

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong
Local artists responds to the shared history and collective memories of Hong Kong
To continue the legend of *Breathing Space: Contemporary Art*

(Hong Kong, May 8, 2020) Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) presents its new exhibition ***Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong*** at its Chantal Miller Gallery. The Exhibition will be open to public for free admission commencing May 8, 2020 to September 27, 2020.

Through the Matching Fund Scheme, we sincerely thank the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) for generously supporting our work at ASHK to promote community engagement through the arts. Our heartfelt appreciation goes towards our generous donors – Burger Collection, Ms. Ronna Chao, Mr. Lau Ming Wai, and Mr. William Lim – for their support in the promotion of local creative talents.

Ms. Winsome Chow, Chief Executive of HKADC, said, “Hong Kong Arts Development Council has been supporting the diversified development of local artists and arts groups by providing different types of funding schemes. Through the ‘Matching Fund Scheme’, we hope to promote a culture of support to artistic creation and activities and facilitate donors and commercial corporations to join hands in promoting vibrant development of the arts in the community of Hong Kong. We are glad that *Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* can benefit from the ‘Matching Fund Scheme’ to showcase the infinite creativity of local outstanding artists for public appreciation.”

Ms. S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of ASHK, said, “ Since our successful exhibition of *Breathing Space: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* in 2017, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong handover, Asia Society Hong Kong has been eager to organize another exhibition featuring the dynamic creativity of artists based in or are from Hong Kong. The result is *Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* which will help to kick off ASHK’s 30th anniversary celebration. During this unprecedented time of social distancing, arts and artists speak a universal language of contemplation and reflection which serves to remind us of our common humanity. “

Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong focuses on the theme of convergence and engages with the shared history and collective memories of Hong Kong so as to encourage visitors to rethink their perception of the past and present and open up their imaginations towards the future. This exhibition has been made possible with the creativity and dedication of all participating artists – Isaac Chong Wai, Christopher K. Ho, Leung Chi Wo, Andrew Luk, Vivian Qin, Sara Wong, Cici Wu, Samson Young and Zheng Mahler (Royce Ng and Daisy Bisenieks).

Collaborate with 10 local Artists

Featuring research-based works by 10 local artists, *Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* responds to the shared history and collective memories of Hong Kong. Throughout the creative process, each artist focuses on different research methodologies, including interviews, archival research, and field studies, as a starting point for their inspiration and thinking process. This process is translated into the final works that come with strong visual impact, interactivity, and performative elements. We encourage visitors to engage with the works by opening their senses and imagination to delve into the past with new perspectives, savor the present, and contemplate what the future holds.

This exhibition brings together a collection of thoughtful works that highlight the artists' critical thinking and cross-disciplinary knowledge, including sociology, ethnography, music history, and visual cultures: Samson Young examines cross-cultural encounters and further questions notions of cultural purity and authenticity through the genealogy of the well-known folk song *Molihua* (Jasmine Flower); Christopher K. Ho reflects on the underside of nationalist spectacle and intentional manipulation of cultural discourse by assembling iconic images of American civil celebrations and the Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton; Zheng Mahler uses porcelain pieces and rare earth minerals exported from Jingdezhen in Jiangxi province to carefully examine the historical symmetries of Chinese and Western geopolitics between the 18th century and the present.

Aside from the critical reflection of personal insight and socio-political landscapes, other artists looked at the emotional perceptions of collective memories: Leung Chi Wo explores our ambiguous relationship with historical events in a photography series by revisiting locations 50 years after violent events took place; Cici Wu's work reinterprets the personal idea of death and loss by tracing the unsolved disappearance case of Yu Man-hon in 2000 through film; Isaac Chong redefines the negative perception of failure by examines the feeling of helplessness in the bodily movement of falling as an attempt to encourage support for each other through powerlessness; Vivian Qin explores the authentic needs of survival and uncovers how people support each other in the critical times in her extensive research on doomsday preppers.

What's more, artists Sara Wong and Andrew Luk explore the heritage sites at ASHK to heighten our awareness of the present. While Wong develops a sensorial experience from personal stories related to the Lighting Passage located at the Miller Theater (Former Magazine B), Luk reproduces British Naval boundary stones – initially found along the outskirts of our site – in various materials to explore the diverse usage of architectural materials in relation to a habitat where humanity and nature converge.

By highlighting a critical dimension of these creative practices, *Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong* is dedicated to breaking down the mainstream assumptions generated by insufficient information and careless observation. The exhibition aims to open up visitors' creative imagination of our "next act" as the possible future. Meanwhile, the exhibition also acts as an occasion to explore the limitless possibilities of our arts and cultural programs and offerings at ASHK. Apart from presenting immersive learning experiences, we passionately continue to move forward and provide an inclusive platform that encourages collaboration across different disciplines

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About the artists

Isaac Chong Wai, Christopher K. Ho, Leung Chi Wo, Andrew Luk , Vivian Qin, Sara Wong, Cici Wu, Samson Young and Zheng Mahler

About The Exhibition

Exhibition Period

8 May - 27 September 2020

Free admission

Location

Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine
9 Justice Drive Admiralty, Hong Kong

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Sunday: 11am - 6pm

Last Thursday of every month: 11am - 8pm (28 May, 25 Jun, 30 Jul, 27 Aug and 24 Sep, 2020)

Closed on Mondays

Last admission 30 minutes before closing

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government 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 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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Hashtag of the exhibition: #nextacthk