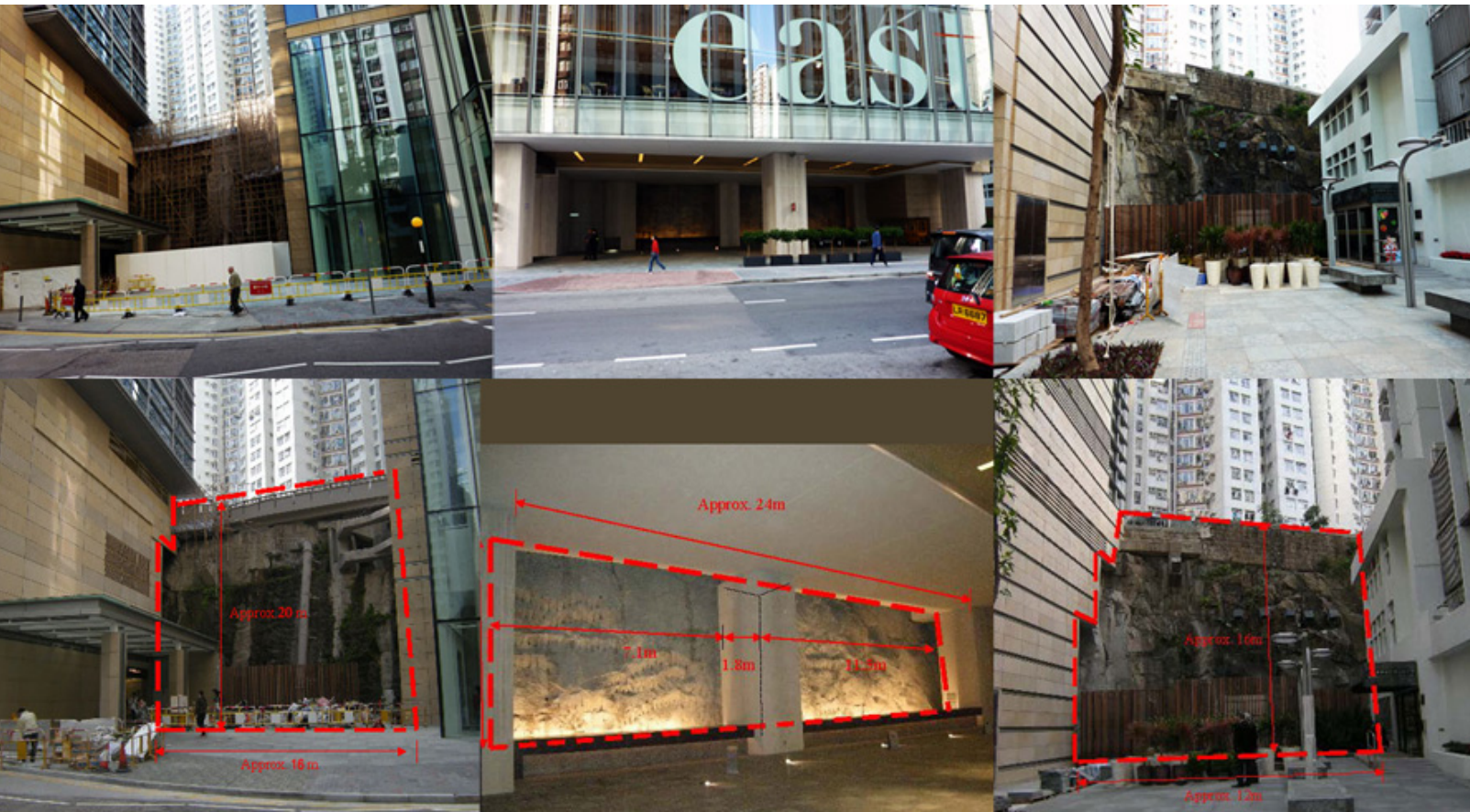


MA MURALS

East Hotel, Hong Kong

March-April 2010

Client: Swire Properties, Hong Kong



"Big Ma", 20 x 16 metres approx.

Ground Floor East Hotel, 18.5 x 4.8 approx.

"Baby Ma", 16 x 12 metres approx

The challenge was to transform three rock slopes (approx. 20 x 16 metres; 4.8 x 18.5 metres; 16 x 12 metres) in Hong Kong's Island East district into monumental paintings by reinventing the most ancient form of art: rock art. The universal and timeless theme of man and horse was chosen to create a series of images that invite the viewers to revisit the entire history of art, from Prehistoric cave painting, Egypt, Ancient Greece, the Han and Tang dynasties of China, through the Italian Renaissance to modern masters like Picasso and Jackson Pollock, as well as old and new forms of Indigenous art. The palette was restricted to three colours: red, black and white, using natural pigments, mixing our paints and working on specially modified traditional bamboo scaffoldings. The Ma murals invite the public to reflect on man's relationship to nature. The murals were named Ma, Chinese for horse.

Concept: George Burchett

Artists: George and Ilza Burchett

from paper to rock...



George Burchett – Horses (Ma), mixed media on paper, 21 x 29.7 cm, Mori Gallery, Sydney, February 2010

The Ma Murals evolved from a series of Horse and Rider images on paper I did in early 2010 for my [time/lines](#) exhibition at Mori Gallery in Sydney. When Swire Properties of Hong Kong approached me to come up with a creative solution to three rock slopes in and around the new EAST hotel in Island East, I sent images of my paper horses which I thought would look very natural on rock slopes in Hong Kong where I have always admired Han Dynasty clay horses in the antique shops on Hollywood Road.

And thus from paper, the horses moved to rock in the most natural fashion. The murals were painted without preliminary design, except the images of horses in my mind and using the bamboo scaffolding as a grid for scale and proportions and the shapes of the slopes as a guide.

I worked on the murals with my wife and colleague Ilza and we completed the murals (approximately 600 square metres) in seven weeks, mixing our own paints, using natural pigments: red oxide, carbon black and titanium white.

It was agreed with the client that the murals would weather naturally as they are exposed to the elements and Hong Kong notorious typhoons.

Big Ma (East Slope) 16 x 20 metres approximately













George and Ilza Burchett with the Ma Murals team

East Hotel Ground Floor Walls – "Cavalcade"



4.8 x 7 metres and 4.8 x 11 metres approx









"Baby" Wall – 16 x 20 metres





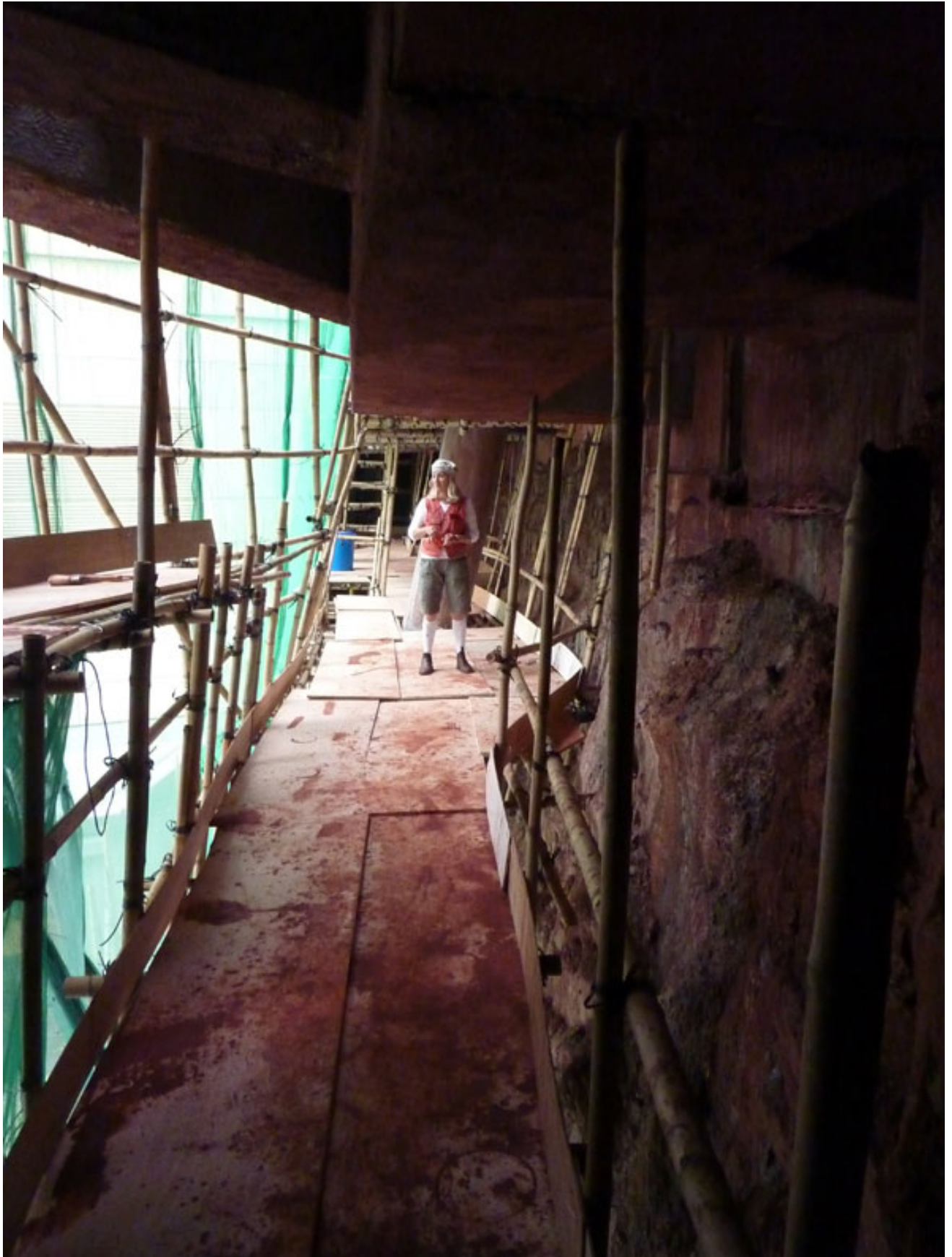




Ma Murals Action

















MA MURALS NAMING CEREMONY 29.4.10
– Island East, Hong Kong



Ilza Burchett prepares ceremonial tray for the Naming of The Murals Ceremony



Ceremonial objects



Mr Stephan Spurr, Director & General Manager, Swire Properties, names the murals *Ma* in English



Mrs Elizabeth Kok, Senior Portfolio Manager, Swire Properties, names the murals *Ma* in Cantonese



Ilza Burchett offers George Burchett a cup of [Maotai](#) to toast the naming of the *Ma* murals



Ms Ida Lam, Assistant Technical Manager, Swire Properties reads a poem she composed to celebrate the completion of the *Ma* murals



George Burchett reads the poem...



Ida's commemorative poem and photomontage



Ms Babby Fung, Head of Marketing - Island Eeast, Swire Properties, translated the poem into English



George, Ida, Vicky, Ilza



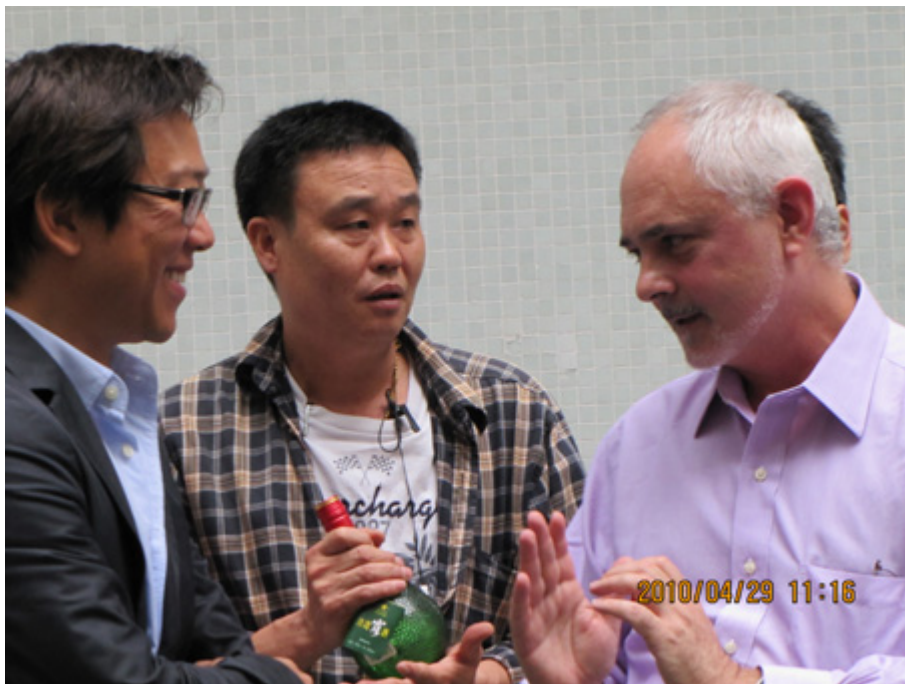
Mr Spurr signs a memorial section of the bamboo scaffolding



Mrs Kok signs the memorial bamboo pole



Representative of EAST hotel signs the memorial bamboo pole



Architect William Lim, Scaffolding Master Lee Wun Kwan, Rock Artist George Burchett



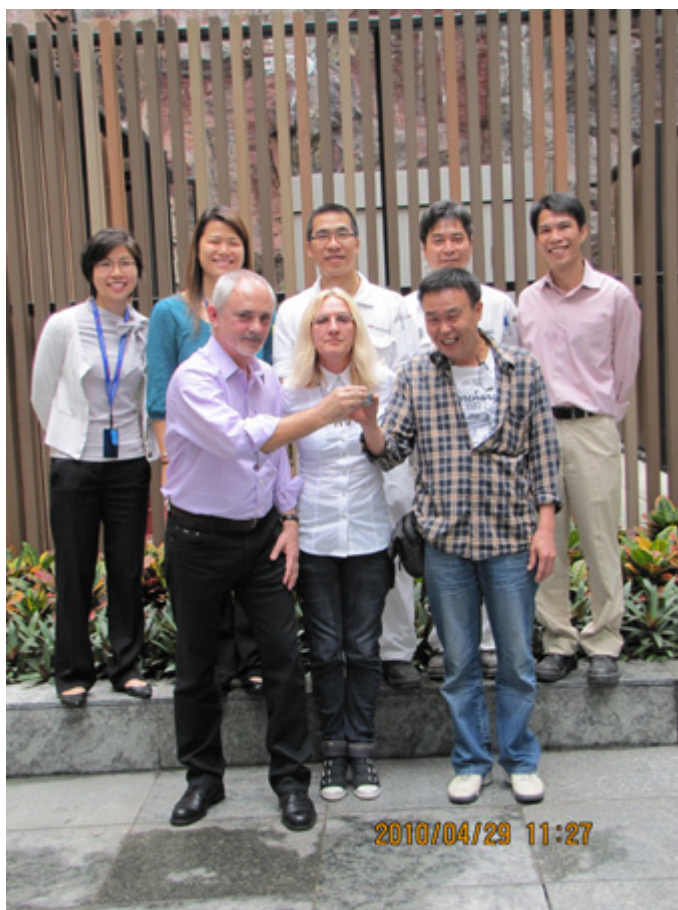
Rock Artist Ilza Burchett closes ceremony



The initiator of the *Ma* project, Mr Stephan Spurr and Rock Artists, George and Ilza Burchett



Official Group Photo



The technical team: Vicky Chow, Building Surveyor, Swire Properties (second from left), ah-Wai, ah-Cheung, George Burchett, Ilza Burchett and Master Kwan