LUCKY RED BANNERS: 'UNCLE FAI CHUN' AND PRESERVING THE CRAFT OF CALLIGRAPHY

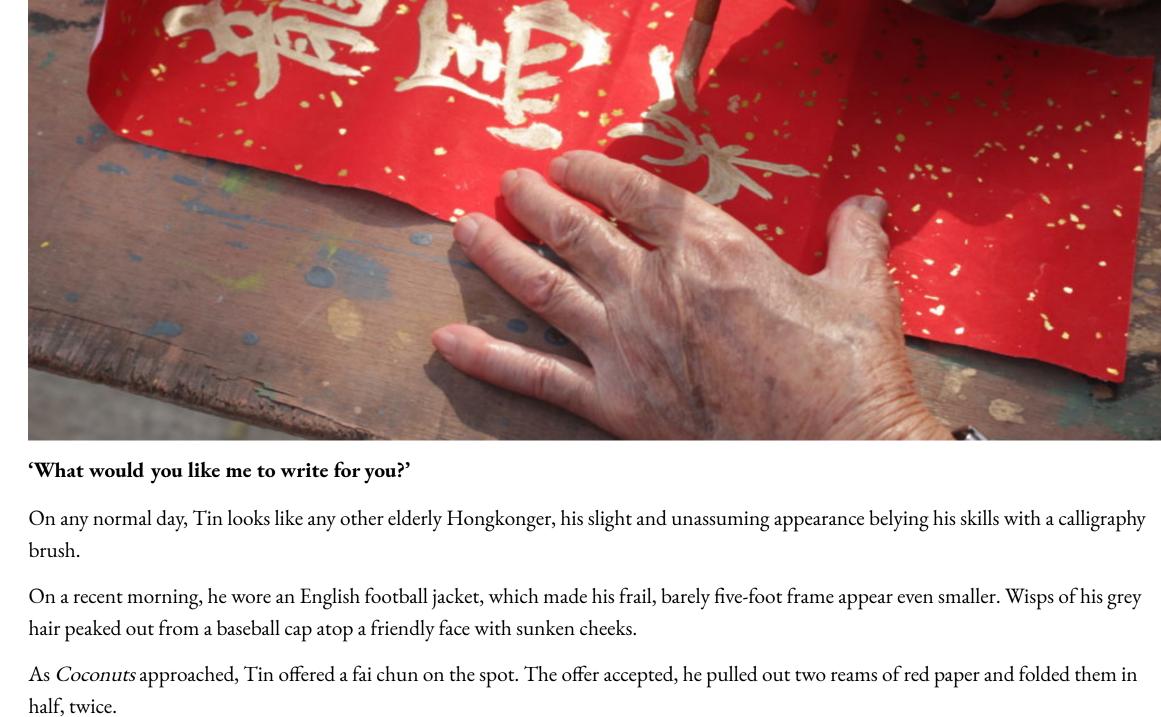


Like the antique shops on Hollywood Road, or the Man Mo Temple near his stall, Tin Yim-keng harks back to an earlier time in Sheung Wan, before the hipsters, trendy cafes, and avocado toast. The 92-year-old — known as Uncle Tin — has long been a familiar sight on the steps of Ladder Street where, every January, he sets up his

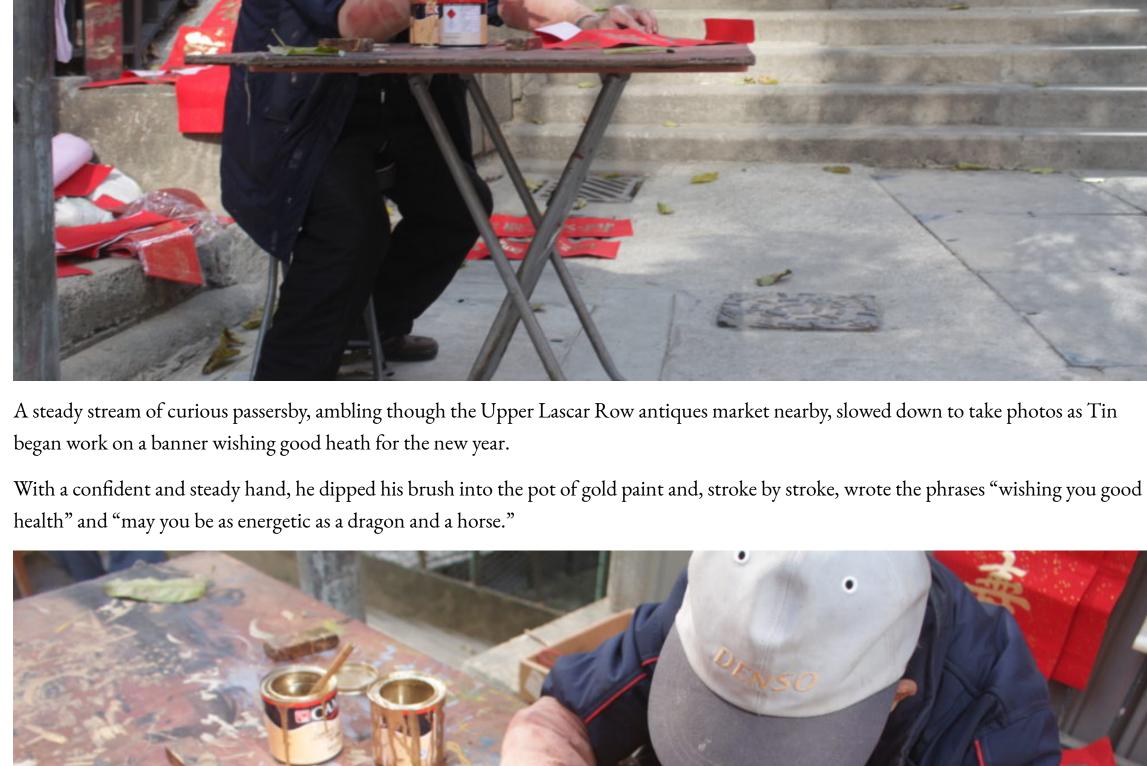
Jan 31, 2018 | 12:29pm Hong Kong time

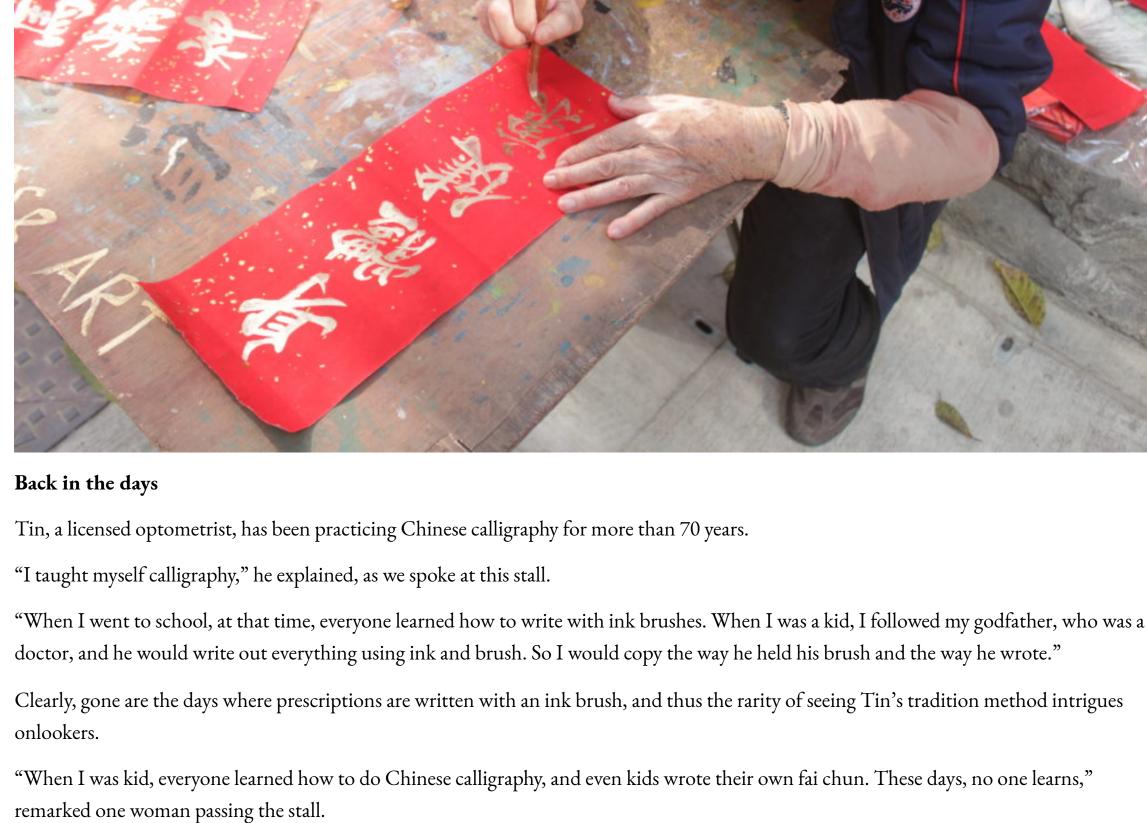
fold-up table and practices the ancient art of calligraphy, surrounded by reams of red paper, ink brushes, and tins of gold paint. The nonagenarian creates and sells banners called "fai chun," decorations with hand-painted greetings for Chinese New Year.

The adornments are typically hung on a home's front door and convey phrases wishing people good luck, and prosperity for the year ahead. In a city where old traditions are routinely eschewed for the new, and where few have a moment to stand still, Tin takes his time, carefully tracing each character, preserving with paint what he calls "the essence of Chinese culture."



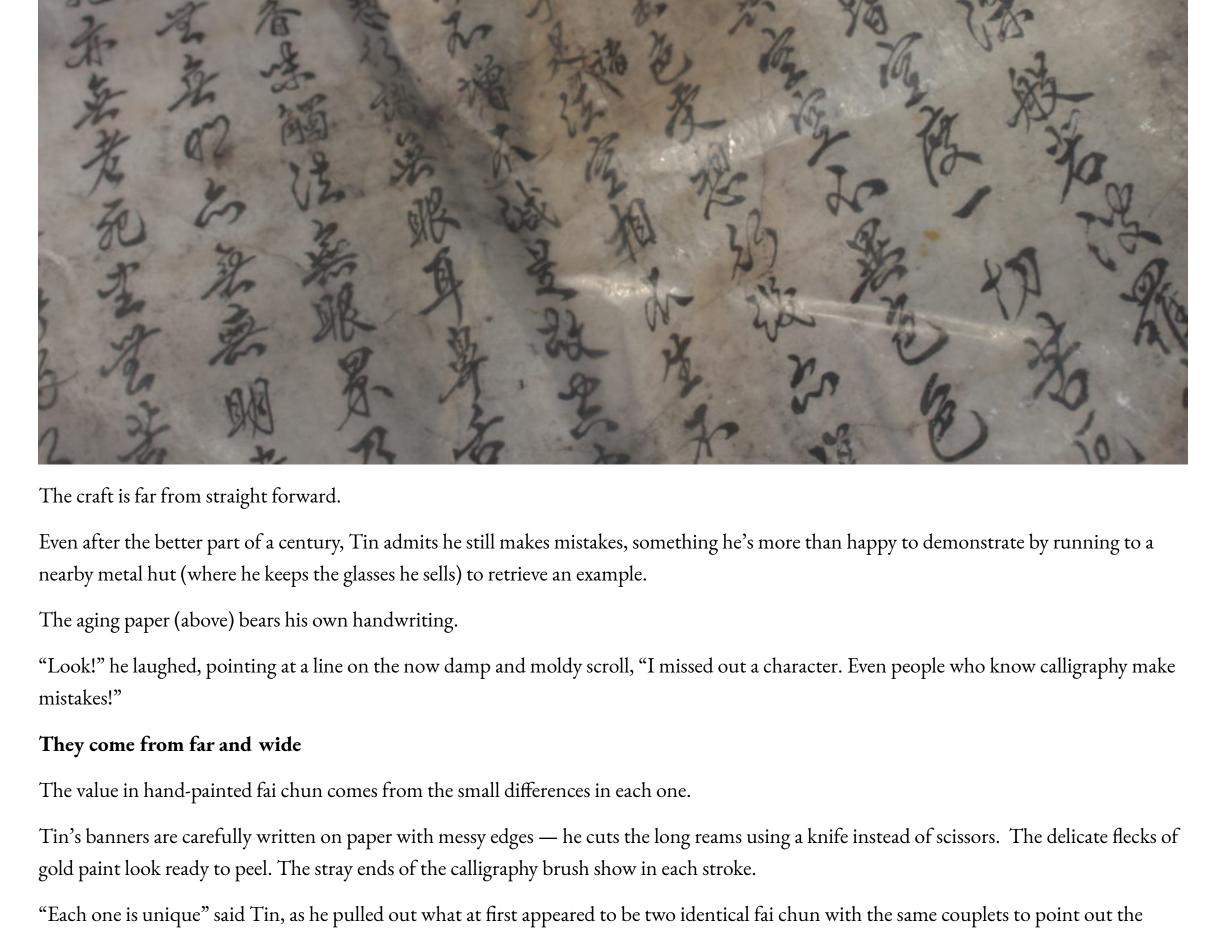
"What would you like me to write for you?" he asked.





hold a pen for work! They just use computers to write things."

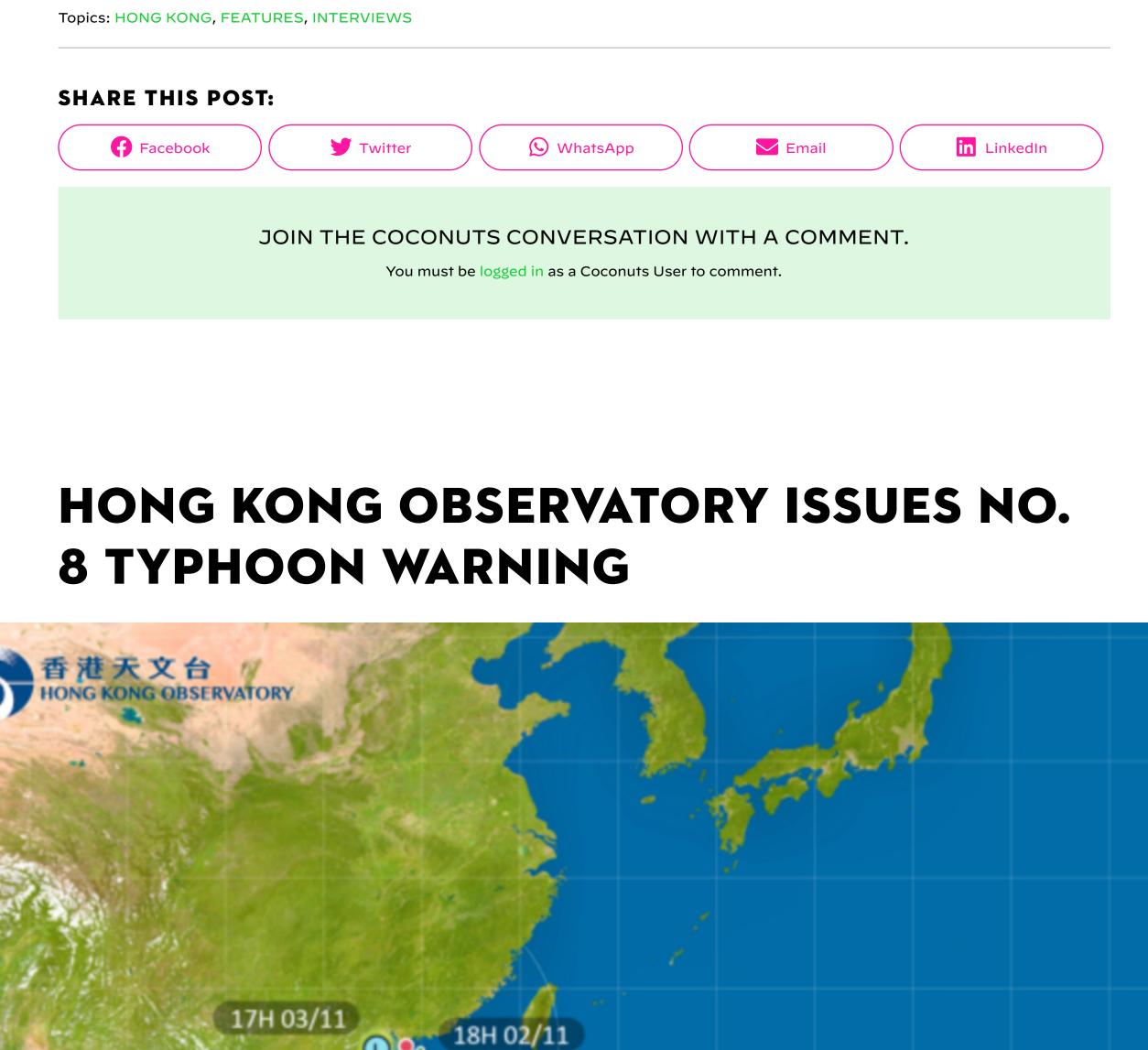
Tin eagerly chimed in: "Of course, not a lot of people know how to do calligraphy. You can see a lot of people these days don't even need to



subtle differences in both.

Tin sells small banners for HK\$80 (just over US\$10) and asks HK\$300 (US\$38) for larger ones that go from ceiling to floor. The prices may seem steep for what are temporary decorations, especially considering that stationary shops nearby Tim's stand sell packs of mass-produced fai chun for as little HK\$6 (about US\$0.77).

His efforts, nevertheless, remain popular, with market vendors, tourists, and even people from Beijing with businesses in Hong Kong stopping by to buy a set. "I have a few regulars, but not a lot of young people buy them, it's mainly people from the older generation who buy fai chun that are written by hand," he said. Soon approaching his 93rd birthday, Tin said he has no plans to stop yet. In fact, another thing belied by Tin's slight appearance, is his passion for hiking. "I've been with this hiking group for about 40 years. Hong Kong Island or Kowloon, whatever hiking trail there is, I have done it: Tai Mo Shan, Ma On Shan, Pat Sin Leng, and so on," he said. "I can still walk and run, so I'll keep on doing this." Though he's watched as traditional calligraphy disappears, Tin conceded he hasn't really considered teaching classes to pass on his skills. He did, however, have some advice for people who want to learn. "Calligraphy is hard, but it's not too difficult; there's just a lot of characters to learn," he said. "When calligraphy masters do this kind of work, what they are really doing is protecting the essence of Chinese culture," he said. "It's holding on to a traditional way of writing, and that's what I'm doing."



130°E

Nov 2, 2022 | 2:52pm Hong Kong time

Tropical cyclone track of Nalgae. Photo: Hong Kong Observatory

By Coconuts Hong Kong

expected from the northwest quarter.

Kong."

signal.

suspended today.

applicable).

tropical cyclone Nalgae approaching the city.

the shoreline and not to engage in water sports.

updates: MTR | KMB | Citybus and NWFB | Star Ferry

The No. 8 northwest gale or storm signal was issued at 1:40pm.

Under the influence of the rainbands associated with Nalgae, showers over the territory are expected to become more frequent gradually tonight. The No. 8 gale or storm signal will remain in force before 10pm tonight. Nalgae will weaken further. Whether the No. 8 gale or storm signal is maintained

thereafter depends on the degree of weakening of Nalgae. If Nalgae weakens further

into a tropical depression, the observatory will issue a lower tropical cyclone warning

Seas are very rough with swells. Members of the public are advised to stay away from

Earlier in the day, the Education Bureau announced that classes at all schools are

The Labour Department reminded employers to make work arrangements for staff

during and after tropical cyclone and rainstorm warnings, including arrangements on

reporting for duty, release from work, resumption of work and work from home (if

There are changes to public transport routes. Check out these links for the latest

However, the Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit organized by the Hong

The Hong Kong Observatory issued the No. 8 typhoon warning this afternoon with

This means that winds with mean speeds of 63 kilometers per hour or more are

"At 6pm, tropical storm Nalgae was centered about 120 kilometers south-southeast of

Hong Kong and is forecast to move northwest at about 10 kilometers per hour edging

closer to the vicinity of the Pearl River Estuary," said the city's meteorological agency.

"According to the latest forecast, Nalgae will edge closer to Hong Kong tonight as

compared with the previous forecast and will skirt within 100 kilometers of Hong

Kong Monetary Authority, which has been hyped by the government as proof that Hong Kong is "back", is continuing at the Four Seasons Hotel. The summit features around 200 financiers from around the world. Editor's note: The story has been updated with weather information by the Hong Kong Observatory at 6pm.

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Tropical cyclone track of Nalgae. Photo: Hong Kong Observatory By Coconuts Hong Kong Nov 1, 2022 | 6:33pm Hong Kong time The Hong Kong Observatory will consider issuing a No. 8 typhoon warning tomorrow as severe tropical storm Nalgae approaches Hong Kong. The strong wind signal, No. 3 is currently in force. This means that winds with mean speeds of 41 to 62 kilometers per hour are expected.

HONG KONG OBSERVATORY CONSIDERS

ISSUING NO. 8 TYPHOON WARNING ON

weakening remains uncertain. According to the latest forecast, the storm will adopt a track closer to Hong Kong and skirt within around 150 kilometers to the southwest of the territory tomorrow. Local winds are expected to strengthen progressively tomorrow.

meteorological agency.

weather.

WEDNESDAY

The No. 3 signal will remain in force before 6am tomorrow. The observatory said it will consider issuing the No. 8 gale or storm signal during the day tomorrow.

generally strong, with occasional gales on high ground."

"However, the exact timing would depend on the actual variation in local winds. Please stay alert and take note of the latest weather bulletin before departing tomorrow morning," it said.

The outer rainbands of Nalgae are affecting the northern part of the South China Sea and the coast of Guangdong. Seas are rough with swells. Members of the public are advised to stay away from the shoreline and not to engage in water sports.

Those engaging in outdoor work or activities should also take note of the changes in

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"At 6pm, severe tropical storm Nalgae was estimated to be about 340 kilometers south-

southeast of Hong Kong and is forecast to move northwest or north-northwest at about

10 kilometers per hour edging closer to the coast of western Guangdong," said the city's

"Under the combined effect of Nalgae and the northeast monsoon, local winds are

The forecaster said that, although Nalgae would weaken gradually, its degree of

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