

## REVIEWS

**aWay**  
**1aspace, Cattle Depot**  
**Reviewed June 9**

First-time curator and artist Jeff Leung Chin-fung has created an eclectic and engaging show. Although uneven in ability and concept, it presents an alternative cross-section of 15 of Hong Kong most interesting young artists. With video, installations, drawing, painting, photography and more, the show sprawls through the 1aspace gallery.

Leung has been active in many areas of the local art scene. In this project, he connects the work through a specific narrative thread, focusing on processes of art-making through a reflective

and self-critical approach. But the exhibition suffers because the quality of the works is inconsistent.

For example, Hanison Lau Hok-shing's *Full of Ideas*, an elegant, table-top installation of personal/found objects is sculptural and engaging. Lee Kit's *One Night: Dinner with Friends on Hand-painted Cloth* documents an "event", struggling to connect art with daily life.

By contrast, Tamshui's animations (below), although clever and funny, are out of place. Tozer Pak Sheung-chuen's piece about the warmth a body leaves on a seat, appears at once misguided and badly presented, although conceptually interesting.

Most exciting, performance-wise, is Project 226 (Clara Cheung Ka-lai and Gum Cheng Yee-man) – arguably the best performance art

group in Hong Kong. Their work is consistently entertaining and smart, pushing the boundaries between sanity, daily life, obsession/compulsion, politics and art.

This show is an ambitious first effort for Leung. As is the case with many Hong Kong group shows, it's haphazard in its installation – falling somewhere between intentionally overcrowded and cleanly installed.

A small number of the works appear to be unfinished, not thought through or just student-like, diluting the strength of the better pieces.

Still, I applaud Leung's clear curatorial strategy and selection of work, which makes an otherwise uneven show worthwhile and, hopefully, a harbinger of even better projects to come.

*Norman Ford*

