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Editor's letter

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For a designer, inspiration is not a gift that falls from the sky, it's more like the last potato buried in a 10 acre field that a starving man must dig for, even as hunger overwhelms him and his spade work becomes more desperate.

Even when inspiration is found the outcome is never certain. It's like hunting a great white shark: catching one can end in glory or the jaws of death. Picasso's view was that of the stoic, the man who keeps digging for that last potato, even if he's not sure it's there. "That inspiration comes, does not depend on me," he wrote. "The only thing I can do is make sure it catches me working."

We have chosen inspiration as the theme for this third edition of SIGNED magazine because we have been privileged to fill these pages with so much extraordinary work by students and staff from within the HKDI community. That inspiration visits the shores of Tiu Keng Leng and washes through the spaces of Thomas Coldefy's iconic building on a regular basis is apparent from the recent graduation shows that we feature here, which witnessed such an astonishing outpouring of creativity.

And much of this work is the result of a profound partnership, between the youthful energy and raw creativity of the student body and the wise craftsmanship and Socratic guidance of the HKDI's faculty.

The American polymath Wendell Berry once wrote that "There are two muses: the Muse of Inspiration, who gives us inarticulate visions and desires, and the Muse of Realization, who returns again and again to say 'It is yet more difficult than you thought.' This is the muse of form. It may be then that form serves us best when it works as an obstruction, to baffle us and deflect our intended course. It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings."

How right that is. For every designer and artist there are always obstacles and without those rocks in the river bed, water would not produce the harmony of splash and gurgle that makes a river bank such a charming place to be. And in the best places of learning, the students are the source of the river, the secret of its power and the faculty are the banks that guide the water on its course. To stand in that river, as this edition of SIGNED has sought to do, is to see inspiration at work and be thrilled by its power and glory. For wherever human beings are inspired there is hope, and wherever there is hope, life blooms abundantly.

DANIEL JEFFREYS
Editor-In-Chief