

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Asia Society Hong Kong Center at Art Basel in Hong Kong 2014

(Hong Kong, May 5, 2014) As a leading regional educational platform for furthering the understanding of the countries and cultures of Asia through art exhibitions and programs, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) will join this year's Art Basel in Hong Kong and present an array of inspirational programs for the public. During Art Basel week, the Asia Society Gallery will extend its opening hours to 11am-8pm from May 13 to May 18 for the latest exhibition, ***It Begins with Metamorphosis: Xu Bing***, the first major solo exhibition in Hong Kong by this renowned Chinese contemporary artist featuring some of his latest works.

ENCOUNTER

May 14-18 - Asia Society Hong Kong Center Booth at Art Basel in Hong Kong 2014

- **Location:** Booth P6, Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- **Date and Time:**

Private View	May 14, 12noon to 5pm (by invitation only)
Vernissage	May 14, 5pm to 9pm
Public Days	May 15, 12noon to 7pm
	May 16, 12noon to 9pm
	May 17, 12noon to 7pm
	May 18, 12noon to 5pm

EXHIBITION

May 13 – 18 - Extended Hours for *It Begins with Metamorphosis: Xu Bing*

- **Location:** Asia Society Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Extended Opening Hours*:** 11am to 8pm
- **Admission:** HK\$30 (concessions apply)

Curated by **Yeewan Koon**, *It Begins with Metamorphosis: Xu Bing* is the first major solo exhibition by this renowned artist in Hong Kong featuring some of his latest works. It will highlight how metamorphosis marks the beginnings of the process of ideas and methods, and provides a focused look at **Xu Bing's** art. Often using unexpected materials including tobacco leaves, debris, and silkworms, Xu Bing mediates on the transformative power of materiality as he challenges societal values, and explores the shape of memories, histories, and destinies.

** Regular hours of the exhibition is May 8 to August 31, Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm. The gallery will be closed from 4pm to 5pm on May 17 for a private event.*

PROGRAMS (Online Registration Required at WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG.HK)

May 8 – DISCUSSION - *An Art Salon on “Chineseness”*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 12:30pm to 2pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$650/person
- **Speakers:** Xu Bing, Agnes Hsu-Tang

ASHK presents the Hong Kong premiere of DISCOVERY Channel Asia’s groundbreaking series “Chineseness” with a dialogue between artist Xu Bing and archaeologist Agnes Hsu-Tang. ASHK will be the first international cultural organization to premiere the complete documentary series featuring the renaissance of Chinese identity through the works of four contemporary artists – Yang Chihung, Zhang Huan, Li Chen and Xu Bing, during and in the weeks following Art Basel Hong Kong 2014.

May 10 - FILM SCREENING - *Watermark*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 6:00pm to 8:15pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$ 350/person
- **Speaker:** Edward Burtynsky

Watermark (2013, Jennifer Baichwal and Edward Burtynsky, English, 90 minutes) is a feature documentary that draws together various stories from all over the world about our relationship with water. Through this documentary, we get to travel from China to India, Bangladesh, Greenland, the United States and Canada, tracing the human use and attraction towards water. **Edward Burtynsky** will be present to answer questions after the screening.

May 11 - FILM SCREENING - *White Gold*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 3:15pm to 6pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$350/person
- **Speakers:** Arne Glimcher, Simon Trevor

White Gold (2013, Simon Trevor, English, 38 minutes) is a front-line exposé of modern-day ivory trade. It looks into the effects ivory trade has on Africa and one of its most iconic wild animal – the elephant, and also discusses the speculations on the ivory trade playing a role in funding the September 2013 terrorist massacre in Nairobi, Kenya. This film is an African Environment Film Foundation production (AEFF), produced by **Arne Glimcher** and directed by **Simon Trevor**. The English version of this film is narrated by former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the Chinese version by Jackie Chan. The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A session by the producer and director of the film.

May 12 - SPECIAL EVENT - *Asia Society Art Gala*

- **Locations:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Conrad Hong Kong
- **Time:** 6pm to 10:30pm
- **Honorees:** Bharti Kher, Liu Guosong, Takashi Murakami, and Zhang Xiaogang

A signature event during the week of Art Basel in Hong Kong, *Asia Society Art Gala* gathers major art collectors, artists, gallerists from the regional art world, and Asia Society Trustees and patrons to honor artists **Bharti Kher**, **Liu Guosong**, **Takashi Murakami**, and **Zhang Xiaogang** for their significant contributions to contemporary art. Co-organized by Asia Society Museum New York and ASHK, all proceeds from the event will support Asia Society initiatives worldwide.

May 14 - LUNCHEON DISCUSSION - *Captured in Ink*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 12:30pm to 2:15pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$650/person
- **Speakers:** Wucius Wong, Michael Cherney (Qiu Mai), Liu Guosong, Tina Pang (Moderator)

Born in China during the 1930s, **Liu Guosong** and **Wucius Wong** were pioneers of modern Chinese ink painting. They experimented with Western techniques and were also influenced by Chinese painting traditions from the Song dynasty. On the other hand, **Michael Cherney**, an American photographic artist born in 1969, approached Chinese ink art from a Western practice, integrating elements of Song dynasty paintings into his works. These three artists challenge us to consider the identity of Chinese ink art today. What defines the nature of this storied art form? Is it defined by cultural contexts or by a specific technique?

May 15 - LUNCHEON DISCUSSION ON MUSEUMS

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 12:30pm to 2:15pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$650/person
- **Speaker:** Jay Xu (Asian Art Museum of San Francisco)
(Program details will follow at WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG.HK)

May 15 - EVENING DISCUSSION WITH ZHANG HUAN

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 6:30pm to 8pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$350/person
- **Speakers:** Zhang Huan, Johnson Chang (Moderator)
(Program details will follow at WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG.HK)

May 16 - Luncheon Discussion - *Bridging Past and Future: The New Asian Art Galleries at the Brooklyn Museum*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 12:30pm to 2pm
- **General Admission*:** HK\$650/person
- **Speaker:** Susan L. Beningson

Shining a light on Brooklyn Museum's vast collection of Asian art, this talk will introduce some of their masterpieces and explore the growing collection of artworks from China, Japan, Korea, and India. While many pieces were gathered from curator-led collecting expeditions, others were donated by Brooklyn collectors such as the Avery collection of Chinese imperial cloisonné donated in 1909 and Japanese prints and screens from the Pratt Family.

May 17 - BRUNCH PANEL DISCUSSION ON COLLECTING

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 10:30AM to 12:15PM
- **General Admission*:** HK\$500/person
(Program details will follow at WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG.HK)

May 17 - FILM SCREENING – *Moving Images*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 2:00PM to 4:00PM
- **General Admission*:** HK\$100/person
- **Speakers:** James Richards, Fatima Hellberg, Yang Fudong

Asia Society Hong Kong Center in association with the Institute of Contemporary Art London will feature artist **James Richards** and Curator **Fatima Hellberg** in discussion on the embodiment and relaying of material, honesty and directness, and appropriation, seeking to uncover and examine their forms in a series of still and moving images. This event includes films by Julia Heyward, Wu Tsang, James Richards, and **Yang Fudong**.

May 17 - PANEL DISCUSSION - *It Begins with Metamorphosis: Xu Bing*

- **Location:** Asia Society Hong Kong Center
- **Time:** 5pm to 6:30pm
- **Admission:** Free
- **Speakers:** Xu Bing, Yeewan Koon

It Begins with Metamorphosis: Xu Bing will be on view at Asia Society Hong Kong Center from May 8 through August 31, 2014. Curated by **Dr. Yeewan Koon**, this is the first major solo exhibition of **Xu Bing** in Hong Kong, featuring some of the latest artworks by this

renowned artist. This exhibition will show how metamorphosis marks the beginning of a process that brings insights to Xu Bing and his art. Through the transformative power of materiality and communication, concepts of memories and histories are reenacted, challenged and reflected. Far from being a retrospective look at the past, Xu Bing shows how concepts and values of time are fundamental to our lives today.

** Special admission for Asia Society members is available*

MORE INFORMATION & ENQUIRY:

WWW.ASIASOCIETY.ORG.HK | (852) 2103 9511 | enquiryhk@asiasociety.org

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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.

Address

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Social Media

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