

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara
Opens at The Asia Society Hong Kong Center

More than 20 new pieces and iconic artworks presented in Nara's first major solo exhibition in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong, March 5, 2015) The first major solo Hong Kong exhibition of Yoshitomo Nara, one of the world's most celebrated contemporary artists, opens at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center tomorrow (March 6). Running until July 26, ***The Hong Kong Jockey Club Presents – Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara*** features more than 20 new creations as well as iconic Nara artworks of the past two decades.

Funded by a HK\$4.21 million donation from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the exhibition and its accompanying lectures, docent tours and education programs will be free for the public to enjoy.

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center said, "In support of Hong Kong's emergence as a hub of contemporary art, the Asia Society Hong Kong Center is delighted to present Yoshitomo Nara's thought-provoking work in this free exhibition. We have also produced exciting educational programs in cooperation with the artist and the Jockey Club that we hope will inspire budding local artists and encourage members of the public to engage with art more deeply."

Mr. Leong Cheung, Executive Director, Charities and Community of The Hong Kong Jockey Club said the Jockey Club was delighted to be the exclusive sponsor of the exhibition, and noted, "the Trust's donation also covers a wide range of programmes, such as customized docent tours, "Sunday with Nara" workshops, public lectures by Yoshitomo Nara, Fumio Nanjo and scholars, and master classes to cross-over with local artists to inspire art appreciation. All these activities, along with out-reach programmes to the underprivileged and schools, help bring the exhibition to the next level where more people can experience the beauty of art."

Nara lectures lead educational programs

Nara's lectures are eagerly anticipated highlights of the ***Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara*** education programs. On the evening of March 6, 2015, Nara and guest curator Fumio Nanjo will discuss their curatorial approach to the exhibition, explaining how the selected works take the viewer on a journey into Nara's world and looking at the role of Nara's endearing big-headed girls.

On March 7, Nara will invite us to go deeper into his memories, life and imagination as he shares the genesis of his girl icon and confronts some misconceptions about him and his work. He will particularly connect his vision for *Life is Only One!* to the traditional Japanese concept of "mono no aware", which relates to poignant moments when our awareness of the intransience of an object or

living thing reminds us of the impermanence of life.

A series of educational programs also made possible by The Hong Kong Jockey Club's donation, will offer public lectures by a range of scholars, weekend tours and workshops, and an Illustration Master Class series hosted by local artists. Exhibition visitors will also have the chance to create their own works of art on every last Sunday of the month at Asia Society Hong Kong Center Landscape Terrace from noon. Completed works can be entered into the "Life is Only One" Art Competition.

Throughout the exhibition, outreach partner Hang Lung Properties will present educational workshops and other events at popular locations: Fashion Walk in Causeway Bay, The Peak Galleria and Kornhill Plaza in Quarry Bay.

The public will also be able to purchase unique exhibition memorabilia especially made by Yoshitomo Nara for Asia Society Hong Kong Center. All proceeds will support the Center's education programs for students and youth. Please check out our website and Facebook page for more details.

About *Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara*

The title of the 20-week ***Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara*** exhibition comes from the Nara painting *Life is Only One!*, which depicts an innocent-looking girl holding a human skull. It reflects an abiding theme of the artist's work over two decades, as can be seen in the range of paintings, sketches, photographs, sculpture and mixed media installations selected for the Hong Kong audience. This new exhibition showcases iconic works as well as three new paintings, 17 new drawings, and some new puppy sculptures created specifically for this show.

Exhibition details

Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara will be held at Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, from March 6 – July 26, 2015, with free admission.

The gallery is located at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty. It is open from 11am – 6pm, Tuesday to Thursday, with an 8pm close on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, while the last Thursday of the month also closes at 8pm. To accommodate an expected increase in visitors during Art Basel Hong Kong, the Gallery will be open from 11am – 8pm from March 16 – 19.

For more information, call the Asia Society Hong Kong Center hotline (+852 2103 9511) or visit the ***Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara*** website at www.nara.asiasociety.org.hk or the exhibition Facebook community page Life is Only One: Yoshitomo Nara.

You may also connect with Asia Society Hong Kong Center on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Asiasocietyhongkong

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK>

Instagram: @AsiaSocietyHK

Link for photos: Dropbox <http://goo.gl/JVOIYA>

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Hong Kong Center

Organizer:



Hong Kong Center

Exclusive Sponsor:



香港賽馬會慈善信託基金
The Hong Kong Jockey Club
Charities Trust

Outreach Partner:



About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York, The Asia Society is a leading not-for-profit, non-government educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, The Asia Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

As one of the eleven centers of The Asia Society, Asia Society Hong Kong Center (the "Hong Kong Center" or "ASHK") was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by the late Sir Q.W. Lee, the honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank.

In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new permanent home in Admiralty at the Old Victoria Barracks, Former Explosives Magazine site. Steeped in history, cultural significance and natural beauty, the site was originally built by the British Army in the mid-19th century for explosives and ammunition production and storage. Through careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use, this heritage site was successfully transformed into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub. ASHK warmly welcomes the public to visit the Center, to join the programs and view the exhibitions organized by ASHK and its partners.

As the leading regional knowledge-based platform for furthering the understanding of the countries and cultures of Asia and global issues that impact the region, Asia Society Hong Kong Center boasts extensive regional and international networks of leaders and scholars, and offers a broad variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established entirely with local funding and is supported through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations that work together to support and advance its mission.

About The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Founded in 1884, The Hong Kong Jockey Club is a world-class horse racing operator and Hong Kong's largest community benefactor, as well as one of Asia's most prestigious membership clubs. Operating as a not-for-profit organisation, the Club allocates its surplus funds for charitable and community projects. In 2013/14, its donations reached a record \$3.6 billion, and in the last decade alone it supported over 1,275 projects. The Club is also Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer, contributing a record HK\$19.58 billion in 2013/14. With about 70% of its revenue given back to society every year through donations and tax contributions, The Hong Kong Jockey Club delivers a significantly higher return to the community than any other racing and/or sports betting organisation in the world. As a socially responsible organisation, the Club helps Government combat illegal betting and advocates responsible gambling. The Club is also one of Hong Kong's largest employers with over 24,800 full-time and part-time staff. Committed to global excellence and giving back to society, the Club is always "riding high together for a better future" with the people of Hong Kong. Please visit 130.hkjc.com.

About Hang Lung Properties

Hang Lung Properties Limited, a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index and Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Indices in Hong Kong, is a leading real estate developer in Hong Kong and mainland China. Boasting a diversified portfolio of investment properties in Hong Kong, the Company has progressively branched out into the Mainland since the 1990s, building, owning and managing world-class commercial complexes in key cities, projects that have earned international acclaim for their exceptional quality of architectural design, services and sustainable features.

Riding on the immense success of its two landmark properties in Shanghai, Plaza 66 and Grand Gateway 66, the Company's footprint has expanded to Shenyang, Jinan, Wuxi, Tianjin, Dalian, Kunming and Wuhan, with all the Mainland projects carrying the "66" brand. Subsequent to the grand openings of Parc 66 in Jinan, Palace 66 and Forum 66 in Shenyang, as well as Center 66 in Wuxi over the past few years, Riverside 66, another world-class investment property in Tianjin, also came into operation in September 2014. As Hang Lung's business continues to grow, the Company is set to develop into the most admired mega national commercial property enterprise in the market.

Media Enquiry

For more information, high res photo request or to arrange an interview, please contact:

External Affairs, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Evelyn Chan Phone: +852 2103 9513

Stephanie Su Phone: +852 2103 9570

Email: mediahk@asiasociety.org