

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Exhibition “Double Take – The Asia Photographs of Brian Brake and Steve McCurry”**

**Travels with Asia Society Hong Kong Center to Shanghai**

(Hong Kong, June 29, 2018) – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) today announced the successful launch of **Double Take – The Asia Photographs of Brian Brake and Steve McCurry** in Shanghai, China. The exhibition is co-organized by ASHK and Shanghai Center of Photography (SCoP), with Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa) as Exhibition Partner, and represents the third leg in its journey to major Asian art centers. ASHK first partnered with Te Papa in 2016 to stage the exhibition as **Picturing Asia: Double Take** at its Chantal Miller Gallery; in 2017, The Auckland Art Festival joined as co-organizer to take the exhibition to New Zealand. The current exhibition in Shanghai opened on June 16, 2018 and met with strong interest from the local media and art and photography aficionados.

“We are very proud of our enduring partnership with Te Papa to take **Double Take** on its journey around Asia, and we are grateful for the support of SCoP to present this exhibition to a new audience in Shanghai. **Picturing Asia: Double Take** was one of our most successful contemporary art exhibitions and we are confident it will enjoy equal popularity in Shanghai,” said S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

“**Double Take** sheds light on Brake and McCurry’s common passion in capturing the many facets of Asia. Through their lenses, Brian Brake and Steve McCurry have brought Asia’s cultural richness to the eyes of global audiences. Their iconic images presented in the show underline our commitment as an educational institute that strives to foster cultural interactions between Asia and the rest of the world,” Ms. Mong added.

**Double Take** will be featured at the SCoP from June 17 to September 9, 2018. The exhibition is curated by Ian Wedde, former Head of Art and Visual Culture at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa), together with ASHK’s Head of Gallery and Exhibition Dominique Chan and Assistant Curator Ashley Wu.

**About the Exhibition**

The launch of *Life* magazine in 1936 set the stage for a hugely influential approach to using and seeing photographs: the photo essay came to dominate – and direct – the social, economic, and political narratives that underscored the 20th century. So much so that, today, images as “the photograph” are an essential tool for conveying all manner of scenes, incidents, stories of daily life, human experience and personas. **Double Take** presents the work of two exemplary, and hugely influential 20th-century photo essayists, the documentary photographers Brian Brake and Steve McCurry. Both Brake and, twenty years later, McCurry made their reputations as visual storytellers providing eyewitness accounts of great events.

The career of New Zealand-born Brian Brake (1927 – 1988) was launched in 1957 with a first photo essay on China – a second followed in 1959 with Brake the only independent Western photographer present to cover the tenth anniversary of the People’s Republic of China in Beijing. The work of American Steve McCurry (1950 – ) became a regular feature of *National Geographic* from the early 1980s, following the first publication in the *New York Times* in 1979, of his photograph of the war in Afghanistan. Both men photographed the Indian monsoon – Brake in 1960, McCurry in 1983-1985 – which is where this exhibition begins.

**Double Take** is supported by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Te Papa gratefully acknowledges the gift of the Brian Brake Collection by Wai-man Lau.

We acknowledge the assistance of McCurry Studios in New York.

For further details on the exhibition, the photographers and curators, please visit <https://www.scop.org.cn/>.

### Photo Captions

Photo 1:



(From left) **Double Take – The Asia Photographs of Brian Brake and Steve McCurry** opened at the Shanghai Center of Photography on June 16, 2018. Pictured at the opening ceremony included Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Head of Gallery and Exhibition Dominique Chan, Assistant Curator Ashley Wu, Executive Director, S. Alice Mong, New Zealand Ambassador Clare Fearnley, Founder of SCoP Liu Heung Shing, Curator Ian Wedde, Consul General of New Zealand in Shanghai, Guergana Guermanoff, Artistic Director of SCoP Karen Smith, Vice President Global Communication of Christian Dior China Lucy Xu.

Photo 2:



Curator Ian Wedde (right) delivering his opening speech at *Double Take* in Shanghai on June 16, 2018 while Founder of SCoP Liu Heung Shing looked on.

- End -

**Exhibition Duration:**

Exhibition Opening: 4pm, 16 June, 2018

Duration: 17 June to 9 September, 2018

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30-17:30 (last entry 17:00)

Venue: Shanghai Center of Photography (SCoP)

Address: 2555-1 Longteng Avenue, Shanghai, China (near Fenggu Road)

Metro: Yunjin Road, Line 11, Exit 2

Ticket: ¥40 / Student Price: ¥30

Contact: +86 (0)21 6428 9516

Email: [info@scop-sh.com](mailto:info@scop-sh.com)

Web: [www.scop.org.cn](http://www.scop.org.cn)

**About Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government organization that was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders. It is affiliated with Asia Society in New York that 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.

### **About Shanghai Center of Photography**

Shanghai Center of Photography (SCôP) was founded in May 2015 by Mr Liu Heung Shing. SCôP is a non-profit organization: the first such accredited art institution dedicated to photography in China, and Shanghai's premiere museum for the photographic medium.

SCôP showcases international and Chinese photography in all its diverse applications. Here you will find the best of journalism, documentary, social history, fashion and art photography from around the world. In tandem with its curated exhibitions, SCôP offers a program of educational programs including workshops, lectures, and publications.

### **Media Enquiry**

For more information, please contact:

External Affairs

Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Barbara Tong +852 2103 9513

May Tam +852 2103 9559

Email: [mediahk@asiasociety.org](mailto:mediahk@asiasociety.org)

Media Department

Shanghai Center of Photography

Luo Jing Jing Tel: +86189 1731 2533

Email: [luojingjing@scop-sh.com](mailto:luojingjing@scop-sh.com)