



Taipa Village Cultural Association

氹仔城區文化協會

*For immediate release*

## **Taipa Village Cultural Association Exclusively Presents “Subtropical Romance - Paintings by Crystal W. M. Chan”**

*Exploring the artist’s fascination with travel as a getaway from daily life*



**Macau, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 - Taipa Village Cultural Association is honoured to invite Macau artist Crystal W. M. Chan to exhibit a new collection of works that survey her emotional connection with travel.**

As per the artist’s statement, Subtropical Romance is an exhibition of new paintings exploring her personal relationship with the theme of travel and places manifested as desires, of climates and atmospheres both felt and remembered. The scenes depict places, people and plants as they develop and change. Like the tropics, they circulate in imaginations both personal and collective.

Chan’s new collection is inspired by the romance associated with the tropics. It explores a story that travellers share with others about their journeys on their return home, replete with distant beaches, exotic fruit and palm trees. These stories turn into fantasies and fictions that people consistently share about “the good life”.

“Growing up in Macau, I never thought of the city as part of that story, but now an endless stream of tourists come to town to escape from familiar things and find paradise in an unfamiliar place,” Chan says.



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Born and raised in Macau, and having lived in a number of other places, Chan experienced the city's transition from Portuguese to Chinese rule. That cultural shift and change in orientation led her to explore questions of identity and representation, their complexity, and the prejudices and expectations that identities prompt in society. Through her artwork, familiar yet not wholly distinct elements evoke feelings of displacement and estrangement, provoking consideration of the relationships between humans and their environments.

Affect and atmosphere are two recurrent elements in Chan's artwork. In her paintings, isolated figures and desolate landscapes are drawn with expressive lines and brushstrokes. In her sound installations, field recordings from the natural and urban environments combine with improvised music played on both traditional and non-traditional instruments to create an otherworldly atmosphere.

"Subtropical Romance is a literary theme that inspired Chan's latest series of new paintings, which could be interpreted as a visual narrative of a novel, uncovering the emotional connection between humans and exotic landscapes," said João Ó, curator and president of the Executive Board at Taipa Village Cultural Association. "This series of new paintings demonstrates Chan's artistic talent in the medium and shows her ease with the act of painting, making its contemplation a natural connection with the viewer."

Taipa Village Cultural Association continues to bring together the endeavours of local and international artistic talents to exhibit myriad artworks in Taipa Village. This special exhibition of paintings further cements Taipa Village's position as a leading cultural and artistic destination in Macau and underlines its invaluable contribution to the promotion of the territory's cultural and creative industries.

### **Details**

Exhibition period : 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Opening hours : 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm  
Address : Taipa Village Art Space, No. 16-18, Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa, Macau  
Artist : Crystal W. M. Chan  
Media : Paintings  
Admission : Free

*-Ends-*

### **About Taipa Village Cultural Association**

Taipa Village Cultural Association was established in 2016 as a non-profit body comprised of representatives from both the local community and wider Macau. The association aims to highlight the uniqueness of Taipa Village's heritage by raising awareness of its attractions and bolstering its position as a distinctive community that benefits the whole of Macau.



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Taipa Village Cultural Association has planned numerous initiatives to preserve, strengthen and enhance the village's position as a tourist and cultural must-go destination, including a diverse range of artistic and cultural attractions that allows present-day visitors – and which will allow visitors from future generations – to enjoy a unique experience of the authentic Macau.

### **About Taipa Village**

Located in an historic enclave on Taipa Island, Taipa Village was originally inhabited by fisherfolk – a heritage that lives on today in its quaint village street layout and evocative, pastel-hued shophouses, nestled alongside colonial churches and Chinese temples. The village, with its rich history, offers an inspiring, East-meets-West alternative to Macau's casinos, and is a compelling, rewarding city highlight for visitors and locals alike.

[www.taipavillagemacau.org.mo](http://www.taipavillagemacau.org.mo)

### **For more information and images, please contact:**

Pamela Chan

Tel: (853) 2857 6212

Email: [pamela.chan@taipavillagemacau.com](mailto:pamela.chan@taipavillagemacau.com)

Rachel Wong

Tel: (853) 2857 6116

Email: [rachel.wong@taipavillagemacau.com](mailto:rachel.wong@taipavillagemacau.com)