

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****THE MARI-CHA LION LEADS THE PACK IN BRINGING GOOD FORTUNE TO HONG KONG**

(Hong Kong, January 19, 2017) The Mari-Cha Lion, a rare mid-11th to mid-12th century South Italian bronze sculpture bearing Arabic decorations, will be on view for the first time ever in Hong Kong at the Chantal Miller Gallery in Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) for one month only, beginning January 20, 2017. In addition, a selection of Asian objects from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection, local museums and other private collections, as well as contemporary artworks by seven Asian artists – Khadim Ali, Sher Ali, Ho Tzu Nyen, Ranbir Kaleka, Kwan Sheung Chi, Vũ Dân Tân and Samson Young – will be on display.

*Roaring Guardians: The Mari-Cha Lion with Asian Traditional and Contemporary Art*, held to celebrate ASHK's fifth anniversary at The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine in Admiralty, explores the religious, imperial and vernacular significance of the lion symbol, and illustrates how lion iconography is reinvented today.

The exhibition is made possible by The Mari-Cha Collection Limited.

"The Mari-Cha Lion exhibition coincides fortunately with the arrival of the Lunar New Year; without the incredible generosity of The Mari-Cha Collection Limited, we would not be able to showcase such a remarkable and auspicious art work at this opportune time," said S. Alice Mong, ASHK's Executive Director. "The Mari-Cha Lion, owned by The Mari-Cha Collection Limited, has been exhibited around the world. We are deeply honored that the Chantal Miller Gallery has been selected as the place for the Lion to greet the public.

"Lion represents strength and courage, and exhibiting the Mari-Cha Lion on the fifth anniversary at our Admiralty home is particularly meaningful, as it inspires us in our continued efforts to fulfil our mission."

Robert Miller of The Mari-Cha Collection Limited commented: "The Mari-Cha Lion is truly a magnificent sculpture, and art lovers from around the world have been able to see it at leading museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Louvre in Paris.

"I am delighted that Hong Kong is the first city in Asia showcasing this incredible art object, as this exemplifies Hong Kong's status as a regional art hub in Asia. Exhibiting the Mari-Cha Lion at the Chantal Miller Gallery also reaffirms Asia Society Hong Kong Center's leading role in promoting arts and culture in Hong Kong."

"The Mari-Cha Lion is astonishing for its scale and quality," said Dominique Chan, ASHK's Head of Gallery and Exhibition. "It is one of the most important examples of medieval sculpture to have come to light in the last quarter of the 20th century as declared by many experts."

In the exhibition, the remarkable lioness sculpture is delightfully complemented with a select collection of Asian art pieces with lion motifs, including *Vishnu with lion and boar heads*, *Bodhisattva Manjushri Seated on a Lion*, a pair of Japanese lion-dogs and a Tang dynasty mirror with lion design.

To enhance the visitor experience, an augmented reality interactive display will make the Mari-Cha Lion "come to life" in 360 degrees, and visitors can "touch" the sculpture to discover in-depth information about its origins, function, acoustic structure, patterns and Kufic inscriptions. Furthermore, visitors can create their own Mari-Cha Lion through an interactive game and watch their roaring guardian come to life in an animation that takes Hong Kong as its backdrop.

Thanks to the generous support of The Mari-Cha Collection Limited, admission to the exhibition is waived for the entire exhibition period. Also, in association with the exhibition, there will be a talk with the guest curator for the Mari-Cha Lion, Richard Camber, on January 20; a Chinese New Year family day event on January 22, filled with fun and educational activities, such as lion dance performances and workshops, puppet shows and Chinese martial arts workshops; as well as other engaging programs.

Through our outreach partners, Hang Lung Properties and DFS, the public can obtain exhibition information and participate in promotional activities at Fashion Walk, The Peak Galleria and DFS outlets. Hong Kong commuters can also learn about the exhibition, play games and redeem souvenirs by traveling on two specially-decorated trams.

This exhibition is led by in-house curator Dominique Chan and Assistant Curator Joyce Hei-ting Wong from Asia Society Hong Kong Center, with guest curator for the Mari-Cha Lion, Richard Camber, an independent scholar on medieval art.

*About Roaring Guardians: The Mari-Cha Lion with Asian Traditional and Contemporary Art*

Venue: Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center  
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty  
Dates: January 20, 2017 – February 19, 2017  
Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6 pm  
Closed on Mondays  
During the Chinese New Year holiday, the Gallery will be open as normal on January 28, 29 and 31.  
Admission: Free

For more information, visit the ASHK website at [www.asiasociety.org.hk](http://www.asiasociety.org.hk)

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**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.

**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 The Mari-Cha Collection Ltd.**

The Mari-Cha Collection is a private art collection based in Hong Kong whose works have been lent to major museums across the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Louvre, the National Gallery (London), and the Frick Collection.

**About DFS Group**

DFS Group is the world's leading luxury travel retailer. Established in Hong Kong in 1960, DFS Group continues to be a pioneer in global luxury travel retail, offering its customers a carefully curated selection of exceptional products from over 700 of the most desired brands through 420 boutiques on four continents. Its network consists of duty free stores located in 17 major global airports and 18 downtown Galleria locations, as well as affiliate and resort locations. The Group is privately held and majority owned by the world's largest luxury conglomerate Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH), alongside DFS co-founder and shareholder Robert Miller. DFS Group employs over 9,000 people focused on creating inspiring retail experiences for its customers. In 2015, over 164 million travelers visited DFS stores. DFS is headquartered in Hong Kong and has offices in Australia, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Macau, New Zealand, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United States and Vietnam.

For more information, please visit [www.dfsgroup.com](http://www.dfsgroup.com).

**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.

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