



Dyeing to learn patience

Trista Yeung

NATURAL DYEING IS a meticulous and sophisticated process, which can take days or even months. But this was precisely what drew Hong Kong Design Institute student Lam Kin-yan to the time-consuming practice.

"Natural dyeing is mysterious and gloriously imprecise. Sometimes you can predict the color, but plants and dyeing materials vary so much that you never really know what you've got until you chuck the stuff into a pot and see what happens," said the bachelor of arts fashion design honors student. "A slight difference in fabrics or dyeing time can affect the results. But even though you have to be scrupulous attentive to detail, nothing compares to creating a color that is unique."

Sponsored by his school's Elite Student Programme, Lam spent a week in Marseilles, France to learn the art of natural dyeing under botanist Michel Garcia. Lam said Garcia's approachable instruction demystified the natural dyeing process and encouraged him to experiment.

"I was born and grew up in rural China so I've always had an affinity with plants and natural materials. It inspired me to use herbs and weeds used in Chinese medicine, such as indigo or turmeric. This gave

the fabrics bright colors but had minimal environmental impact as they came from natural sources."

His environmentally friendly approach grabbed the attention of the judging panel for the DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award, organized by the Hong Kong Design Centre. The award aims to support and cultivate up-and-coming designers and design graduates. Awardees would receive endorsement to undergo overseas work attachment or further study in worldwide design institutes.

Lam was given the HKDI Young Design Talent Award for his collection, *Into the Flame*, which employed soft colors and loose silhouettes to mimic the transformation process of a moth.

Natural materials such as boiled wool, merino wool and sheer yarn created a texture that imitated its fur and cocoon.

"Each garment represents one stage of the moth's life journey – emerging from a cocoon, growing stronger, reaching its peak and then being burnt by the flames. Natural forces draw a moth into the flames, just like we are driven to chase our dreams. We draw close to the flame, get hurt, but still choose to get even closer," he said.

Lam's classmate Gim Wong Lai-yu, won the CreateSmart Young Design Talent Special Award with her collection,



wasted. Zero-waste designs are made when pieces of the pattern interlock like a puzzle, or leftover bits are creatively used to make embellishments or bias tape. We folded the fabrics into shapes instead of assembling multiple pieces, which could generate lots of scraps," Wong said.

Her collection is multifunctional. One garment's back attaches seamlessly to a backpack. Wong cut two different fabric into a map, and then sewed a zipper around the edge to make an irregular draped top. The fabrics can be changed according to the consumer's preference and various combinations can be made.

Edmund Lee, executive director of the Hong Kong Design Centre and co-chair of the final round judging of the awards, said: "The students showed plenty of talent and passion. I look forward to witnessing their growth through this award program and their contribution to our city's design and creative industries upon their return from the overseas undertakings." trista.yeung@singtaonewscorp.com

Wholesome entertainment at the YMCA International Fun Fair

With the aim of bringing fun and laughter to children and parents alike, the recently held YMCA International Fun Fair was a resounding success.

Organized by the YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College (YHKCC), the International Fun Fair at Tung Chung attracted over 4,500 visitors to the school campus on December 10th, to partake in a wide range of exhilarating games and entertainment.

Over 30 food stalls and fun booths were set up to entertain more than 640 less well-off children and their parents who were given complimentary tickets for the afternoon show and cash vouchers to spend on a wide range of fun items. More than 140 goodies bags were given out to needy individuals and families, with each containing the school's warm wishes of the festive season.

In line with its core value of 'serving one another in love', the school is dedicated to helping those in need. Every year it brims with enthusiasm in organizing the community event, with popular activities and features like Crazy Obstacle Run, Bouncy Castles, Game Booths, Food Plaza, Bazaar Area, Art Gallery, Photo-taking with Ponies and Football Friendlies.

An International Talent Show was also organized to introduce the unique characteristics of different cultures and ethnic groups in the community. It provided a valuable opportunity to enhance mutual understanding, and help build a harmonious and caring community.



Highlights of the show included singing and dancing performances, ethnic fashion show and martial arts demonstration by representatives from different countries, including Bangladesh, China, India, Italy, Korea, Philippines, USA, Nepal and more, all to thunderous applause from the full house audience.

At the food plaza, visitors had their taste buds titillated by delectable cuisines from all over the world, including such ethnic specialties as Irish potatoes, Turkey Kebabs, Italian pizzas, Japanese oden, Korean noodles, Chinese dumplings, Christmas cookies and more.

Ms. Belinda Chong, Assistant District Officer (Islands), Home Affairs Department of the HKSAR, was present as the Guest of Honour at the Dedication Ceremony together with Mr. Dion Chen, Principal of YHKCC.

"The magnificent and meaningful YHKCC International Fun Fair has become a 'landmark' festa in the community," said Chen. "We are dedicated to spreading loving care and good cheer, especially during this festive season."

"We are committed to doing it all over again next year," Chen concluded. "Let's work together to build a caring and harmonious community in Tung Chung."