Augmented reality exhibition takes virtual artworks outside

Each piece includes an AR component that can be viewed by scanning markers with a mobile app.

It is our first augmented reality exhibition and the first time the entire exhibition will be outdoors,” says Miriam J. Kwan, executive director of Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. "Luminous Encounters is an interactive exhibition made up of three art installations by local artists, along with digital artworks from the Rub Nixen collection.

All the artworks are displayed outdoors and have an AR component that can be viewed by scanning markers with a mobile app.

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The technology that made mobile game Pokemon Go a global hit is being featured in a new group show that combines real and virtual worlds at Asia Society Hong Kong Centre’s Luminous Encounters: Luminous Encounters is an interactive exhibition made up of three art installations by local artists, along with digital artworks from the Rub Nixen collection.

It explores how the virtual is creating new perceptions of what is natural, Wong says.

"Artists respond to the site’s history or to the nature and environment that surrounds it, she says. "Hidden in a scenic lookout on the site is a Red Cross Poplar, a Love Tree, a Tulip, a Black and White photo of Kikukawa, which is part of the National Art Collection, and an interactive sculpture of a black and white photo of Kikukawa, which is part of the National Art Collection.

Upon scanning a marker with the mobile app and pointing the phone at the sky, the original photograph will appear on the screen.

It is a photograph where you can see the missing concrete (now) superimposed with a moon trail and on the right side you will see some very ghastly poplar trees," Wong says.

She says this is part of Kawada’s "Catastrophe Trilogy," which examines anti-natural phenomena that symbolized the uncertainty of the future during the cold war when the photographs were taken.

"Using the virtual technology, we can integrate augmented reality effects by showing the moon as seen through the photograph," she says. "The photograph was included because it speaks to one of the themes: the relationship between nature and technology, and how we should position ourselves in this world that’s in constant change," Wong says.

"A lot of the technological changes that we are seeing nowadays are hard to keep up with. This show is really about trying to see how technology can be a tool for us to navigate our environment, our space and our daily life, rather than something that would cause us more problems," Wong says.

Luminous Encounters: A Augmented Reality Exhibition, Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, 9 Jatukam Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong, from 27 June to 5 August. (Photo: C. Y. Chang)