

# Venice Biennale artist backs museum team

**Tsang Kin-wah confident exhibition curators will match last year's success**

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The artist selected to represent Hong Kong at next year's Venice Biennale has cast a vote of confidence in the West Kowloon museum team that won rave reviews after last year's event.

M+, the visual culture museum that will open in the West Kowloon Cultural District in 2018, will again curate the Hong Kong exhibition at the Venice Biennale – the world's oldest international art exhibition, which is

widely known as the art world's Olympics.

"I'm happy to be selected," Hong

Kong artist Tsang Kin-wah told the *South China Morning Post*. Tsang worked with the M+ team in 2012 when he was featured in the museum's second show *Mobile M+*; Yau Ma Tei.

"They are an experienced team, and I have no question [about] their professionalism," he said.

Born in Guangdong in 1976, Tsang (pictured) is a Chinese University fine-arts graduate

who also studied at the Camberwell College of Arts in London.

He has earned critical acclaim for his paintings and multimedia installations created out of the visual manipulation of text and language with distinctive cultural and religious references.

Tsang's works are in public and private collections, and he has exhibited locally and abroad, including at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland.

The M+ museum made its debut in Venice last year after the

Arts Development Council decided to scrap an open call for proposals and, in 2012, appointed M+ to curate the Hong Kong exhibition. The council contributed HK\$4.1 million and M+ offered another HK\$5.5 million for the Venice show.

The move was criticised as some members of the arts community lamented the lack of transparency on the decision. But the criticism subsided as M+'s debut at the Venice Biennale was hailed as a success.

It presented Lee Kit's conceptual exhibition *You (you)*, a work said to have turned the space at the entrance of the main exhibition area into an obscure paint-

ing made up of daily essentials. The exhibition was co-curated by M+ executive director Lars Nittve and the museum's assistant curator Yung Ma.

Next year's exhibition will be helmed by M+ chief curator Doryun Chong and learning and interpretation curator Stella Fong. Nittve will serve as consulting curator.

Tsang said last year's show gave Lee much greater global exposure, while he has not thought about what the exhibition will bring him yet. "I'm still not sure what kinds of works will be shown in Venice. [I] will have a better idea after visiting the space," Tsang said.

