

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Robert W. Miller Makes Major Donation to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center - HK\$100M to Promote Hong Kong's Emerging Talent in the Arts**

(Hong Kong, May 8, 2014) In what is probably the largest single donation to the arts by an individual in Hong Kong, Robert W. Miller, founder of Duty Free Shoppers (DFS), will donate HK\$100 million to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center to promote and celebrate Hong Kong's emerging talent in the arts.

In recognition of this major transformative gift, the Asia Society Gallery - which has played host to six exhibitions including the recent Caravaggio exhibition that attracted more than 26,000 visitors and juxtaposed the work of four Hong Kong artists with the Caravaggio masterpiece Supper at Emmaus - will be re-named the Chantal Miller Gallery in honor of Robert Miller's wife.

Robert and Chantal Miller have been a long time supporter of the arts in Hong Kong. This donation follows another major gift by the Millers to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center in 2004, when a generous US\$3 million donation supported both the restoration of the Miller Theater – formerly a military magazine for storing ammunition - and the staging of its first series of programs to take place in this revitalized space in 2012.

Speaking at today's announcement in which Robert and Chantal Miller were presented with a monograph by contemporary Chinese artist Xu Bing written in the artist's signature Square World Calligraphy, Robert Miller said, "There is an important place in the community for Hong Kong-based artists to play a more significant role in the global contemporary art dialogue. At the same time, there is also a need for Hong Kong artists to be exposed to international ideas and artistic best practices. With this gift, the Asia Society will be able to celebrate and nurture Hong Kong's own talent by staging ongoing site-specific performance programs as well as commissioning major new works by local artists."

Ronnie Chan, Co-Chair of the Asia Society and Chairman of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center said, "The Millers' generous donation will enable the Hong Kong Center to actively engage local artists of different disciplines and to encourage their creative production within the Center's two artistic incubators – the Miller Theater and now the newly named Chantal Miller Gallery. Our goal is to get Hong Kong's emerging talent to collaborate with seasoned international musicians, designers, performers and artists in creating new and unique works."

S. Alice Mong, Executive Director, Asia Society Hong Kong Center concludes, “It is with heartfelt thanks and appreciation that we receive this gift which will provide an unprecedented opportunity for local talent to have a platform to hone their skillset and collaborate with international artists, and ultimately reinforce Hong Kong’s position as a work-renowned creative hub.”

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#### **About Asia Society**

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York, 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. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, The 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 an affiliate of the Asia Society global network with 11 centers, Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by the late Sir Q.W. Lee, the honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank. In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty, Hong Kong at the Old Victoria Barracks, Former Explosives Magazine site steeped in history, cultural significance and natural beauty and offers a broader variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community.

#### **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 re-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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