

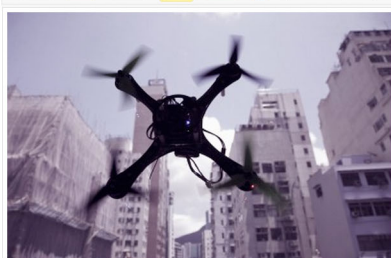
Blog » [\[\[LIMINAL\]\]](#)

BLOG November 4, 2013 0 COMMENTS »

[[LIMINAL]]

Written by: [Claire Johnson](#) More articles by [Claire Johnson](#) »
 Tags: [Art Space](#), [bloomberg](#), [Exhibition](#), [K11](#), [Kenny Wong](#), [Liminal](#), [Marco De Mutlis](#), [quadcopters](#), [YAF](#)

0 Tweets 2 Likes 2 +1 Digg 1 Submit 1 Share E-MAIL



Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) recently presented '[[LIMINAL]]', an innovative digital art exhibition by the winners of this year's Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative.

Hong Kong-based digital artist duo Kenny Wong and Marco De Mutlis use swarms of quadcopters to force viewers to re-examine the surrounding space, or lack thereof, in their daily lives.

In recent years, quadcopters have continuously featured in headline news and TED talks. Inspired by the potential of quadcopters for encouraging community interactions and activism through art, Wong and Mutlis sent swarms of quadcopters flying through Hong Kong over the summer. Programmed using open source code to mimic the city's crowds, these quadcopters sense each other and fly in teams to occupy the in-between spaces of buildings, car parks and stairwells. Equipped with loudspeakers that emit amplified composed soundscapes and cameras that monitor motion, an eerie tense atmosphere is created, acting as a solemn reminder of our crowded daily existence.



RAW caught up with the imaginative duo to get more insight into their latest exhibition.

Congratulations on winning the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative 2013. For how long have you been working on and developing this project?

Thanks, we started talking about doing something with quadcopters a few months before the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative. We were inspired by the recent researches and usage of this new device, and how we could turn its sonic and symbolic components to express the concepts of 'Liminal'.

Your exhibition is titled '[[LIMINAL]]'. What does this mean and how does it relate to the exhibition?

The word 'liminal' means something of a transient, intermediate state. We chose this word to represent the idea of the "in-between-ness" that characterises many (non) spaces in the urban environment. The exhibition explores the tension of these in-between spaces; places where thousands of people try to move through each others' trajectories, patterns of negative spaces and momentary connections with complete strangers. We used quadcopters to enhance this tension, having them flying in abandoned spaces where machines now mimic the movements of people.



Artists Kenny Wong and Marco De Mutlis at the exhibition opening, K11 Art Space

What reactions have you had to your work and from those coming into first hand contact with the quadcopters?

Many people are scared by quadcopters, especially if they come flying towards them! That is one of the reasons we chose quadcopters as our main medium. They create a sense of uneasiness that matches the experience we want to create with the work. The sound of the blades and the hovering in mid-air of several quadcopters create a tension that resonates with the relational tension of the negotiated spaces of Hong Kong crossroads, busy alleys, car parks and subway passages. We also added custom controlled mp3 players and loudspeakers on every quadcopter, creating sound composition to further enhance the original sound and movements, to create an even stronger sound performance.

This is quite a technically challenging project, what were the biggest challenges or hurdles you had to overcome?

One of the biggest challenges we didn't really think about is that when you try to control a quadcopter you are basically writing code on a computer that flies. That means that if you make a spelling mistake in your code, you might end up with quadcopters suddenly taking off and flying around in the studio!

Your exhibition aims to inspire a new generation of artists. What inspired you to pursue art as a career?

Marco: I think all of my works are just projects that I really wanted to do. I don't think it's something I planned to do as a career, just something I need to do because it's a way of expressing myself.

Kenny: Art is a suitable playground for me to express and experiment, and selecting the most interesting process or result to share with an audience. In my opinion aiming to be an artist as a career is a very different approach. Right now, art it is more like an opportunity to express my thoughts and inspire each other.



Following your success in winning this prize, what will you be working on next?

Marco: I have a few projects left I need to pick up and hopefully show somewhere soon, but my next works will probably not fly!

Kenny: I will continue on my solo and collaboration works in parallel, aiming to express my individual thoughts as well as exchange ideas with other artists.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Claire Johnson

Claire is a professional dancer and teacher as well as a keen writer. She enjoys all aspects relating to the arts and is also a fashion blogger for AnyWearStyle.com.

More articles by [Claire Johnson](#) »

0 COMMENTS »

SIGN UP FOR RAW NEWSLETTER

Email Address :

SEARCH

RECENT POSTS

- > [Hong Kong's new Museum for Visual Culture](#)
- > [Distilling Senses](#)
- > [From Small Town to Up Town](#)
- > [Do I Live Fashion?](#)
- > [The Art of Architecture](#)

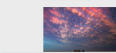
PREVIOUS POSTS

Select Month

FACEBOOK



Amazing storm photography by storm chaser Mike Hollingshead.
<http://www.thisiscosossal.com/2014/01/severe-skies-the-photography-of-storm-chaser-mike-hollingshead/>



4,446 people like Random Art Workshop.



Facebook social plugin