

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One of the World's Most Valuable Paintings – Caravaggio's *Supper at Emmaus* – to be Exhibited at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center

(Hong Kong, February 25, 2014) One of the most valuable and important paintings in the world, the *Supper at Emmaus* by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, will go on display at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center in ***The Hong Kong Jockey Club Presents: Light and Shadows – Caravaggio•The Italian Baroque Master***, from March 12 to April 13, 2014, with free admission. **Generously sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust with HK\$4.82 million and co-organized by the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong that proposed this initiative and made possible the loan of this unique masterpiece from the Pinacoteca di Brera Museum in Milan to Hong Kong, this is the first time the *Supper at Emmaus*, 1605-1606, will be shown in Asia.**

A haunting Baroque masterpiece, produced between 1605 and 1606, the *Supper at Emmaus* was painted during a dark period in the artist's life when he was exiled after committing an act of manslaughter, and depicts Jesus Christ revealing himself to his disciples following his resurrection, in the town of Emmaus. The painting is one of the few still existing works by the Italian Baroque master with an insured value at Euro60 million for the exhibition.

Displayed alongside the *Supper at Emmaus* will be contemporary works by four Hong Kong artists—Chow Chun-fai, So Hing-keung, Tsing Kin-wah and Wucius Wong—to illustrate how the revolutionary techniques found in Caravaggio's paintings were adopted centuries later. The exhibition is curated by Professor Frank Vigneron of the Department of Fine Arts, the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

As an introduction to the exhibition, the Pinacoteca di Brera Museum has given permission for the Asia Society Hong Kong Center to create for the first time, a 2-storey high projection of the *Supper at Emmaus*, to be screened at Pacific Place before the exhibition starts, to familiarize Hong Kong audiences with the painting.

This is the first time the *Supper at Emmaus* has been seen on this scale anywhere in the world and enables the painting to be appreciated in a completely new way - seeing the nuances of Caravaggio's revolutionary painting style and understanding the story of the painting - like never before.

Speaking at the special preview at Pacific Place, S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center said, "We are privileged to be hosting this monumental work by Caravaggio – a pioneering artist - and to be able to showcase his work alongside contemporary works by our own Hong Kong artists."

To ensure as many people as possible get to see the exhibition, the Asia Society Hong Kong Center will be contacting local schools and community centers, and through Pacific Place and the special projection, reach the many thousands of public that travel through the mall each day. A 6-month of Italian art and cultural educational program, made possible by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust's donation, has also been organized as an extension of the

exhibition to arouse the public interests on Caravaggio's works and Italian arts. Additionally, an innovative social media campaign has been created to attract a new and younger audience to the exhibition. The campaign includes the launch of Little Caravaggio Multimedia Learning App, blogs and a 'Discover the Secrets of Caravaggio's Masterpiece' competition. The Center is expecting some 40,000 visitors at the exhibition.

Winnie Yip, Executive Manager, Charities (Projects) from The Hong Kong Jockey Club, the exclusive sponsor of the exhibition said, "The Jockey Club is truly honored to be the exclusive sponsor of the exhibition, which is in line with the Club's commitment to making art and culture available to all, particularly the young and underprivileged."

Alessandra Schiavo, Consul-General of Italy in Hong Kong added, "The Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong, with the support of the Italian Cultural Institute, proposed this project to Asia Society Hong Kong Center and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to promote stronger bridges of friendship between Hong Kong and Italy, with the firm belief that the growing demand for art in this great city deserves to be satisfied with a wider cultural offer, to which Italy is willing to contribute by sharing its huge artistic heritage."

The projection of the painting which tells the story of the *Supper of Emmaus*, will be in Park Court at Pacific Place until March 16, 2014. Four projectors of 6000 lumens will project the enlarged image in a dynamic presentation with extreme close-ups of different sections of the painting to help audiences understand and appreciate the various stories within the *Supper at Emmaus*.

During this period, the Asia Society Hong Kong Center will host free Caravaggio drawing and photography workshops at Pacific Place – please refer to the fact sheet for details of these workshops - which will continue at the Center during the exhibition. Pacific Place will also distribute tickets for the exhibition.

For security reasons, all visitors will require a valid ticket for entry and under-go a bag check prior to entry. Tickets are free but space in the viewing gallery will be strictly limited. Tickets will be given out on a first-come-first served basis at the ticket desk in Park Court at Pacific Place from February 25 to March 16, 2014, also available at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

As crowds are expected at the exhibition, visitors are urged to get their tickets in advance of the opening to ensure entry. To cope with increased visitors, the Asia Society Gallery will be open 7 days a week with extended opening hours from 11am to 9pm daily*.

*During the exhibition period, last admission is 8pm to Asia Society Hong Kong Center and 8:30pm to Asia Society Gallery.

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Note to Editors: The private view of the exhibition for media will be on March 11, 2014. Details to be provided closer to the time.

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About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York as a not-for-profit, non-government educational organization, The Asia Society is a leading educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center

As one of the eleven centers of The Asia Society, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (the “Hong Kong Center”) was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by Sir Q.W. Lee, the honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank. As the leading regional knowledge-based platform for furthering the understanding of the countries and cultures of Asia and global issues that impact the region, Asia Society Hong Kong Center boasts extensive regional and international networks of leaders and scholars, and recognized expertise in business and policy, arts and culture, and educational programming for a wide range of audiences. In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty, Hong Kong.

About Asia Society Gallery (Former Magazine A)

Built between 1863 and 1868, Asia Society Gallery is the oldest building in the Former Explosives Magazine, the historic fabric and features of this imposing structure have been thoughtfully restored and adapted for use as a modern exhibition space of international museum standard. Asia Society Gallery brings together established artists and aspiring talent who share a commitment to promoting Asian arts and culture, and to bringing the best and culturally inspiring in visual arts to the Hong Kong public.

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About Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong

The Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong is not only involved in providing consular services and in enhancing economic and commercial bilateral relations, but, together with the Italian Cultural Institute (which opened in October 2011), it is deeply committed to the promotion and expansion of the cultural bridges between Italy and Hong Kong and of the friendship and dialogue between the two communities through a series of concerts, art events, books, seminars and more, like the recent exhibition of Botticelli's Venus and the launch of the book "500 years of Italians in Hong Kong and Macau".

About the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has donated an average of more than HK\$1.3 billion to the community every year over the past decade by way of its own major initiatives and donations, supporting the projects of over 100 charitable groups and organisations each year. These encompass four major areas, namely Community Services, Education and Training, Medical and Health, and Sports, Recreation and Culture. In 2012/13, the total approved charitable donations were close to HK\$1,950 million, an increase of 12.8% over the previous year. The approved donations will benefit 160 charities and community projects.

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