

CHINESE
WHISKERS

香港

HONG KONG SHOP CATS

舖頭
貓





男女衣包
每包 5 元

男女衣包
每包 8 元

男女衣包
每包 13 元

拜山寶燭
每份 20 元

拜山寶燭
每份 30 元

拜山寶燭
每份 45 元

品名:
數量: 1140 盒
體積: 82.3X80X34CM

LABOUR, LUCK & LOVE

by Catharine Nicol

Fluffy or sleek, lithe or lazy, the cat has kept us humans enraptured for centuries. Frequently aloof, fiercely independent and mysteriously enigmatic, cats are the yin to dogs' yang, and how we love them for it. The feline cold shoulder makes their sudden playful, affectionate and clingy moments that much more delightful. You can never take a cat's behaviour for granted, and it is this unpredictability that endears them to us.

HISTORY

It has taken many centuries to 'tame' the cat, or perhaps to 'train' the human to be a worthy owner. Earliest evidence suggests humans and cats cohabited as far back as 9,500BC. It is generally believed, however, that it was when humans put a pause on their nomadic lifestyles, and began storing food and grain, which attracted rodents, that the beautiful and symbiotic relationship between cat and human took off.

Perhaps the ancient Egyptians were the most spellbound. Not only did they prize cats for their natural instincts as mousers, they elevated the animal to sacred status and worshipped them in the name of Bastet, defender of the pharaoh and goddess of the moon.

While ancient Egyptian cats protected food stores with their pouncing pest control, in return any human accused of killing a cat faced the death penalty. And when cats did turn up their furry claws, hopefully of natural causes, they were often mummified before being buried.

As explorers discovered the world, cats were mapping new countries right beside them. The Ancient Egyptians took cats aboard their boats sailing The Nile, to catch birds as well as rodents, and this popular practice was widely adopted in numerous cultures, introducing the feline to the big, wide world.

招福氣·好幫手 深得寵愛的貓咪

長毛或短毛，敏捷或慵懶，貓咪幾百年來一直俘虜人心。牠們愛獨處，冷傲孤高，神秘莫測。貓與狗，一陰一陽，教人愛如珍寶。貓貓若一反常態，忽而熱情親近時，更是讓人驚喜。貓貓行為出其不意，往往超乎想像，時刻牽繫每個貓奴的心。

貓之歷史

經歷萬年，人類終於「馴服」了貓咪，或者，是貓咪終於成功訓練出牠們的「貓奴」。原來人類開始馴養貓隻的紀錄，竟然可追溯至公元前9500年。相信是由於游牧民族短暫定居時，需要儲存糧食，吸引老鼠侵入，自此，天生愛捕鼠的貓兒們，便進入了人類生活，奠定了這段美麗的共生關係。加上貓咪敏捷的反應，四腳總能安全著地的好身手，使人類難逃貓咪的迷人魔法。大概對貓咪中毒最深的，就是古埃及人了，他們賞識貓咪的捕鼠本能，甚至把貓咪升上神台，奉為宗教崇拜的對象，尊稱為巴斯特，是法老的守護神及月亮女神。古埃及貓咪看守糧食，撲滅害蟲，功高望重，殺貓者必須被判處死刑。自然離世的貓咪則會做成木乃伊安葬。

隨著探索者開拓各地，貓咪的世界版圖日益擴大。船上必須養貓治鼠，傳說哥倫布也把貓咪們帶上他的五月花號，遠征新大陸。在世界各地，為了馴養貓咪作家中寵物，人類設計了數項發明，你又知道嗎？貓砂、罐頭貓糧和絕育方法等都是重大發明。

招財貓

有種貓咪卻不需要貓砂、貓糧和絕育。來自日本文化的招財貓，一手高舉至頭頂，作出向人招徠的手勢。在亞洲是常見的吉祥擺設，細心看看，可見香港很多鋪頭都有招財貓。最早的招財貓出現在1852年，相信是按貓咪洗面的姿態陶製，據說有招客或求雨的作用。在日本，招財貓的手掌朝下；而西方的招財貓手掌朝上，被改稱為「揮手貓 (waving cat)」。傳說中，商家的招財貓舉左可招來客人，舉右手象徵招財和幸福到來，不同地域有不同說法。而貓身顏色亦非常講究，白色代表招福，金色代表財運亨通，黑色代表避邪消災，粉紅色代表戀愛順利等等。

And wherever they were in the world, it took a few surprising inventions before humans were ready to welcome cats as permanent family members into their homes. Can you guess? Kitty litter, neutering and canned cat food were key.

MANEKI-NEKO, THE LUCKY CAT

Needing neither kitty litter, neutering nor cat food, Japan's lucky cat *maneki-neko*, with left or right paw beckoning, is a firm fixture around Asia. Keep an eye out and you'll see it in many of Hong Kong's shops.

Earliest records mention it in 1852 and apparently some believed the gesture depicted a cat washing its face, which according to various beliefs means either a visitor will arrive, or it will rain, both of which are lucky.

In Japan the beckoning gesture is made with the paw facing down, while in the west, a beckoning hand faces up resulting in their renaming it the 'waving cat'.

Depending where you are in the world, the beckoning left paw brings customers, the right paw brings luck and wealth, or confusingly vice versa. The colour of the cats is said to be significant too. White brings happiness, black banishes evil spirits, gold attracts fortune and red enhances relationships.

HONG KONG'S SHOP CATS

The cats in this book may not be famous, however they are believed to be lucky by their owners. They are each an essential part of the life, business and family of the shops in which they live and hunt. While some were sought out by the shop owners for their hunting skills, other cats made the decision to adopt a shop themselves, just turning up and making it their home.

可愛貓咪店長，本土小店情懷

這本攝影集所收錄的，並不是名種貓，但相信牠們都是活得幸福自在的一群，因為牠們都有主人愛錫。牠們起居生活就在舖內，各自都在主人的生命、工作以及家庭生活中，穩佔重要席位。牠們不時穿插在舖內追逐，但搜獵的本能早已因為養尊處優的生活而日漸被消磨。有些貓咪其實是不請自來的，而且很順理成章地把舖頭當成是自己的家。本書所收錄的貓，多數來自上環、西營盤一帶的老舖。這些舊區老舖的店主都有養貓的習慣，幾乎家家戶戶都有。因為只要談及貓，就會聯想到「捉老鼠」，這觀念數十年來從沒變改。時至今日，店主們仍然相信貓可以驅走老鼠，儘管牠們已遺忘了搜獵的本能，只需要安守於店中便已足夠。

店主們都很疼錫牠們，與牠們朝夕作伴。有些貓咪熱情活潑，逗得客人們樂開懷，為舖頭添上歡樂氣氛。牠們與客人之間建立了微妙的聯繫，帶動舖頭生意增長。「招財貓」的美譽，似乎並非浪得虛名。

下次路經這些老舖，不妨留意有否貓咪出沒。牠們時而在門前「站崗」，時而棲息在堆積如山的紙箱或是米袋之中，或是伏在算盤旁邊。牠們也喜歡匿藏於一堆堆的紙紮品之中，或是躲在一堆堆生曬魚乾後面，從罅隙之中偷偷探視著四周，有時又會忽然撲出來打招呼。貓咪這一切一切趣怪的舉動，也收錄在本書之中。

In certain areas, like Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun, where many of the cats in this book live, you'll find almost every local shop has a cat. Owners believe the mere smell of cat heralds danger to mice, so even if the, ahem, less fit among them have lost their hunting instincts, just being in residence is enough.

The shop owners, without fail, have grown to love their feline companions. Not only for the company they offer day in, day out, but also for their business skills. The cats, especially the playful ones, bring customers into the shop by enlivening the atmosphere and providing a friendly welcome. They create an extra bond with the customers and can even exert some of their mysterious influence in boosting sales. It seems the cats' lucky reputation is more than just a legend.

So next time you walk past a shop that has a cat standing sentry at the entrance, perched up on a pile of boxes or rice sacks, sprawled beside the abacus, hidden amongst paper offerings or peering out from between piles of dried fish, stop to say hello. It just might be one of the ones featured in this book...







Suffice it to say she does her best work from inside the box

A man and his cat
in sympathy, yet minding
their own business



An easy silence
Years of practice and knowing
I know him by heart



DAU DING

The Gracious Host

重量級主持

Walk into Dau Ding's shop and you'll be greeted by the tortoiseshell feline, whose name means Little Bean, perched pride of place on the counter. Dau Ding was an alley cat in North Point when his owners rescued him. He strolls around his neighbourhood fiefdom in the mornings, letting the other cats know who is boss. But he is always quick to return to the shop to keep the expensive dried seafood safe from mice. He's an excellent mouser, and he loves to show off his catch, but if he had the choice canned cat food is really his favourite. He has made firm friends with many customers who, because of Dau Ding, remain loyal to the shop.

踏進豆丁駐守的小店，這隻玳瑁色的貓咪會像哨兵一樣在門前站崗，跟客人打招呼。豆丁是隻流浪貓，踴躍在北角一帶，店主見到便好心收養了牠。每朝早上，豆丁也會在鄰近視察一番，該範圍牠視之為領域，要向其他貓咪宣示「地域」主權。然後，牠會回到崗位「巡查」，確保舖內貴價的參茸海味沒有鼠輩能動其分毫。豆丁最愛吃罐頭貓糧，牠是一流的捕鼠高手，而且還喜歡炫耀牠的戰利品。豆丁很受客人歡迎，熟客常常來光顧也是因為想探望一下這乖巧的小貓咪。





阿大

AH DAI

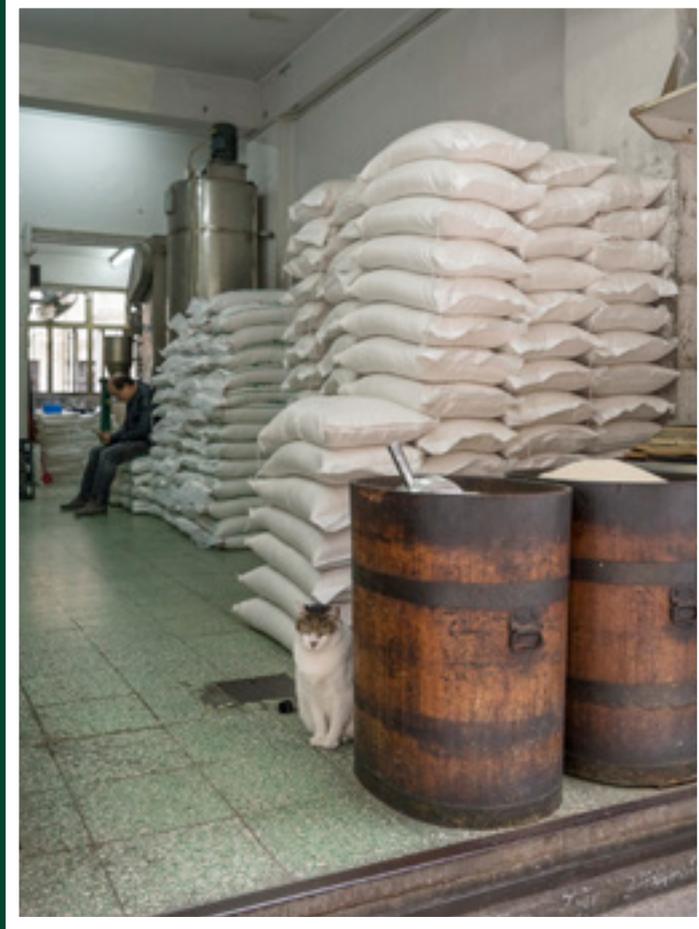
The Retired Mouser

退役捕鼠員

Ah Dai (Number One) was bought by his rice shop owner eight years ago to catch mice, and for two years he lived up to his job description. However, the third year he went on strike and now the mice go left and he goes right. He greets his owner every morning by asking for dried cat food, always thinking of his stomach. He parades his street for a little promenade after breakfast, a good excuse to get snacks from the neighbours, before snoozing on a comfy box at the shop next door. He returns to his rice shop in the evening before it closes, for his supper. No surprise that he has become rather rotund. But he has a big heart too, recently sitting with his owner when he was sick, fostering a deep mutual appreciation.

阿大是米舖店主八年前開始養來防鼠的。起初兩年，牠的確表現得恰如其分，可是到了第三個年頭，開始有點事與願違了。老鼠在東邊出沒，阿大偏偏閃到西邊去了。每朝早上，阿大也會向主人撒嬌，為的當然就是貓罐頭。會撒嬌的貓兒最好命，阿大早餐後會四處踱步，為的就是向鄰居們討零食。店主特意為牠在隔壁舖放置了一個舒適的箱子，吃飽了，就讓牠在那裡打個盹。傍晚嗅到晚餐的香氣，在舖頭關門之前牠就會自動自覺乖乖回來。萬大事以果腹為重，就是阿大每天的「吃貨」生活，難怪牠身形越來越圓嘟嘟了。阿大很細心，店主抱恙時，牠會乖乖坐著陪伴左右。八年歲月，慢慢建立彼此相依的深厚關係。

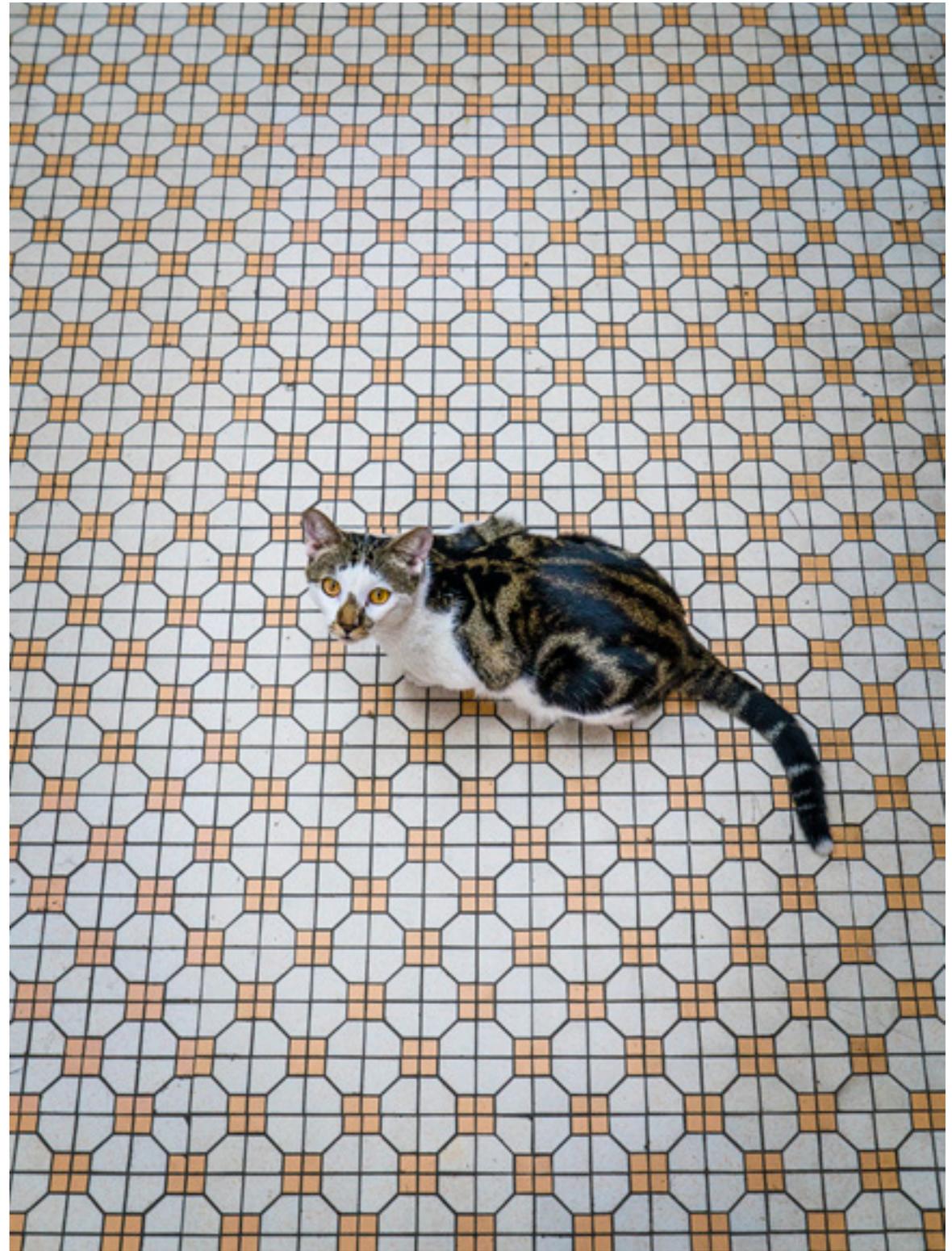




阿天



Caught in a pattern
Her stillness a camouflage
that's unsuccessful



People assume
He's bringing in the business when
I do all the work



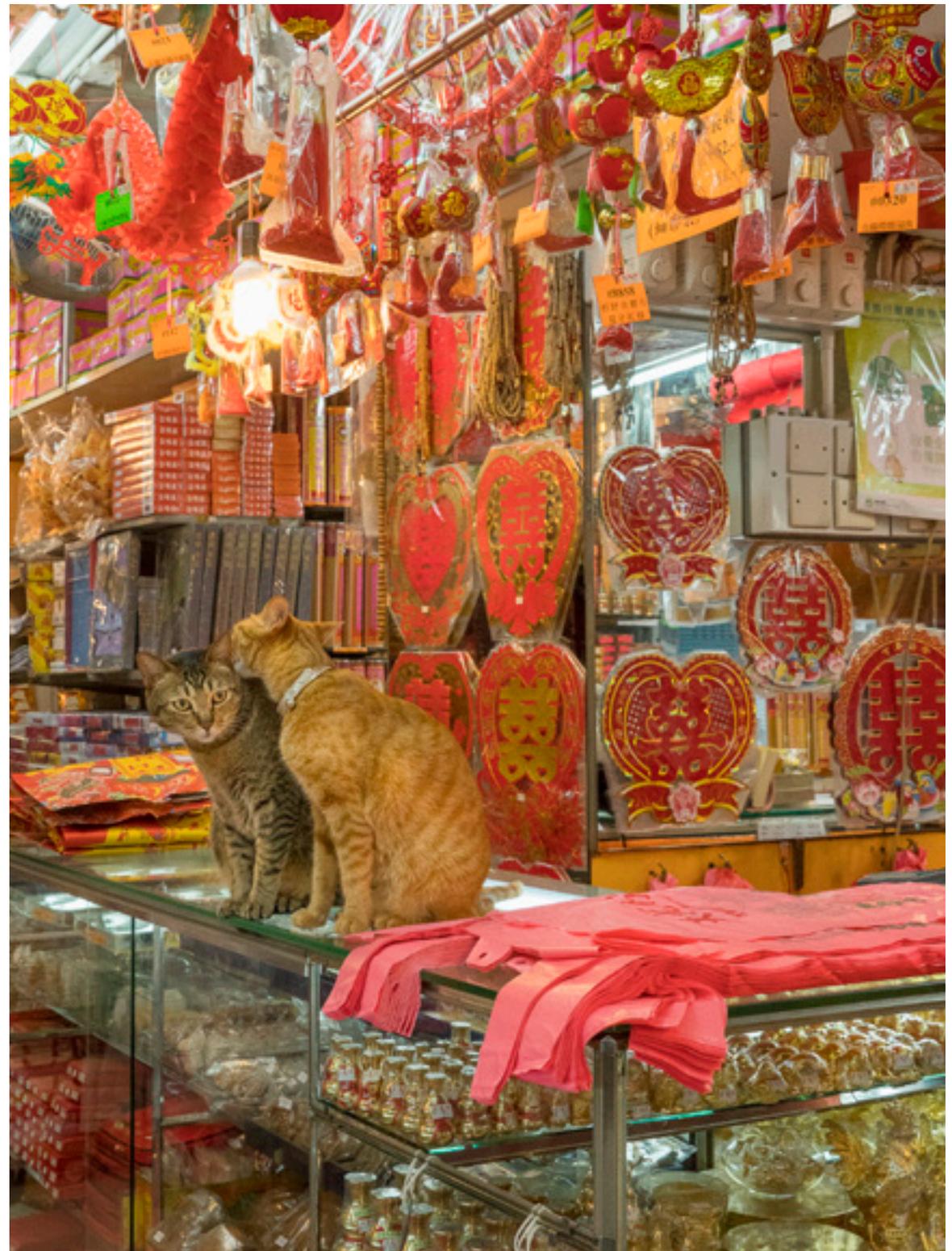
Two eyes good, four eyes
better; intents and purposes...
cover all bases



'Cleaning in progress'
a misnomer when there's little
progress in cleaning



Into his ear
she whispers sweet nothings
Marry me



Half you see him
half you don't; his incognito
foiled by indecision



One part cement, two
parts sand, three parts gravel, add water
Trust me

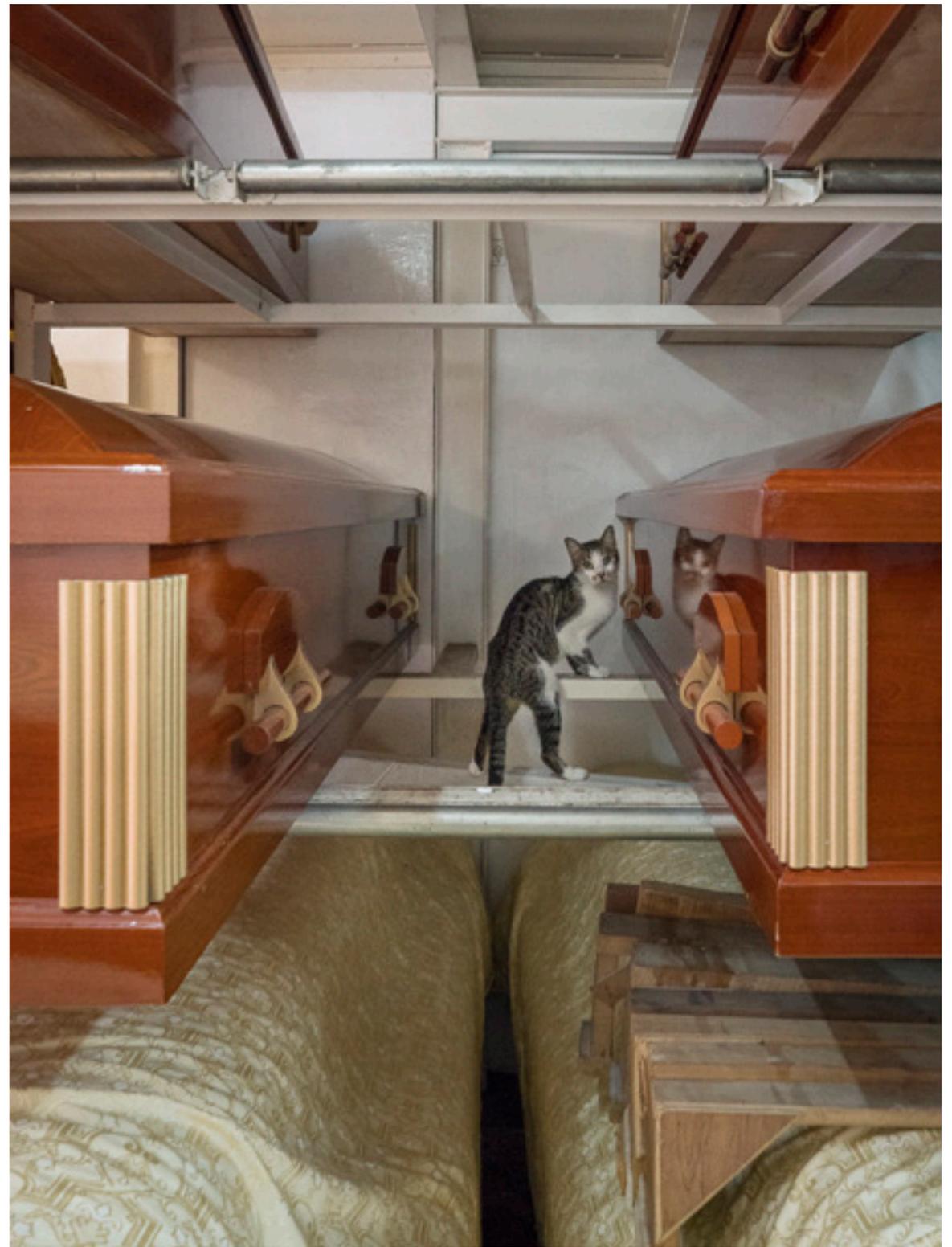
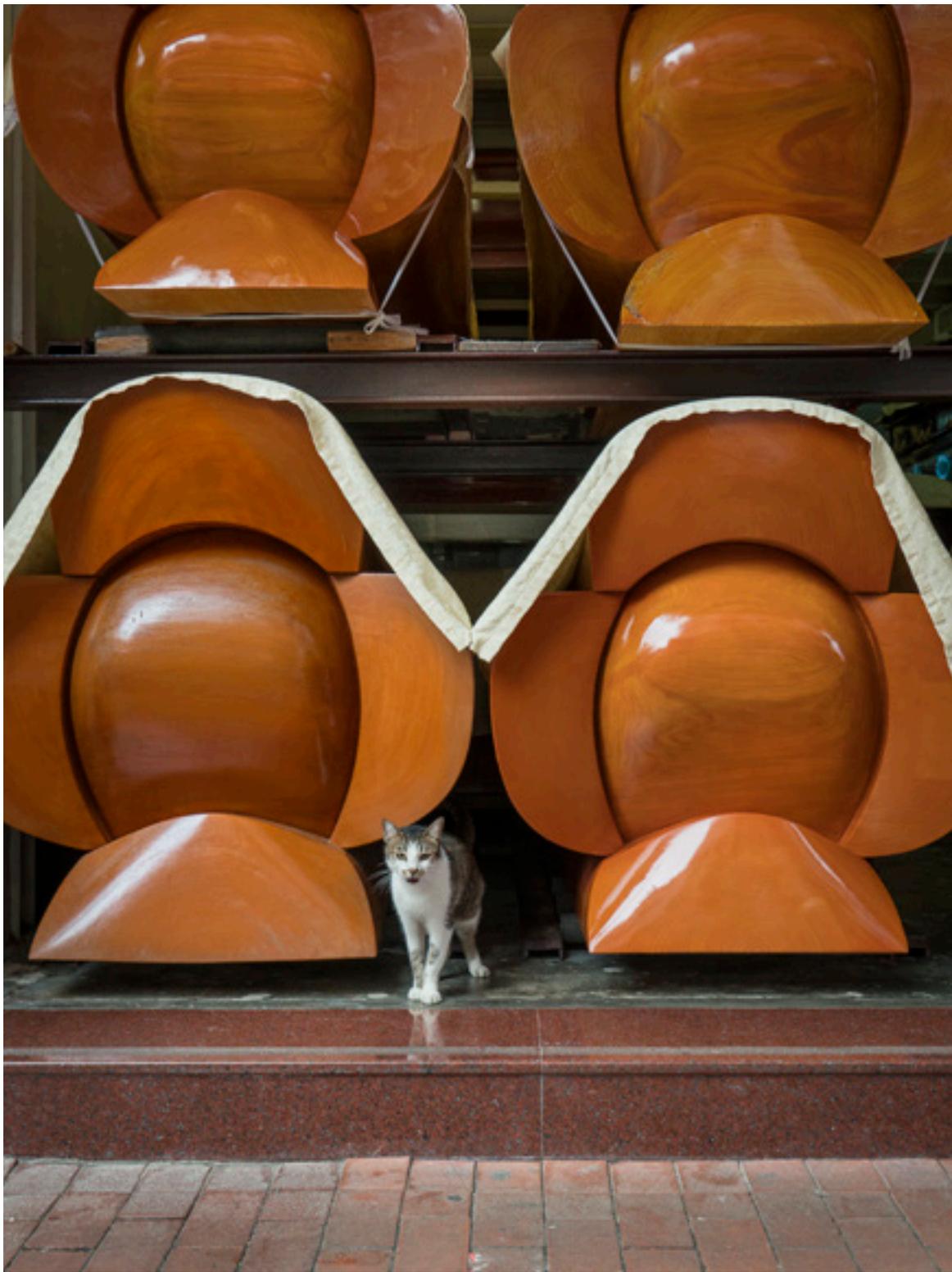


Shop for rent
Rates included/long term lease/
strictly no pets



Cat 101
It's a mistake to assume
or ascribe meaning







THANK YOU

Ian Row for the imaginative haiku that give life and meaning to the pictures.

Catharine Nicol for writing the wonderful intro and being a great sparring partner.

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Chan Ka Hay for suggesting very early on that this should be my next book :)

And last but not least Emily Lee for joining me on many 'shop cat safaris', spotting way more retail felines than I could have and for just being lovely company always.



Hong Kong's shop cats are the little emperors of their retail kingdoms. When photographer Marcel Heijnen arrived in the city he was immediately drawn to these photogenic mouse-catchers, and this book is the charming result.

While the cats are undoubtedly the furry celebrities of his photographs, each shot delivers an insightful context into Hong Kong's busy trades. From dried fish and rice to paper offerings, the backgrounds of the shots present local culture in cramped and colourful chaos.

的每隻貓咪，都是牠們舖頭裡的小皇帝。攝影師 Marcel Heijnen 兩搬到香港，便投入拍攝一位位英姿颯爽的捕鼠英雄，創造了這本趣意盎然的貓影集。除了書中的主角——可愛貓咪之外，大家亦可留意每幅照片同時記錄著香港各類小商舖，從鹹魚檔到紙紮舖，各具特色，呈現出香港獨有本土文化。

