

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bat Cave: Treasures of the Day and Creatures of the Night
Traditional Chinese Treasures meet Contemporary Chinese Art pieces by Sun Xun
Sharing “blessings” from BAT

(Hong Kong, Sept 1, 2015) Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) has co-organized an exhibition of traditional and contemporary Chinese objects featuring bat motifs - *Bat Cave: Treasures of the Day and Creatures of the Night* - with The Art Museum, Institute of Chinese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The exhibition will be on view from September 16, 2015 until January 03, 2016 at the Chantal Miller Gallery of ASHK. Featuring over 70 exquisite traditional Chinese objects with bat motifs, including ceramics, jade carvings, paintings, and textiles, etc. In addition, Mr. Sun Xun, winner of Best Young Artist Award in 2010 Chinese Contemporary Art Awards, will take part in the exhibition by creating a wall mural inside the gallery and showing his digital art continuing with the theme of bats. With projections of bat motifs, the gallery will be turned into a bat cave - providing visitors unique experience.

Unique wall mural by Sun Xun

During the exhibition period, the gallery will be decorated as bat caves through the projections of bat motifs. Mr. Sun Xun, a famous contemporary Chinese artists, will spend 4 days from September 7, 2015 at the gallery cracking a bat themed wall mural (53”W x 19”H) which is exclusively designed for the exhibition. *Beyond-ism*, a short film made using Chinese ink by Sun Xun will also be on display. The video re-interprets the fantastical legend about the court sorcerer Xu Fu who was sent by the first Chinese emperor Qin Shihuang to a mythical land in search of the elixir of life. With an emphasis on animal motifs including bats, this tale is about the longing for blessings and longevity and speaks to the bat embellished antiques in the other chambers. The bringing together of ancient and modern is the perfect way to spark visitors’ exploration of the implications and meanings of bats in different times and space.

Display in Hong Kong for the First Time

Bats are an auspicious symbol in China as the word for “bats” in Chinese is phonetically similar to the word for “blessings”. Bats were especially popular during the Ming and Qing dynasties, and appeared on many different handcrafts, and were treasured by all - from populace to royals. 4 of the artworks are being exhibited for the first time in Hong Kong, these include: Peach-ground waxed paper with bats among clouds and Eight Auspicious Signs, Cinnabar lacquer box carved with bats and clouds, Large Vase with Spring scene in doucai enamels from the Qianlong period (1736-1795) and Embroidery with dragon-and-flaming-pearl design from the Jiaqing period (1796-1820). The exhibition is hoping to share blessings and luck with everyone in Hong Kong.

Reunion after Thirty Years

A highlight of the exhibition is the reunion of a pair of fine Yongzheng peach-and-bat plates that have been separated for more than 30 years. They have been in the collections of two local museums – the Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Museum of Art. The Peach-and-bat plates are a good illustration of how complex meanings are expressed through combining motifs. The combination of peach and bat motifs represents good fortune and longevity. Other masterpieces include Qianlong overlay glass bottle-vase, a semi-formal court robe of blue silk from the Guangxu period, and a painting of the Three Abundances by the founder of the Lingnan School, Gao Jianfu.

Traditional Chinese Art in a Modern Context

Gaining unprecedented popularity in TV shows and movies in recent years, bats have been stereotyped as vampires or a representation of bad luck in the western popular culture. However, in China, bats are seen as an illustration of good fortune and blessings. The exhibition aims to foster the younger generation’s better understanding of the significant role of bat in Chinese Arts culture. Through a rich and diverse of selection of traditional Chinese art pieces, visitors can explore and study the application of bat motifs in Chinese Arts culture.

Searching for “blessings” in the city

The exhibition extends from the gallery to the whole Center, where traces of short-nosed fruit bats can be found. With an ecological night led by conservation experts and other educational programs, visitors can learn more about bats and various types of wildlife rarely noticed. ASHK has Hang Lung Properties as an outreach partner to stage workshops and mini exhibition at some of its shopping malls.

You may also connect with Asia Society Hong Kong Center on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Asiasocietyhongkong

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK>

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Co-organizer:



香港中文大學 · 中國文化研究所 · 文物館
Art Museum, Institute of Chinese Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Exhibition Partner:



Outreach Partner:



Design Competition and Workshops Partner:



About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York, The 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, 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 one of the eleven centers of The 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, the 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 Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Founded in 1971, the Art Museum serves the local community and beyond by collecting, preserving, researching and exhibiting a wide range of Chinese art and artefacts. It promotes the excellence of both its permanent and loan collections of Chinese art through scholarly endeavours and outreach efforts. As a university museum, it provides a direct and sustained

access to original Chinese works of art. With different University faculties it also advocates interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Chinese art.

The collection of fifteen thousand works of art was developed over four decades. The acquisition of the late Jen Yu-wen collection in 1973, which consisted of over one thousand items of the Ming, Qing and modern Guangdong paintings and calligraphy formed the core of the Art Museum collection. Since then, gifts from generous donors have continuously augmented the holdings, offering a comprehensive overview of China's artistic heritage from the Neolithic period to the 21st century. Rare rubbings from the Song period, calligraphy from the Song to Qing, Ming and Qing paintings, Yixing *Zisha* ware, export porcelain and private kiln ware from different eras, ancient seals, and the Sheng Xuanhuai Archive are among the highlights of the collection.

About Hang Lung Properties

Hang Lung Properties Limited, a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index and Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Indices in Hong Kong, is a leading real estate developer in Hong Kong and mainland China. Boasting a diversified portfolio of investment properties in Hong Kong, the Company has progressively branched out into the Mainland since the 1990s, building, owning and managing world-class commercial complexes in key cities, projects that have earned international acclaim for their exceptional quality of architectural design, services and sustainable features.

Riding on the immense success of its two landmark properties in Shanghai, Plaza 66 and Grand Gateway 66, the Company's footprint has expanded to Shenyang, Jinan, Wuxi, Tianjin, Dalian, Kunming and Wuhan, with all the Mainland projects carrying the "66" brand. Subsequent to the grand openings of Parc 66 in Jinan, Palace 66 and Forum 66 in Shenyang, as well as Center 66 in Wuxi over the past few years, Riverside 66, another world-class investment property in Tianjin, also came into operation in September 2014. As Hang Lung's business continues to grow, the Company is set to develop into the most admired mega national commercial property enterprise in the market.

Media Enquiry

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