

EMPOWERING YOUNG HONG KONGERS TO
HANDLE FAILURE,
FEEL SEEN,
AND EXPLORE
CREATIVE
CAREERS

Presented by creator of
The Hong Konger,
writer, and digital artist
Sophia Hotung

SOPHIA
HOTUNG.

SCHOOL
TALKS





HI, I'M SOPHIA

I'm a Eurasian writer and illustrator from Hong Kong. Best known for creating *The Hong Konger* art collection, I'm also the author of *The Hong Konger Anthology* and *The Heist of Hooded Light*. As a digital artist, my work has also been exhibited at the Affordable Art Fair, Digital Art Fair, and Sotheby's. As a chronic illness patient, I advocate for disability and women's issues, specifically in relation to education and work.

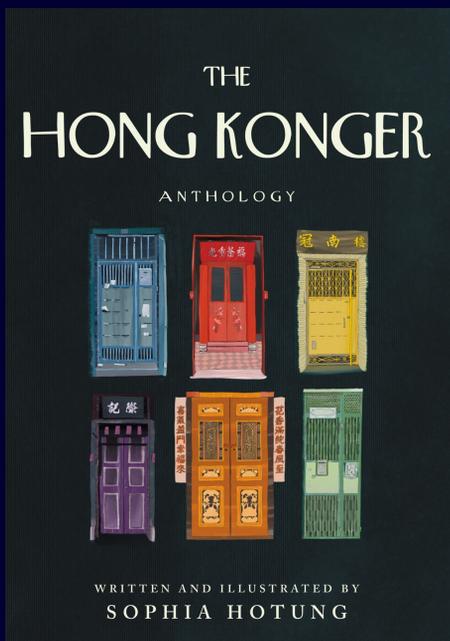


MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

As a little aside (if you were curious), I went to Lingnan Kindergarten (1998), Canadian International School (1998-2006), and Harrow International School in Hong Kong (2012-2014). I also did a five-year stint at Millfield (2006-2012), a boarding school in England, but returned home when I was diagnosed with my first chronic illness. At the ripe undergraduate age of 20, I went to Barnard College (2014-2018), the women's college at Columbia University in New York, where I majored in English and minored in History and Economics.

The photo is from my CDNIS 2002 Yearbook. I am the girl in the yellow shirt and red trousers holding up a Kid Pix masterpiece, unaware that digital art would one day be my job.

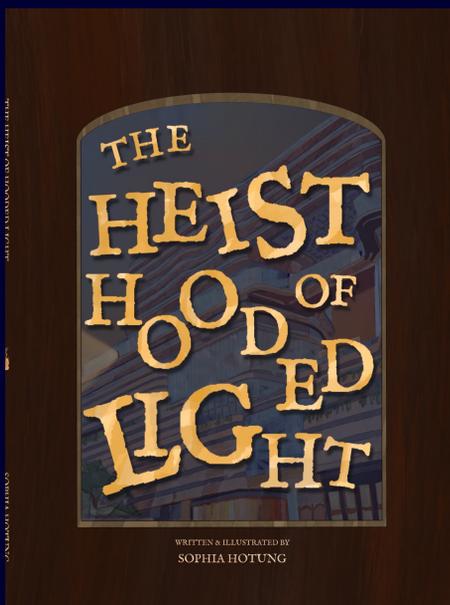
MY BOOKS



The Hong Konger Anthology
Kylin Archive, 2021

The Hong Konger Anthology sold out its first print-run in 3 weeks and was named Bookazine's Book of the Week during the 2021 festive season. It delves into the stories behind *The Hong Konger* collection through poems and mini-essays.

Available across English-language Hong Kong bookstores and on Amazon



The Heist of Hooded Light
K11 ARTUS, 2022

The Heist of Hooded Light was created during the artist in residence programme at K11 ARTUS. The Chinese arts and crafts within the K11 Craft & Guild Foundation, as well as the artworks and sculptures at K11 ARTUS, inspired Hotung to create a mystery for 8-13 year olds set at the art residence.

Available on Amazon

MY MISSION TO REPRESENT HONG KONG

When I was at school in Hong Kong from 1998 to 2014, none of the English-language books I read represented my experiences. The children in books were usually from the US or the UK. If books were set in Asia, they were often educational non-fiction or historical fiction that represented a colonial and orientalist view.

Now I'm grown up and can do what I want, so I write books about contemporary Hong Kong. I want to normalise Hong Kong characters, Hong Kong culture, and Hong Kong issues so that children not only see themselves as the heroes in stories, but also the creators of future literature and artwork.

In my Representation workshop, students learn the tools and techniques to turn their identities and experiences as Hong Kongers, third culture kids, and the like into literary or artistic narratives. It gives them a blueprint for what representative literature looks like and serves as a jumping-off point for future independent creations.

[Express interest in a](#)

[REPRESENTING HONG KONG WORKSHOP](#)

[via the interest form](#)

MY MISSION TO

REFRAME FAILURE

By 26, I wasn't an artist. I didn't hold an art GCSE. I had not taken an art class since Year 9. Like many young Hong Kongers, I felt pressure to get into a prestigious university and pursue a corporate career at a big-brand company. So I studied “practical” subjects and got a swanky degree, nabbed a Big Four audit job, and yet... I didn't feel as though I had succeeded.

I had overexerted myself at the expense of my health. By 24, I had seven chronic illnesses and by 25, I was bedridden. I started creating digital art on an iPad from bed and, by fluke and luck, *The Hong Konger* collection took shape and took off. Since 2021, I've been working on re-establishing good health and supporting myself as a writer, illustrator, and digital artist.

In my “Handling Failure” workshops, students and I talk about rethinking failure, and how the traditional roadmap to “success” is far more diverse than we think.

[Express interest in a](#)

[HANDLING FAILURE WORKSHOP](#)

[via the interest form](#)

MY MISSION TO INSPIRE CREATIVE CAREERS

Creative careers get a bad rep — especially in Hong Kong. But there has never been a better time to pursue a one with increased government and private sector investment in cultural and commercial arts projects.

Few Hong Kong students (and parents!) see “artist”, “author”, or “musician” as a viable career path. However creative careers — specifically ones requiring digital art and soft skills — are growing in demand.

In my Creative Careers workshop, students and I work on real commission case studies, and I break down exactly how I make money (and how much!) so that students are able to make well-informed career decisions.

[Express interest in a](#)

[CREATIVE CAREERS WORKSHOP](#)

[via the interest form](#)

CUSTOMISE YOUR WORKSHOP

My usual workshop topics on Hong Kong representation, handling failure, and creative careers may not be relevant to your students. That's fine! I'm happy to work with you to customise School Talk content at no extra cost.

To get started, when you fill out the [interest form](#), use the "Anything to add?" field to specify your thoughts, plans, and/or requests. We'll then discuss over a call, and I'll plan a workshop that suits your students' specific needs.

CASE STUDY: RENAISSANCE COLLEGE

Year 13s at Renaissance College in Ma On Shan studied my book *The Hong Konger Anthology* as part of their Theory of Knowledge curriculum for the International Baccalaureate diploma.

I devised a session for them that delved into the artworks and poems that they were analysing in their oral and written presentations. Students also left the session with my email, to which they sent follow-up questions.

RATES & DATES

Number of hours	Rate
1	HK \$5,000
2	HK \$7,500
3	HK \$10,000
4	HK \$11,000
5	HK \$12,000

- I don't bill for time spent on campus, just time leading sessions
- I cap my campus visits to 5 hours of sessions per day
- I gift a copy of *The Hong Konger Anthology* to your school library
- Online Zoom sessions are billed at \$2,000 per hour

I am in Hong Kong and available to visit your campus from 7 November to 12 December 2022 and from 27 February to 24 March 2023. If you are interested in a School Talk between those periods, I am available for online sessions.

Periods	Format
7/11 – 12/12	In-person
13/12 – 26/2	Online
27/2 – 24/3	In-person

EMAIL: info@sophiahotung.com

WEBSITE: sophiahotung.com/schooltalks

Fill out an interest form [here](#)

More links:

- [My bio](#)
- [My portfolio](#)
- [The Hong Konger art collection](#)
- [The NSFW \(Not Shaped for Work\) Blog](#)
- [Press clippings](#)



GET IN TOUCH