

## Baz Luhrmann and Vincent Fantauzzo

Art HK, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery booth



10 Chancery Lane Gallery

Australian artist Vincent Fantauzzo, left, and director Baz Luhrmann at work on 'The Creek, 1977'

Baz Luhrmann's films stand out for their creativity and visual flair; some even call him an artist. But the Australian director of "Moulin Rouge" and "Australia" has never had an art exhibit—until now. This year, at the Hong Kong art fair, Mr. Luhrmann (wearing the scarf), will unveil a multimedia installation piece—"The Creek, 1977"—he created with his friend and Melbourne portrait artist Vincent Fantauzzo.

Mr. Luhrmann, 47, also an opera director of good repute (his "La Boheme" in New York was nominated for seven Tony awards), has

been "interested in doing something in an art-gallery space" for a while, says 10 Chancery Lane's founder Katie de Tilly.

"Creek," a multimedia work that includes a large oil-on-linen painting, an interactive website and sound effects, tells a story—about a car accident—that is based on a boyhood memory of Mr. Luhrmann's. The two artists collaborated on the story, and then set up an elaborate photo shoot starring actors and themselves. Mr. Fantauzzo, 33, then used the photos to sketch and render the scene in oil.

In the painting, which is set in the 1970s, Mr. Fantauzzo—who was a runner-up for Australia's prestigious Archibald Prize in 2008—is a mysterious drifter who arrives in a small Australian town; Mr. Luhrmann portrays the owner of the local gas station. The pair say in a statement that this work is a "step" in a journey to remove the line between painting and cinema.

Both gentlemen will be present at the art fair—actually they'll be painting and you're invited to watch: At a booth for the Sovereign Art Foundation—a Hong Kong- and U.K.-based charity that uses the arts to help disadvantaged children—Mr. Fantauzzo and Mr. Luhrmann will recreate the murals the pair painted with street children in India during a motorcycle trip there earlier this year.