Press Release
Attention Arts and Features Editors

Mur Nomade presents **GRACE**
Ceramic works and installations by Hong Kong artists

**Exhibition title**
*Grace*

**Artists**
Ray Chan See-kwong, Nick Poon Fai-wong, Miu Tsang Che-ching, Ben Yau Man-pun

**Exhibition dates**
27 September – 22 November, 2014

**Address**
Unit 1606, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

**Opening hours**
Tuesday – Saturday, 12pm – 6pm. Closed on public holidays.

The Opening Party will be on 27 September, Saturday, 4 – 6pm, which coincides with the South Island Art Day. The artists will be present to introduce and share their insights on their artworks with guests.

Mur Nomade, a curatorial office and gallery, invited ceramic artists Ray Chan See-kwong, Nick Poon Fai-wong, Miu Tsang Che-ching and Ben Yau Man-pun to present their new works and installations. From a varying range of career marks, the four Hong Kong male artists present artworks displaying remarkable technical skills and craftsmanship. The selected pieces featured in the exhibition are examples of a distinctive way to approach ceramic art based on clarity, delicacy, and rejection of anything heavy or unnecessarily intricate.

From a curatorial angle, *Grace* is a stage where artworks are celebrated in beautiful choreography. Each artist entered the stage one after the other, and their respective works naturally found their own space and role. The exhibition is a quiet ballet of elegant shapes and delicate materials. All the artworks find their sources of inspiration in simple forms of beauty, may it be the movement of birds in the sky, the wings of butterflies, a slow dance duo or the gesture of offering a bowl of rice. Their fragility and deliberate simplicity confer them mystery.

Just as the lighting and layout of objects shape the visitor’s experience of the exhibition, so does the music. Piano pieces by Erik Satie and short intermissions of silence add another layer of perception in the appreciation of the artworks. In his essay entitled “A Touch of Music” about the role of Erik Satie’s music, writer and music scholar Giorgio Biancorosso wrote: ‘The artists have reconfigured the space by cleverly manipulating sight lines through their choice and disposition of the objects, as well as lighting. The decision to use music is no less transformative an intervention. Satie’s piano pieces do not merely reinforce the impression of delicacy and simplicity of the ceramics displayed here. They help us perceive the gallery space as one carefully orchestrated whole, filling it with reminders of the material origins of sound, images of a performance, or subtle evocations of dance. When the music comes to an end, we are given a chance to perceive afresh the works on display. Less silent than sound-less, a ceramic sculpture, even more than a painting,
conjures a wholly imaginary world which is all the more striking given its obvious presence in our very own physical, three-dimensional space.'

Glazed, raw, polished or scraped, the artworks on display offer a feast of textures. There is no doubt that visitors will be tempted to touch them. Indeed the tactile experience in ceramic art, be it in the production process or in the end result, is absolute unique and cannot be replaced by any literary description. Therefore, for this exhibition only, there will be a dedicated area where visitors will be able to touch or hold some selected artworks to observe them closely and to better appreciate the lightness, the textures and the play of light and shadows.

All the artists participating in the exhibition have their own individual ceramic studios in Hong Kong. At Grace, Ray Chan See-kwong presents Duo, a series created in collaboration with two contemporary dancers. To make those naturally curling shapes, Chan uses extremely thin sheets of translucent Japanese porcelain. Nick Poon Fai-wong presents his new collection of white bowls entitled Hold. They are very pure and graceful shapes, inspired by the gesture of a child holding a warm bowl of rice for the first time. Miu Tsang Che-ching designed a unique wall-mounted display for sixteen of his signature bird-shaped vessels. The installation can be seen as homage to the harmony and effortless beauty of nature. And Ben Yau Man-pun hung an installation of mobiles to the ceiling of the exhibition space: butterflies move gently in a slow dance using the natural ambient air movements.

The conception of this exhibition is based on the guidance and recommendations provided by Fiona Wong Lai-ching. Mur Nomade would like to thank Ms Wong for sharing her experience and knowledge as a talented ceramic artist and inspiring teacher.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Artists’ Profiles

Born in 1974, Ray Chan See-kwong is a ceramic artist and a part-time lecturer at the Hong Kong Art School and the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre. He obtained his MFA from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University co-presented with Hong Kong Art School in 2007, and his MA from Cambridge University in 2000. Chan’s works can be found in museums and art institutions in Hong Kong, Japan, and Europe.

Chan’s works always reflect his distinctive sense of experimentation. At his spacious loft-like studio in Chai Wan, Chan constantly explores new clay making processes. In addition to his visual art practice, Chan is a renowned counter-tenor, regularly invited to perform as a soloist by various music groups in Hong Kong.

Born in 1984, Nick Poon Fai-wong obtained his BA in Fine Arts from the Hong Kong Art School in 2010, and was also awarded the ‘Best Artwork Award in Ceramics’ from the Hong Kong Art School in 2008. Since then he has participated in exhibitions in Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Macau.

After graduating, Poon established his studio-cum-home in the green and quiet environment of a peaceful village on Lamma island. A believer in a universal sense of beauty among human beings, Poon creates art pieces celebrating simplicity and serenity.

Born in 1969, Miu Tsang Che-ching obtained his BA in Fine Arts from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University co-presented with Hong Kong Art School in 2008, moving on from a photographer career. He has participated in the social community projects in Hong Kong such as Prison Art Explore (2008) and My Soil, My Land (2006). His works have been presented in group exhibitions around Asia including the Taiwan Ceramics Biennale (Taiwan, 2014), LCX Arts Gallery (Hong Kong, 2011), Benten 17 Gallery (Hong Kong, 2008), and Hong Kong Art Centre (Hong Kong, 2007).

Tsang’s tidy ceramic studio is located in Sheung Wan. The artist has a high appreciation for the creation process when working with ceramics. His skill to infuse elements from life into his work result in thought-provoking art pieces.
Born in 1974, Ben Yau Man-pun is a Hong Kong artist and a part-time lecturer at the Hong Kong Art School. He obtained his BA in Fine Arts from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2007. He received the ‘Best Artwork Award in Ceramics’ from the Hong Kong Art School in 2004 and the ‘Excellence Work Award’ from the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware in 2010. Moreover, he participated in the artist-in-residence programme of the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, in Japan in 2010. Yau’s works have been presented in art fairs, galleries and museums in Hong Kong, Macau, Korea and Japan.

In the heart of the bustling Wanchai district, Yau’s studio is a secret haven of peace and beauty, where ceramic artworks live together in harmony with curiosities collected by the artist from small antiques shops and garage sales. The artist is captivated by the world around him, finding unexpected beauty in things such as a football or an insect. His keen artistic sense combined with his technical skills and attention to details result in very elegant and delicate artworks.

About Mur Nomade

Mur Nomade is a curatorial office and gallery. Our name is the French translation of ‘nomadic wall’. We present site-specific projects in selected venues all around Hong Kong, in addition to regular exhibitions at our gallery space in Aberdeen. We work closely with local and international artists to imagine and conceive exhibitions and programmes such as artist residencies, collaborative art projects, travel grants, workshops and outreach initiatives.

Mur Nomade focuses on projects encouraging cultural exchanges and creative encounters. We like bold ideas and we are convinced that cultural exchanges support creativity, stimulate emulation and encourage experimentation.

www.murnomade.com

ENQUIRIES

Tel: +852 2580 5923    |    Email: info@murnomade.com

Image (Credits: Raymond Lam)

Ben Yau Man-pun, Lepidoptera (detail), 2014, Porcelain and wire, Dimensions variable.