

**ASIA SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS FOR SECOND
ARTS & MUSEUM SUMMIT IN HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 19–20, 2015**

**SUMMIT FOCUSES ON THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
AND ITS RELATED TECHNOLOGIES IN ASIA**

Arts and cultural leaders from across Asia, the United States, and Europe will gather in Hong Kong for Asia Society’s second **Arts & Museum Summit** on November 19 and 20, 2015. The Summit is held at Asia Society Hong Kong Center, which opened its new cultural and exhibition space in 2012 and has become an important hub for the arts in Hong Kong.

The two-day event will address challenges in the preservation of cultural heritage and the responsibilities of institutions and individuals as stewards of culture. The Summit brings together museum directors, curators, art conservators, performing arts presenters, preservationists, foundation leaders, scholars, artists, and technologists to examine the issues in cultural heritage preservation in the twenty-first century. Topics to be discussed include the key ethical questions facing preservation and the technologies, methods, and practices used to keep these traditions intact and relevant into the future. The Summit will also serve to launch Transfuzé: The Asia Arts and Museum Network, Asia’s Society’s initiative to cultivate collaboration between leaders and institutions in the cultural sector.

“The **Arts & Museum Summit** is one of Asia Society’s key initiatives where we bring together arts and cultural leaders to explore challenges, share new ideas, and develop deeper connections across the field of Asian arts,” says Asia Society President & CEO **Josette Sheeran**, who will make the opening remarks. “Given recent events such as the earthquake in Nepal and the destruction and looting of antiquities in the Middle East, the time is right to convene arts and cultural leadership to explore what governments and nongovernment agencies can and should do to care for our cultural legacy in the twenty-first century.” Asia Society will publish a summary report of the program’s findings.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, will give a special address to the Summit’s participants.

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Additional speakers include:

Arahmaiani, artist, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Bonnie Burnham, Former director, World Monuments Fund, New York

Chang Lin-sheng, Director, Aurora Museum, Shanghai, China

Chen Kelun, Deputy Director, Shanghai Museum, China

Cosmin Costinas, Executive Director/Curator, Para Site, Hong Kong

Vishakha N. Desai, Special Advisor for Global Affairs to the President and Professor of Practice, School of International Affairs, Columbia University, New York, United States

Laurent Gaveau, Director, Google Cultural Institute Lab, Paris, France

Sarah Kenderdine, Director, Laboratory for Innovation in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Hongnam Kim, former Director, National Museums of Korea, Seoul, South Korea

Vasif Kortun, Director of Research and Programs, SALT, Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey

Wai Kit Lee, Founder, Western China Cultural Ecology Research Workshop, Hong Kong

Hammad Nasar, Head of Research and Programmes, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong

Fairouz Nishanova, Aga Khan Music Initiative, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Geneva, Switzerland

Ong Keng Sen, Director, Singapore International Festival of Arts

Helen Philon, Cofounder, Deccan Heritage Foundation, Mumbai, India

Phloeun Prim, Executive Director, Cambodian Living Arts, Phnom Penh

Zeyba Rahman, Senior Program Officer, Building Bridges Program, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, New York, United States

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Ahmad Sarmast, Music Advisor & Project Director, Afghanistan National Institute of Music, Kabul

Rajeev Sethi, Chairman and Trustee, The Asian Heritage Foundation, New Delhi, India

Suresh Suras Shrestha, Under Secretary, Department of Archaeology, Kathmandu

Timothy P. Whalen, Director, The Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, United States

Winnie Yeung, Head of Heritage, Central Police Station Revitalisation Project, Jockey Club CPS Limited, Hong Kong

Louis Yu, Executive Director, Performing Arts, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong

Preregistration is required and may be completed online at ArtsandMuseumSummit.org.

Highlights of the 2013 Summit—including videos of keynote addresses from **Glenn Lowry**, Director, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and **Hiroshi Sugimoto**, renowned Japanese artist—are available at <http://asiasociety.org/makingmuseum>, and discussions among arts and museums leaders in New York in 2015 at <http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/art-talk-making-museum-21st-century-0>.

About Asia Society Museum and Arts and Cultural Programs at Asia Society

Asia Society Museum has earned international acclaim for groundbreaking exhibitions that showcase new discoveries in traditional art and introduce exciting new work on the cutting edge of Asian and Asian American contemporary arts. The Asia Society Museum Collection includes the masterpiece-quality Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection, bequeathed to Asia Society in 1979, and a growing contemporary collection of significant works in video and photography. Through exhibitions and related talks, performances, symposia, and film, Asia Society provides a forum for unique issues and viewpoints reflected in Asian arts and culture.

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.

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