

TittleTattle

PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE TOWN TICK



My Maggie

FRANK GEHRY-DESIGNED CANCER CARE CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS



WITH THEIR UNIQUE, HOLISTIC TAKE ON treatment, Maggie's Centres have been at the forefront of cancer care for more than 20 years. As such, the opening of the charity's permanent home in Hong Kong is a real boon for sufferers and their families. Designed by Frank Gehry and located at Tuen Mun Hospital, Maggie's Hong Kong officially opens on March 7 after operating from a temporary home since 2008. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be hosted by **ANNE WANG-LIU** (left), who raises funds on behalf of the charity. "I am thrilled with the opening of Maggie's in Hong Kong," she says. "It will provide essential and vital support for people in Hong Kong who are living with cancer." Visitors can drop in to participate in daily programmes, browse the library or engage in some relaxing yoga. The first Maggie's Centre opened in Edinburgh in 1995, after Maggie Keswick Jencks and Charles Jencks set up a foundation for the purpose. Maggie sadly passed away in 1995 after a battle with breast cancer, but her cause lives on.

GRIST TO THE RUMOUR MILL

TRUE BLUES Who loves their denim? This entrepreneur's daughter does. The party girl turned up to a glitzy cocktail bash in a brand new pair of dark wash jeans. She showed her shapely pins off to every socialite in the room - until she discovered the strong dye had seeped onto her pale peach bag and worse, all over her skin. That's what we call being caught blue-handed.

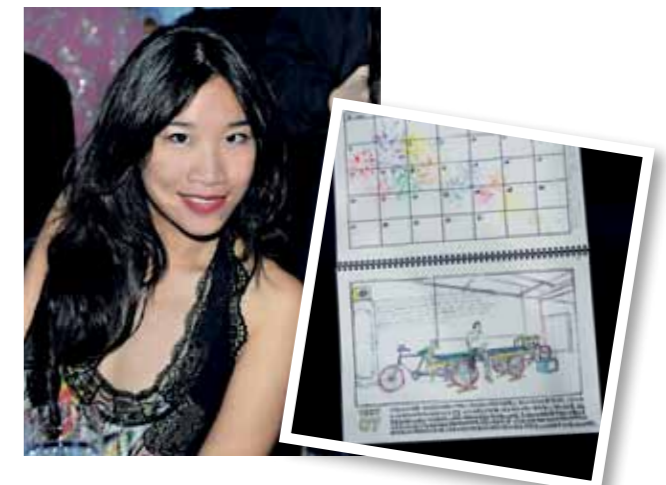
COMPUTER LOVE Which socialite took his gal on a romantic dinner and movie date, only to spend the entire evening with another female: the robot Siri on his brand new smartphone? The tech-obsessed stud even called his real-life date a taxi using the app. How thoughtful.

Going for a Song

BEIJING-BASED ARTIST INVITES HONGKONGERS TO PICK UP A PAINTBRUSH

FORMER ASIA ART ARCHIVE artist in residence **SONG DONG** led a trip down memory lane recently with a live-participation art show at ArtisTree, inviting visitors to "create history" by annotating or editing the work in his latest exhibition, *Song Dong: 36 Calendars*. On January 21, each of the 432 participants were given a calendar page representing a particular month in a particular year on which to paint, draw or write. Those

taking part included AAA founder **CLAIRE HSU, ALAN LO, RONALD AND JOHANNA ARCULLI**, and **DEE POON** (pictured right, with artwork). "This was one of the best art events in memory," says Poon. "It's rare that we get a chance to engage with an artist and his work in this manner." The participants' finished pages, along with Song's original calendars, were exhibited in the month-long exhibition.



ONGOING

FABERGÉ: LEGACY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA

The world-famous Fabergé eggs come to Hong Kong. From tsars to beaux-arts, this three-part exhibition cracks open the vaults of the House of Fabergé to showcase the jewels of Russian oligarchy. Hong Kong Heritage Museum; until Apr 29; 10am-6pm (Mon, Wed-Fri), 10am-7pm (Sat, Sun and public holidays); \$10-\$20. www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk



4MON

BNP PARIBAS SHOWDOWN

It's game, set, match at this tennis extravaganza, where French Open and Asia's first Grand Slam champ Li Na, Grand Slam finalist Caroline Wozniacki, eight-time Grand Slam victor Ivan Lendl and seven-time Grand Slam hero John McEnroe serve up some gripping games on the court. AsiaWorld Expo; 7.45pm; \$360-\$2,250. www.hkticketing.com

6WED

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

Manic corruption and government incompetence are under the spotlight as Nobel laureate Dario Fo's acclaimed political satire takes to the stage. Based on a true story, the Italian play shows that real life is often loonier than fiction. Fringe Club; until Mar 9; various times; \$180-\$220. www.hkticketing.com



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Food for Thought

FASHION MAVENS OPEN UP THEIR HEARTS AND PURSES FOR HUNGER-RELIEF CHARITY FOODLINK

CHARITY AND FASHION made a perfect pairing as the Foodlink Foundation and jewellery, homeware and clothing retailer

Ninth Muse hosted a fundraising party last month. A coterie of fashionistas including **JING ZHANG** (pictured, far right) and **CHARLOTTE HWANG** (far left) worked together over two nights to raise a total of \$30,000 via a bake sale and a silent auction, with luxurious holidays going under the hammer. The Ninth Muse store also hosted an exclusive spring sale on the same nights, with pop-up vendors from Tangram and **JEANINE HSU's** Niin taking part. Foodlink aims to replace hunger with a smile; with this optimistic start to the New Year, they're one step closer to achieving just that.



Walk This Way

VOLUNTEERS TAKE THE STAIRS AT JARDINE HOUSE FOR MENTAL-HEALTH CHARITY MINDSET



STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL illness is no walk in the park, but awareness makes all the difference. Hundreds of fit fundraisers and corporate teams will take a step in the right direction as they run up 49 flights of stairs at Jardine House on March 17 to aid Mindset. The charitable

organisation, established in 2002 by Jardine Matheson, provides financial aid and assistance for those suffering from mental health problems as well as supporting hospitals and clinics around Hong Kong. Last year, the event broke records by raising a total of HK\$3.4 million.



A FRESH CANVAS

STEP INTO SPRING with a fresh-eyed view of contemporary art as two galleries open their doors in Hong Kong. New York-based Lehmann Maupin - whose artists include Tracey Emin and Juergen Teller - marks its first foray into Asia with a solo exhibition by Korean artist Lee Bul at its Pedder Building space. Opera Gallery, meanwhile, opens its flagship Hong Kong outlet at 52 Wyndham Street with a solo exhibition by Spanish painter Lita Cabellut. See Calendar for more details. (Above: Courtney Plummer and David Maupin of Lehmann Maupin.)

7THU

BOUNDARIES

Boundaries converge and shift in Lalla Essaydi's first solo exhibition in Asia. A melange of selected works from her archive of painting, mixed-media works, photography and video questions female identity and women's roles in society. Amelia Johnson Contemporary; until Apr 6; 10.30am-6.30pm (Tue-Sat). www.ajc-art.com



BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Just in time for International Women's Day on March 8, Spanish painter Lita Cabellut presents a fierce and provocative collection at the newly opened Opera Gallery flagship on Wyndham, celebrating the political and social progression of women around the globe. Opera Gallery; until Mar 30; 10.30am - 7.30pm (Mon -Sat). www.operagallery.com

15FRI

AFFORDABLE ART FAIR HONG KONG

Deep pockets are no longer a prerequisite for art lovers thanks to the Affordable Art Fair. Held in cities across the globe, the fair introduces a range of relatively unknown artists with (hopefully) big potential. Expect an eclectic range of reasonably priced paintings, sculptures, ceramics, prints and photographs. HKCEC; until Mar 17; various times. www.affordableartfair.com



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COMING SOON

The 37th Hong Kong International Film Festival runs from March 17 to April 2 and will screen more than 250 movies from around the world, including a digitally remastered version of *Lawrence of Arabia* and a new documentary about Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece *The Shining*. The 11th Asia Film Financing Forum will be held alongside it from March 18 to March 20, and the 7th Asian Film Awards will be hosted by jury president Andy Lau on March 18.



HIGH-T WITH...

Wilfred Wong

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND FOUNDER OF THE ASIAN FILM AWARDS SITS DOWN WITH US AHEAD OF THIS MONTH'S RED-CARPET EVENTS

TITTLE TATTLE: How long have you been involved with the HKIFF?

WILFRED WONG: I was appointed chairman in 2004 and since then have founded the Asian Film Awards. Surprisingly, I don't come from a film background. My day job is running a property construction company. I am a terrific film buff, however.

TT: What are the people you work with like?

WW: Our previous and present vice-chairmen include film veterans Ann Hui and Sylvia Chang, who are really committed to promoting movies as an art. The film industry may seem all glamour, and it's true that film people have egos - you can't be a great director if you don't believe in what you do - but they're also very creative people. We want people to see Hong Kong as a

film hub and I believe that the growth area in movies is right here in Asia.

TT: What's your best memory from your time at the HKIFF?

WW: Hearing that our own micro-film series, *Beautiful 2012*, was screened at more than 20 film festivals around the world, including Cannes and Sundance. Ann Hui's segment alone was viewed 50 million times on Youku.

TT: Are your days full of meetings with film stars and directors?

WW: Hardly! I just oversee everything. But I love hearing stories from various members of our staff. I'll never forget the story of Iranian actress Leila Hatami, who flew to Hong Kong last year to pick up the award for *A Separation*. None of the others [involved in the film] could come because of visa and immigration issues. She was

battling a high fever and she had to bring along her children, but she made it to the ceremony just hours before it started. We gave her a standing ovation.

TT: What can we expect from this year's HKIFF?

WW: We'll be premiering a lot of Chinese films, from Taiwan and Mainland China, as well as showing digitally restored classics like *Heaven's Gate* and *Shoah*. We want to enhance people's knowledge and appreciation of cinema, not just its present but its past as well.

TT: What are you personally looking forward to this year?

WW: The release of *Beautiful 2013*, of course. And, as a young boy, I remember watching *Lawrence of Arabia* and being absolutely dazzled by the desert scenes. I can't wait to watch the digitally remastered version at the HKIFF.

22FRI

HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW

Darling buds of... March? Green fingered types unite to celebrate a bumper crop of blooms at the annual horticultural extravaganza. An array of competitions, performances, workshops and games will also take place to entertain the hundreds of thousands of expected visitors. Victoria Park; until Mar 24; 9am-9pm; \$7-\$14. www.lcsd.gov.hk



HONG KONG SEVENS

Arguably the biggest event on the local sporting calendar, the Sevens is once again set to dominate all weekend plans. Dress up and join the scrum in the South Stand. In between singing and boozing, you may even notice that 24 rugby squads from around the world are also on hand to duke it out for the trophy. Hong Kong Stadium; until Mar 24; www.hksevens.com

29FRI

MESSIAH

The heavenly songbirds of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus reunite for a rendition of Handel's *Messiah*. Under the baton of conductor Brett Weymark, the choir looks set to raise the rafters. Hallelujah! Cultural Centre; until Mar 30; 8pm; \$140-\$400. www.hkphil.org



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Wrong Turns

THEY MAY BE KNOWN FOR DRESSING WITH IMPECCABLE TASTE, BUT WE ASKED THESE FASHION MAVENS TO SPILL THE BEANS ON THEIR WORST EVER FASHION FAUX PAS

“There was a period in my youth when I was really into wide leg pants. I think the most ridiculous pair I had was a pair of jeans that had a 36” wide pant leg opening!”
LEONARD CHAO

“When I was 13 I attended my first Gucci fall winter fashion show wearing black shoes with a brown belt. This faux pas was brought to my attention by a well-known fashionista!”
MANOJ CHELLARAM

“Those gigantic shoulder pads back in the 80s! When I look back at my photos, I just can’t help laughing at myself!”
DENISE LO

“I thought wearing bright red pants with baby pink shoes was fantastic and wore this combo almost every weekend around campus!”
CHARLOTTE HWANG

“In attempts to be a fashion designer when I was teenager, I made patchwork denim jeans, cutting up other jeans and fabric, and sewing them on to my flares!”
VERONICA CHOU