

**For Immediate Release****Asia Society Hong Kong Center's first Chamber opera *Mila*  
Nominated for Classical: NEXT Innovation Award**

(Hong Kong, January 28, 2019) – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) today announces that the world premiere of its chamber opera *Mila* has been nominated in recognition for the Classical: NEXT Innovation Award 2019. 2019 Innovation Award Longlist features 35 projects from 29 countries, the nominees represent the most forward-thinking activities worldwide. *Mila* is the only one project which come from Hong Kong. The shortlist will soon be determined, by Classical: NEXT again. More than 4,500 delegates from Next Community has the opportunity to vote online through their **C:N NET** account in order to decide the winners of the Innovation Award 2019. **Voting for the award will begin in March 2019.**

A sought-after venue for local and global artists since its February 2012 grand opening, the ASHK has presented numerous world premieres after three year's intensive creative planning and production. *Mila* – a chamber opera that sheds light on Hong Kong's cultural complexity and its ramifications as seen through the eyes of Mila, a domestic helper from the Philippines hired by a family of three in Hong Kong – premiered to sold-out audiences at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center in January 2018, garnering widespread media coverage.

“This original chamber opera is part of our mission to provide a platform for local talents to collaborate with seasoned international artists in creating new and innovative works. We are most grateful for this tremendous honor. *Mila* truly was an international collaborative effort among talents hailing from Hong Kong, the Philippines and the United States, showcasing unique Asian elements and performed in Cantonese, English and Tagalog. To be recognized among this year's group of outstanding artists from across the globe for our first ever commissioned work is a true testament to our exceptional talent who have worked tirelessly for three years to bring this incredible piece to life,” said S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of ASHK.

The winner of the Classical: NEXT Innovation Award 2019 will be announced at the eighth edition of Classical: NEXT in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on May 18, 2019.

**About Classical: NEXT**

The mission of Classical: NEXT is to unify the global classical and art music scene, with a focus on innovation, increasing relevance and effectiveness in the business and creative aspects of the industry. Since its first edition in 2012, Classical: NEXT has developed into the largest international gathering for art music innovators, with more than 4,000 professionals across sectors engaging with like-minded individuals over music meetings, conferences, showcases and networking.

For more details on the Classical: NEXT Innovation Award, please visit <https://www.classicalnext.com/programme/award/longlist>.

**More about Mila:**

**Mila's website:** <https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/mila>

**Mila's press release:** <https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/180111%20MILA%20Press%20Release%20EN.pdf>

### **About Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government organization that was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders. It is affiliated with Asia Society in New York that was founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen partnerships between Asia and the US in a global context.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center 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 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.

### **Media Enquiry**

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