



**EMERGING ARTIST:** Recent CUHK graduate artist Lam Wai-kit's "Hide and Seek", a comment on the human condition. CUHK's art department recently received \$200,000 from law firm Allen & Overy, which put on an exhibition of the work of students like Helen Au Hoi-lam, below. Photos: Ricky Chung

## New faces of art given a helping hand

Michael Gibb

The picture above is a still from a two-minute video clip called "Hide and Seek" which shows artist Lam Wai-kit filming herself slowly covering her face with her hands.

"In this piece I wanted to talk about the human condition, about desire, hope, anger," said Ms Lam, who graduated last month from the fine arts department at Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

CUHK is the only educational institution in Hong Kong to offer a full range of fine art programmes in Hong Kong, Kurt Chan Yuk-keung, associate professor in the fine arts department, said.

Oil painting, calligraphy, video, photography, sculpture and contemporary and classical art history are among the subjects offered.

The department received a boost this month with the launch of an exhibition sponsored by international law firm, Allen and Overy.



Chris Roberts, the company's regional marketing partner, said the company donated \$200,000 to the fine arts department and in return received works of art from CUHK students to place in the firm's new reception area and con-

ference rooms. "We wanted to use local artists, art that was distinctly Hong Kong," said Mr Roberts.

"And, of course, it's also a piece of low-level marketing for us, a way of strengthening our ties with the community."

To mark the launch of the collection, the firm invited 20 CUHK artists, including Helen Au Hoi-lam to a reception in Central at the beginning of this month, where they displayed further examples of their work.

The firm's clients bought eight pieces for between \$2,000-5,000 each and commissioned two more pieces, Mr Chan said.

"It was a great experience for our students to set up their own exhibition, mix with buyers and sell their work. They need this kind of exposure," he said.

The relationship between art and law will continue with an Allen and Overy Art Competition to start in September for CUHK art students.

Top prize will be a trip to the art galleries in Florence.

"We're looking for more corporate activities like this," said Mr Chan. "It's a great way for students to promote their work."