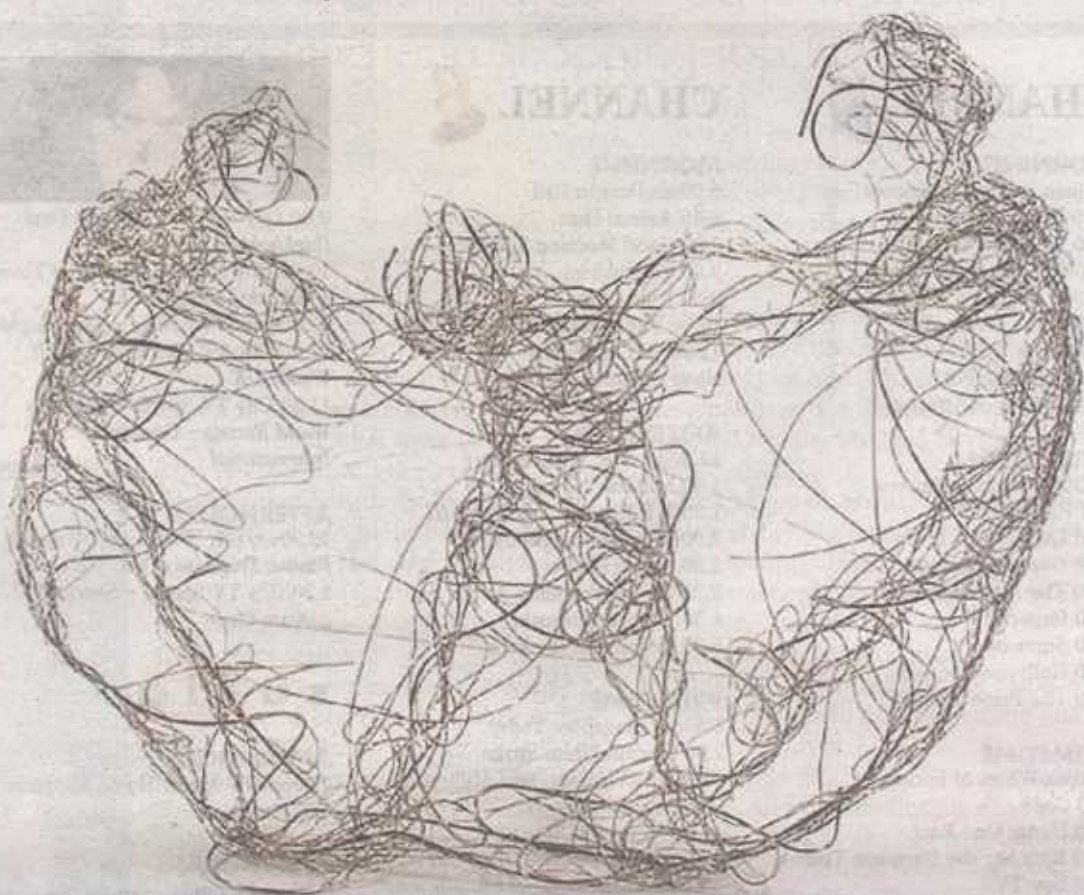


Wire works by blind artist

Victor Tan shapes sculptures of the human body with his sensitivity to three-dimensional space



Conflict by Victor Tan

by Sian E Jay

VICTOR Tan's human sculptures, made of twisted and wound wire, are three-dimensional "drawings".

His training in architecture equipped Victor with a sensitivity to three-dimensional space, and he prefers this form of expression to working on paper.

The exhibition title, *Between 2 and 3*, refers to the young artist's struggle to bridge the gap between the two- and the three-dimensional forms.

Victor who lost his sight in his early 20s, felt he needed to find an alternative way of drawing. The result of his attempts is the creation of three-dimensional "drawings", using wire "sketched" in the air, rather than with ink or charcoal.

In this exhibition, a clear development can be seen in Victor's work. Initially, his figures were more solid, the wire packed and massed to create bulk, suggesting the groundedness of the human form.

He was essentially developing and perfecting his technique, learning to understand and express the physical qualities of the body. Some of his earlier work is on show.

It is, however, Victor's more recent work that is especially powerful. He has moved away from the tightly constructed figures to explore humanity's spiritual nature, and has searched his own inner feelings to do so.

The wire work is looser, often more open-ended, suggesting the ephemeral nature of the human psyche.

A series of figures moves through space and time – awakening, rising, standing, moving

– reaching out to explore the sensations, both real and perceived, of the world he negotiates.

Working the wire into the forms and ideas he seeks to create, Victor captures movement and balance, subtle gestures that convey inner feelings.

He explores, for example, the sensation of running, another aspect of the artist's journey. In 'Dance in the Wind', the human form, with its arms outstretched, seems to be in the process of evolving, arms becoming wings.

It is the freedom to explore and experience one's world that lies at the heart of Victor's work, as he evaluates the constant change and movement around him. For Victor, each change, each movement, each experience suggests another possibility.

Between 2 and 3, an exhibition of sculptures by Victor Tan can be seen at The Gallery Evason Hotel, 76 Robertson Quay (junction of Mohamad Sultan and Martin Road) until Sunday. The gallery hours is open from 10.30am to 8pm daily.



Portrait by Victor Tan