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Work of Art Work from the Heart

For many travellers, airline amenity kits treated to business class passengers may be consumables designed to make a plane journey more convenient. But at Hong Kong Airlines, there is more than meets the eye. Its Business Class amenity kit is practically a contemporary art as well as a perfect souvenir designed by British designer Nicola Barguss, who has instilled her passion for Hong Kong in the kit.

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Inspiration from Travelling

Born in London, Nicola is passionate about art and travel, and she developed a unique way to mix her love for travel in her art. “When I travel, I make a point of absorbing as much as I can of the surrounding environment so that I can incorporate those images and experiences into my designs.” Nicola says.

The founder of Ricebowl Republic, an online card and gift specialty store, Nicola recently collaborated with Hong Kong Airlines and Clip, in-flight experience specialists to develop a series of amenity kits for Hong Kong Airlines’ Business Class passengers. There are four designs: the Hong Kong skyline, rickshaw, tram, and the Star Ferry. “I love Asia and I feel sad when I see so many Asian and Hong Kong icons and traditions disappearing. I want people to remember the heritage of Hong Kong and Asia through my designs,” she says. “We hope these images, along with the Bauhinia flower logo of Hong Kong Airlines, will connect passengers with the city’s history and heritage.”

Under the subtle cover of each kit, there is one of the aforementioned Hong Kong icons, with a brightly coloured inner lining reflecting the vivacity and pleasant surprises that Hong Kong offers to travellers and locals. “The bright colours reflect the excitement and modern vibe of the city, and along with the wonderful heritage, make Hong Kong a truly amazing experience,” Nicola explains. The set of four amenity kits will be rolled out one after another in 2017. As well as bringing new designs to frequent flyers, Nicola also hopes that the kits will encourage passengers to appreciate and understand the importance of preserving the wonderful heritage of Hong Kong.

Rooted in Hong Kong

Nicola's love for Hong Kong grew from the first time she visited the city during a backpacking trip to Asia. Hong Kong was her first stop and it was a love at first sight. She loved the people and the culture and energy of the city. She and her husband later moved to Hong Kong. They have now been here for almost 25 years. Asked whether she can imagine moving back to London, she answered without hesitation, "I'm home already. It's hard to explain, but I know Hong Kong is where I'm meant to be. When I leave, even to return to the UK, I feel like I'm a tourist!"

New Business Class amenity kit 全新商務艙旅行護理套裝

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