

springrolllll (hong kong)

Spring is here, so keep on rollllling!

Springrolllll – the name is the concept. Spring rolls are not only the world's most famous Asian food, but in actual fact a very simple ingenious concept: A universal form that can be filled (to suit one's individual tastes) with all sorts of amazing things. And it's good, real good.

That's the same for the comic group Springrolllll from Hong Kong. Founded one year ago, Craig Au Yeung, Hok Tak Yeung, Siuhak, Chihoi and Eric So consider themselves to be a fighting alliance whose aim is to realise their art and to make it more popular. They're stronger as an independent collective rather than five individuals.

Springrolllll is in no way a group of newcomers. Most of them have a long history of being comic-activists, which started over 10 years ago with the Cockroach group who exhibited their work for the first time outside of Asia at Fumetto, six years ago.

Hong Kong's comic scene is actually quite interesting as it forms a sort of bridge between west and east. Clearly rooted in the traditional Chinese form of story-telling with pictures, influences from the Japanese Mangas are also visible along with traces of American and European comics too. "The world may well have become small", said Craig Au Yeung six years ago in an interview, "but we're still living on different continents. Most comic readers know Mangas and American super heroes in Hong Kong – I'm privileged to be able to travel regularly to Europe and the USA and to buy the particular comics I like while I'm there. Only travelling and exchanging ideas/ info can inspire us and bring us further."

The Springrolllll artists will release their debut work "Hong Kong Springrolllll" at Fumetto 2006 in which they each reflect on everyday life in their gigantic metropolis, a city they love and hate with a passion...The group presents a close up look at a chaotic, overflowing, vigorous, deadly, loving and brutal big city in the days of globalisation – a close up look that tempts without using weird humour and odd perspectives or views.

Most comic artists from Hong Kong don't just do comics, they keep busy with illustrations, cartoon movies, web-design, photography, toy-design, and much more. The variety of their work and efforts will be plain to see in this year's Fumetto exhibition.

Oh, and by the way, Springrolllll is written with five l's because there are five artists in the group.