

**Co-Organized by
CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN HONG KONG AND MACAU
and
ASIA SOCIETY HONG KONG CENTER**

**December 22, 2021
For Immediate Release**

**The Night of Ideas Returns to Hong Kong for its 5th Edition
with the Theme [Re]build: Beyond the Skyline**

On-Site and Online

The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau and the Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) are pleased to announce the 5th edition of The Night of Ideas (in French, La Nuit des Idées), which will reflect on the contours of the notion of heritage. Under the title **[Re]build: Beyond the Skyline**, this event will take place on January 27, 2022, 5:30pm-10pm, at ASHK. Through its hybrid and innovative design, it will bring to you insightful and lively content, whether you come to the calm oasis of ASHK in the heart of Admiralty or you are live streaming at home.

As the year 2022 marks 10 years of ASHK at the Former Explosives Magazine heritage site as well as the 5th anniversary of the Night of Ideas organized by the Consulate General of France, both institutions come together to reflect on the past in order to shape the world ahead. Heritage is a critical discussion point in the debate about shaping the identity of future generations. In light of this observation, the Night of Ideas aims to answer a simple, yet essential question: What is heritage?

Leading French and Hong Kong heritage specialists, renowned scholars, institutional figures and art professionals will debate this poignant theme in engaging roundtables moderated by the Chairman of the Antiquities Advisory Board Mr. Douglas So. The discussions held in ASHK's prestigious Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall and broadcast live will explore the emotional connections between people and heritage. Some more potential answers will emerge in various forms, as the night will bring to life an exclusive neon sign exhibition from StreetsignHK, more than 80 images by photographers Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake taken of Hong Kong from the 1940s to 1970s in ASHK's latest exhibition, *Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence* as well as a unique VR experience of French built heritage.

French Consul General Mr. Alexandre Giorgini underlines the importance of the event: "Heritage is about your own history: who you are and who you want to be. Knowing the past helps you understand the present, and better shape the future." ASHK Executive Director Ms. S. Alice Mong adds, "ASHK is excited to host an event on its site with the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau on heritage, a poignant theme for our organization as the present occupants of the Former Explosives Magazine, a site filled with history. Our heritage site allows us to not only reflect on our local past, but also use that understanding to help steer the course of our future."

With two roundtables, The Night of Ideas will invite audiences to revisit its perception of heritage, and to engage in a personal reflection of what they personally consider heritage.

Panel Discussion 1: [Re]build the Notion: What Makes Heritage?

When asked about heritage, one will instinctively think about a rather old building. Nonetheless, not all old buildings are recognized as heritage, while some rather new ones are. This paradox questions the role that time plays in turning architecture into heritage, but also the importance of acceptance and bonding with civil society. In a broader perspective, this also ignites the debate on how to rebuild damaged structures, and how new architecture can be integrated into heritage, becoming a part of it.

Panel Discussion 2: [Re]vive the Notion: Can Heritage Take Hold of the Streets?

In Hong Kong or France, streets are more than a place people are just passing through. They are places where life is everywhere, and each path reflects the identity of its inhabitants. People share a feeling of belonging in their own neighborhood, and an emotional bond with all signs of life growing between buildings, including neon signs, outdoor markets, posters, and more. As the city evolves and grows, the look of streets can undergo deep changes. This raises the question of whether they keep being mirrors of identity of their local communities, and how their preservation is part of intangible heritage conservation.

ASHK Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence Exhibition

The more than 80 photographs by Hedda Morrison, Lee Fook Chee and Brian Brake trace Hong Kong's history over a span of three decades of great change, from the 1940s to the 1970s. They highlight Hong Kong's post-war recovery in 1946-1947, resilience of the 1950s, and resurgence of the 1960s-1970s. *Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence* is curated by Edward Stokes who founded The Photographic Heritage Foundation. The exhibition coincides with celebrations to commemorate 10 years of ASHK's heritage site at the Former Explosives Magazine in Admiralty.

Dates

December 14, 2021-March 6, 2022

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

Website

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/recovery-resilience-resurgence-fusushengxinizhongqiucunzhongzhengigu>

Exhibition Hashtag

#PicturingHK

Streetsignhk Neon Pop-Up Exhibition

With an exclusive exhibition, StreetsignHK takes over the rooftop of ASHK to recreate the atmosphere of a typical Hong Kong street. Kevin Mak and Ken Fung, the two architects behind the project, will enlighten the Night of Ideas, as they invite visitors to reflect on the cultural identity of Hong Kong, and the confines of the notion of heritage.

Location

Joseph Lau & Josephine Lau Roof Garden
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty
Hong Kong

Paris Behind the Scenes VR Experience

Discovering some of the most iconic monuments of Paris from a unique perspective without having to travel will be made possible for the Night of Ideas, as VR technology will enable visitors to take a private tour of the Eiffel Tower, Paris City Hall, Saint-Eustache church or Notre-Dame cathedral. These VR experiences will allow guests to discover the possibilities opened by new technologies in terms of heritage conservation.

Location

Lippo Amphitheater
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
9 Justice Drive, Admiralty
Hong Kong

The Night of Ideas (in French, La Nuit des Idées)



Launched in Paris for the first time in 2016, the Night of Ideas in Hong Kong is part of a worldwide operation that aims at sharing the French culture of debate every 3rd Thursday of January, with the support of the Institut Français of Paris. From Seoul to Los Angeles, from Tokyo to Paris, passing through Singapore, Hong Kong and New York... 220 Nights of Ideas are organized throughout 90 countries. The event has been featured every year in Hong Kong since 2018 with major local partners: Asia Society Hong Kong Center (Artificial Intelligence, 2018), Hong Kong Design Institute (Night of Architecture, 2019), Saint James' Settlement (The

Revolution of Sharing, 2020) and the Hong Kong Museum of Art (St[art] Again, 2021). Philosophers, writers, researchers, intellectuals, students, whistleblowers, artists and political figures propose their vision of the present, and their solutions to the challenges of tomorrow on issues of equality, ecology, education, urban planning, science, policy, and technology.

www.lanuitdesidees.com

Co-Organized By

Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

Headed by Consul General Mr. Alexandre Giorgini, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau administers the French community in Hong Kong and Macau, and has the mission to serve and protect the interests of French citizens. It also delivers visas to nationals of other countries willing to travel to France. Under the authority of the French Ambassador in Beijing, the Consul General is in charge of coordinating and furthering the development of political, cultural and economic relations between France and both Hong Kong and Macau. As part of its actions for promoting French culture and arts, the Department of Culture, Education and Science (SCAC) provides information, advice and support on the development of culture and art-related projects. Bringing together French and local organizations is one of the principal missions of SCAC. It particularly encourages projects leading to long-term exchange programs (teachers, students, artists, authors), co-production or training programs in or with France.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is a locally funded, independent non-governmental 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 3rd to promote mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships between Asia and the U.S. in a global context. ASHK 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 the 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 arts and culture, business and policy programs as well as exhibitions to the community.

Supported By Institut Français



The Institut Français is in charge of implementing France's cultural action abroad. The agency was set up in 2010. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its role is to act as the conduit for a new, more ambitious "diplomacy of influence" within the framework of French governmental policies and priorities. It will help promote French influence abroad through greater dialogue with foreign

cultures, while responding to the needs of France via a policy of listening, partnership, and openness to other cultures. The Institut Français replaces the Culturesfrance association, with the legal status of a "Public Industrial and Commercial Undertaking". Working closely with France's cultural network abroad, the Institut Français seeks to answer the needs of the country's diplomatic missions. At the same time, however, it promotes initiatives to pool projects more widely, and achieve economies of scale. At a local level, it operates under the authority of the ambassador in the country concerned.

<https://www.institutfrancais.com/en>

With the Participation of StreetsignHK



Named after “signboard-streetscape”, the unique vibrant cityscape created by layers of signboards in the streets of Hong Kong, @streetsignhk was founded in October 2017 by two architects Kevin Mak and Ken Fung. @streetsignhk promotes signboard-streetscape as urban cultural heritage by exploring in-depth signboard stories of Hong Kong and building regulations, conserving existing signboards that face demolition and promoting a sustainable signboard culture through design practice. Refusing to just witness and document the disappearance of signboards due to change in building regulation and also retail environment, we use our professional background and knowledge to provide advice on signs to shop owners, advocate change in conservation policy, and investigate aesthetic and cultural values of signboard. We believe the unique signboard streetscape in Hong Kong deserves a sustainable environment that balances safety concerns.

Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macao

<https://hongkong.consulfrance.org/-English->

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StreetsignHK

<http://streetsign.hk>

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Press Contacts

Isabelle Chak

Press & Communications Officer
Dept. of Culture, Education and Science
Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau
isabelle.chak@consulfrance-hongkong.org
+852 3752 9978

Lise Maillard-Salin

Attachée for Academic Affairs
Dept. of Culture, Education and Science
Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau
lise.maillard-salin@diplomatie.gouv.fr
+852 3752 9104

Bettina Buck

Head of Communications
Asia Society Hong Kong Center
bbuck@asiasociety.org
+852 2103 9511

For general ASHK media enquiries

mediahk@asiasociety.org