



Christopher Tan

In the Media

nanoblock達人 巧手砌出「微」生意

各大品牌主動上門 莎莎彭浩翔也幫襯

玩物喪志？來自馬來西亞的 Christopher Tan 卻打破詛咒，以日本 nanoblock 微積木砌出「微」生意。

他最近獲信德中心邀請，展出以 nanoblock 砌成的澳門場景、澳門旅遊塔、議事亭前地、大三巴等，全部只有掌心大小。

Christopher 是官方認可的「nanoblock 達人」(Tatsujin-Master of nanoblock)，兩年前開設工作室「CHRISTAN DESIGN」，專幫各大企業和品牌以 nanoblock 設計品牌紀念品。大多數生意都是客人主動上門，他不需要為搵生意而煩惱，更旺場到連普通散客的定單也無暇應接。

■本報記者 陳子健

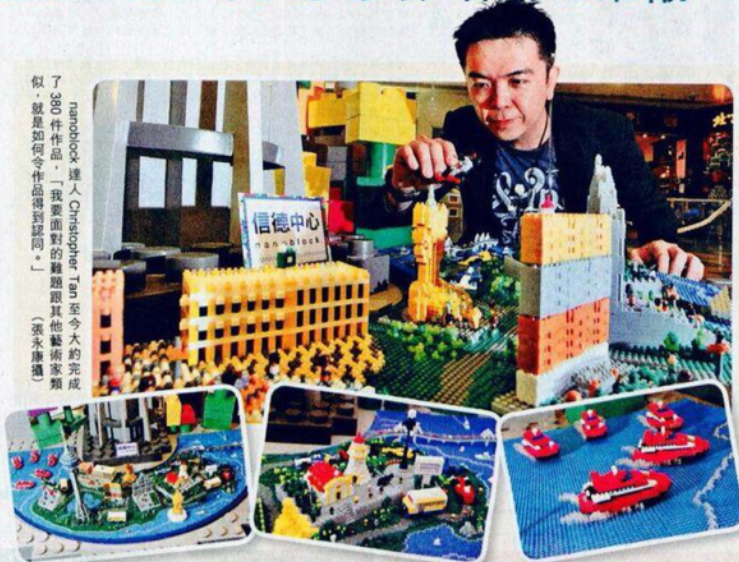
Christopher Tan 本來是軟件工程師，某次經過購物商場，見到 nanoblock 以大熊貓等動物為主題的積木套裝正在發售，覺得有趣，於是買回家過手癢。他認為小小積木卻可讓他發揮無限設計可能，索性拋開說明書，自行砌出無數 nanoblock 產品線上沒有的場景和造型，喬布斯、招財貓、「玩味創作」如站着小便、推車逛超市的小熊等，統統叫人拍爛手掌。他又開設 fb 專頁公諸同好，吸引了逾 5.6 萬名粉絲，更引來各大品牌拍門，請他以 nanoblock 設計品牌紀念品。

興趣變事業 粉絲5.6萬

眼見市場原來別有需求，2014 年他索性放棄原來工作，創立 CHRISTAN DESIGN，專接企業生意，莎莎國際 (00178) 的馬來西亞分公司、導演彭浩翔的工作室等都是其客戶。同時間接幾宗定單，日做 16 小時是等閒事，每當接到定單，Christopher 首先要了解客人需要再蒐集資料：「我要掌握實物上每一項細節，再思考如何將之變成積木狀。但當要縮細成 10cm 高的小

似了 360 件作品，「我要面對的難題跟其他藝術家類，就是如何令作品得到認同。」

(張永康攝)



用上逾萬塊 nanoblock 微積木砌成的澳門場景，松山燈塔、聖母雪地殿教堂和澳門巴士等栩栩如生，其中 Christopher 最喜歡港澳高速船。

物時，就不可能將每一項細節都保留，所以要想哪些部分一定要保留。」

產品設計過程動輒要一至數天時間，之後會再向客人講解設計和報價，客人滿意的話，就隨即展開工程。

1.4萬塊積木 砌出特色澳門

今次的微縮版澳門大約用了 1.2 至 1.4 萬塊 nanoblock 積木來砌成，當中他最喜歡的，是紅白色港澳高速船，「大會告訴我，想呈現到渡輪高速航行時產生的浪花，可是每塊積木都是四方而且很細，所以很難以此捕捉（浪花）形態。」結果他用上多塊透明的微積木砌出浪花狀，「你現在看到的是最終版本，但在製作時，我要經過很多試驗，試出最好的效果。」

Christopher 強調，他是獨立設計師，跟 nanoblock 沒有從屬關係，故一直以來所用的積木，全部自行在市面購買。但由於 nanoblock 沒

有散裝積木出售，故他隨時要為單一塊某種顏色或某個形狀的積木，而購買一整盒 nanoblock 套裝，其餘不合用的，一般會留起以備不時之需。現時在他的工作室內，存放了約 60 萬塊 nanoblock 積木。

將興趣變事業人人都想，但多少是一種冒險。Christopher 卻指：「有時候你想做一些事，都不會 100% 知道是否可行，你只需要行前抓緊機會。」他表示，成功關鍵在於「堅持」，「堅持不懈而且相信自己，一路向前追尋。」

► Christopher 今年跟 nanoblock 星馬和印尼代理商合作，推出日式便當、壽司、拉麵、手卷共 4 款日本美食系列，屬 nanoblock 官方出品，由設計到推出市面，這四道菜前後花了 18 個月來炮製。

(張永康攝)

Pokémon熱賣 不視Lego為競爭者

潮物市場

nanoblock 總公司川田集團 (Kawada) 的海外販賣課次長川野剛表示，nanoblock 在香港市場以「潮物」作定位多於玩具，客人以女生為主。

他說：「女孩子會買 nanoblock 作為禮物或自用；男生愛用 figure 來裝飾辦公桌，但女生卻沒這些產品，nanoblock 就擔當這種功能。」

Pokémon與樂器系列 港日走俏

產品系列不少來自電子遊戲人物，包括近日熱爆全球的 Pokémon。川野剛指，Pokémon 樂器系列一直是品牌在香港和日本本土的熱賣產品，「因為樂器本身很中立，沒有喜惡之分，所以不同人都會買。」

他續說：「當要製作更仔細的產品，就要設計出不同斜度和弧度的積木，甚至是機械性產品。」現時品牌每年平均推出 50 款新產品，也要針對不同市場，以不同推廣活動，例如展覽等來推廣品牌。他以今次的「信德中心 × nanoblock『細』味遊澳門」為例，坦言希望借此了解香港消費者的反應，將來有機會推出澳門、香港、中國和台灣著名地標的 nanoblock。

nanoblock 現時全球有逾 30 個市場，最大市場仍是日本，但原來香港是品牌首個海外市場，在品牌推出不久後便決定務必要打入，「可能港人一向受日本漫畫、玩具和文化影響，港人對玩具的喜好跟日本相似，會更容易喜歡 nanoblock 產品，而且香港是自由經濟社會，容易找到合作夥伴。」

不少人會將 nanoblock 跟 Lego 相提並論，但川野剛明言，不會視 Lego 為競爭對手，「因為目標客群的年齡層和品牌概念都不同，Lego 針對較年幼一群，而 nanoblock 則是較年長一群，而且我們的產品兼備潮流和玩樂元素。」他亦期望，小孩子去到某個歲數，就會轉玩 nanoblock。



nanoblock 總公司川田集團海外販賣課次長川野剛（左）希望透過展覽等，將 nanoblock 品牌推廣開去。右為負責今次展覽的川田集團海外事業課代表陳田美智。（曾育為攝）

維妙維肖

對港人來說，去澳門其中一個必經之地——信德中心，於今個夏天舉行《信德中心×nanoblock「細」味遊澳門》

活動，邀得在日本nanoblock官方微積木創作比賽屢獲殊榮的馬來西亞微積木創作達人Christopher Tan，創作出nanoblock微縮澳門，將澳門多個具標誌性及歷史價值的建築物，呈現公眾眼前，維妙維肖。

文：小魚 圖：信德中心



●展覽以積木把澳門多個具標誌性及歷史價值的建築物，呈現觀眾眼前。



●馬來西亞微積木創作達人Christopher Tan。

《信德中心×nanoblock「細」味遊澳門》

日期：7月18日(一)至8月25日(四)

地點：上環信德中心2樓

查詢：3955 0981



●澳門旅遊塔。

nanoblock是世界上最積最小的積木，近年大受歡迎，一塊塊細小的積木砌出千變萬化的造型，其推出的多款產品，均掀起搶購熱潮，備受全球潮人追捧。這次Christopher Tan砌出的立體微縮澳門，包括家喻戶曉、無人不知的著名地標澳門旅遊塔、新葡京酒店、澳門美高梅、媽閣廟、大三巴牌坊等等，來往澳門必定乘搭的交通工具之一噴射飛航，同樣以積木形式展現，讓大家可以俯瞰角度，飽覽澳門的動人景點，每一個作品都手工精細，令人歎為觀止。

除了Christopher Tan的立體微縮澳門作品，信德中心亦設多個精彩活動，七月二十日(三)下午一時，就有新一代宅男女神陳澄到場為活動揭幕，與眾同樂，分享砌積木的小樂趣。八月十日(三)下午一時，另一位女神李佳芯將出席「微形」嘉年華，與大家大玩遊戲。此外，信德中心還設置「細」味自拍專區，參加者只須讀好信德中心Facebook專頁，即可擁有特色nanoblock相框的相片。七月二十一日(四)至二十四日(日)、八月十一日(四)至十四日(日)期間，更設有即時沖印服務，把遊人當日愉快憶記定格留念。



●大三巴牌坊。

BROUGHT TO YOU
BY LIFE & TIMES**PULSE** people

HE still likes to think that he'll forever be 26. Because at 40, Christopher Tan is still playing with Lego. But these are not ordinary Lego blocks.

Tan is a nanoblock designer who has successfully turned a hobby and passion into a blossoming career. The Klang native has established himself internationally with more than 52,000 fans across all his social media platforms.

Recently, he released four specially designed nanoblocks series with Kawada Co. Ltd, the creators of these micro-sized building blocks.

With a sweeping glance through the little space which Tan calls his home office, several miniature figurines catch my eye. A green dinosaur, a pink pig and two round potato heads tickle my childhood memories. What's missing is a cowboy, his trusty pony and an intergalactic best friend whose famous tagline, *Above And Beyond!* has become as iconic as the Disney Pixar production itself.

"A lot of my inspiration comes from pop culture, especially current ones. Like when *Star Wars* was on, I designed this BB-8, R2-D2 and Storm Trooper. However, my favourite icons to design are Disney Pixar characters," reveals Tan.

With a boyish grin, he sheepishly picks up his Domo-kun replica and points to a flaming red, angry looking character from *Inside Out* (a Disney Pixar movie that was released late 2015) sitting atop a miniature glass case that houses a scaled down Raffles Hotel Singapore.

FORM OF ESCAPISM

Like a seamless rainbow palette, tiny drawers filled with coloured blocks line one side of the wall on his desk. "I've about

ONE TINY BRICK AT A TIME

Patience is a virtue especially when it comes to designing and building using nanoblocks, writes **Sulyn Chong**

600-700 thousand bricks at the moment," Tan shares. With more than 360 designs built to date, it isn't surprising to see many of the remnants filling plastic containers and boxes.

"In the earlier days when I didn't have enough bricks, I'd build something, photograph it, and then tear them down to reuse the bricks for something else. Nowadays, I just break down the larger projects into smaller components, so it'll be easier if I want to rebuild them," he explains.

His love for micro-blocks began when Kawada released them for international sales. Tan recalls: "When I came across the nanoblocks in 2011, I was fascinated by the minute size. I then received a panda set for my birthday. I started buying more blocks and created my own designs."

The smallest micro-blocks measure a mere 4mm x 4mm, which is about one quarter the size of a Lego brick. The only tool that Tan uses is a trusty little nanoblock tweezer, which he uses sparingly.

Kawada has so far released four original series that vary in degrees of intricacy and features different themes.

The most basic of the micro-blocks sets are sold in small packets known as the Mini Collection Series and usually contains about 100 pieces or more. These Mini Collection Series are perfect for nanoblock beginners and can be easily found at Japanese specialty stores in Malaysia such as Kinokuniya or Aeon.

If you fancy building iconic landmarks like the Big Ben or are interested in challenging yourself further, look out for the Sights To See Series that contains 200 to 600 blocks and a 8cm x 8cm plate for easy assembly.

The Advance Hobby Series meanwhile, features notable landmarks too but on a larger scale. This series will allow you to express your skills in detailing with about 2,000 blocks. There's also the Girl's Series, aimed at young girls and which include wedding and birthday themes.

It may not be a cheap hobby, but it certainly sparked Tan's flames for building things using tiny blocks while he pursued his career as a software architect for various

technological devices. His fascination with nanoblocks is also partially due to the 3D-like figurines he's able to achieve.

"They're like raw materials for creating 3D art. It doesn't have that interactive playability like Legos but the results are more realistic. Perhaps that's why it appeals to adults more than children," he says. Nanoblocks then became a form of escapism from reality.

BIG BREAK

Since he became a full-time nanoblocks designer two years ago, Tan has garnered more than 52,000 followers through social media platforms. To mark his success, he's even had his creations exhibited



Star Wars collection.



people **PULSE**

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The four specially designed nanoblock sets by Tan.

in Malaysia and Singapore, with the largest being in Hong Kong.

"My big break came when East Point City mall commissioned me for an exhibition that coincided with the World Cup 2014 in Brazil. They wanted a 3m x 3m replica of Rio De Janeiro city that includes the statue of Christ The Redeemer, slums, metropolitan area and, of course, the Estadio do Maracana," he recalls.

Using 250,000 bricks and an entire day of calculations as well as drafts from Google Earth photo stills, the Brazilian capital was ready to be assembled. At the venue, it took him and 20 volunteers, comprising his Facebook fans in Hong Kong, 12 hours a day, for five days to assemble it.

As he proudly shows me the behind the scenes video, I watch with elation as he and his team pen their names at the bottom of the last block before putting it in place.

He also showcased his other creations which included the World Cup Trophy and several iconic footballers at the exhibition.

However, Tan knew he'd struck gold when Kawada decided to collaborate with him to design four special Japanese food-themed sets. It took two years but the results were satisfying. With the release of his designs last month, he became the one and only non-Japanese nanoblock designer and the second nanoblock designer not employed by the company. His steady success and recognition has even earned him the title of Tatsujin, the highest title given to a nanoblock master builder.

ULTIMATE DREAM

What's his dream design using nanoblocks, I ask.

"You may call me an Apple fanboy for I own most of the Apple products. I'd like to try and build the new Apple Campus 2 in Cupertino, California that looks like a spaceship," Tan confides, before adding: "I also admire Steve Jobs, so it'll be like a tribute to him."

Given the amount of patience and attention to detail that he applies in each and every design, in addition to passion and skills, it's no surprise that it only takes him a few minutes to build the Leica camera among his Disney Pixar collection, which he attributes to be the easiest to build.

On the other side of the spectrum, there's the 2,500 micro-blocks Great Wall of China that's sitting magnificently next to his BB-8.

Throughout his career, Tan has received several interesting requests from fans and although he has expressed interest in creating a few of them, he says the lack of time is an obstacle. His current project sees him creating several collectors' items for one of South Korea's largest baseball team, Hanhwa Eagles. The collection will include the stadium, its mascots Winny and Vinny Eagle and four of their top baseball players. For a more locally attainable collection, look out for his beauty creations, a make-up palette and perfume bottle for Sasa.

Concluding, he says: "As long as I retain the designs in my head, it doesn't matter if I lose all of the pieces I've built. All it takes is a little hard work, patience and more bricks to rebuild them."

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The 2,500 micro-block Great Wall of China.



Nanoblock designer Tan.

PICTURES BY SHAZREEN ZAMZURI

Sunday March 6, 2016

G rave

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Fancy
ramen or
sushi...
made from nanoblock?

BY KENNY MAH
PICTURES BY CHOO CHOY MAY

KUALA LUMPUR — You can almost imagine each type of sushi — *ebi* (prawn), *tamago* (egg), *maguro* (tuna) and *uni* (sea urchin). At least that's what I came up with after Malaysian nano brick artist Christopher Tan showed me how to squint and guess what each piece was.

Why squint? Well, this sushi platter is made from “nano-sized” toy bricks, specifically nanoblock bricks by Japanese toy company Kawada. Tan is the first independent artist outside Japan to collaborate with Kawada to release his own designs as official nanoblock sets in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

For his first official nanoblock series, Tan created four specific Japanese foods — sushi, ramen, *bento* and *temaki* — in his nanoblock “kitchen”. Only 3,024 of each item is being released, making them instant collectibles for nanoblock fans worldwide. “I decided on these items because I love Japanese food. Also, I thought that these tiny nanoblock versions of popular Japanese food would look cute.”

Originally a software architect, Tan became a full-time nano brick artist in 2014. (The term “nano brick” is used to encompass other types of micro-sized toy bricks besides the Kawada-owned nanoblock brand.) He recalls, “It started as a hobby back in 2011, when nanoblock was first introduced outside Japan. As I started buying more nanoblock bricks, I also started creating my own designs that I shared on my Facebook page. From there, the number of fans grew and I also started getting corporate enquiries.”

Tan's first big break came when East Point City mall in Hong Kong approached him to construct a large-scale nanoblock World Cup exhibition. “I designed and, with assistance from many Hong Kong nanoblock fans, built a 3-metre-square model city of Rio de Janeiro out of over 250,000 nanoblock bricks. It is the largest single nanoblock creation in the world.”

Becoming the first non-Japanese nanoblock designer was not without its challenges. According to Tan, it took quite a bit of convincing before Kawada agreed to his proposal. “As a Japanese company, they were still quite conservative and not that keen on a non-Japanese designer, especially for something as Japanese such as sushi and ramen. I had to travel to Tokyo twice on my own expense to pitch to them.”

Fortunately, thanks to support



Malaysian nano brick artist Christopher Tan is the first independent artist outside Japan to collaborate with toymaker Kawada on official nanoblock designs



Tan's first official nanoblock series features four different types of Japanese food items

Nano-sized sushi, anyone?

Enter the “kitchen” of Malaysian nano brick artist Christopher Tan

from nanoblock distributors in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, as well as his large fan base (over 52,000 likes on Facebook), Kawada finally said yes. In total, it took Tan 18 months from the conception till his creations were released to the market.

“It didn't take very long to come up with these four particular designs, just a few days,” says Tan. “Nonetheless, the entire process to get this product line out took longer because my initial designs were larger and required more bricks. Ultimately, it was decided that I need to make them smaller so that they fit the nanoblock mini-series and hit a lower price point for our market.”

Where toy bricks are concerned, most Malaysians would recognise the age-old favourite Lego more readily. However, Tan notes that Lego and nanoblock are quite different conceptually. “Though both are building blocks, Lego was designed for playability while nanoblock is more like a raw material for building 3D sculptures. So after you build them, you can play and interact with a Lego creation while you will put a nanoblock creation aside for display.”

Tan also feels that nanoblock's



Nanoblock sushi (from left to right) — *ebi* (prawn), *tamago* (egg), *maguro* (tuna) and *uni* (sea urchin)

unique advantage is how small the bricks are. He explains, “Because of their tiny size, I can build highly detailed designs. Take my nanoblock Oscar statuette: It's life-size, and uses 1,500 plus bricks. To build the same thing in Lego with the same level of detail, it would need to be many times bigger. Or if you were to build a Lego version at the same size, it would have very little detail.”

Many would assume being a nano brick artist is plenty of fun



A slurp-worthy bowl of nanoblock ramen

then. Not so, cautions Tan. “A lot of people look at what I do and think I just sit and play with nano bricks all day. In fact, I have to research, looking up photographs of the subject matter from several different angles, so that I can visualise how it would look like in 3D before building. For more complex designs, I also do prototyping to find the best way to design certain parts first. There's also the mundane work of tearing down prototyped designs and sorting bricks. It's

not always so exciting.”

If I am designing something to scale, like an architectural piece, there is also some additional work like researching the actual dimensions of the building, then doing some maths to scale all the different parts of the building down accordingly.

In the future, Tan will be focusing more on corporate business projects where he designs according to his client's specific needs. He says, “I recently collaborated with Sasa, for whom I designed two beauty product nano brick items for their upcoming anniversary, and also with a South Korean baseball team, for whom I designed their home stadium, mascot and their top four players in nano brick.”

Whatever Tan designs, he promises each nano brick creation will be a labour of love. After all, he's a nano brick fan first and foremost.

The nanoblock Japanese Food series is available now at Kinokuniya, Aeon, Toys R Us, Isetan and other stockists. Discover more at www.christan.design and www.facebook.com/christan

VE



Guess each ingredient in this nanoblock *bento*

Link: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/features/article/pro-nano-brick-artist-builds-path-to-success-brick-by-brick>



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Pro nano-brick artist builds path to success, brick by brick

BY YAP PIK KUAN

Published: 24 February 2016 9:33 AM

At 40 years old, Christopher Tan is living the ultimate dream of every young child who has ever played with Lego bricks.

The ex-software architect is Malaysia's first, and one of the world's only, professional nano-brick artists – an adult way of saying he builds Lego structures for a living, except that he uses really tiny bricks.

Tan first came across nanoblocks, a brand manufactured by Japanese company Kawada, in 2011 and was immediately drawn to the micro-sized bricks measuring as small as 4x4x5mm.

"I thought it was cool because it was so tiny, so I picked it up from there. I started buying more nano blocks and building my own designs," he said at a recent interview with The Malaysian Insider.

Tan has not looked back since assembling his first nano-brick figurine, a panda bear.

He soon began designing his own structures and figurines, and quit his job as a software architect two years ago to become a full-time nano-brick designer. Today, he has garnered a social media fanbase of over 52,000 followings on Facebook.

"My process is very similar to how a sculptor might sculpt something out of wood or clay. We just work with different kinds of limitations," said Tan of the detail and element of design that go into his structures.



Christopher Tan, the man behind the largest nano block structure in the world – a miniature version of Brazilian city, Rio de Janeiro, made up of 250,000 bricks, made for an exhibition in Hong Kong. – Pic by Christopher Tan, February 24, 2016.



Link: <http://says.com/my/fun/this-malaysian-once-had-a-hobby-now-he-has-released-his-own-official-nanoblock-sets>

SAYS

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This Malaysian Is The First Person Outside Japan To Collaborate With Nanoblock Founders!

Published by [Janelle Tai](#) — 16 Feb 2016, 09:44 PM

Cooler than your LEGO set ;)



#nanoblock #fun #entertainment #toys #build #hobby #creator #blockartist #brickart #kawada

Cover image via Chris Tan

This is Christopher Tan from Malaysia, and he is an internationally acclaimed nanoblock artist



Image via Christopher Tan

Chris started his hobby five years ago, and documented his experience on his Facebook page. Fast forward five years to the present, he quit his job as a software engineer and is pursuing a career in building and designing nanoblocks.

Since his Facebook page launched in 2011, he now has 51,000 fans worldwide.



Janelle Tai

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Janelle Tai works as an intern at SAYS. She is addicted to tea as a normal person is to coffee, and consumes 2-3 cups daily. Will love you if you give her dark chocolate.

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Link: <http://www.stuff.tv/sg/features/meet-man-crazy-enough-quit-his-job-build-his-nanoblock-dream>

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Nanoblock

Meet the man crazy enough to quit his job to build his Nanoblock dream

Former software architect Christopher Tan is living every Lego-loving kid's fantasy



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26 NOVEMBER 2015 / 12:17GMT

by [Elissa Loi](#) [Follow @elissalo](#)

Who in their right mind would give up a perfectly cushy job to build a career out of Nanoblocks? Well, Christopher Tan, that's who.

The 40-year-old Malaysian held a perfectly comfortable position as a software architect prior to upending all his plans to set foot on a path hardly approached, let alone trodden: building Nanoblock creations for a living.

THAT'S LIFE



by JUNE MOH



■ One of Tan's first creations, 'Chris' is figurine of himself

(Above right) Brownie from Line apps

MAY 2-8, 2015

12

Focusweek

From tiny bricks are born works of art

Minuscule as they are, Nanoblocks have a global following. These miniature versions of Lego blocks have also won a diehard proponent in Christopher Tan. The nano artist hopes to make waves around the world

T

HEY come in tiny pieces, yet they are hugely attractive. They can be presented in any form, from *Star Wars* characters such as R2-D2 and the Jedi Knight to Disney characters such as Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

These are Nanoblocks – the smaller equivalent of the more familiar Lego blocks.

Each piece measures less than a centimetre in length, barely 5mm wide and just below 2mm in thickness.

Just like their Lego equivalent, Nanoblocks come in a wide range of colours. These tiny building blocks were first introduced in the Japanese market in 2008 by Kawada Co Ltd, a toy company based in Tokyo. It was made available worldwide in 2011.

One Malaysian now claims to be the world's first full-time Nanoblock artist: meet Christopher Tan of Klang, Selangor.

His claim notwithstanding, Tan displays a deep-rooted passion for this craft. He is also a minefield of information on all things Nanoblock.

He therefore takes it as a personal affront when copies of his creations built with pirated versions of the Nanoblock appear in the market.



■ World Cup Nanoblock Exhibit at Hong Kong's East Point City

東港城

I had to replicate in miniature form landmarks such as Christ the Redeemer, the stadium and other sights, buildings and houses. I only had 30 days to do all that. I was working 16 hours a day. We were working on designs, drafts and building instructions non-stop."

From software to building blocks – the rise of an artist

“People tend to see these building blocks as toys. They do not see it as material for artistic expression. I think that is the hardest thing in establishing myself as a brick artist. Not many people see this as an art form.”

NANO BRICK artist Christopher Tan is a familiar face in Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. Recently, he collaborated with Thai actress Chacharita to create a Nanoblock version of her fashion label's logo.

His work has appeared in various media, including print and toys at exhibitions in many countries, but he has never showcased his work on a similar scale in Malaysia.

Before he established himself as a brick artist, Tan worked as a software architect for 19 years. His role at that time revolved around designing software and applications for smartphones and social media networks.

Tan's passion for Nanoblocks has its roots in his lifelong love for Lego. "I have always been interested in building and creating with toy bricks. As a child, I played with Lego bricks but I stopped doing that when I grew up. But when Kawada introduced the Nanoblock in 2011, I started building again. I was doing it as a hobby," he recalls.

But Tan does not see Nanoblocks as a toy. For him, they are tools for "systematic creativity". In early 2014, he quit his job to become a full-time Nanoblock artist, having seen that there was actually a business potential in those tiny pieces of plastic.

To market himself and his creations, Tan began to build replicas of famous characters but customised to meet specific preferences. He posted pictures of his creations on Facebook and his blog. Over time, his fan base expanded and he started getting requests to share tips on Nanoblock creations.

Apart from Facebook, he uses Instagram to promote his work. He now has more than 5,000 followers on Instagram and 25,000 followers on Facebook. More than 10,000 of his Facebook followers are from Thailand.

In time, Tan's hobby became his full-time job. Public relations and advertising agen-

cies began to commission him to design and build various artworks for them. "There are few Nanoblock artists around the world, and I saw there was a demand and therefore business potential in this art form. That was why I decided to do it full-time," he says.

From bricks to art

Tan says his passion for Nanoblocks grew out of his long-time fascination with Lego. He now owns nearly 400,000 Nanoblock bricks.

While Lego blocks are more suitable for children, Nanoblock is more of an adult toy. Both serve to test the imagination of the player.

Nanoblock appeals to the adult because of the greater challenge rendered by its smaller size as well as the accuracy to detail that Lego bricks are unable to offer.

Working on a Nanoblock creation can be a tedious process. "I usually start by taking photographs of the item I want to replicate," Tan says. "I need to have images of all sides of the item. Next, I form a mental image of the item in Nanoblock form and I start building from scratch."

Tan's first creation is a figurine he has christened Chris. Chris became the prototype for many subsequent creations.

Whenever he gets a new Nanoblock set, he will follow the instructions that come in the box to build the suggested item. When he is done, he will take it apart and use the Nanoblocks to create something of his own.

"When I build following the instructions given, I gain an insight into how other designers think. This is a learning process. I am learning from other designers," he says.

But Tan makes it clear that there is no clear-cut process to creating a Nanoblock piece. The designing process can be repetitive. "When I look at a photograph of an

object, I start thinking about how to build a replica with nano bricks. But usually, what you get in the end does not always look like what you had imagined in the first place. I will then dismantle it and try a different method and technique until I get what I want," he says.

His greatest satisfaction comes from seeing his design take shape and eventually turning into an actual replica of the object he wants, something that people can hold in their hands and appreciate. "When someone appreciates what you do, it makes it all worthwhile," he says.

The challenges

The most difficult thing for Tan is getting recognition as an artist. "People tend to see these building blocks as toys. They do not see it as material for artistic expression. I think that is the hardest thing in establishing myself as a brick artist. Not many people see this as an art form," he says.

Tan has made replicas of many famous people, one of whom is Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple. "He had done a lot to change the world. It would be great to see things from his point of view. I am a big fan of Apple. If there is any Nanoblock place I could hang out for a day, it would be the Fifth Avenue Apple store that I built," he says.

But while there is a lot of fun being surrounded by Nanoblocks, a career in building items out of these tiny bricks is not financially rewarding. Tan had a more stable income in his previous job as a software architect.

What's more important for him is his conviction that he will one day gain global recognition as a brick artist, to see his designs officially available as a standalone brand on the shelves.

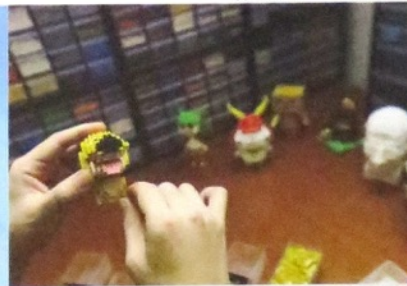
Then, perhaps, the money will start coming in.

JONATHAN LOI/FOCUSWEEK

MAY 2-8, 2015

13

Focus week



Fake blocks

Figurines constructed out of Nanoblocks are attractive in many ways. Being so much smaller than regular Lego creations, they are easy to store, put on display or just to carry around. For those who are seeing one for the first time, the cute factor is undeniable.

These are the qualities that have driven the passion for Nanoblocks around the world, and along with that, the production of clone versions of the tiny building blocks.

The pirated versions, mostly manufactured in China, come at a fraction of the price of genuine Nanoblocks. Purists such as Tan claim that the pirated versions are of a much lower quality. Even so, they have flooded the market and are available in many places in Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. In fact, so many companies in China are churning out these clones that there are now more than a dozen different versions available.

The original version of the Nanoblock bricks sell for RM35.90 or more while the cloned versions cost just RM8 each.

"This is clearly a gross violation of intellectual property rights," says an upset Tan. By that, he also means that the pirated versions are being sold as fully constructed figurines copied from his personal creations.

Tan, 39, insists he only uses Nanoblock bricks produced by Kawada.

The artist and his works

Tan focuses on recreating iconic buildings and cartoon characters with Nanoblocks. He has a keen eye for detail and that, together with his many outstanding creations, has won him plaudits in the Nanoblock community around the world.

One of his greatest creations is a model of the iconic Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro built in East Point City in Hong Kong in July 2014, in conjunction with the World Cup football tournament that was being hosted by Brazil that year.

That creation became one of the largest Nanoblock artworks in the world. Tan and 25 Hong Kong volunteers spent 12 hours

(From left to right) The World Cup Nanoblock Exhibit in Hong Kong; a Nanoblock model of Steve Jobs by Tan; and Tan working on a Nanoblock piece

building the city using more than 250,000 individual bricks. The result of their hard work was a 3m by 3m representation of Rio.

He recalls the experience as being "crazy". "We closed the deal a month before the launch date. I had to come up with 17 different designs for the exhibition. I had to replicate in miniature form landmarks such as Christ the Redeemer, the stadium and other sights, buildings and houses. I only had 30 days to do all that. I was working 16 hours a day. We were working on designs, drafts and building instructions non-stop," he says.

At that time, Nanoblocks were the craze in Hong Kong, and the organisers wanted something unique to mark the 2014 World

Cup. They approached Tan, by then known for his skills with Nanoblocks, and later appointed him as the artist for their World Cup nano brick creation.

Apart from the scaled down model of the second largest city in Brazil, Tan was also commissioned to create Nanoblock models of 12 legendary football players. They include Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar Jr.

Also part of the deal was a life-size replica of the World Cup trophy. That was the most difficult piece to construct, according to Tan.

"The shape of the trophy was extremely difficult to replicate. At every angle, it looks different," Tan explains. It took him four days, over 16 hours a day to get it right – curve, spiral and all. Tan used more than 6,000 Nanoblock bricks to construct the trophy. "Building the city was tedious but not as difficult," he adds.

But for Tan, it is all well worth the effort.

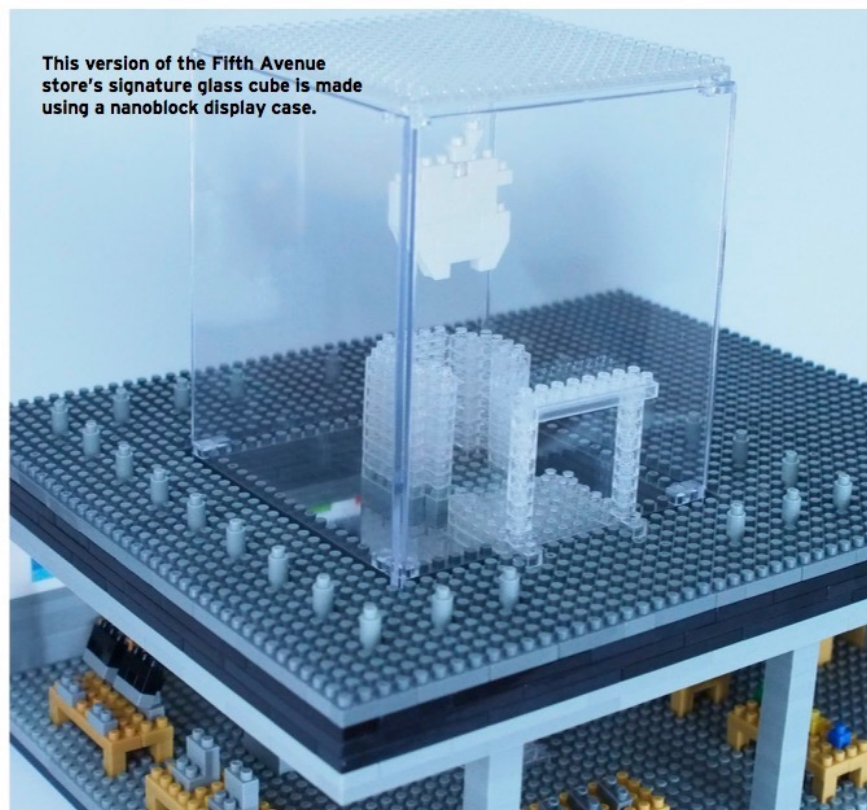
Focus week

>>>Start

APPLE STORE MINI

A nanoblock enthusiast re-creates the Fifth Avenue Apple Store, brick by brick

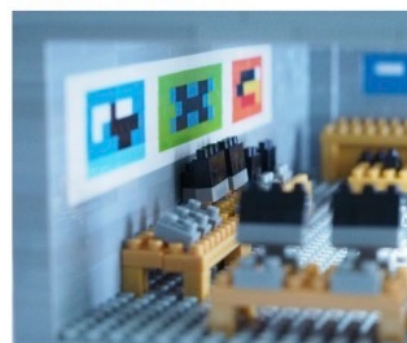
BY JUSTIN CHENG



This version of the Fifth Avenue store's signature glass cube is made using a nanoblock display case.



Like its real-life inspiration, the brick-built building lights up. Unlike the real thing, this one is wired up with LEDs.



Details such as the iMacs on the tables help make this feel like an actual Apple Store. Obviously, at this small scale, you have to use a little imagination.

Apple Stores have a minimalist look that make them stand out from other storefronts, but no Apple Store is as unique as the one on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. This location is world famous due in large part to its iconic glass-cube entranceway (designed by architectural firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson) that serves as the entranceway to the subterranean store proper. Christopher Tan, a Malaysia-based Apple fan, software architect,

brick-based toy line; however, as the name implies, the blocks are much smaller. (The nanoblock website states that the smallest nanoblock piece is "a mere 4mmx4mmx5mm.") "I started with nanoblock three years ago," Tan says. "The thing about nanoblock that appeals to me is its very tiny size and basic brick designs. I love LEGO, too, but nanoblock's much smaller size allows me to build very detailed designs right on my desktop. I also

love that nanoblock bricks only come in a handful of fundamentally generic brick types.

While some may see

this as a limitation, I believe it forces us to be more creative in our designs."

Tan's creativity shines through in the miniature Apple Store, especially with regard to the signature glass cube. He

considered constructing it using only clear nanoblock bricks, "but because the bricks are so small, stacking a lot of them to make a cube would look more like ice than glass," Tan explains. "The solution only came to me when I got a nanoblock display case recently and learned that the sides of the case itself are, in fact, just very large nanoblock bricks with studs and all. That was exactly the 'glass' brick I needed." With that major problem solved, Tan set about creating the project over three days—although he states that the actual time frame for project is a little nebulous because he had it in his head for "a long time" before the building process began.

"The end result is composed of around 2,000 nanoblock pieces"

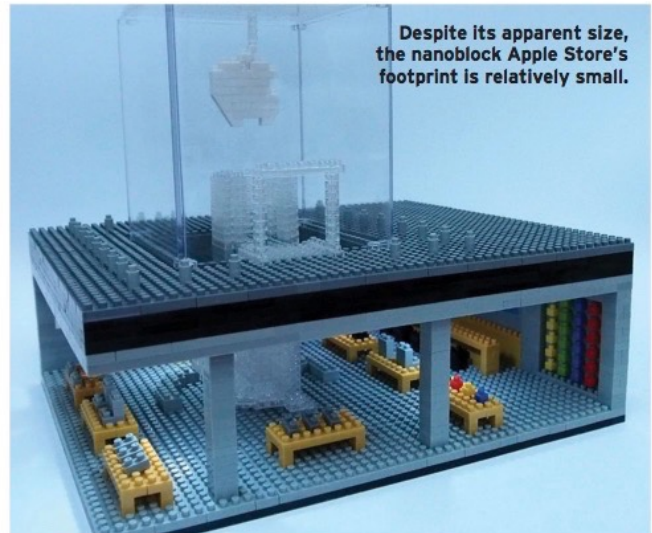
photographer, and self-described "aspiring brick artist," was so inspired by the Fifth Avenue shop that he decided to re-create it using nanoblock.

Like LEGO, nanoblock is a construction-



The end result is a structure composed of around 2,000 nanoblock pieces. This includes the blocks used for details such as the brick-built Apple products on display within the store. Despite the number of pieces used, "the footprint of the entire store is actually 18 percent smaller than an iPad Air!" notes Tan. As if this project weren't already impressive, Tan brought the store to life by adding lighting, which he says was "a simple hack" achieved by wiring up some LEDs.

This isn't first time that Tan has built something Apple-



related, although the scale has certainly increased. "Two years ago, I created a nanoblock Steve Jobs," he recalls, "and believe it or not, a toy company in China stole my design and manufactured it." He has made the step-by-step instructions for this build available online at bit.ly/ML_nanojobs.

"Since then, I have been thinking about making a bigger, much more detailed Steve Jobs, and I think I will start on it soon," he tells us. To see more of Tan's work, check out his website, www.inanoblock.com.

— CANVAS / CHRISTOPHER TAN —

Bite Size Leisure

interviewed by / melissa lee images / christopher tan . ricky chan layout / boon ting ting

From software architect to photographer to Nanoblock brick artist, Christopher Tan is a living example of the old saying, 'when you chase your dream, the sky is the limit'. With successful creations of over 200 distinctive designs that highlights popular culture, eccentric art and architecture; it's no wonder that he now has a strong fan base on social media platforms such as Blogger, Facebook and Instagram. Read on to find out what is the story behind his big love for these petite bricks.





Tell us a little about yourself.

I am a geek with a passion for tiny bricks and burnt meat. Yes, my love for tiny bricks is only rivalled by my love for all forms of burnt meat! Apart from creating Nanoblock art, I also pursue other artistic endeavours like photography.

How did you come across these cute Nanoblock bricks?

It was back in 2011, when Nanoblock bricks were first introduced internationally. Personally I've always loved building things, so tiny building blocks were simply perfect! You could say it was love at first sight.

What stirred your passion for it?

When I first started, I was just building for myself, then I created a blog to share my

designs. Over time, my fan base started to grow and when I see how much others love my designs, it just pushed me to keep doing more!

Do you have any favourite masterpiece?

I generally build things that I already like, so naturally, I like the things I create ... But if I had to choose, it would probably be the iconic Apple Store and Steve Jobs sculpture. Oh, and I love my R2-D2 and Stormtrooper ... and ... well there are just too many!

What inspires you to come up with new ideas for Nanoblock creations?

My inspiration comes from everywhere, usually quite randomly. Much of what I've built were inspired by popular culture and interesting architecture. I also get a ton of requests from fans.

How do you usually get started on building with Nanoblock bricks?

I usually study the picture of the object that I want to work on first, at the mean time analyzing how the 3D will look like, then I'll move on to build the rough shape, and then followed by the details. It's very much like how a sculptor does it.

What are some of the challenges you face in pursuing this as your career?

Well firstly, there's the thing about trying to make a living by being an artist, which is not easy. What adds on to the challenge is when you're trying to do so being an artist who uses Nanoblock, something even less mainstream. If you tell people you are a photographer or painter, they'd understand. But when you tell them you're a brick artist, you usually get a blank stare. Luckily for me, I've built up quite a big following over the years,

WHERE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS INCREDIBLE NANOBLOCK BRICKS?

Simply log on www.elite-toys.com or even better, check out Chris' blog www.inanoblock.com as he conducts pre-order sales from time to time. You'll also be happy to find build instructions for Chris' Nanoblock creations there!

and before I made the jump to do this full time, I've already been getting quite a lot of work enquiries (mostly from advertising and PR agencies), so I guess that pretty much gave me the confidence to go with the flow.

Then there is also the fact that most clients don't understand how much time and work goes into creating Nanoblock designs. A lot of people wildly underestimate how many bricks go into building Nanoblock creations because they're so tiny. So I usually tell them to go out and buy a Nanoblock set to experience it for themselves.

What's next on your bucket list?

Well I'm considering doing caricatures of popular figures in Nanoblock form. Probably explore more of the artistic side of things apart from popular culture. **CHX**



中国报

编辑: 梁国 ◆ 报导: 叶凤玲 ◆ 图: 练国伟、Christopher提供

星期日 16.11.2014 04

富生活

主题

丰富生活
富足人生

周刊



细细微微 如数十万砖瓦筑楼房

Christopher工作室里的成排格子摆放不同颜色的nanoblock组件, 他就是利用这些组件来建构脑海里所有的想像。



堆砌微城

很多人以为它是Lego, 但它有自己的名字——nanoblock。nanoblock体积只有Lego的四分之一, 这种超小尺寸, 能做出更精致细微的作品。国际nanoblock达人Christopher Tan (简称Chris) 就用了25万块nanoblock, 做出巴西里约热内卢城市!

大 马 人 Chris, 会以自己的创意去设计独一无二的积木作品。这个故事, 要从2011年说起……

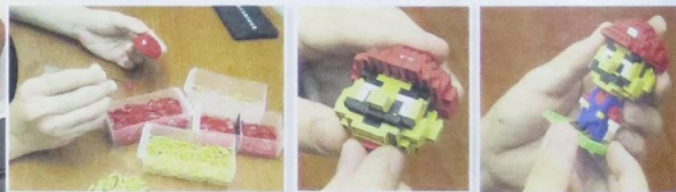
我第一次接触nanoblock是在2011年, 那时候nanoblock创办公司日本河田(Kawada)开始在国际上销售nanoblock。Lego是我小时候最爱的玩具, 长大之后没再玩了, 直到第一次看到nanoblock, 突然“建造”的念头蠢蠢欲动, 因为我太喜欢细小的东西了!

我喜欢nanoblock, 是因为它方块小, 所以组合设计时可以相对精细; 也因为缩小尺寸的关系, 按照实体规格等比例缩小的积木作品,

做出来的比Lego精致许多。理论上来说, 我想要、我想像的东西都可以用nanoblock来建造。

另外, Lego有很多不同类型的组件, nanoblock只有几种基本类型组件, 更考验创作能力。当脑海里的想像变成可以触摸的实体东西, 那种满足感真的很大!

直到目前为止, 我设计超过250个nanoblock设计作品, 每一个我都很喜欢, 如果一定要我挑选最爱, 那就是苹果教主乔布斯(Steve Jobs)! 因为这是我第一次建造人物头部, 而且他是我的偶像!



Christopher用nanoblock基本组件建造马里奥。

创作前, 脑中先架构3D图

设计及建造nanoblock积木是一个有趣的过程, 它能轻易地将心目中喜爱的人物、动物、情境等, 以迷你尺寸的积木方式呈现。究竟nanoblock设计及建造是怎样的一个过程?

每个人的创作方式不同, 我的习惯是先看自己要创作什么? 比如我想要创作既有的人物米奇老鼠, 首先从谷歌搜索

各种角度的米奇老鼠图片, 这帮助我在脑海中建立相应的3D模型构图。然后, 用nanoblock建造, 并且凸出重要的细节, 让人一看就看得出其特征。

如果是建筑物积木, 准备工夫又不一样。首先, 搜索该建筑物各个角度的图片, 同时, 还要知道它的实际尺寸, 然后在画稿上画出积木的规模和比例, 以

及要换算多少nanoblock组件来建造。

大小积木我都喜欢创作, 因为各有各的挑战难度和魅力。小型积木创作, 必须在有限的组件, 做出最高的还原度, 大型积木则需要思考构造形状和细节部分, 因为它要用很多组件, 很耗时间, 有点像雕塑。



Christopher以“自己”为蓝本, 拼出来的公仔。

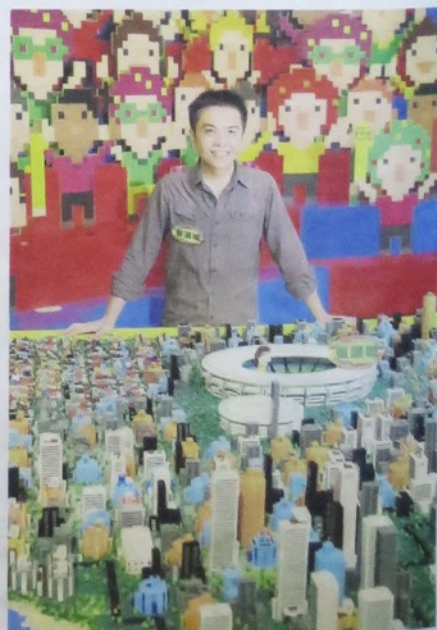
巧夺天工, 拼出里约热内卢

今年Chris受邀到香港以世界杯为主题, 用nanoblock做出巴西里约热内卢城市、十位世界级球星、大力神杯, 精细之余, 还真高难度。谁还敢说积木是小孩子的玩意儿?

今年年初, 香港某购物城邀请我参与有关世界杯主题的nanoblock展览, 希望能在展览中心建造一个3m×3m巴西里约热内卢微缩城市。如果我一人建造, 需要耗时一个月, 因此主办方邀请当地的nanoblock粉丝帮忙, 最后我们共用20位助手在五天内, 每天工作12小时, 用了25万个nanoblock组件才完成!

去香港之前, 我先设计好积木的建造, 然后把它分解几个部分, 比如微缩城市中不同造型建构的建筑、房屋等。然后, 把积木建造的步骤弄出来, 供香港的助手参考。

除了巴西里约热内卢微缩城市, 我们同时做了巴西五大名胜、大力神杯和1:12十位世界级球星模型(用30万个nanoblock组件)。这也是我第一次和别人合作做大型积木, 而且是在大马设计, 然后到香港建造, 一般情况都是我人在现场才做设计和建造。



Christopher设计的3m×3m巴西里约热内卢微缩城市。

富生活

主题

丰富生活
富足人生

富生活
周刊



有形似无形

公仔美食任意创作零设限

浴罢不能!

Christopher是全球首个全职nanoblock创作达人,他用基本nanoblock组件就能设计出许多独一无二的主题式、人物、情境、世界景点等积木作品。这些作品甚至被他国翻版,包括他以自己为蓝本的公仔积木。来看一看他的nanoblock“细界”,到底有多精彩!



← 小熊爱洗澡

得奖作“厕所”(左)和相关作品,这在浴缸里洗澡及尿尿的熊,构图有趣!



↑ 被外国翻版的作品

Christopher公仔积木如米奇老鼠、米妮老鼠等,在泰国便利店随时可见。

↓ → 积木配LED灯

Christopher曾经在“Apple Store”门市的作品中,在内部加入LED灯,积木在黑暗中也能发光。



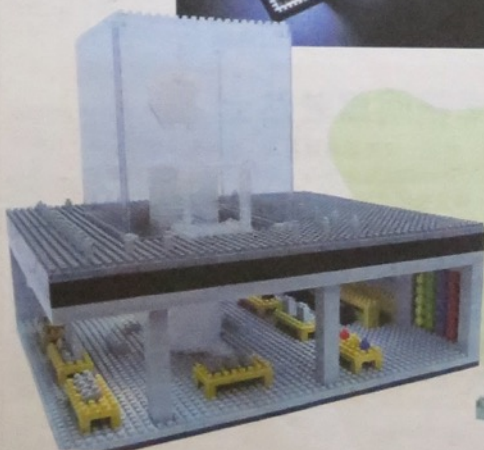
↑ 日本美食

寿司美食,栩栩如生,令人食指大动!



↑ ↓ 成名作

Steve Jobs是Christopher的偶像,因此他设计过几款偶像的积木,体型比手机小许多。



↑ ↑ 建筑积木快餐店、便利商店,也成了Christopher的创作题材。

琳 瑯 滿 目

2014年5月28日 星期三

Q25

新報
HONG KONG DAILY

• Steve Jobs的頭像栩栩如生，製作原理原來也跟雕塑相近。

nanoblock達人 砌出世界盛事

來自日本、推出短短六年便風靡全球的微積木(nanoblock)，將國際球壇盛事門智門技緊張氣氛帶來香港。原本從事IT的nanoblock達人，用最細只有4mm x 4mm的積木塊，砌出整個即將舉行世界盃的里約熱內盧。這款大熱起來的新玩意，到底有多少可能？

撰文：Janice



• 圓形的體育館是城中難處理的建築物，由方形的blocks搭成圓形，也需由Christopher親手搭建。



• 模型上可清楚看見里約熱內盧的城市建構，原來他們沿海的現代化建築屬於富裕區域，山上的小屋全是貧民窟，與香港剛好相反。

萬粒nanoblock砌成的里約熱內盧，單單砌出來就用了一星期，前後有二百位助手前來幫忙，大多是Christopher在香港的fans。「我們天天十點到十點，每人負責砌不同的部件，最後才合併出來。之前都好緊張砌不砌得成。」他說時臉上的神情雀躍，似乎難度對他而言才是有趣的原因。

心思細密 創意無限

砌的過程不過是後話，創作過程其實早就開始。其實沒有到過里約熱內盧的Christopher只是從網上圖片搜集資料。有時設計建築物，會從google map上參考形狀，然後再計算scale，再換算要多少

件组件。像這個微縮城市，他由計算每間屋用多少粒nanoblock，用甚麼顏色都用了20小時。「香港的blocks都不夠，我們要再從日本訂貨到香港呢。」雖說是玩意，但當中精密計算是到了令人肅然起敬的程度。不過這卻一點都難不到Christopher：「我自小喜歡engineering，細個時就會把家裏的東西拆開研究。之前砌過的Apple store門市入面就加了LED燈。」自言偶像是Steve Jobs，此所以有幾個作品都是他的頭像。「實際砌的過程也有多少像雕塑，先砌出大概的雛型，面部detail位才慢慢雕琢。」人物面部表情不易掌握，今次展覽就可看見他砌出的十位世界級球星。不過寫實主義似乎已滿足不了他，「下次我想砌一系列名人的Cariacatures，即是像那種把人物的特徵放大到好誇張的畫。」

東港城球迷「細」界
展期：即日起至7月13日
地址：東港城一樓展覽場



• 單是耶穌山就用了15,000粒Nanoblock，耶穌像則由Christopher一手砌成。



• Christopher來港前已設計好城市結構，單單計算每種大廈所需的Nanoblock都用了二十小時。

屢獲官方微積木創作比賽殊榮的國際著名馬來西亞籍華裔微積木創作達人Christopher Tan首度來港，以逾30萬粒nanoblock，創作出栩栩如生的十位最具影響力世界級球星1:12微積木手辦模型、世界足壇最高榮譽的大力神杯、3mx3m巴西里約熱內盧微縮城市及巴西五大名勝。一眾粉絲可以一睹神級nanoblock創作的風采。

向難度挑戰

Christopher帶著討人喜歡的馬來西亞口音，說起話來笑笑口，還有很深的酒窩。所以一身斯文打扮，還是掩蓋不住一股孩子氣。不過你以為砌積木只是小朋友玩意？看過他這次以世界盃為主題的作品，恐怕誰都不再苟同。展場上的里約熱內盧微縮城市精細之餘像真度極高，還加入了Christopher對巴西色彩繽紛的印象，整個城市的質感活現眼前。「喜歡砌nanoblock是因為它比較精細。lego的不同组件有好多，可能有過萬種，但nanoblock只有50種，都是很基本的形狀，但要迫你好creative。」迫他creative的還不只積木本身的限制，還有無法制止的翻版風潮。話說Christopher的成名經過由作品被翻版卻全球熱銷而起，其中還包括他最開初以自己的樣子為藍本的作品。雖然令人哭笑不得，但他的作品卻因而成名。「繼續有翻版都阻止不到啊，只有繼續創作新作品。」確實也不是每件作品都翻版得來，像用了約25



• Christopher還有不少經典，其中遊樂場中的摩天輪甚至可以轉動。

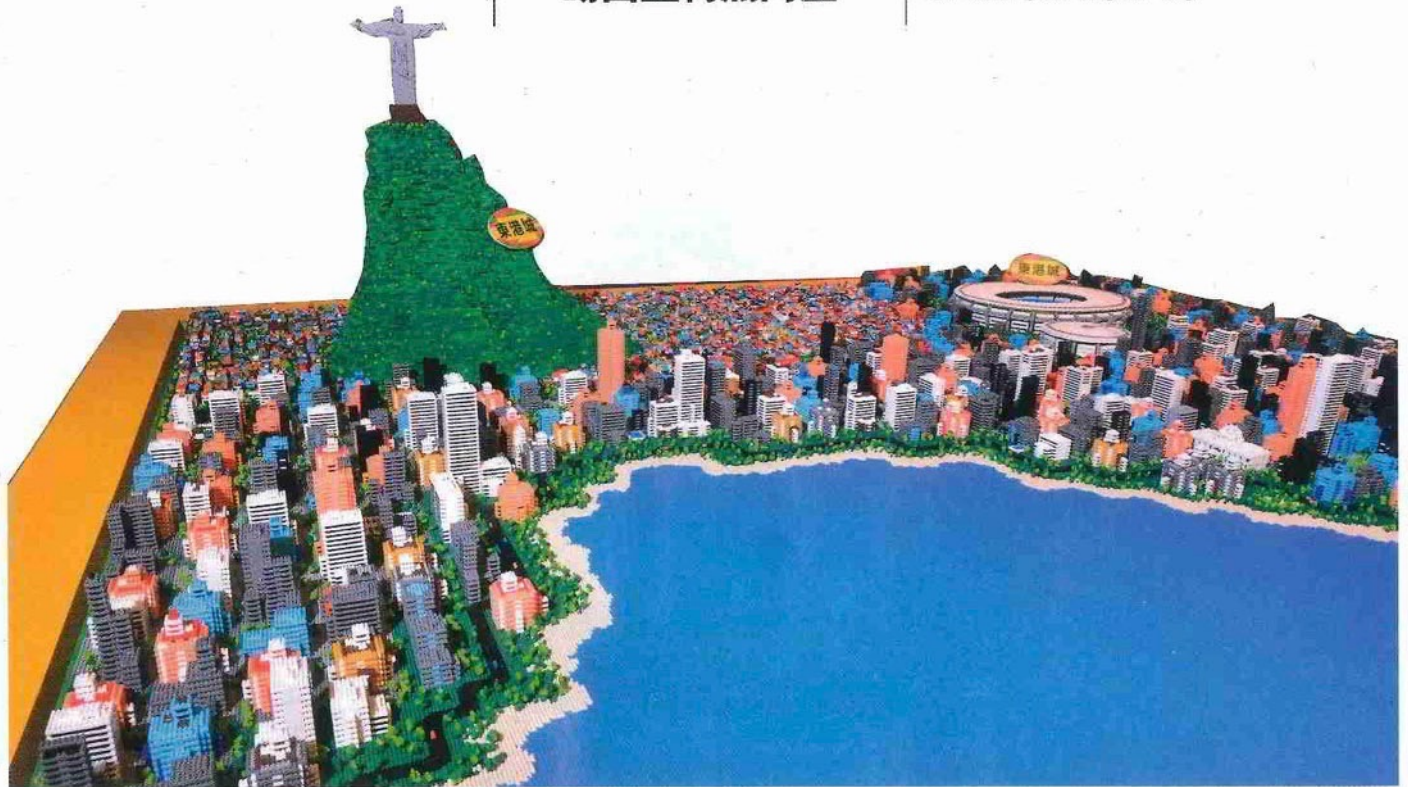
:hobby

01

Nanoblock 砌出里約熱內盧

★ ★ ★

text • Heison photo • Fung art • me.g.



說到積木相信大家一定會聯想起LEGO，但大家又有冇砌過一種比LEGO還要微細的積木 nanoblock 呢？它們雖體積小，但亦能夠組合成一個個栩栩如生的積木公仔，表情細緻豐富。這款被喻為全球最細小的積木，發源地是來自日本，推出短短6年時間便風靡全球接近逾20萬粉絲，是近年最受大人細路歡迎新興的人氣玩具之一，而且這股nanoblock熱潮最近還登陸在東港城，繼續越吹越旺。適逢4年一度世界盃舉行在即，將軍澳東港城請來這款全球最細小積木的官方國際代表，來自馬來西亞籍華裔的微積木創作達人 Christopher Tan，利用微積木創作以巴西世界盃為主題的展覽。展覽首先把巴西里約熱內盧帶到香港，並且以微積木創作出10位最具影響力的經典級球星，打造全港首個佔地3,000呎，以世界盃為題的「球迷『細』界」。Christopher更破天荒與多位香港 nanoblock 粉絲合作，攜手以逾30萬粒微積木創建出一個3米 x 3米的縮細版巴西里約熱內盧，讓各位觀眾身在香港，亦能夠感受巴西世界盃這個球壇盛事的熾熱氣氛！

★ Interview ★



前身從事程式設計員的Christopher，因2011年首次接觸微積木後便開始迷人，更決心放下所有，專心發展微積木事業，成為全職微積木創作達人。「在創作每件作品我都經過精確計算，積木的用色、接合位都經過反覆思考，才能設計出完美的作品。微積木最有趣之處就是它的可塑性，只要你能運用創意，便可造出變化多端的作品，而且我非常喜歡接受新挑戰。今次展覽更破天荒挑戰以30萬塊微積木打造一個3米 x 3米的巴西里約熱內盧的縮細版城市，還有砌出10位1:12的微積木世界盃球星模型。」Christopher訪問中透露砌人形公仔難度非常高，「只是思考頭髮與皮膚的用色、五官與面形就花費不少時間，加上每個都有屬於自己的神情形態。不過今次最具挑戰性作品必定是動用6千塊微積木創作的大力神盃，這個nano版的大力神盃是我創作生涯中最複雜及最具挑戰性的一件作品。」

★ Details ★



當中必定要介紹的就是蘋果創辦人喬布斯的頭像模型，更令Christopher於2011年首度獲得官方微積木創作比賽的殊榮。



用微積木創作出來的店舖街，造型上不但依照原來建築物，而內部的細節位也有同樣跟足。



Christopher與粉絲攜手合作，以30萬粒微積木創建的3米 x 3米縮少版的里約熱內盧，內部無論是球場、建築物，甚至是聖耶穌象都一一呈現出來，其細緻度絕對令人讚歎。

相信各球迷第一眼就能知道這些微積木球星吧！



活動：《東港城 nanoblock 球迷「細」界》
日期：即日起至7月13日
時間：10:00 - 22:00
地點：將軍澳東港城一樓展覽場
查詢：2628 7399



Nano Block 微積藝狂熱

近年逛街不時見到一個個栩栩如生的積木公仔，驟眼看上去有點像 Lego，不過體積比 Lego 積木小得多，四出打探下，原本這種微積木叫 Nano Block。Nano Block 是近年非常受 Kidult 界歡迎的新興玩具，在世界各地有多達 20 萬粉絲，而這股 Nano 熱潮最近在香港更越吹越旺。今期 Jetso 找到來自馬來西亞，全球首個全職微積藝創作達人 Christopher 為我們介紹一下。

記：Nano Block 最特別之處是？

C：Nano Block 最小的組件只有 4mm x 4mm，是全球最小的積木玩具，亦因如此，以 Nano Block 砌出來的積木公仔表情更仔細、象真度更高。

記：初初玩 Nano Block 需要什麼技巧？

C：玩 Nano Block 最著重想象力，建議初學者可以買一些 Nano Block 模型套裝，跟著設計圖砌出作品，把技巧練熟，體驗它的限制。當累積一定經驗後，就可以開始創作屬於自己的作品。



公眾將可在展覽中欣賞到多件由 Christopher Tan 設計的得意作品，當中更包括他的成名作 Steve Jobs、得獎作品 Amusement Park、Toilet 等。

記：作為全職 Nano Block 創作藝人，未來有什麼發展大計？

C：剛在馬來西亞完成首個 Nano Block 個人展覽，接著將會在香港將軍澳東港城以巴西足球世界盃為主題設計出一系列全新作品，會與香港 Nano Block 創作人合作，以逾 25 萬粒 Nano Block 砌出一個 3 米乘 3 米的微縮巴西。

記：在創作香港區展覽中，遇到最大的困難是？

C：今次展覽以世界盃做主題，其中一個系列叫「世界足球「微」星系列」，我將以 Nano Block 砌出 10 位最具影響力世界球王的 1:12 迷你手辦模型。由於每人的膚色、髮型、神態也不同，要以 Nano Block 把他們的神緒表現出來是一件相當高難度的事。



東港城
EAST POINT CITY

東港城 5 月份將在 facebook 上舉行「最佳第 11 人選舉」。Christopher 將挑戰難度，把由公眾投選出的第 11 位微積夢幻球員以微積木逐一砌出。



Christopher
Tan

屢獲官方 nanoblock award 殊榮的國際著名馬來西亞籍華裔微積木創作達人

《東港城球迷「細」界》

地點：將軍澳東港城一樓展覽廳

日期：5 月 24 日至 7 月 13 日

時間：早上 10 時至晚上 10 時

查詢電話：2628 7399

Facebook：

www.facebook.com/EastPointCity



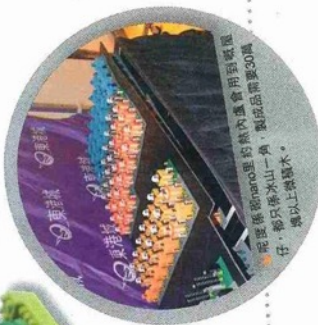
贏得日本官方比賽的nanoblock
高手Christopher Tan同一班員工，
日夜趕工用過二十五萬塊積木將
成個巴西里約熱內盧砌出來，完成品
有3米乘3米咁大，未能好似要加BIBI
除足球場，都可一睹名勝風采。
睇足里約熱內盧，場內仲有積木版
巴西5大名勝圖10/12：12 nanoblock世
盃球星，綠綠C朗頭個圓尖滿又或
美斯經大鼻，要nanoblock情傾至
砌出球星特點，燕微的創作力。



▲除咗足球主題，會場仲有50件Christopher嘅人氣作品，呢個摩天輪真係識轉嘅。



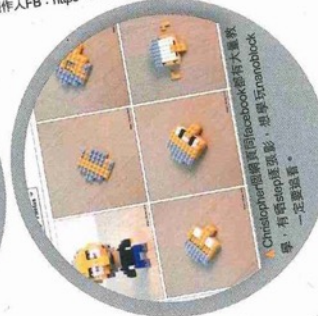
除泥件起裝中歐部新
陸聖保羅主教堂、伊瓜
場、里約堪景仲有聖保羅
兩博物館、包山、聖保羅
及水壩統橋。



角一一山山水水只將以上木



工程規模要有大量錢工路，
酒說明，規劃完善先可完成咁大型
工程。



Christopher想網頁同facebook都有，有晒step張影，想學玩nanoblock

Nanoblock球迷「細」界
日期：2014年5月24日至7月13日
時間：早上10時至晚上10時
地點：將軍澳市中心東港城
查詢：2628 7399

▲ Nanoblock 萬三 Christopher Tan 千上
「自認像」，四萬笑容真係
同佢本人類似。

達人 Q&A

今次呢個3,000呎大型展覽係由2011年nanoblock日

F = FACE

問：Nanoblock固其他膠種木比較有咩獨特魅力？

C: Nanoblock比較細粒，可以砌出更精細作品。

另外唔似 EGO 有咁多唔同類型零件，積木

類刑其實得幾種，更basic更老創作人嘅心思。

F：今次兩球星又砌巨型城市縮景，兩種唔同類型嘅作品有乜創作要點？

C：砌球星方面，始終積木有

出嚟，咁我哋就要取捨，專攻一、兩個特點，好似美斯就將重點放在咗大鼻度。今次咁三型嘅作品係一個大挑戰，好多謝咁多人幫手，大型作品要喺短期嘅途中不斷修改，我和好期待今次嘅製成品。

F：噏緊仲想挑戰咩嘢作品？

C：砌完球星之後想繼續砌人，Nanoblock比較適合砌大頭cute版公仔，砌Bruce Lee或者其他人應該幾有趣。①

081
FACE
Face Magazine

081
FACE
Face Magazine



PROFIL RINGKAS

Nama: Christopher Tan
Tarikh lahir: 19 Julai 1975
Umur: 39
Asal: Klang, Selangor
Hobi: Fotografi



Animasi kegemaran: Semua animasi terbitan Studio Pixar
Laman sesawang: <http://www.inanoblock.com>, <http://fb.inanoblock.com> (Facebook), <http://instagram.com/christan> (Instagram), <http://twitter.com/chrisnanoblock> (Twitter) & <http://chrisnanoblock.tumblr.com> (Tumblr)

INTERVU X-KLUSIF: CHRISTOPHER TAN

BERFIKIR DI LUAR BLOK

Bayangkan sesuatu kemudian ciptanya dalam skala kecil! Bakat dimiliki Christopher Tan/ CHRIS sebagai Nanoblock Brick Artist antarabangsa ternyata tak asing di kalangan komuniti peminat Nanoblock seantero dunia. Bersama rekaan² Nanoblock yang unik, comel serta memikat, nama CHRIS kini semakin melonjak setelah hasil ciptaannya dipamerkan buat tatapan umum di Malaysia & juga Hong Kong. Semak temu bual x-klusif ni sekarang & cipta Nanoblock korang sendiri!

Sekarang tengah sibuk bikin apa & berapa lama nak siapkan sebuah rekaan?

Saya baru je sempurnakan permintaan dari Hong Kong untuk hasilkan Nanoblock ikut tema berkaitan Piala Dunia. Sebenarnya tempoh untuk siapkan sebuah rekaan bergantung pada saiz serta komplikasinya. Bagi projek seni bina bangunan, ia cuma ambil beberapa jam je untuk siapkan **pasal** bentuknya bersegi **tapi** untuk arca pula contohnya *bust* Steve Jobs (1,600 blok) ambil masa 4 hari sebab bentuknya berkeluk.



Memبina Nanoblock bukan sekadar permainan **tapi** kita boleh guna sebagai bahan mentah untuk cipta sesuatu seni!



Hai, boleh CHRIS perkenalkan diri buat pembaca semua? Apakah produk pertama Nanoblock anda & macam mana dapat?

Nama saya Christopher Tan/CHRIS. Saya seorang Jurutera & arkitek dalam latihan hasilkan perisian² telefon pintar. Selain reka Nanoblock, saya juga minat fotografi. Nanoblock pertama saya merupakan model beruang panda yang dihadiahkan pada saya.



Hingga kini berapa banyak rekaan tercipta & mana 1 feveret?

Setakat ni saya dah berjaya hasilkan lebih 200 rekaan tersendiri. Ciptaan feveret saya buat masa sekarang ni dah tentu kedai Apple bersama bust patung Steve Jobs.



Sejak bila mula hasilkan rekaan² ubah suai Nanoblock sehingga terkenal sebagai Nanoblock Brick Artist antarabangsa?

Saya mula bergiat dalam Nanoblock sejak tahun 2011 setelah syarikat Kawada mula pasarkan produk permainannya ke luar Jepun. Sebenarnya sejak kecil lagi saya dah terdedah pada permainan² blok lain namun berhenti apabila usia meningkat. Tapi kali pertama lihat saiznya yang kecil, hati saya terus terpesona pada Nanoblock. Sejak tu saya mula beli sedikit demi sedikit sehingga hasilkan rekaan² sentuhan tersendiri.

Betul ke pada masa sama CHRIS turut adakan pameran di Hong Kong & adakah anda ingin mulakan rangkaian siri pameran di serata dunia?

Ya, betul. Saya terpaksa berangkat ke Hong Kong seminggu awal untuk buat persediaan pameran yang berlangsung dari pertengahan Mei sehingga lewat Jun di pusat beli-belah East Point City. Buat masa ni saya sedang dalam perbincangan untuk adakan pameran di US, Australia & juga Singapura.

Kat mana semua hasil kerja dicipta? Apakah tema utama & macam mana dapat inspirasi untuk karya seterusnya?

Semua hasil rekaan saya dicipta kat rumah/ofis. Biasanya saya sukakan suasana tenang & senyap ketika bekerja. Saya dapat sumber inspirasi dari mana² je & antara tema utama jadi pilihan ialah budaya popular, seni pelik & seni bina bangunan. Kool pasal Nanoblock ialah asalkan korang dapat bayangkan, korang mampu cipta apa² je.



Boleh terangkan tentang pameran 'Christopher Tan Nanoblock Exhibition' berlangsung dari 5 hingga 31 Mei 2014 di Kinokuniya, Kuala Lumpur?

Saya bekerjasama dengan pengedar permainan Nanoblock tempatan bersama pihak Kinokuniya untuk adakan pameran ni yang paparkan sebahagian koleksi hasil ciptaan saya. Permainan Nanoblock kini sedang hangat di luar negara & kami ingin perkenalkan di kalangan rakyat Malaysia.



Apa perkara penting perlu diterapkan buat sesuatu rekaan? Apakah tema utama anda & macam mana CHRIS kecilkan skala untuk mulakan projek?

Kalau nampak bagus dah cukup baik bagi saya pasal korang takkan dapat agak bentuk tepat dalam binaan blok. Buat projek seni bina, saya akan dapatkan informasi, gambar atau pelan sesebuah bangunan kemudian buat kiraan tepat setiap sudut untuk kecilkan skalanya. Bagi proses hasilkan bust pula saya akan lihat segenap perspektif gambar subjek lepas tu mula bina dari dalam keluar. Proses terbalik ketika mencipta arca.

Apakah rekaan paling banyak guna blok² kecil Nanoblock untuk disiapkan sepenuhnya?

Ciptaan saya paling banyak guna blok² Nanoblock dah tentu Stormtrooper dengan jumlah 2,200 ada dipamerkan kat Kinokuniya KL.



Link: <http://hitz.fm/Features/Trendings/Trending-on-hitz/Malaysia-Nanoblock-Brick-Artist-Christopher-Tan>



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Check Out the Creations of Malaysia's Award-Winning Nanoblock Brick Artist, Christopher Tan!

Mar 07, 2016

Perhaps some of you may not be familiar with the term nanoblock. They look like mini Lego bricks, but are much smaller. Just to illustrate how small they are:



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THE LATEST



Trending on hitz
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It isn't a bad habit



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2 Main Reasons Why Your Puppy Tilts its Head When They're Around You



6 Lipstick Designs That are Out of This World



Check Out the Creations of Malaysia's Award-Winning Nanoblock Brick Artist, Christopher Tan!

Online Media Appearances

- **Hong Kong Economic Times**
<http://paper.hket.com/article/1469759/nanoblock達人%20巧手砌出「微」生意>
- **Dejiki.com**
<http://dejiki.com/2015/11/nanoblock-art-by-christopher-tan/>
- **Cult Of Mac**
<http://www.cultofmac.com/317475/it-took-800-nanoblocks-to-build-this-insanely-accurate-apple-watch-replica/>
- **MacRumors**
<http://www.macrumors.com/2015/03/30/apple-watch-recreated-in-nanoblock/>
- **Gizmodo Japan**
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