

# Taiwan News

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weekend

台灣英文新聞 TAIWAN NEWS



COURTESY OF YANG MAO-LIN

Yang Mao-lin's robot artworks are on display at the Lin & Keng Gallery.

## Controversial art exhibit gives superheroes raunchy new look

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even though those at Marvel Comics might be appalled should they discover that the world's most famous superhero has been depicted in such uncompromising positions.

"I don't think anyone will complain to the companies who own the rights to the characters. After all, it's art and I'm not reproducing entire comic books for sale to children," continues Yang as the two women make a quick exit clutching their cameras.

"I'm having a bit of fun really. I mean, you saw the news recently when the Taichi master hung weights from his genitalia. So that's what I've depicted Mazinge 28 and a couple of other robotic characters doing. It's a masculine thing to want to prove you've got big balls so why not have a superhero robot suspending the planet Earth from his crotch proving he's the strongest and most masculine of all."

As you can probably imagine Yang's work isn't without its criticism. Plenty of people have been shocked by Yang's juxtapositions of females exposing their genitalia and the surreal. Yang isn't put off by such criticisms, however. As he is a firm believer in that the more outrage

you create, the more people sit up and pay attention.

"I know it may sound a bit perverse, but when people are shocked by my works and simply walk away, or drag their children away as is often the case, I get a bit of a kick out of it. After all, I've turned their world and the perceptions they have of certain things upside down," states the artist.

"I've found a medium in which expression isn't commonplace and one that still shocks — even today, when sex and violence are commonplace on TV and at the cinema. If Superman was seen in a sex scene on the big screen, it would be considered cool, but because I've put him in this situation independently of the mass media, people find it shocking. I'm obviously doing my job of bringing people face-to-face with images that go against the norm."

As for what shocking ideas Yang has for future projects. Well, he'd be the first to admit that "Baby, You're Amazing" is going to be a hard act to beat.

Yang Mao-lin's "Baby, You're Amazing: Inviting The Immortals II" is on display at the Lin & Keng Gallery (1F, 11, Lane 252, Tunhua South Road, Section 1) until Saturday, March 31. Call (02) 2750-8811 for further details.