

ARTIST'S STATEMENT - THE NUMBER GAMES EXHIBITION (2002)

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The Number Games is a reflection of the norm and culture of our society. Chinese traditionally believes in good omen. Anything that appears auspicious or rhymes with a word of auspicious meaning is considered to bring good fortune. The numeral 'eight', for example, is a homonym of the Chinese word 'prosperity'. The painting 'Alchemy' is completed with this context in mind. I used numerals made of lead and other basic metals as motives and connotation of prosperity. They reflect the basic desire of most people to turn lead into gold.

Hong Kong has gone through many layers of economic restructuring and has survived many financial crises. Nowadays, it has developed into an important, well-regulated financial center of the world and its people have become active participants of the world trade market. For that frenzy, we are bombarded daily by financial news on television, on radio and in newspapers with profit and loss figures. In fact, our public spaces are constantly jammed by financial figures. Reflecting on this social phenomenon, 'The Number Games Series' is loaded with numerals, daily stock transactions totals, names of different indexes and the profit and loss figures of different tradings. Over the years Hong Kong has been judged as a place 'lacking in social responsibility with a weak civic mind and ideology, individualistic and deprived of a proud legacy, be it nationalistic, colonial or cultural'. These statements are poignant and arouse my interest to re-examine Hong Kong's historical background; to assess the core problems of its value systems and identify positive elements, which have surfaced during the process of development in this cosmopolitan city.

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