

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong's Art Scene Shines in Global Spotlight Again
Asia Society Hong Kong Center Announces Date of the Asia Arts Awards and
Unprecedented Presentation of Two Extraordinary Exhibitions

(Hong Kong, January 20, 2016) Hong Kong will once again be at the center of global Asian art showcase, as Asia Society Hong Kong Center ("ASHK") hosts the Asia Arts Awards and presents two extraordinary exhibitions that reveal the diversity of Asian art.

"Hong Kong is an important regional arts hub in Asia, and we are excited to host our signature event, the Asia Arts Awards, a gala celebration honoring the Asia Arts game changers, during the week of Art Basel in Hong Kong," says S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

The Asia Arts Awards, to be held on March 20, 2016, features a dinner, an auction, as well as a ceremony honoring three distinguished Asian artists who have made significant contributions to contemporary art.

In addition, for the first time ever, ASHK will present two exhibitions – *Shahzia Sikander: Apparatus of Power* and *Shen Wei: Dance Strokes* concurrently to celebrate Asia's distinctive arts and culture.

"Both Shahzia Sikander and Shen Wei are world-renowned, award-winning artists, and the concurrent exhibitions of their works demonstrate our commitment to enrich Hong Kong's art scene by showcasing diverse and world-class artworks in Hong Kong," remarks Mong.

Apparatus of Power, the first major solo exhibition of Shahzia in Hong Kong, refers to the visual language developed by Sikander from the practice of miniature painting that has the capacity to communicate in multiple contexts, forms, and formats. Using the history of ASHK as a point of departure, the exhibition explores the colonial complexity in the region, as well as the potential of Sikander's images.

The show is sponsored by AAN Foundation and presented in collaboration with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, where new and extant works on paper, animations, and wall drawings will be shown from March 16 to July 9, 2016 at the Chantal Miller Gallery.

From March 20 to April 4, 2016, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall will be converted into a unique exhibition space for *Shen Wei: Dance Strokes* which will be on view for the first time in Asia. The show is an installation of recent paintings and a series of performances by the internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Shen Wei.

Conceived as an extension of his dance practice, Shen's large-scale oil paintings evoke the play of ink, space, and roiling form suggestive of Chinese landscape traditions while being a wholly contemporary offering of a dancer's experiments with the material of energy.

To make art appreciation accessible to everyone, admission fee to the two exhibitions will be waived. Moreover, as part of its outreach to the community, ASHK will organize a wide range of free public educational programs to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the exhibitions.

For more information, visit the ASHK website:
asiasociety.org/hong-kong

Connect with ASHK on social media:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Asiasocietyhongkong
Twitter: twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK
Instagram: [@AsiaSocietyHK](https://www.instagram.com/AsiaSocietyHK)

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About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, Asia Society is a leading not-for-profit, non-government 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. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, Asia Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

As one of the twelve centers of Asia Society, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (the "Hong Kong Center" or "ASHK") was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by the late Sir Q.W. Lee, honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank.

In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty at the Old Victoria Barracks, Former Explosives Magazine site. Steeped in history, cultural significance, and natural beauty, the site was originally built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through careful conservation, restoration, and adaptive re-use, this heritage site was successfully transformed into a cultural, artistic, and intellectual hub. ASHK warmly welcomes the public to visit the Center, to join the programs and view the exhibitions organized by ASHK and its partners.

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 offers a broad variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings, and exhibitions to the community.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established entirely with local funding and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations that work together to support and advance its mission.

About AAN Foundation

The AAN Foundation provides support to a wide range of art forms and encourages discourse on visual arts in particular. This includes offering platforms & support for exhibitions, private as well as public art projects, publications and art related initiatives. From a geographic perspective, the foundation is focused on enabling and encouraging the arts in Pakistan as well as considering at the broader Asian region including Asia Pacific and South Asia.

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