

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Hidden Forests* at Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

**Featuring *To See the Forest and the Trees* Exhibition
With local and international artists and musicians**

6 July – 8 September, 2019

OPENING CEREMONY: Saturday July 6, 2pm

(Hong Kong, June 28, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents *Hidden Forests*, a summer arts and culture project offering many events, programs and experiences for all ages. Focusing on local ecology, *Hidden Forests* celebrates Hong Kong's trees and biodiversity and promotes the importance of caring for the environment.

Inspired as a response to Hong Kong's devastating loss of trees caused by the tropical cyclone Typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018, *Hidden Forests* includes an art exhibition, a music series, community workshops and nature tours—amid the urban nature and heritage site of Asia Society Hong Kong Center—that explore the significance of trees to our local environment, culture and history. The cross-disciplinary program brings together local and international artistic talent and expert ecologists to strengthen public awareness about forestry and biodiversity in Hong Kong.

A highlight is the multi-sensory exhibition, *To See the Forest and the Trees*, which features artworks by **ten local and overseas contemporary artists** responding to the forestry and environment of Hong Kong. The exhibition includes **six brand new commissions** inspired by local ecology, participating artists and collectives including: **South Ho** (b. 1984, Hong Kong); **Vvzela Kook** (b. 1990, Hong Kong); **Frank Tang** (b. 1988, Hong Kong); **Post Tree Lifestyle** (est. 2018, Hong Kong); **James Prosek** (b. 1975, USA); **Haley van Oosten** (USA); **Trevor Yeung** (b. 1988, Hong Kong); **Sally Bunker** (Hong Kong/UK); **Natee Utarit** (b. 1970, Thailand) and **Allora & Calzadilla** (est. 1995, Puerto Rico).

Throughout the festival a chamber music series, *Ode to Trees*, curated by **Project 21st**, founded by Hong Kong based composer **Charles Kwong** and **Sharon Chan**, will also present regular performances inside the Chantal Miller Gallery. Each concert is inspired by the idea of "trees," and by extension Nature. Highlights include the original composition, *Lacrymae*, for a six-person ensemble written by Kwong in response to the felling of Hong Kong heritage Banyan trees, as well as *Child of Tree* and *Branches* by John Cage that involve performing with cacti as instruments.

To invite active audience engagement, the project offers a variety of onsite and offsite activities to extend topics of environmental learning. On the campus of ASHK surrounded by three hectares of rainforest, regular education programs include:

- Artist talks and author presentations—learn about current research from local experts
- Guided art x heritage x tree tours – explore the rare species in the Former Explosives Magazine
- Flora rubbing – create art from natural found materials
- Upcycling arts and craft – give waste a new life
- Botanical perfumery – create your own natural botanical fragrance
- Nature storytelling – children can learn about biodiversity through imaginative stories

Venturing into urban forestry and beyond, ASHK will collaborate with education partner Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education center to lead:

- Urban tree and birdwatching tours
- Outdoor excursions

All programs encourage first-hand encounters with nature to learn about the impact of human intervention and the urgency of biodiversity protection.

To fully engage the audience in a multi-sensory experience of the green valley surrounding ASHK, the project collaborates with AMMO to present an exclusive “Hidden Forests” afternoon tea inspired by the luscious forest greenery that surrounds the site. Paying tribute to Hong Kong’s urban forestry, the tea set features a variety of tempting sweet and savory treats and will be available at AMMO Restaurant from July 6 – September 5, 2019 (Monday – Sunday, 3-5pm); priced at HK\$428 for two, subject to a 10% service charge.

Hidden Forests is an original program organized by Asia Society Hong Kong Center. The exhibition *To See the Forest and the Trees* is co-curated by Katherine Don and Joyce Hei-ting Wong. The exhibition located in the Chantal Miller Gallery is free and open to the public.

The exhibition is made possible with generous support from Burger Collection, Hong Kong and Boris Yeung and Amy Ng. Additional support is provided by Moiz Zilberman, Pegi and Michael Touff and Rosewood Hong Kong. Exhibition outreach partners are Hang Lung Properties and AMMO. ArtMap and ArtAsiaPacific are the exhibition’s media partners and United Airlines is the airline partner.

OPENING CEREMONY & ENVIRONMENTAL FUN DAY: Saturday, July 6, 2019

Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

****Artists will be present.****

11:00 – 18:30 *To See the Forest and the Trees* exhibition at the Chantal Miller Gallery (Free admission)

14:00 – 14:30 **Hidden Forests Opening ceremony** (Free, RSVP requested)

14:30 – 17:30 **Environmental Fun Day** (Registration online, walk-in registration welcome.)

17:30 – 18:30 *Ode to Trees* chamber music ensemble curated by Project 21 (Free, RSVP requested)

The opening ceremony for Hidden Forests at Asia Society will coincide with an afternoon of Center-wide activities open to the general public. Environmental Fun Day is a family event for visitors of all ages to enjoy a series of fun and educational activities. Asia Society Member \$80; Non-member \$130. Each admission include one adult and one child aged under 12.

Event registration online at <https://ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk>

RSVP for opening ceremony and music performance by Friday, July 5: exhibitionsHK@asiasociety.org

Program and exhibition information:

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/hidden-forests-summer-project-xunlinmiquixiarjihua>



Hong Kong Center
亞洲協會香港中心

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government organization which was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders. It is affiliated with Asia Society in New York which was founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen partnerships between Asia and the US in a global context.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is dedicated to providing educational platforms that present balanced perspectives and promote critical understanding of topics that are relevant to Hong Kong, Asia and the region's role in the world. Across the fields of arts and culture, education, business and policy, it seeks to provide insights, generate ideas and promote collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Its home in Admiralty at the former Explosives Magazine of the old Victoria Barracks, made possible under Private Treaty Grant from the government, was the result of careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use which transformed the heritage site into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub in 2012 to offer a broad variety of cultural and education programs to the community.

Media Enquiry

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July 6 - 7月6日

Opening
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Summer of
Arts and Culture /
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HIDDEN 尋林覓趣 FORESTS

July 6 – September 8, 2019
2019年7月6日 – 9月8日

 Asia
Society
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Art X Ecology Exhibition
Music Series
Artist Workshops
Nature Tours

藝術 X 生態展覽
音樂系列
藝術家工作坊
自然導賞團