



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hidden Forests at Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Featuring *To See the Forest and the Trees* Exhibition
 With local and international artists and musicians

6 July – 8 September, 2019

OPENING CEREMONY: Saturday July 6, 2pm

(Hong Kong, June 19, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents *Hidden Forests*, a summer arts and culture project offering many events, programs and experiences for all ages. Focusing on local ecology, *Hidden Forests* celebrates Hong Kong’s trees and biodiversity and promotes the importance of caring for the environment.

Inspired as a response to Hong Kong’s devastating loss of trees caused by the tropical cyclone Typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018, *Hidden Forests* includes an art exhibition, a music series, community workshops and nature tours—amid the urban nature and heritage site of Asia Society Hong Kong Center—that explore the significance of trees to our local environment, culture and history. The cross-disciplinary program brings together local and international artistic talent and expert ecologists to strengthen public awareness about forestry and biodiversity in Hong Kong.

A highlight is the multi-sensory exhibition, *To See the Forest and the Trees*, which features artworks by **ten local and overseas contemporary artists** responding to the forestry and environment of Hong Kong. The exhibition includes **six brand new commissions** inspired by local ecology, participating artists and collectives including: **South Ho** (b. 1984, Hong Kong); **Vvzela Kook** (b. 1990, Hong Kong); **Frank Tang** (b. 1988, Hong Kong); **Post Tree Lifestyle** (est. 2018, Hong Kong); **James Prosek** (b. 1975, USA); **Haley van Oosten** (USA); **Trevor Yeung** (b. 1988, Hong Kong); **Sally Bunker** (Hong Kong/UK); **Natee Utarit** (b. 1970, Thailand) and **Allora & Calzadilla** (est. 1995, Puerto Rico).

Throughout the festival a chamber music series, *Ode to Trees*, curated by **Project 21st**, founded by Hong Kong based composer **Charles Kwong** and **Sharon Chan**, will also present regular performances inside the Chantal Miller Gallery. Each concert is inspired by the idea of “trees,” and by extension Nature. Highlights include the original composition, *Lacrymae*, for a six-person ensemble written by Kwong in response to the felling of Hong Kong heritage Banyan trees, as well as *Child of Tree* and *Branches* by John Cage that involve performing with cacti as instruments.

To invite active audience engagement, the project offers a variety of onsite and offsite activities to extend topics of environmental learning. On the campus of ASHK surrounded by three hectares of rainforest, regular education programs include:

- Artist talks and author presentations—learn about current research from local experts
- Guided art x heritage x tree tours – explore the rare species in the Former Explosives Magazine
- Flora rubbing – create art from natural found materials

- Upcycling arts and craft – give waste a new life
- Botanical perfumery – create your own natural botanical fragrance
- Nature storytelling – children can learn about biodiversity through imaginative stories

Venturing into urban forestry and beyond, ASHK will collaborate with education partner Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education center to lead:

- Urban tree and birdwatching tours
- Outdoor excursions

All programs encourage first-hand encounters with nature to learn about the impact of human intervention and the urgency of biodiversity protection.

To fully engage the audience in a multi-sensory experience of the green valley surrounding ASHK, the project collaborates with AMMO to present an exclusive “Hidden Forests” afternoon tea inspired by the luscious forest greenery that surrounds the site. Paying tribute to Hong Kong’s urban forestry, the tea set features a variety of tempting sweet and savory treats and will be available at AMMO Restaurant from July 6 – September 5, 2019 (Monday – Sunday, 3-5pm); priced at HK\$428 for two, subject to a 10% service charge.

Hidden Forests is an original program organized by Asia Society Hong Kong Center. The exhibition *To See the Forest and the Trees* is co-curated by Katherine Don and Joyce Hei-ting Wong. The exhibition located in the Chantal Miller Gallery is free and open to the public.

The exhibition is made possible with generous support from Burger Collection, Hong Kong and Boris Yeung and Amy Ng. Additional support is provided by Moiz Zilberman, Pegi and Michael Touff and Rosewood Hong Kong. Exhibition outreach partners are Hang Lung Properties and AMMO. ArtMap and ArtAsiaPacific are the exhibition’s media partners and United Airlines is the airline partner.

OPENING CEREMONY & ENVIRONMENTAL FUN DAY: Saturday, July 6, 2019

Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

****Artists will be present.****

11:00 – 18:30 *To See the Forest and the Trees* exhibition at the Chantal Miller Gallery (Free admission)

14:00 – 14:30 **Hidden Forests Opening ceremony** (Free, RSVP requested)

14:30 – 17:30 **Environmental Fun Day** (Registration online, walk-in registration welcome.)

17:30 – 18:30 *Ode to Trees* chamber music ensemble curated by Project 21 (Free, RSVP requested)

The opening ceremony for Hidden Forests at Asia Society will coincide with an afternoon of Center-wide activities open to the general public. Environmental Fun Day is a family event for visitors of all ages to enjoy a series of fun and educational activities. Asia Society Member \$80; Non-member \$130. Each admission include one adult and one child aged under 12.

Event registration online at <https://ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk>

RSVP for opening ceremony and music performance by Friday, July 5: exhibitionsHK@asiasociety.org

Program and exhibition information:

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/hidden-forests-summer-project-xunlinmiquxiarjihua>

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