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ART WORLD DIGNITARIES GATHER IN HONG KONG HONORING ASIA ARTS GAME CHANGERS AND RAISING FUNDS FOR ASIA SOCIETY'S WORLDWIDE ARTS INITIATIVES

(HONG KONG, March 24, 2017) On March 23, the leading global arts and cultural institution, Asia Society, honored four outstanding contemporary Asian artists with the Asia Arts Awards at Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) and the JW Marriot Hotel Hong Kong.

The 2017 Asia Arts Awards recognized the artistic excellence and significant contributions to Asian art of the four Asia Arts game changers, artists **Hon Chi Fun, Kimsooja, Rashid Rana** and **Hiroshi Sugimoto**. The celebratory evening was attended by notable collectors, artists, and gallerists around the art world, as well as Asia Society global trustees and patrons, and included a benefit auction of works by internationally renowned artists.

Boon Hui Tan, Vice President of Global Arts & Cultural Programs and Director of the Asia Society Museum, noted that the Asia Arts Awards were a befitting honor bestowed upon the four extraordinary artists.

"This is the moment for Asian art, and the four artists we honored this year represent the testament to the distinct individual voices that artists from the region have brought to global contemporary art," said Tan.

The benefit auction included unique works by artists **Cai Guo-Qiang, Yoshitomo Nara, Eko Nugroho, Do Ho Suh, Sun Xun, Lan Zhenghui, Mika Tajima, Natee Utarit, Xu Bing** and **Yang Fudong**.

Proceeds from Asia Arts Awards Hong Kong will support Asia Society global art programming.

As the education partner of Art Central 2017, ASHK will present a series of conversations featuring the four honorees at Art Central on March 24 and 25. These programs not only help art lovers to gain unique insights into their works but also provide rare opportunities to converse with the artists. For details, please visit the [ASHK website](#).

Asia Society is proud to thank the Asia Arts Awards Hong Kong corporate partner Citi, auction partner Christie's and art logistics partner Michelle Art Services.

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About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, and with a worldwide network of 12 centers, Asia Society is a key educational institution dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.



About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better understanding of Asia. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education.

Information on Asia Arts Awards Hong Kong:

<http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/events/2017-asia-arts-awards-hong-kong>

Photos of the event and information for media:

<https://asiasociety.box.com/v/asiaartawards2017>

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**Hon Chi Fun (韓志勳)**

Hon Chi Fun is one of Hong Kong's most respected visual artists, best known for his abstract paintings and serigraphic prints that reflect his interest in Taoism and phenomenology through the expression of circles. In 1958, he co-founded the Modern Literature and Art Association to promote local public interest in literature and art. He was among the first in Hong Kong to be awarded a fellowship by John D. Rockefeller 3rd Foundation in 1968. Hon's works have been exhibited extensively in Hong Kong and overseas, including at solo exhibitions at the Hong Kong Museum of Art (2005) and the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong (1988). In 2013, he received the Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong SAR government in recognition of his outstanding artistic achievements.

**Kimsooja (金守子)**

Kimsooja is an internationally acclaimed multimedia artist whose videos, installations and performances poignantly address issues relating to culture, politics, history and identity, especially with regard to the displaced self. The artist's conceptual, aesthetic and structural investigations of performance through immobility in her practice inverts the notion of the artist as the predominant actor. Her works have been exhibited internationally and featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2016); Centre Pompidou-Metz (2015); Reina Sophia, Madrid (2006); MoMA PS1, New York (2001); 24th São Paulo Biennial (1998); the 48th, 49th, 51st and 52nd Venice Biennales. In 2013 she represented Korea at the 55th Venice Biennale.

**Rashid Rana (拉希德·拉那)**

Rashid Rana is known for his conceptual sculptures, videos and photo composite collages that provocatively deconstruct social histories and cultural disjunctions to reflect the duality of our time. He has participated in major exhibitions including *My East is Your West*, a collateral event at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015); Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi (2013); Cornerhouse, Manchester (2011); Asia Society Museum, New York (2009); and Musée Guimet, Paris (2010) among others. Rana was recently appointed artistic director of the 2017 Lahore Biennale. He is also the founding faculty member and current dean of the School of Visual Arts and Design at Beaconhouse National University in Lahore.

**Hiroshi Sugimoto (杉本博司)**

Hiroshi Sugimoto's singular practice spans the mediums of performing arts, photography, sculpture, installation and architecture. His art deals with history and temporal existence through a variety of subject matter issues surrounding time, empiricism and metaphysics that bridge Eastern and Western ideologies while examining the nature of time, perception and the origins of consciousness. Sugimoto's works have been presented in numerous international solo and group exhibitions among them The J. Paul Getty Museum (2014); 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010); Yokohama Triennale (2001); 3rd Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon (1995); and Carnegie International (1991). The artist received the Order of Arts and Letters (2013) from the French government; the Praemium Imperiale Painting Award (2009) from the Japan Arts Association; and the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography (2001).