

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Extended Figure: The Art and Inspiration of Lalan**

**Hong Kong, March 25, 2021** – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is pleased to announce its new exhibition, *Extended Figure: The Art and Inspiration of Lalan*, featuring pioneering Chinese female artist Xie Jing-lan, which takes place from April 27 to September 19, 2021. This is the first major retrospective of the artist in Hong Kong, held to commemorate her centennial. Xie Jing-lan, nicknamed Lalan, is the fourth artist featured in ASHK’s 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Female Artist Series. *Extended Figure* serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> exhibition in celebration of ASHK’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

From being Zao Wou-ki’s first wife to becoming a female innovator in her own right of integrated art, Lalan is one of the most influential female artists in 20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese history. Having received professional vocal training, she studied composition and modern dance, and launched her career painting abstract art after moving to Paris. As one of the first artists to infuse her deep understanding of music and dance in her art, Lalan paved the way in breaking boundaries between different disciplines. Herein lies her legacy, in the art form known as integrated art, incorporating painting, music, and dance.

Showcasing over 30 masterpieces and archival materials of her cross-disciplinary attempts, *Extended Figure* traces the artist’s transformative moments, and experimentation and introspection through the bodily focused art-making practice. As the fourth instalment in ASHK’s 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Female Artist Series, the exhibition commemorates Lalan’s centennial, and celebrates her pioneering cross-disciplinary art and impact on flawlessly merging the aesthetic of East and West. In the hope to reconstruct Lalan’s imprint on integrated art, ASHK will collaborate with choreographer Allen Lam to produce a retrospective performance encompassing music, dance and Augmented Reality technology.

ASHK Executive Director S. Alice Mong said, “I am delighted that the moment has arrived to open our new exhibition, *Extended Figure: The Art and Inspiration of Lalan*, as we continue to celebrate our milestone 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A gem of an artist, Lalan was firmly at the forefront of Chinese abstract art. She not only mastered abstract painting, but also infused it with music and dance, disciplines in which she also excelled. After what has been a turbulent past year locally and around the world, I hope that the retrospective provides much-needed joy and inspiration. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for making this exhibition possible.”

Hong Kong Arts Development Council Chief Executive Winsome Chow congratulated ASHK on reaching another milestone. “It’s delightful that ADC Matching Fund Scheme has been a supporter to ASHK for their quality programmes. The Scheme is devised to help our local arts groups to explore social resources, including private donations and business sponsorships, and to create a supportive environment for the arts and culture in the community.”

ASHK would like to thank HKADC, via the Matching Fund Scheme, for supporting ASHK’s work promoting community engagement through the arts. ASHK also extends its gratitude to its donors, including Bei Shan Tang Foundation, Kwai Fung Foundation, and MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai.

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## Exhibition Information

### Dates

April 27, 2021-September 19, 2021

### Location

Chantal Miller Gallery  
Asia Society Hong Kong Center  
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty  
Hong Kong

### Opening Hours

Tuesdays-Sundays, 11am-6pm  
Last Thursday of every month, 11am-8pm  
Closed on Mondays  
Free admission

### Website

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/extended-figure-art-and-inspiration-lalan-yanmianzhiquxiejinglanyishuzhan>

### Exhibition Hashtag

#ExtendedFigure

## About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is a locally funded, independent non-governmental organization which was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders. It is affiliated with Asia Society in New York, which was founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3<sup>rd</sup> to promote mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships between Asia and the U.S. in a global context. ASHK is dedicated to providing educational platforms that present balanced perspectives and promote critical understanding of topics that are relevant to Hong Kong, Asia and the region's role in the world. Across the fields of arts and culture, education, business and policy, it seeks to provide insights, generate ideas and promote collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Its home in Admiralty at the Former Explosives Magazine of the old Victoria Barracks, made possible under the Private Treaty Grant from the government, was the result of careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use, which transformed the heritage site into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub in 2012 to offer a broad variety of cultural and education programs to the community.

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