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Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents
On view at Asia Society Gallery (Former Magazine A)
May 15 - September 1, 2013

(Hong Kong, May 13, 2013) Asia Society Hong Kong Center today announced that Light Before Dawn: Unofficial Chinese Art 1974 – 1985, will be unveiled to audiences at Asia Society Hong Kong Center from May 15-September 1. The exhibition offers a revealing look into the spectrum of work created by three of China's most influential contemporary art groups: Wuming (No Name), Xingxing (Stars), and Caocao (Grass Society).

Light Before Dawn presents the works of twenty-two artists from the three art groups of Wuming, Xingxing and Caocao, emerged from the Cultural Revolution, who sought artistic truth in the authenticity of human desire, pain and dreams, explored the personal meaning of creativity, and asserted the value of the individuals. Crossing the boundaries of subject matter and style, they questioned, re-evaluated and redefined the forms, the nature of beauty and the art of China.

Distinctive in their art approaches, the Wuming group retained an interest in representations of nature, the Xingxing group explored historically Western modes of modernism, absorbing anew, progressive styles developed in Europe and America during the early twentieth century, including surrealism, cubism, and abstract expressionism while the Caocao group, trained in the native medium of ink and color on paper, attempted to shed both the legacy of socialist realism and the burdens of tradition by turning to new forms of abstract ink painting.

Although each movement took a distinctly different artistic approach, they were united in their commitment to pushing Chinese art beyond the borders of Socialist Realism. Works in the exhibition trace the beginning of modernism in the post-Mao era. The exhibition aims to shed light on the little-known artwork of this era, which helped to set the stage for the emergence of a contemporary art movement in China and also on the global scene.

Ephemera, personal items of the artists and more than a hundred works from twenty-two artists will be on view including The Hall of Supreme Harmony by Zhang Wei, Dancing Woman by Ma Desheng, Silence by Wang Keping, Moonlight Night by Wang Aihe, Empty No. 1 by Qiu Deshu, Snow at Wumen Gate by Ma Kelu and alike.

The exhibition is guest curated by Professor Kuiyi Shen of University of California San Diego, a leading expert on Chinese contemporary art in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and Professor Julia F. Andrews of The Ohio State University, who was the first American art historian to conduct research in China after formal establishment of U.S. - China relations in 1979.
“The true essence of Light Before Dawn lies not only in the beauty and versatility of Chinese contemporary art, but also in the stories and hardship little known to the public, which are deeply moving. We are thrilled to present this exhibition to the Hong Kong audience,” S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center noted.

“Bank of America Merrill Lynch is committed to a diverse program of arts and culture projects globally based on the belief that a thriving arts and culture sector connects societies and economies throughout the world. Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s support of the arts ranges from our own Art Conservation and Art in our Communities programs to sponsorships such as our partnership with the Asia Society as Lead Sponsor for the “Light Before Dawn” exhibition,” said Matthew Koder, President of Asia Pacific, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Light before Dawn is made possible by:
Lead Sponsor, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML)
Airline Sponsor, United Airlines
Carolyn Hsu-Balcer and René Balcer
Logistics Partner, Michelle Art Services
Supporting Organization, Asia Art Archive

List of Artists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wuming</th>
<th>無名畫會</th>
<th>Xingxing</th>
<th>星星畫會</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Du Xia</td>
<td>杜霞</td>
<td>Ai Weiwei</td>
<td>艾未未</td>
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<tr>
<td>Li Shan</td>
<td>李珊</td>
<td>Huang Rui</td>
<td>黃銳</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ma Kelu</td>
<td>馬可魯</td>
<td>Li Shuang</td>
<td>李爽</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shi Xixi</td>
<td>史習習</td>
<td>Ma Desheng</td>
<td>馬德升</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shi Zhenyu</td>
<td>石振宇</td>
<td>Qu Leilei</td>
<td>曲磊磊</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tian Shuying</td>
<td>田淑英</td>
<td>Wang Keping</td>
<td>王克平</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wang Aihe (professor)</td>
<td>王愛和</td>
<td>Yan Li</td>
<td>嚴力</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wei Hai</td>
<td>韋海</td>
<td>Caocao</td>
<td>草草社</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhang Wei</td>
<td>張偉</td>
<td>Chen Jialing</td>
<td>陳家泠</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zheng Zigang</td>
<td>鄭子鋼</td>
<td>Chen Juyuan</td>
<td>陳巨源</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zheng Ziyan</td>
<td>鄭子燕</td>
<td>Jiang Depu</td>
<td>姜德溥</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Qiu Deshu</td>
<td>仇德樹</td>
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For more information about the exhibition, please visit http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/light-dawn-unofficial-chinese-art-1974-1985
Exhibition admission:
Adults (Non-members): HK$30
Seniors (aged 60 or above) and individuals with disabilities: HK$15
Asia Society Members, Full-time students & children (aged under 18): FREE

Moreover, an evening forum with guest curators, collector, and participating artists about Light Before Dawn: Unofficial Chinese Art 1974-1985 will be held on May 16 from 7:00pm - 8:15pm.

For more information about the forum, please visit http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/events/evening-minds-behind-light-dawn

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About Asia Society
Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York as a not-for-profit, non-government educational organization, 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.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center
As one of the eleven centers of The Asia Society, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (the “Hong Kong Center”) was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by Sir Q.W. Lee, the honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank. 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 recognized expertise in business and policy, arts and culture, and educational programming for a wide range of audiences. In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty, Hong Kong.

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 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.

Address
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2103 9511
Email: enquiryhk@asiasociety.org
Website
http://asiasociety.org/hong-kong

Social Media
Facebook.com/asiasocietyhongkong
Twitter.com/asiasocietyhk

Opening hours of Asia Society Gallery
Tuesday to Friday: 11am–5pm
Weekends & public holidays: 10am–5pm
Last Thursday of the month: 11am–8pm
Closed on Mondays

About Bank of America Merrill Lynch
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For media enquiries, please contact:

Quinny Li
Ruder Finn Asia
Tel: +852 2201 6488
Fax: +852 2521 7088
Email: liq@ruderfinnasia.com

Vivian Pau
Ruder Finn Asia
Tel: +852 2201 6458
Fax: +852 2521 7088
Email: pauv@ruderfinnasia.com

Floria Wun
Head of External Affairs
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Tel: +852 2103 9513
Fax: +852 2523 6198
Email: fwun@asiasociety.org

Arthur Wong
External Affairs Manager
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Tel: +852 2103 9512
Fax: +852 2523 6198
Email: awong@asiasociety.org