

PRESS RELEASE

*'The Big Hug' release in Hong Kong
and the arrival of the singer-songhawker*

Local controversial 'artist' Lenny Kwok releases his virgin album on Labour Day today at the age of 64.

The release press conference is held at the same funky arts space "TONGSAMM" in the heart of Mongkok, just a stone throw away from all the confrontations between the authority and the people in the freshy history called the 'fishball revolt.'

Lenny, founder of the disbanded local political rock band Blackbird, that spanned from the early 80s till the millennium, celebrated his 60s something birthday with a concert just a few months ago in the same art space.

The release concert for the album, titled 'the Big Hug,' kicks off at 8pm. The program include songs from the new album with some old favorites mixed in. He will be performing with his partner, June Zhu as a duo, with guitarist Tomii Chan as a supporting musician who also plays a solo set as special guest. The young guitarist was described by Lenny as his 'savorial angel' on the thank you list in the album sleeve. They strike up a rapport after running into each other at the Black Book Fair last November.

The other special guests on the bill is Rev. Father Mella, who'd been almost a fixture on most Lenny's performances, and cited as a mentor of sorts for

many of Lenny's social engagements in recent years. And Uncle Hung, Lenny's long-time comrade in their social actions, shall recite some of his recent poems.

Having returned to Hong Kong a couple of weeks ago after a 'psychedelic' trip in Taiwan, Lenny was said to be only recovering from a posthumous fizzle from what happened through the two weeks of touring gigs and talks in the Chinese islandic haven of freedom.

The tour rejuvenated Lenny's belief to re-engage more than just persisting a resistance; but strive back to an out-reaching direction: the return to a grassroots procreation as propaganda by deed – the singer-songhawker.

The whole idea is rooted in the universal injustice on the sovereignty and exploitation of land. 'Every record sold in a shop in a mall, pays its part in sustaining the brutal rippage of designated heavy rent by 'land-owners.' The hawker who sings and sells his works on the streets avoid such accomplice. Besides making direct contact with the listener, there is the espionage from the tax system too.' Thus spoke Lenny.

Lenny will be playing in public open spaces every Sunday, the schedule and locations shall be publicized on his blog: thebighug.wordpress.com. Friends who wish to get his record can go there and buy it straight and direct from the artist/hawker. 'And money do not guide doors, whoever couldn't afford, can pay by their means, or just share the artifact.' Lenny also proclaims.

The *hawker* plan will sustain for two months starting from the second week of May to the end of June. The album shall then be disseminated through small record shops and bookshops. Of course, also available at every gig Lenny is playing.

An example proofing that the people helping people method of mutual aid does realize precious fruits of social human fabrics and struggle, Lenny describes 'the Big Hug' as a sonic documentation of a collective struggle. Underling the lineage of human spirits resisting the blindness in the so call development and progress of modernity.

The release proclaims to be a piece of work that radiates an embracing aura of spirituality that's absent from the popular music industry. A wealth of media coverage is also available from Lenny's blog through which insights to the album are avidly shared by people from different backgrounds.

Those who missed the release concert are invited to check out the hawker routes and dates. Drop by and chat, Lenny says.

1, May 2018.