

Immediate Release

Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents
A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun and Yukaloo by James Turrell
Connect the world by sharing their story of LIGHT

(Hong Kong, March 12, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is proud to launch its annual Art in March event series with the opening of two new exhibitions ***A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun and Yukaloo by James Turrell*** on March 12. The public are welcome to see the exhibitions and to join the ongoing art and cultural programs.

Ms. S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of ASHK, said, “We are honored to have the support from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and our generous sponsors to make these exhibitions possible. We are humbled to present the pioneering art of Hon Chi-fun and to share his story with art enthusiasts from Hong Kong and all over the world. Concurrently, we are also proud to present an immersive light installation by James Turrell as the American artist’s first presentation at an institution in Hong Kong. When one looks at the two exhibitions, there is a visual coherence narrated by a theme of light; ***A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun*** and ***Yukaloo by James Turrell*** are displays of two iconic artists from different countries and artistic contexts who did not know each other, yet they both maintain a deep commitment to presenting art as a shared experience. These exhibitions underscore our commitment to ensuring that art history considers the multiple, simultaneous currents of modernism, particularly those emerging from Asia. “

“Since awarding Hon with our Asia Arts Game Changer Award in 2017, we have sought to honor him as a pioneering practitioner in our global arts community. While Hong Kong at this time of writing has become an international arts hub with numerous art districts, thriving galleries and multiple art fairs, it is important to note the contextual history and key players that first cultivated an awareness of culture in the city. Before there were any formalized institutional structures for exhibiting art in Hong Kong, there was Hon and his peers. Hon Chi-fun, a self-taught artist, sought to re-imagine tradition, as well as what it means to be a Hong Kong artist, through his practice spanning over fifty years. His story of forging his own path is one that we can all learn from,” Ms. S. Alice Mong added.

Ms Winsome Chow, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council expressed, “I must dedicate my highest regards to Mr Hon, a master artist of our time who left us a treasure of his avant-garde art creations which would never cease to inspire us, his fellow artists, curators and his followings. Our Hong Kong Arts Development Council is embarking on an Oral History of Hong Kong Artists project this year and we feel sorry not to have the honour to interview Mr Hon as we planned to do so after this exhibition. Nevertheless, I recommend you appreciate the exhibition, especially in reminiscence of Mr Hon’s contribution to the art scene of Hong Kong.”

With the generous support of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as well as Burger Collection, Hong Kong; Bloomberg; Elman Family; Jean Ho; Désirée and Hans Michael Jebsen; Janet Nathanail and William Flanz; Wellington and Virginia Yee; and Gokul and Lakshmi Laroia, this exhibition has been made possible. The first career-spanning show dedicated to Hon in over a decade, this exhibition is a tribute to one of the pioneers of the Hong Kong modern art scene.

Yukaloo by James Turrell is an experience of light located in a single chamber of the Chantal Miller Gallery. James Turrell (b. 1943, Los Angeles) is a leading American artist who uses light as a medium for his immersive installations. Associated with the Light and Space movement of the 1960s, Turrell has dedicated his practice to what he has deemed perceptual art, investigating the materiality of light and the sensorial experience of space, color, and perception. *Yukaloo* (2011) emits and fills the space with colored light, creating an immersive atmosphere similar to the awe-inspiring fashion in which the sky changes from late afternoon to night. Apparently, Turrell had wanted to achieve this effect for a long time in his career and only recent technology made it possible for him to complete this work in 2011. We are honored to bring this work to Hong Kong and showcase James Turrell for the first time at an institution in Hong Kong.

This presentation of *Yukaloo* at Asia Society Hong Kong Center is made possible through the support of JK and Ingrid Lee Foundation. Additional support is provided by Wellington and Virginia Yee and Tucker Highfield and Inna Rodchenko-Highfield. Special thanks to Pace Gallery and Kayne Griffin Corcoran.

About the Exhibitions:

A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun

Yukaloo by James Turrell

Date: March 12, 2019 – June 9, 2019

Free Admission

Venue: Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine; 9 Justice Drive Admiralty, Hong Kong

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday: 11am - 6pm

Last Thursday of every month: 11am - 8pm

Closed on Mondays

Art Week Period

March 25 – 31, 2019: 10am - 8pm

Last admission: 30 minutes before closing

Please download the photos with captions and other media materials from the link below:

<https://asiasociety.box.com/v/mediakitforHCFandJT>

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Arts & Culture at Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center actively provides access to art, cultural education and experiences for all audiences. Since moving into the historic former Explosives Magazine in 2012, the Center has held over 20 art exhibitions both in its world-class gallery spaces and throughout its outdoor heritage site. The Center organizes exhibitions that respond to local contexts with an international outlook and celebrate the convergence of talent in Hong Kong. A diverse arts and culture program includes artist talks, concerts, dance performances, lectures, panel discussions, and film screenings. Guided tours, workshops, and events for families, schools, companies, clubs and groups are offered regularly.

The state-of-the-art facilities in historic heritage buildings at Asia Society Hong Kong Center feature a unique location for art exhibitions that open to all. The Chantal Miller Gallery is a 4000sqft space named in 2014 in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Miller's donation of HK\$100m to the Center to promote Hong Kong as an international platform for the arts; the transformative gift marked the single largest donation to the arts by an individual in Hong Kong at the time. The gallery has presented a range of groundbreaking events ranging from ***Transforming Minds: Buddhism in Art*** (2012) displaying works from the Rockefeller Collection and contemporary artists, to first solo exhibitions in Hong Kong for acclaimed artists **Xu Bing** (2014), **Yoshitomo Nara** (2015), **Shazia Sikander** (2016), and recently recognized the painting careers of pioneers **Fang Zhaoling** (2017) and **Pan Yu-lin** (2018) as part of ***Asia Society Hong Kong Center's 20th Century Chinese Female Artist Series***.

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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