

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence  
Thirty Years of Hong Kong Photographs, 1940s-1970s**

**Hong Kong, December 1, 2021** – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) traces the history of Hong Kong from the 1940s to the 1970s in its new exhibition, *Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence*, curated by Edward Stokes who founded The Photographic Heritage Foundation. It features images by renowned photographers Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake, and runs from December 14, 2021 to March 6, 2022, coinciding with celebrations to commemorate 10 years of ASHK at the Former Explosives Magazine.

The more than 80 black-and-white and colored photographs on display span three decades of great change, from the post-war recovery in 1946-1947, resilience of the 1950s, and resurgence of the 1960s-1970s. Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake had markedly different life stories and photographic objectives, though all of them in their own way recorded Hong Kong's economic, social and cultural trajectory during its modern, crucible decades, and preserve the city's photographic heritage for generations to come.

German-born Hedda Morrison's 30 black-and-white photographs depict Hong Kong in 1946-1947, when she lived in the city for six months and photographed almost every aspect of the colony, forming a diverse record of the city's post-war recovery. She was a documentary photographer who created historically significant images of Beijing, Hong Kong and Sarawak from the 1930s to 1960s. Her images of Hong Kong, like her prior work in China and later images of Southeast Asia, reflect her high regard for ordinary people.

Singaporean photographer Lee Fook Chee arrived in Hong Kong in 1947, and photographed the city over the next decade, earning a simple living by selling his photos to tourists on The Peak. He initially took and sold portraits, and later mainly sold his Hong Kong photos, as seen in this exhibition, which has on display nearly 40 of his black-and-white images that highlight the changes Hong Kong experienced in the 1950s.

*Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence* includes 20 colored images that portray Hong Kong from the 1960s to 1970s by Brian Brake, New Zealand's most successful international photographer who based himself in Hong Kong from 1962 to 1976. Prior to moving to the city, he travelled the world for prestigious photo agency Magnum, during which time his work appeared regularly in iconic contemporary photo magazines, notably Life Magazine, for which he has shot the most covers and famed Monsoon series, and National Geographic.

The exhibition is complemented by programs to further engage the community. A panel discussion between scholars, photographers and curators will discuss Hong Kong's heritage inspired by the exhibition. As part of the Stories to Remember program, the elderly community will share their memories of Hong Kong with the young generation who will be invited to create a drawing, poem, short story or music inspired by these

stories. Award-winning photographer Bobby Lee will lead a Remembering and Storytelling workshop, during which participants will learn how to use photographs to tell the story of Hong Kong.

ASHK Executive Director S. Alice Mong said, “We are excited to bring to Hong Kong audiences our next exhibition, *Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence*, as we celebrate 10 years since we moved to our heritage site. The photographs portray life in a changing Hong Kong, as it rebuilds itself following World War II. I invite audiences to form their own interpretations, as they view these enduring images of our beloved city taken by Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake. We are grateful for the collaboration with curator Edward Stokes and The Photographic Heritage Foundation to present this exhibition to our community.

The Photographic Heritage Foundation Founder and Publisher Edward Stokes said: “The Photographic Heritage Foundation is proud to originate this exhibition, which is presented by Asia Society Hong Kong Center. Established in 2008, The Photographic Heritage Foundation is a Hong Kong not-for-profit body that showcases Asia’s photographic heritage. It is a bridge between rare, often forgotten historical photographs of Asia and all who today value the region’s cultural heritage. The Foundation sincerely thanks our exhibition Sponsor and Partners, whose generous support has thus brought to the Hong Kong public the photos of Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake.”

ASHK extends its gratitude to exhibition sponsor Dr Patrick S.C. Poon SBS and MASTER-INSIGHT.COM, and supporters Karson Choi BBS, Swire Group Charitable Trust and Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation as well as the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong for making the exhibition possible.

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## Exhibition Information

### Dates

December 14, 2021-March 6, 2022

### Location

Chantal Miller Gallery  
Asia Society Hong Kong Center  
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty  
Hong Kong

### Opening Hours

Tuesdays-Sundays: 11am-6pm  
Last Thursday of every month: 11am-8pm  
Closed on Mondays  
Free admission

### Website

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/recovery-resilience-resurgence-fusuhengxinizhongqiucunzhongzhenqigu>



亞洲協會香港中心

## Exhibition Hashtag

#PicturingHK

## About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is a locally funded, independent non-governmental 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to promote mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships between Asia and the U.S. in a global context. ASHK 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 the 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.

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