



1 April 2016
For immediate release

***Spring Workshop and HK FARM Announce the Release of
The HK FARMers' Almanac***

Spring Workshop and HK FARM are delighted to announce the publication of *The HK FARMers' Almanac*, a collection of printed matter and usable objects that are essential to a deep understanding of Hong Kong's experimental farming practice.

The *Almanac* was authored by 14 contributors under the editorship of artist Elaine W. Ho, all of whom participated at the invitation of HK FARM. Presented in a functioning wooden planter box, the contents are a wide-ranging reflection both on experimental farming and also on the wider, complementary interests of its community. Each planter box includes 10 zines and 5 farming objects that are meant to be used/activated. Additionally, the box also comes with a hand-crafted USB stick that contains photo documentation, videos, sound files, and a digital copy of the entire volume. The *Almanac* is a toolkit of urban farming know-how, and also a portable kit for users to engage in small-scale cultivation.

Using an unorthodox process called a “booksprint” to put the publication together, artist/editor Elaine W. Ho invited the contributors to spend three intensive days working, sharing and revising their material together at Spring Workshop. Ho created a performative layout for the process entitled “One Year in Three Days.”

Ho writes: “It is in striking contrast to a place like Hong Kong—where urban time chases trend and newness, and where next to a neon skyline it is difficult to imagine the realm of the bucolic—that we must consider what rhythmic possibilities can be restored. This is not a simple call for a return to some rural past [...] *The HK FARMers' Almanac* immediately becomes a highly political document, where we cannot but consider farming and an insistence to organize the means of our self-sustainability upon this land as an act of resistance.”

Contributors from both Hong Kong and China include HK Farm's Glenn Eugen Ellingsen, Michael Leung and Anthony Ko; Farms for Democracy; Sangwoodgoon's Natalie Lo Lai Lai; Very MK's Holok Chen; Yaumatei Gardener's Dorothy Cheung and Kiki Ho; Bishan Commune's Kunfang Zhao; artist-researcher Elaine W. Ho; writer and curator Hu Fang; writer-researcher Ming Lin; journalists Kit Chan, Christopher DeWolf and graphic designer Laine Tam; and Spring Workshop's Mandy Chan and Mimi Brown.

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓

Published in a limited edition of 100, the printed volume-in-a-planter will be distributed to farming and arts organizations, universities, libraries, independent bookstores, and contributors local and abroad. The zines feature useful information and research on topics such as a map of Hong Kong urban farms, a growing calendar, local beer production, farmers' recipes and case studies of other farming practices in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. Accompanying objects include a pair of farming sleeves, a seed packet of locally harvested vegetables and a hand-screen-printed furoshiki cloth, as well as a hand-crafted USB with digital copies of the *Almanac* to be shared with friends.

To ensure universal access to the information contained within, Spring Workshop has also published a digital copy of the entire publication online at www.springworkshop.org/the-hk-farmers-almanac-online.

Mimi Brown, founder of Spring Workshop, says: "HK FARM came to our residency not only as farmers and artists, but also to broaden and challenge our understanding of our relationships to the natural environment we inhabit and our responsibilities toward it. It is impossible for any of us not to be implicated by what they present."

The HK FARMers' Almanac is presented in celebration of the completion of HK FARM's year-long residency at Spring Workshop from the autumn of 2014 to the autumn of 2015. Inspired by the activities and discussions generated by the residency, HK Farm's Michael Leung continues his engagement with community experiments in the Kai Fong Pai Dong (neighborhood street kiosk) in Yau Ma Tei where you can also find a copy of *The HK FARMers' Almanac*.

Media Enquiries

Mandy Chan

T +852 2110 4370

M +852 9741 5336

E mandy.chan@springworkshop.org

ABOUT SPRING WORKSHOP

Spring Workshop is a cultural initiative that brings people together to experiment with the way we relate to art. Committed to an international cross-disciplinary program of artist and curatorial residencies, exhibitions, music, film and talks, Spring serves as a platform and laboratory for exchange between the vibrant artists, organizations and audiences that define Hong Kong's rich cultural landscape and the emerging and established artists, organizations and audiences around the world that seek to engage in far-reaching dialogue. Since opening its space in Wong Chuk Hang in 2011,

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓

Spring has welcomed over 9,500 audience members to its 128 programs and events featuring 189 artists, residents and collaborators.

ABOUT HK FARM

HK Farm is an organisation of Hong Kong farmers, artists and designers founded in April 2012. Working in the city, lead farmers Glenn Eugen Ellingsen, Michael Leung and Anthony Ko collaborate with communities and organisations to highlight the importance of urban agriculture and locally-produced organic food.

GLENN EUGEN ELLINGSEN (HONG KONG/NORWAY)

Glenn Eugen Ellingsen moved to Hong Kong in 2010 after having resided in Norway, Spain and Italy. He has co-founded multiple awareness-raising projects focused on sustainability issues and has more recently dedicated his expertise, knowledge and creative edge to Hong Kong-based design team Parasol Solutions.

www.parasol-solutions.com

MICHAEL LEUNG (HONG KONG/UK)

Michael Leung is a designer, beekeeper and urban farmer. He was born in London and moved to Hong Kong in 2009 to complete a Masters in Design. His work ranges from conceptual objects for the dead to urban agriculture projects such as HK Honey, HK Farm and HK Salt. Inspired by his current projects and previous experiences, Michael is now working on his first collection of fictional stories.

www.studioleung.com

ANTHONY KO (HONG KONG/AUSTRALIA)

Anthony was first exposed to urban farming in Hong Kong at the HK Honey urban beekeeping workshop in 2012. Soon after, he began to get his hands dirty on the same Ngau Tau Kok rooftop with HK Farm. His involvement has been a platform for personal growth as well as an ongoing education. In his spare time, Anthony runs strategic projects for a large Hong Kong company and aspires to be a boxing champion.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

ELAINE WING-AH HO (HONG KONG/CHINA)

Elaine W. Ho joined Spring Workshop for two collaborative sessions during the HK Farm residency of 2014-2015. Along with highlighting questions regarding food production as an aesthetic and political praxis during the Winter Discussion, Elaine contributed as writer, editor and collaborating artist for the three-day embodied knowledge HK FARMers' Almanac event.

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓

Her work spans the realms of time-based art, urban practice and design, using multiple vocabularies to explore the micropolitics, subjectivities and alter-possibilities of an intimate, networked production.

www.iwishicoulddescribeittoyoubetter.net

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

FARMS FOR DEMOCRACY (HONG KONG)

Born in 2014 during Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement, Farms for Democracy is an urban farming movement exploring and pushing the potential of urban farming in Hong Kong through influencing government policy with regard to agriculture.

SANGWOODGOON (HONG KONG)

Sangwoodgoon was founded during the Anti-XRL (Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong High-Speed Rail) and Choi Yuen village movements. It is now a place for growing fresh vegetables as well as new forms of community, with the belief that organic farming is critical to social movements. Represented by **Natalie Lo Lai Lai**, a retired travel journalist, who explores the lifestyle of "Half-Farmer/Half-X."

www.facebook.com/sangwoodgoon
www.lolailai.com

YAUMATEI GARDENER (HONG KONG)

Founded in 2011, Yaumatei Gardener (represented by **Dorothy Cheung** and **Kiki Ho**) researches economical and eco-friendly modes of planting and food waste issues, and has produced a number of outreach projects and publications.

www.facebook.com/ymtgardener

KIT CHAN (HONG KONG)

Kit Chan is a journalist who is especially concerned with social issues ranging from Hong Kong agriculture to city planning and cultural heritage conservation. He is also a founder of multifunctional space Makee in the Foo Tak building of Wan Chai, and a weekend farmer in the New Territories.

BISHAN COMMUNE (CHINA)

Artists and intellectuals Ou Ning and Zuo Jing spearheaded the Bishan project in 2011 with Bishan Commune, located in Yi County of the city of Huangshan, Anhui Province. Their goal is not only to share and enrich cultural activity and public life in rural areas, but also to explore new paths for rural reconstruction. The project is represented by **Kunfang Zhao**, who joined Bishan Commune in the January of 2015 to work with curator and artist Ou Ning where she

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓

used her deep experience with design, handicraft, contemporary art and cultural studies to contribute to rural reconstruction projects.

VERY MK (HONG KONG)

A rooftop farm located on a Mong Kok building scheduled to be redeveloped by the URA (Urban Renewal Authority) since 2012, Very MK is an initiative to create a queer green space—a portal between the heart of the city and farm lands at the periphery. The project is represented by **Holok Chen**.

www.facebook.com/verymk

HU FANG (CHINA)

Hu Fang is a fiction writer, co-founder of Vitamin Creative Space in Guangzhou. His recent books include *Dear Navigator* (2014) and *Towards a Non-intentional Space* (2015).

MING LIN (USA/HONG KONG)

Ming Lin is a writer-researcher whose recent activities have revolved around a small distribution point, shop and exhibition space in Kowloon, Hong Kong. She also works as a part-time importer-exporter, trading commodities and art objects across social networks as a means of examining shifting production and consumption methods.

CHRISTOPHER DEWOLF (HONG KONG/CANADA) and LAINE TAM (HONG KONG)

A Canadian journalist who has lived in Hong Kong since 2008, Christopher DeWolf focuses his writing on urbanism, architecture, design, art and culture, with the occasional foray into beer and other drinks. Laine Tam, a graphic designer, provided the illustrations for DeWolf's contribution.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS DURING HK FARM RESIDENCY (SEPTEMBER 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2015)

Autumn Harvest Workshop (November 23, 2014)

The autumnal weekend event was focused on drawing attendees into experimental farming, with planter- and pesto-making workshops and an edible harvest.

HK FARM Winter Discussion (February 8, 2015)

Moderated by Elaine W. Ho, the winter discussion featured Sangwoodgoon, HK Potato, Yaumatei Gardener, Kit Chan and HK FARM in an exploration of the growth of critical agricultural and social practices in Hong Kong, and the role of contemporary agriculture in the slow-kneaded process of recalibrating culture and society.

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓

Compost Installation (February 2015-ongoing)

HK FARM unveiled a compost box sculpted from clear plastic and encouraged every visitor to Spring to bring food and other biodegradable waste for the box in an act of community solidarity and commitment to permaculture practices.

Making *The HK FARMers' Almanac*:

**“One Year in Three Days” Book Sprint and Open Day
(August 19-21, 23, 2015)**

On Chushu (處暑), the 14th solar term of the lunar calendar, the end of HK FARM's residency was celebrated with a specially-conceived Almanac installation and production site “One Year in Three Days” when the public was invited to put together their own *Mini-HK FARMers' Almanacs* to take home, and to trace with our contributors a year's worth of urban agriculture.

Spring Workshop
3/F Remex Centre
42 Wong Chuk Hang Rd
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

info@springworkshop.org
www.springworkshop.org
t + 852 21104370
f + 852 21104372

Spring 工作室
香港香港仔黃竹坑道42號
利美中心3樓