

## The Misanthrope Society: A Taipei bar for people who dislike humankind

Hidden away in a dead-end alley, a skeleton perches on a bar *stool* with a wine *glass* and a cigarette. *Grinning vacantly*, he leans against a wall *emblazoned* with a quote from Franz Kafka: "There is an infinite amount of hope in the universe...but not for us."

stool 凳子

glass 杯子

grin 露齿笑

vacantly 茫然地

emblazoned 装饰的

The anti-social theme of the bar belies its *inclusiveness*; the owner, who has suffered from severe depression, wanted to provide a space that was welcoming to others in need.

inclusiveness 包容性

misanthrope 厌世者

"We call it 'The *Misanthrope* Society, ' which literally means you can hate this world as much as you want here, " says Chen Xiaoguai.

Inside, though, is some hidden human warmth.

Chen was inspired to open the bar after spending a month in a mental health hospital. "I think the most important thing in my case in stepping out from the dark side is the help from people, the friends I met in hospital." says Chen.

"I want to *replicate* this peer support group."

replicate 复制

booze 豪饮

At The Misanthrope Society, you can get that sense of community without the *booze*, as the bar is also a coffee shop and bookstore, offering psychology books, autobiographies and novels about dark episodes in people's lives.

Mental health is not talked about much and is often still misunderstood and *stigmatized*.  
"The Misanthrope Society" offers an outlet for all drinkers and diners to express their mood.

stigma 耻辱; 污名

stigmatized 受非难的

It would be wrong, perhaps, to call this an anti-bar, as many lone drinkers have sought out *solace* from other people in bars the world over. But by *humorously* playing up the dark side, "The Misanthrope Society" draws in people wanting a drink with a difference, as well as those hoping for a bit of understanding.

solace 安慰; 慰藉

humorously 幽默地

"Are you sure you want to go back to real life?" a sign on the door asks on your way out.