

[For Immediate Release]

(Hong Kong, 13 November 2019)



Save the date for the 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ART SYMPOSIUM on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November

**Hong Kong Art Week 2019**  
21 – 30 Nov 2019

The Hong Kong Art Gallery Art Gallery Association (HKAGA) and Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) invite you to join us at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Art Symposium on the 29<sup>th</sup> (Fri) and 30<sup>th</sup> (Sat) of November.

Returning for the fourth time as the flagship programme of the [Hong Kong Art Week \(HKAW\) 2019](#) – which begins on **21 November** and runs through **30 November** – the 2-day Art Symposium will bring together a roster of over 20 art professionals from the local, regional and international art scene to engage in discourses on topics that are relevant to the art ecology in Hong Kong and beyond. Entering its 7th year, HKAW 2019 presents a collective front of art galleries together with various facets of the art industry in one of the biggest art festivals in Hong Kong. Special events supported by the HKAGA's member galleries will take place throughout the week, with highlight events on the dates below:

[Art Gallery Night](#) | 21 Nov 2019, 6pm – 8pm

[South Island Art Brunch](#) | 23 Nov 2019, 11am – 2pm

The theme of the Symposium this year is **“Back to Basics: Restructuring the Future”**, as we return to the fundamentals and rethink the strategies in creating a sustainable community for today's art world. The thoughtfully curated programme will prompt discussions centralised on cultural development and art criticism in Hong Kong, as well as dissect current and prospective alternative forms of art collecting and gallery operations beyond our city.

“This year's Symposium reimagines the future of the art world, where markets and culture grow hand-in-hand, becoming increasingly diverse and complex. Our four panels and keynote presentation touch on vital pillars within our industry, highlighting issues and posing solutions,” said Willem Molesworth, Vice-President of the HKAGA who leads this year's Symposium with Fabio Rossi, Co-President of the association. “Some of the most respected and influential figures within the art world will speak and share their thoughts. It is a rare gathering not to be missed!”

In each panel session, 30 minutes will be dedicated to the main speaker who will give a presentation on the session topic, after which a one-hour discussion, coordinated by a moderator, will ensue. Some of the highlights this year include the screening of award-winning documentary *Herb & Dorothy* and a concluding keynote speech delivered by Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director of M+. Detailed programme of the Art Symposium continues on the next page.

Art Symposium 2019

**Day 1 | Friday, 29th November 2019**

**2:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Venue: JC Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

*Doors open at 2:00 pm*

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2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Session 1: ART MARKET vs CULTURAL CENTRE: Where does Hong Kong stand?**

As Hong Kong grows to become an internationally recognised art market, what is the city's progress in terms of cultural advancement? This panel focuses on Hong Kong's position amidst the Greater China and the Asia Pacific region, lending an analytical lens to the challenges and opportunities it faces. Panel conducted in English.

**Main Speaker:** Connie Lam (Executive Director, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong)

**Panellist Speakers:**

- Johnson Chang (Founder & Director, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong)
- Dr Florian Knothe (Director, University Museum and Art Gallery, the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

**Moderator:** John Tain (Head of Research, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong)

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

**Session 2: OUTSIDE THE CUBE: What are the alternative models to traditional art galleries?**

This panel explores alternative physical models of gallery operations as well as the different relationships that can be fostered between galleries and artists, scrutinising the prospects of traditional models and new emerging forms or technologies that allow galleries to adapt, survive and sustain within the increasingly competitive landscape. Panel conducted in English.

**Main Speaker:** Yng-Ru Chen (Founder, Praise Shadows Art Partners, US)

**Panellist Speakers:**

- Yuko Yamamoto (Director, ANOMALY Inc., Japan)
- Alexander Lau (Director-at-large, Empty Gallery, Hong Kong)

**Moderator:** Willem Molesworth (Director, de Sarthe; Vice President, HKAGA; Co-founder, Suitcase Institute, Hong Kong)

**Day 2 | Saturday, 30th November 2019**

**10:00 am – 4:30 pm**

Venue: JC Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

*Doors open at 10:00 am*

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10:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Session 3: YOUR SHOW SUCKS! Why does art criticism matter?**

This panel takes a look at art criticism – its history, its present and its future – with a special focus on Hong Kong. It will explore the relationship between criticism and critical voice, considering the role that both play within the art ecology. Panel conducted in English.

**Main Speaker:** Emily Verla Bovino, PhD, Professor of Art and Architectural History, SCAD Hong Kong

**Panellist Speakers:**

- Ulanda Blair (Curator of Moving Image, M+, Hong Kong)
- Nick Yu (Development Manager, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong)
- Daniel Szehin Ho (Publications Editor and Project Director for Booked: Hong Kong Art Book Fair, Tai Kwun, Hong Kong)

**Moderator:** H.G. Masters (Deputy Editor & Deputy Publisher, *ArtAsiaPacific*)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

**Screening of documentary *HERB & DOROTHY***

**Director:** Megumi Sasaki

**Summary:** *HERB & DOROTHY* tells the extraordinary story of a postal clerk and a librarian who managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history with very modest means.

In the early 1960s, when very little attention was paid to Minimalist and Conceptual Art, the Vogels quietly began purchasing the works of unknown artists. Devoting all of Herb's salary to purchase art they liked, they collected guided by two rules: the piece had to be affordable, and it had to be small enough to fit in their one-bedroom Manhattan apartment. Within these limitations, they proved themselves curatorial visionaries; most of those they supported and befriended went on to become world-renowned artists, including Andy Warhol, Julian Schnabel, Sol LeWitt, and more. Juices and sandwiches available. Film in English.

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

**Session 4: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RICH: What does collecting on a budget look like?**

This panel aims to shed a different light on the often intimidating avocation of art collection, where renowned collectors share tips and experiences in starting, expanding and sustaining a collection. Collectors with a limited budget will receive insight on options, timing and platforms, as well as how to collect as an investment. Panel conducted in Cantonese and Mandarin; simultaneous interpretation in English available on site.

**Main Speaker:** Dr Yip Shing Yiu, FRCP (Lond) (Senior Member of Min Chiu Society, Hong Kong)

**Panellist Speakers:**

- Meiling Lee (International Specialist of 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary Art, Phillips, Taiwan)
- Hubert Li (Managing Director, Hong Kong Wine Vault, Hong Kong)
- Ryan Su (Head, Art and Cultural Property Law, WMH Law Corporation, Singapore)
- Du Yan (Entrepreneur and Contemporary Art Collector; Chairman, Asymmetry Foundation, China)

**Moderator:** Catherine Kwai (Founder & Managing Director, Kwai Fung Hin Art Gallery; Co-president, HKAGA, Hong Kong)

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm

**Tea Break (Coffee and tea will be served)**

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

**Session 5: Keynote Presentation**

Wrapping up the two-day Symposium will be a keynote speech by Suhanya Raffel, who will shed light on plans for the M+ Museum poised to unveil in 2020.

**Speaker:** Suhanya Raffel (Museum Director, M+, Hong Kong)

**Theme:** M+: the Power of +. Hong Kong, Asia and the World.

Admissions are free. Please refer to [our Symposium webpage](#) for the latest information. Due to limited capacity of the venue, please RSVP [here](#) to secure your seat.

All events within the Hong Kong Art Week are free and open to all, thanks to the support of Art Basel, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Global Group, Phillips and Salvatore Ferragamo. Zai Art is the Official Chinese Social Media Partner of Hong Kong Art Week 2019.

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Note to Editors

**About Hong Kong Art Gallery Association**

Founded in 2012, HKAGA is a member-based non-profit organisation of established art galleries in Hong Kong. With 52 member galleries, the mission of HKAGA is to advance the Hong Kong art gallery community by providing one voice to its members, reaching out to the local and international art community, and helping deepen market knowledge and best practices among members. Since 2014, HKAGA has been officially recognised as a grant recipient of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for its dedication and promotion of the arts scene in Hong Kong.

**About Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

As an affiliate of the Asia Society global network of 14 centers, Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established in 1990. In February 2012, the Hong Kong Center established its new home in Admiralty at the former Explosives Magazine of the old Victoria Barracks. Steeped in history, cultural significance and natural beauty, the 1.3 hectares site, which houses a group of four former British military buildings, 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 in Hong Kong in 2012 and offers a broad variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community.

**For media enquiries, please direct them to:**

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