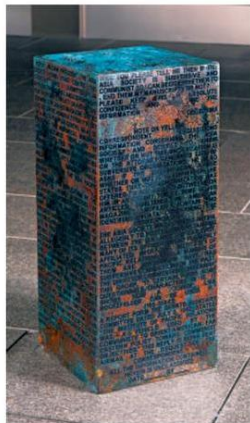


Asia Society show marks its 30th year in Hong Kong



Isaac Chong Wai's multimedia installation *Falling Carefully* (left); detail from Andrew Luk's *Echo Chorus, speculation*. The works are part of an exhibition at the Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. Photos: Handouts

ART

Asia Society show marks its 30th year in Hong Kong

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Artist Isaac Chong Wai's *Falling Carefully* is a multimedia installation that connects the act of losing balance with street protests such as those that have taken place in Hong Kong.

Installed in a large, bright gallery space at the Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, three figures of the same man – models of the artist himself – appear to be falling in different positions, adjacent to red text on the wall that reads “Falling Carefully”. Metal railings are embedded in the walls around the exhibition space.

“We tend to think of falling as failure, but there’s something to

be said for the solidarity in falling collectively,” the Berlin-based artist says. “In supporting each other as we fall, we are supporting those who are vulnerable.”

Chong’s piece is part of a group exhibition called “Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong” that marks the 30th anniversary of the Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. Most of the works are new, and address the city’s history and collective memories.

Artist Andrew Luk addresses the history of the Asia Society site on Justice Drive, Admiralty, a former explosives magazine of the old Victoria Barracks built on land that was claimed by Britain’s Royal Navy in the 19th century.

Luk has taken moulds of the stones using four different materi-

als – charcoal, ice, salt blocks, and copper – each of which has historical connotations.

The copper version (copper was used to make shell casings for bullets) is emblazoned with text from declassified US and Hong Kong government documents, including an invitation to a panel discussion hosted by the Asia Society in 1984 that reads “The Future of Hong Kong”.

Christopher K. Ho, who has a background in architecture, focuses on the site’s location and architectural features in his work *Always Stop Eating While You’re Still A Little Hungry*, which explores the theme of nationalism.

The outdoor work consists of a miniature brass theatre, designed in intricate detail and referencing

historical American spectacles. Viewers look through the model and see an image of Mary Lou Retton, an American gymnast – a celebration of nationalism.

Leung Chi-wo’s *Date Series* references the city’s violent past. He revisited places where bombs were detonated during the 1967 riots 50 years later to photograph the sky in black and white.

The exhibition also includes works by recent Sigg Prize winner Samson Young, Cici Wu, Vivian Qin, Sara Wong, and collective Zheng Maler.

“Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong”, until September 27, Asia Society Hong Kong Centre, 9 Justice Drive Admiralty, Hong Kong. Tues-Sun, 11am to 6pm. Free admission.