



In the drawing, *Same Sex Marriage*, the rhythms, the tensions and their resolution emerge from these two chinese phrases:

二人同性或異性都可締結婚盟

This statement is taken from the Dutch Civil Code Book 1 Article 30(1):

Een huwelijk kan worden aangegaan door twee personen van verschillend of van gelijk geslacht.

(A marriage can be contracted by two people of different or the same sex.)

On 1 April, 2001, the Netherlands became the first country to allow and perform same-sex marriage.

執子之手 與子偕老

(I grasped your hand, together with you I was to grow old.)

This phrase comes from Ji Gu's 擊鼓, in *Odes of Bei 邶風*, (*Book of Odes 詩經*, translated by the Swedish sinologist Bernhard Karlgren)

Article 37 of Hong Kong's Basic Law states:

"The freedom of marriage of Hong Kong residents and their right to raise a family freely shall be protected by law", so this Article is already capable of embracing and accepting same-sex marriage.

However, section 40 in the Marriage Ordinance (Cap 181) states that marriage "implies a formal ceremony recognized by law as involving the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others".

Homosexual couples are thus segregated and not accepted in the same institution. How can we make our Basic Law live up to its promise to embrace dignity and personal autonomy?

I wish there may be same-sex marriage in Hong Kong as I do believe homosexuals and heterosexuals are no different in terms of their affection and love for their lovers.