

Young artist wins global stamp-design contest

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Zoe Mak

Enthusiastic Hongkonger Adrian Lau Tsun-yin, seven, has become the first Chinese and the youngest winner of the grand prize in the 2008 International Postage Stamp Design Contest run by Korea Post.

Adrian's winning drawing on the theme "The mailbox of the future" won him a certificate of merit and 2,000,000 won (HK\$17,000) this week. His work will be issued as a stamp next year in South Korea.

Yesterday, Adrian said of his win: "My mother told me about it and I was very happy, I screamed."

His painting features buildings in different shapes and a postman sitting inside what appears to be a flying

octopus. Adrian explained it was not an octopus, but a jellyfish for post delivery in the future.

"I went to Ocean Park and I saw the jellyfishes, I really liked them," he said. Asked how much he loved to draw, on a scale from one to 10, he said: "Ten!"

Amy Lau Lam Kit-yi, Adrian's mother, said the family was overjoyed with his win and attributed it to his hard work. "I don't know if he's really got talent or not, but he worked very hard," she said.

Adrian is not the only family member with artistic talent - his brother Angus Lau Tsun-ming, 11, was the winner of last year's 15th International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment.



Adrian Lau won with his vision of a postal system involving jellyfish.

Mrs Lau said Adrian was now preparing to submit his work for next year's environment contest.

Mrs Lau is proud of her two sons and said their teacher had significantly contributed to their success.

Art teacher Henry Lau Hoo-cheong said the two brothers definitely had talent, and were also enthusiastic and self-motivated.

"Adrian was very motivated and encouraged by his elder brother getting such a big award last year, and then he worked very hard to improve himself," Mr Lau said, adding they were both "very serious".

The contest category in which Adrian won - youth under 17 years - attracted 7,000 entries from 26 countries.