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## C8 Life

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008 SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

### ARTS

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#### Navinscope: Dim Sum Rider Tang Contemporary Art Ends tomorrow

Welcome to the world of Navin Rawanchaikul, brought to you in full-colour Navinscope. It's apt that the artist employs a cinema-style term in the title of his first solo project in Hong Kong, as the new works in this show are parodies of Hong Kong action-movie posters.

Villains and heroes pose and pout, and titles leap out in garish 3D lettering. Yet the stars of these imaginary productions are not from the screen but from the city's art world.

In *Dim Sum Rider* (detail right), the highlight among the Hong Kong paintings, there's an enormous cast of the city's great and good.

Navin also appears in his own works in many guises. It could all be terribly narcissistic, but it's not; the Thai artist of Hindu-Punjabi descent is a cultural magpie with a wild sense of humour, appropriating iconography from all over as he probes his own mixed identity and explores our cultural landscape.

The Hong Kong pieces arguably serve as an entrée for the other works in the show, in most of which

the artist casts himself as a Mao figure, chairman of the "Navin Party" complete with a "Little Red Book" of Navin quotations.

There's even a Bollywood-style film (starring Navin, naturally), a madcap musical melodrama condensed into 11 frantic minutes.

It's an exhilarating show on every level, and might detain viewers for some time as they unravel the dense web of cultural references.

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**Padraic Convery**

**Basement, Hollywood Centre,  
233 Hollywood Rd, Sheung Wan  
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