

MILK Magazine

“Meeting Room – Savannah College of Art and Design”

Dec. 10, 2009



The renowned creative art university Savannah College of Art and Design from the United States will open its Hong Kong campus in the former North Kowloon Magistracy Building in Fall 2010. With conservation as a mission, SCAD will preserve and revitalize the building. To learn more about this project, “Meeting Room” has invited Vice President of SCAD Hong Kong John Paul Rowan and External Relations Director Elizabeth Rowan to speak. They are not only great partners at work, but also a lovely couple!

B: Bebop, Editorial Director, Think Silly Webzine

C: Chung, President of Silly Thing

J: John Paul

E: Elizabeth

C: Bebop, every time I meet expatriates working in Hong Kong, I’m interested to get their name cards to learn their Chinese name.

B: Ha ha, yes. I remember Henrik from Berlin got a very funny Chinese name. But I forgot what it is exactly now.

C: Yeah! Like the new friends we met today – Law Yuk-Bong (John Paul Rowan) and Yung Wan-Yin (Elizabeth Rowan). Their Chinese names are like those in Cheung Oi-Ling's* novels. (**Cheung Oi-Ling was a very famous writer in Hong Kong in the 1970s.*)

B: Right, very romantic!

E: Bebop has a very interesting name, too!

C: OK. Let me introduce these two friends properly. Law Yuk-Bong is John Paul Rowan and Yung Wan-Yin is Elizabeth Rowan.

J: Very nice to meet you guys, Bebop and Chung! After moving to Hong Kong, we heard so much about MILK. SCAD would love to work with you as it establishes itself in Hong Kong.

B: John Paul, Elizabeth, would you mind if I call you Yin and Bong?

E&J: Of course not. We like our Chinese names very much too.

B: We have always admired SCAD. It is very exciting news that SCAD is opening a campus in Hong Kong. Yin and Bong, have you been living here or did you just move to town to establish the school?

E: We used to live in the US. We moved here in April to prepare for the campus opening.

B: Do you find it difficult to adapt?

E: Absolutely not. Hong Kong is really a fascinating place. Sham Shui Po is indeed amazing. We found Ap really vibrant, and we love hanging out in the community.

J: Haha, you know what, we went back to the US for a while back in August. We missed Hong Kong right away and wished to come back as soon as we could. It's hard to imagine feeling homesick once we are away from Hong Kong.

C: It's incredible to me that you feel homesick for Hong Kong. Also, your passion for Sham Shui Po is impressive.

E: Before SCAD decided to open its campus here, our staff came to research the city. While the government considers Sham Shui Po an aging community, we found it to be very interesting and diverse community. It has the most active computer mall here. A lot of the old buildings remain despite how densely populated the district is. The food stalls on roadsides are unique to Sham Shui Po as well. Also, the Jockey Club Creative Art Centre and former Lai Chi Kok Hospital together will create an area for historic preservation and creative arts.

C: Wow! That's quite a different way to describe Sham Shui Po!

J: In fact, Savannah in the United States was originally an old town, which was much more desolated than Sham Shui Po. Despite this, SCAD chose to establish its first school in the city, which turned out to be a huge success. The school also brings considerable economic benefits to the city.

B: That's awesome!

J: Yes. Bringing energy back to the community is one of the missions we have at SCAD. It is an important consideration when we choose the locations for our campuses.

B: The SCAD campus in France used to be an old village. What kind of plans do you have for the North Kowloon Magistracy Building?

E: We are really fond of this building and will completely preserve a courtroom and jail cell. We will be working from the jail cell in the future, ha ha, just kidding.

B: Ha ha, the conserved building interior will be a perfect shooting location for film students.

All: Yeah!

SCAD Hong Kong

Located in the North Kowloon Magistracy Building, SCAD Hong Kong will open in Fall 2010. SCAD and the Jockey Club Creative Art Centre in Shek Kip Mei will turn the district into an area of creativity and arts. SCAD will offer 14 non-local courses in Hong Kong, including advertising, animation, graphic design, illustration, interactive design and game development, motion media design, photography and visual effects. SCAD will provide bachelors and master's degree courses, which will be the same as at their U.S. universities. SCAD will be the only university in Hong Kong that solely focuses on art and design.

272 Tai Po Road, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon

Savannah College of Art and Design

- Established in Savannah, U.S., in 1978
- Started Lacoste campus in Southern France in 2002 as the first overseas campus
- Will open the first campus in Asia in Hong Kong in 2010
- Nurture talents and offer career opportunities to students with companies like EA, Pixar, Apple, Nike, Coke Cola, MTV and Dreamworks
- Heritage commencement ceremony scheduled for December 10 at the North Kowloon Magistracy Building on Tai Po Road
- <http://www2.scad.edu/hongkong>