas  
90 x 90 cm





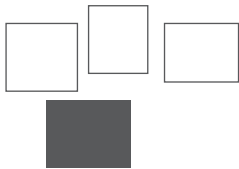


**Isabel Laginhas**

*Untitled*

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm

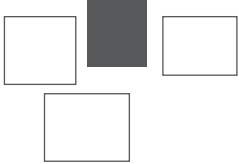


**José Luís Tinoco**

*Untitled*

Mixed media on canvas

40 x 50 cm



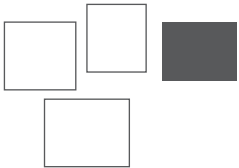
**Maria Leal da Costa**

*Boat 4*

Oxidised and galvanized steel,

marble from Estremoz

72 x 57 x 18 cm



**Maria João Franco**

*Novas estórias do fundo*

*do mar*

Mixed media on canvas

81 x 100 cm



Courtesy of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau

③ Guests attending the launch event of Amagao Gallery's one-year anniversary exhibition were given the opportunity to add a touch of colours on a painting





**Pedro Proença**

*Untitled*

Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100 cm



**Raquel Gralheiro**

*Untitled*

Mixed media on canvas  
80 x 40 cm



Learn how the **Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao)** uses Macao as a platform by visiting their website: [forumchinaplp.org.mo](http://forumchinaplp.org.mo)





第十一屆澳門國際旅遊（產業）博覽會  
11.<sup>a</sup> Expo Internacional de Turismo (Indústria) de Macau  
11<sup>th</sup> Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo

旅博領航 盛裝迎客  
MITE Connects the World

6.30-7.2/2023

澳門威尼斯人金光會展 展館A及B  
The Venetian Macao - Cotai Expo Hall A & Hall B



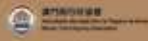
主辦單位 Organizer



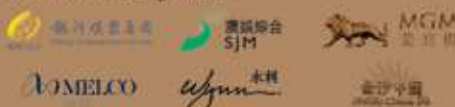
支持單位 Supporting Entities

中華人民共和國文化和旅游部  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China  
中央人民政府駐澳門特別行政區聯絡辦公室  
 liaison office of the central people's government in the macao s.a.r.  
中華人民共和國駐外分館駐澳門特別行政區辦事處  
 office of the representative office of the ministry of culture and tourism in the macao s.a.r.

承辦單位 Coordinator



領銜合作夥伴 Leading Partners



媒體合作夥伴 Media Partner



歡迎酒會合作夥伴 Welcome Cocktail Partner



贊助商 Sponsors



協辦單位 Co-organizers



合作夥伴 Partners

