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## **Trip Advisors**

When a group of SVA staff members

visited an award-winning animation and film house in Tokyo last fall, they never expected to find themselves holding an Oscar in their hands. But that's exactly what happened during a visit to Robot Communications Inc., which was playing host to SVA representatives from the external relations group. Robot had won the Academy Award for best animated short film for La Maison en Petits Cubes (The House of Small Cubes) in 2008. Apart from getting up close and personal with Oscar, the SVA team got an insider's look at the company's production process and met with a senior producer and recruiter to discuss professional opportunities for the College's students and graduates. This experience was just one of the trip's many highlights. The team also traveled to Seoul to meet with industry professionals and gather information on hiring trends there.

Career Development has made global industry outreach a priority. Not only due to the fact that more than 25 percent of SVA students are from countries outside the U.S., but also because schools in general are finding that more and more of their students are looking for employment opportunities all around the world. During the Asian trip, the SVA team visited a variety of gaming, design and animation/film production firms. Besides Robot, in Japan the group met with a team from ad agency Wieden + Kennedy's Tokyo office as well as with representatives from Polygon Pictures. In Seoul, they met with ad agency Big Ant International, mobile games developer Com2uS, LG Electronics and Samsung. These sessions allowed the SVA team to gain a meaningful insight into the current state of Japanese and Korean visual arts industries, employers' hiring practices and internship programs.

SVA representatives also engaged with alumni at company meetings, group luncheons and receptions. The goal of the team's interactions was to learn from alumni about their experiences after leaving the College and to foster a professional network that may assist future SVA graduates. *Angie Wojak* 

## Open to the Public

## Independent curator and SVA alumnus

Lance Fung (MFA 1990 Fine Arts) is spearheading an ambitious public arts project in Atlantic City. As part of a fiveyear, five-part initiative, his organization, Fung Collaboratives, has teamed up with the Atlantic City Alliance and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to create *ARTLANTIC*, a multi-phased series of large-scale exhibitions aimed at transforming underused land into open green space and making public art available to the community year-round.

"I am over the moon to be working in such an exciting and inspiring city such as this," Fung said of the project. "We all have a common goal of bringing leading artists to work here as well as introducing a roster of emerging artists."

The first phase of the project, ARTLANTIC: wonder, was launched in November 2012. Taking place on two separate sites and on several acres of land, the project was inspired by such disparate elements as roller coasters and Indonesian rice fields and features works by such acclaimed artists as Robert Barry, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, John Roloff and Kiki Smith in collaboration with two landscape design firms: New York-based Balmori Associates and Philadelphiabased Cairone  $\theta$  Kaupp.

On June 20, ARTLANTIC: glorious will open, shifting the focus to the sky and from individual works to collaborative projects. The same participants of ARTLANTIC: wonder have been invited to transform a vacant block using Atlantic City's dramatic land- and seascape as the cornerstone of its design. "I envision an elevated park that will provide a feeling of ascension and freedom," Fung says. "The elevated space will allow the visitor to rise above the manmade boardwalk and look beyond it. This unique vantage point will stir the soul with an unobstructed view of the powerful Atlantic Ocean, and the sounds, sights and smells of nature will supplant those of the city below." Ken Switzer

