



TAIWANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

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2021 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival Artist Corner – Paper Magician Hung Hsin-Fu

Hung Hsin-Fu creates life out of thin paper. Over the years, the Taiwanese national treasure has been invited to Vancouver by the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society on multiple occasions, including the International Children’s Festival. Deftly wielding a pair of scissors, Hung is able to snip out dragonflies and sycamore flowers within seconds. In 2021, the paper magician will once again wow Canadian kids and adults alike through the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival’s virtual program.

Born in the historically agricultural district of Cailiao in New Taipei, Taiwan, Hung spent his childhood playing in the muddy fields. When he was four, his elder sister brought home an origami crane. He was blown away. He could not get over the immense versatility and potentiality a flimsy piece of paper holds. With the daily wall calendar being a Taiwanese household staple, Hung had no trouble collecting materials for his newfound hobby. It was not long before his mom noticed something off and promptly gave the time thief a solid whipping, as Taiwanese parents did back in the days.

After he started elementary school, Hung was constantly pelting teachers with questions and lingering in the bookstore. The bookworm resolved to purchase the entire collection of *One Hundred Thousand Whys* (1929) by Soviet writer Mikhail Il'in to quench his insatiable curiosity. This was how Hung started his first business, with fellow kids in the neighbourhood as his target. He prepared insect specimens and constructed delicate paper boxes for them. The professional presentation had kids emptying their wallets. He also utilized physics knowledge he learned in class to produce long-range paper airplanes that won even more customers over.

In university, Hung was extremely popular. He dedicated much time to the Folk Art Club, which quickly transformed into an origami hobby group under his leadership. Aside from organizing folk art events for students and community members, Hung also hosted exhibitions every semester to showcase the latest paper art. Even the Ministry of Culture caught wind of the devoted artisan and invited Hung, the youngest of all guests, to appear on its live program.

Every year, municipal governments in Taiwan distribute free lanterns to the public in the days leading up to the Lantern Festival. In the beginning, those plastic lanterns were powered by batteries. Today, all lanterns are made of recyclable synthetic paper and LED light bulbs free of mercury. Starting in 1994, one-thirds of the lanterns given out by the municipal governments were designed by Hung with easy-to-follow DIY instructions.



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As an artist, Hung believes the joy of papercraft should be free for all. Therefore, he made his unique design patterns and production processes an open-source code. Inspired by the traditional binding method for Buddhist texts, Hung is also the patent holder for a specialized binding technique for 3D books. In 2013, Hung united more than 200 high school students to bind together 148 handwritten cards that totalled at 106 meters. This culmination of his invention made history as the world's longest 3D book in Guinness World Records.

To date, the paper artist, businessman, and inventor has shared his love for papercraft and Taiwanese ecology to audiences in metropolitans like New York, Paris, Berlin, Munich, and Moscow. His next stop? Vancouver. Don't miss out Hung's nature-inspired paper art that is sure to impress.

For more information or inquiries, please visit the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival website <https://tccfestival.ca/> or follow the TCCS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TCCSVan>

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