

# soundbites

**What do you love best about the Hong Kong contemporary visual arts scene? And what bugs you the most?**

**Artist Tsang Kin-wah, 28 (right), who won this year's Sovereign Asian Art Prize with his entry, a silkscreen *I Love You*:**

"I enjoy the artistic freedom in Hong Kong the most. Here, you can more or less do whatever you like without anyone batting an eyelid or interfering. No one would react to my work in such a way that it stops me from creating, which is very important.

"On the mainland, where I exhibited before, my works would have to be vetted or censored. In Hong Kong, as long as my works – some of which contain swear words and bad language – aren't displayed in public places, then it's fine. Of course, if you're commissioned by a company, then your freedom is restricted, too.

"What I dislike most [in general] is people's lack of interest in the arts. Look at the West Kowloon cultural district project. It's become a property developers, rather than an arts, project.

"Within the contemporary visual art scene, I find that artists don't really communicate or interact or collaborate with one another. They just get on with their own things. I have no idea why this is so. It's just the way it is."

**How are you going to spend your \$US25,000 prize?**

"I haven't thought about it yet, but I guess I'll use the money to continue to support my art work so I can continue to create."

