

During the tour of *Portraits In a Chinese Studio*, John Hansard Gallery and Co-Creating Public Space hosted a series of activities, including three family-friendly workshops, an Artist Talk, and an online podcast interview with Grace Lau.

A total of 22 participants had the opportunity to draw Chinese folding fans, create Chinese photo frames, and learn Chinese calligraphy. These workshops provided cultural exchange, introducing visitors to traditional Chinese customs, such as the Chinese New Year and the Dragon Boat Festival.

We also held an event featuring artist Grace Lau and Vikkie Cheng, Vice Chair of Chinese Association of Southampton who were in conversation around Grace's project and the importance of community engagement. They discussed the role of public art in fostering social connections and its impact on the audience, with 16 participants in attendance.

In partnership with the Chinese Association of Southampton, a global bilingual interview was held at Unity 101 Community Radio in the city.

Podcast

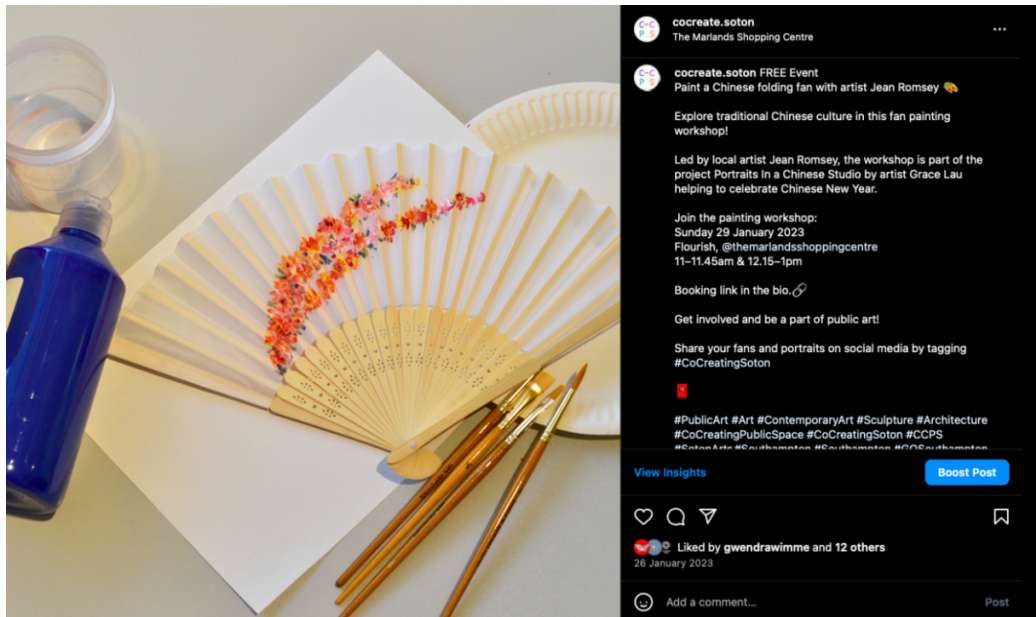
Unity 101 FM - Grace Lau Interview

Monday 23 January 2023



Grace Lau interview, Unity 101 Community radio, 2023. Photo: Wenjun Xie

Paint a Chinese Folding Fan Workshop
Sunday 29 January 2023, 11–11.45am & 12.15–1pm
Marlands Shopping Centre, Southampton



Paint a Chinese Folding Fan Workshop, Marlands Shopping Centre, 2023. Photo: Richard Chung

Make a Chinese-style Photo Frame Workshop
Sunday 5 January 2023, 1–1.45 & 2.15–3pm
John Hansard Gallery



Make a Chinese-style Photo Frame Workshop, John Hansard Gallery, 2023.
Photo: Wenjun Xie

Artist Talk
In Conversation: Grace Lau & Vikkie Cheng
Saturday 23 September 2023



In Conversation: Grace Lau & Vikkie Cheng, John Hansard Gallery, 2023. Photo: Wenjun Xie

Calligraphy Workshop
Friday 7 June 2024, 11.30–12.30am
Solaris Print, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex



Calligraphy Workshop, Solaris Print, 2024. Photo: Richard Chung

Participant comments gathered along the way:

“It felt like experiencing the other side of a bygone time.”

“It was like traveling back in time, just like being in the TARDIS.”

“It felt nostalgic. We’ve been to China where lots of families would go and dress up and have their photo taken in front of old backdrops like this. It was nice to get back to that.”

“A pleasure to become a 21st century type! A wonderful and important series.”

“Wonderful to have such a memorable moment in time officially recorded in such a great project.”

“Being in the studio – such a nice experience to feel the history.”

“It was a delightful experience to meet Grace and the team and be a part of this cultural exploration.”

“Unique experience, a lovely moment to completely stop in the centre of a bustling city. Love the project!”

“Excellent project that resonated with me as a Black American (whose ancestors were also the subject of the colonial gaze). That's a phrase I learnt from Grace! Thanks for the project.”

“A snapshot in time, but it also seems timeless. We’ll cherish it in the future.”