



## SKY: 2011 Kuandu Arts Festival

**B**reaking all the boundaries – that is the characteristics of the 2011 Kuandu Arts Festival.

The theme of this year's month-long arts festival, which kicked off on October 5, is "Sky." Apart from all kinds of performances, the 2011 Asia Plate and Print Exhibition at the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts and the Third Kuandu Film Festival are also taking place at the same time. The arts festival offers almost 100 performances and events featuring over 150 individual artists and groups.

With the theme "Sky," TNUA hopes that it and its audiences can break all stereotypes about performances and unleash their imagination.

It is not just the performances, such as Indian dance and new media electronic music, that are unique. The venues of performances are unconventional: inside the fine arts museum, on the lawn, by the pond and upon branches – which are all meant to blur the boundaries dividing the performers and audiences.

The Asia Plate and Print Exhibition features works by

over 120 print artists from Taiwan, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Macau. It is not just the scale of the exhibition that is attractive; on display is also a collection of rare documents. This is the first time such exhibitions have been organized in Asia, and all exhibits will be donated to TNUA to become one of the school's most valuable collections after the exhibition.

The Kuandu Film Festival will screen nine documentaries this year in line with the international documentary biennial. It will also kick off the First Kuandu International Animation Festival, inviting senior animation artists from Pixar and DreamWorks to conduct workshops and other activities. The film festival's focus nation this year is Thailand: four famous and important Thai films will be screened.

There is also an exhibition on the sculptor Yang Ying-feng. And during the month, there are many other activities, such as the bazaar on October 15 and 16, and a lucky draw based on visits to shops in TNUA's neighborhood.

Caption: "Trio D'En Bas" The Trio d'en Bas

## Focus dancers in 2011 WDA-AP assembly

**A** 30-member delegation from the Focus Dance Company of TNUA's School of Dance was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September at the invitation of the World Dance Alliance Asia Pacific (WDA-AP) to attend the group's annual assembly.

The Focus dancers, apart from staging performances during their stay, also took part in WDA-AP's workshops and international forums. The WDA-AP event brought together over 300 scholars and dancers from the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Fiji.

The theme of the event was "Hybridity in Dance: Researching, Performing and Writing Old and New Genres."

The participants in the event came from very diverse backgrounds, and through the event they all gained better understanding of the transition and integration of dance in different cultures, enabling their creativity.

Prof. Heng Ping, dean of the School of Dance, noted that the WDA-AP event was sponsored by several Malaysian institutions: the Cultural Center of the University of

Malaysia, the National Department for Culture and Arts under Malaysia's Ministry of Information, and MyDance Alliance.

The School of Dance started preparing for this WDA-AP event in April. The Focus Dance Company, formed by students from the Department of Dance, was assigned the work of staging three dances at the event. Their hard work – practices and rehearsals four times a week – won applause as they staged the dances at the Tuanku Abdul Rahman Hall at the Malaysia Tourism Center for three days from September 22 to 24.

On the last day of the WDA-AP assembly, TNUA Prof. Yunyu Wang was elected chairman of the body.

WDA-AP is an important dance research group of the world. The independent, non-profit, non-government body was founded in Hong Kong in 1988 as Asia Pacific Dance Alliance with a mission to serve as a primary voice and support group for dance in the Asia-Pacific region. In 1993 it changed its name to WDA-Asia Pacific.



Caption: "No Trace" Yang Ming-Lung