

Never End: The Art and Life of Gaylord Chan

Navigating Shared Futures

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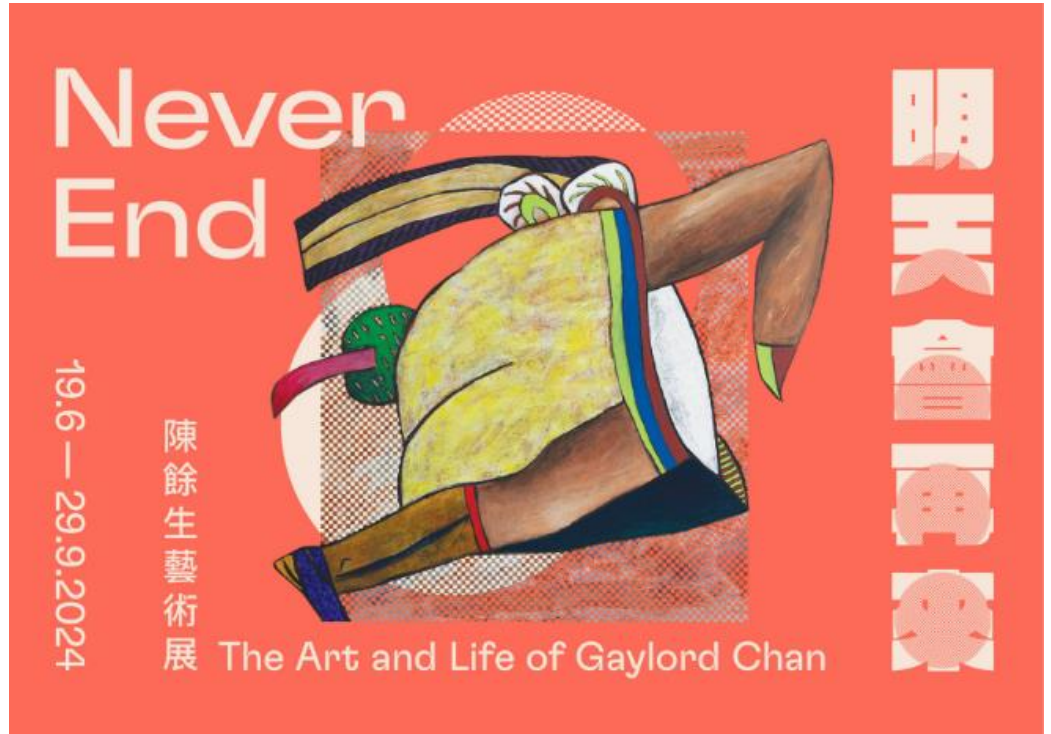
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Hong Kong: May 31, 2024 - Asia Society Hong Kong Center proudly presents ***Never End: The Art and Life of Gaylord Chan*** – the first retrospective since the late artist’s passing in 2020. The exhibition will celebrate Gaylord Chan’s artistic legacy with over 100 artworks alongside never seen before historical footage from the different stages of his life. The exhibition is presented in four sections which examine Chan’s unique practice and creativity.

(I) “The Grammar of Painting” explores Chan’s role as an artist and educator. Centered on his “fifteen-word truth” on painting, this section features a selection of works spanning the 1960s to 2000s that explore the essential elements of the artist’s visual language and offer the audience ways to decipher his inventive brand of abstraction.

(II) “Glyphs of Innocence and Experience” focuses on how Chan expressed emotions and ideas through symbolism. With artworks featuring the artist’s signature motifs, this section will explore Chan’s unique worldview and how he was inspired by folk and indigenous artifacts from different cultures.

(III) “Seeing Between the Colors” highlights Chan’s mature use of color and layering to explore different spatial compositions and visual perceptions. With a selection of works created after his painting residency at the New York School of Visual Arts in 1992, this section will also feature Chan’s little-known poetry alongside his imaginative and poetic canvases.

(IV) “From Canvas to Screen” exhibits a wealth of digital drawings by Chan including over 30 never-before-exhibited artworks. After suffering from a stroke and lung cancer, Chan transitioned to using Microsoft Paint to create art from the 2000s onwards. This section explores how Chan adapted his practice from the analogue to the digital in his later works.

Featuring valuable loans from the artist estate, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, and nine local and overseas private collections, this exhibition is organized by guest curator **Joyce Hei-ting Wong** with the guidance of exhibition consultant **Josephine Chow Suk Fan** alongside **Hain Yoon**, Assistant Curator of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

Exhibition Catalogue

A bilingual exhibition catalogue will be published to mark ASHK’s exhibition. The catalogue includes three texts offering different insights into the late artist by Joyce Hei-ting Wong, exhibition curator; Ian Findlay-Brown, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; and Anthony Yung, Asia Art Archive Senior Researcher, as well as over 100 color reproductions of all exhibited artworks, over 50 personal photos, and other unpublished archival ephemera.

About the Artist

Widely respected and beloved as one of Hong Kong’s most original painters, Gaylord Chan (1925-2020) had a dynamic career that traversed cultural epochs and broke the boundaries of medium. He made his first serious foray into painting only at the age of 42 after enrolling in an extramural studies art course organized by the University of Hong Kong in 1968. Chan’s late start, however, did not at all limit his potential. While he worked as an engineer for Cable & Wireless by day, Chan continued to experiment and refine his creative practice. The artist eventually developed a unique abstract language of bold colors and rustic forms that reflects on the simple wonders of daily life, science and metaphysics, and the contemporary human condition.

Winner of many accolades, including Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1985 and a Bronze Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2013, Chan co-founded the Hong Kong Visual Arts Society in 1974, the Culture Corner Art Academy in 1989, and Artmatch Group in 1995. He also served as the museum expert advisor for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department since 1993.

Exhibition Information



亞洲協會香港中心

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Dates

June 19, 2024 – September 29, 2024

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

Exhibition Education Programs

Art workshop for children

In this series of hands-on workshops, children will step into the vibrant world of Gaylord Chan's abstract artistry. They'll learn about the power of bold shapes, vivid colors, and the freedom to express themselves through three workshops: making flags, painting on canvas, and exploring digital art with Microsoft Paint. Instructors will guide them through the process, from selecting the perfect hues to designing their own abstract masterpieces. Drawing inspiration from the innovative world of digital artistry, the Microsoft Paint workshop will help guide children through the process of using digital platforms to craft their unique masterpieces. Just as artists like Gaylord Chan have redefined the boundaries of art, ASHK will show the participating children how to harness the power of technology to express their artistic visions.

Through this series of engaging and interactive experiences, participating children will not only gain an appreciation for art but also build essential skills in creativity, fine motor coordination, and self-expression. Plus, they'll have the opportunity to proudly showcase their unique creations and take home a newfound passion for art.

Art workshop for elderly

Gaylord Chan started creating outdoor flags at a very late stage in his career. The art workshop for the elderly will focus on painting or drawing on a flag shaped canvas. Seniors will not only build artistic skills, but they'll also discover that it's never too late to embark on an artistic journey, creating pieces that reflect their life experiences and unique perspectives.

Workshop dates:

Art workshop for children: July 7, August 4, August 17 (14:00)

Art workshop for elderly: September 24 (14:00)

Monthly Salon

ASHK Gallery will host monthly Art Salon programs during the exhibition. Each month, we will invite guests to join us for a dynamic and immersive experience that brings together three captivating elements: home film screenings, Gaylord Chan's poetry readings, and insights from his students and friends.

Monthly Salon dates: June 22, July 27, August 31, September 28 (15:00)

Art Healing Program: Nurturing Well-Being Through Abstract Art

A program dedicated to healing through abstract art will be specially crafted for both secondary school students and the elderly. A transformative healing journey, the program is designed to offer solace, connection, and a pathway to emotional well-being.

AI Interactive Docent Tours

In addition to ASHK's weekly public walk-in tours led by experienced docent guides, three tours will feature a special AI chatbot. Looking at how AI bots can be used as a learning tool in an exhibition, this alternative docent tour will encourage visitors to interact with the AI bot, ask it questions about the artist and artwork and share with the group their experiences.

AI Interactive Docent Tours dates: July 14, August 18, September 15 (14:30 English; 15:30 Chinese)

High-Res Key Visual

Attached with the mail.

Website

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/never-end-art-and-life-gaylord-chan>

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is an independent non-governmental educational organization established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders led by Sir Quo-wei Lee, then Chairman of Hang Seng Bank. It is one of the 14 centers of Asia Society's diverse network across the globe, with the mission to navigate shared futures for Asia and the world in the fields of arts and culture, business and policy. Since 2012, ASHK is situated at the Former Explosives Magazine of the Victoria Barracks, a site steeped in history, cultural significance, and natural beauty. The 1.3 hectares site, housing four former British military buildings, was built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse, the heritage site has been transformed into a cultural and intellectual hub, combining



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heritage preservation with a distinct modern aesthetic complete with world-class performance and conference facilities that offer a broad range of arts and culture, business and policy programs, and exhibitions to the community. ASHK was established entirely with local funding, and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations that support and advance its mission.

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