

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents
A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun
The first career-spanning exhibition of the groundbreaking local artist in over a decade
12 March – 9 June 2019 at Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center


Hon Chi-fun, *Untitled 06, 01, 12, 09*, 1983, Polaroid film, 10.4 × 8.4 cm. Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Image courtesy of Blindspot Gallery and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.

(Hong Kong, February 1, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center is honored to present *A Story of Light*, an exhibition of the groundbreaking Hong Kong artist **Hon Chi-fun** (b. 1922) at the Chantal Miller Gallery. As a postal inspector by trade, Hon is a self-taught artist who rose to prominence in the 1960s with his radical artistic experiments that combined international influences as a response to Hong Kong's multi-cultural context.

A Story of Light re-contextualizes the evolution of Hon Chi-fun's diverse oeuvre by tracing his fascination with light as both a material and subject throughout his versatile artistic career. The exhibition presents over thirty artworks spanning four decades of his trailblazing practices in painting, printmaking, and photography. Structured into three main sections, the exhibition begins with the Local Avant-Garde, pairing Hon's American Pop meets Daoism silkscreen works from the 1960s with his experimental collaged Polaroids of the 1980s. The second

section, *Distilled Desires*, demonstrates how Hon, inspired by New York's 1970s graffiti culture, became the first artist in Hong Kong to use airbrush for painting. This resulted in otherworldly compositions through which Hon utilizes many layers of paint to create a glowing aura of luminosity. The last main section, *Here, There and Everywhere*, features Hon's works after the 1990s inspired by his extensive travels throughout Asia, the Americas and Europe, revealing his sophisticated combination of multiple techniques in painting, photography and collage. The career-spanning display demonstrates how Hon addresses questions of cultural identity, and evades artistic categorization, through a radical approach to materials and the discovery of new artistic techniques. For Hon, to be a Hong Kong artist is to remain porous and question boundaries between cultures, mediums and within the self.

Opening over a decade since Hon's most recent survey exhibition spanning his career, this timely exhibition places a spotlight on Hong Kong art by providing an in-depth look at one of the city's most important pioneering art practitioners. The works in this exhibition are curated from the artist's collection with institutional loans from M+, the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated

catalogue, with written contributions from leading local scholars. Educational programming including hands-on workshops, film screenings, guided Polaroid walks through Central and Kowloon, community tours and panel discussions that will be held throughout the exhibition period. The exhibition is co-curated by Katherine Don, Head of Arts and Cultural Development, and Kaitlin Chan, Assistant Curator, Asia Society Hong Kong Center. This exhibition is supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, with Michelle Art as Art Logistics Partner, Art Map as Media Partner and Edited as Design Partner. Additional support is provided by Burger Collection Hong Kong, Bloomberg, Elman Family, Jean Ho, Désirée and Hans Michael Jebsen, Janet Nathanail and William Flanz, Wellington and Virginia Yee, KPMG and an anonymous donor.

Hon Chi-fun (b. 1922, Hong Kong) is one of Hong Kong's most groundbreaking visual artists, best known for his abstract paintings and silkscreen prints that layer his various international influences onto the expressive motif of the circle. A self-taught artist, in 1958 he joined Hong Kong's Modern Literature and Art Association, and later in 1964, co-founded the pioneering artistic collective the Circle Art Group. He was the first in Hong Kong to receive a fellowship grant from the John D. Rockefeller III Fund (now Asian Cultural Council) in 1969. He has been the recipient of solo exhibitions at City University of Hong Kong Gallery (2007), the Hong Kong Museum of Art (2005), and the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong (1988). In 2013, he received the Medal of Honor from the Hong Kong SAR Government in recognition of his outstanding artistic achievements and in 2017 was honored with an Asia Arts Game Changer Award from Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

Media Enquiry

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Exhibition Highlights



Hon Chi-fun, *Bath of Fire*, 1968, oil, acrylic and silkscreen on canvas, triptych, 132.1 x 396.3 cm. Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art.



Hon Chi-fun, *Untitled 04, 13, 14, 05*, 1983, Polaroid film, 10.4 x 8.4 cm. Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Image courtesy of Blindspot Gallery and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.



Hon Chi-fun, *Floating Weight*, 1976, acrylic on canvas, 130 x 131 cm. Collection of the artist. Image courtesy of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.



Hon Chi-fun, *Ours Ever*, 1974, acrylic on canvas, 132 x 132 cm. Collection of the artist. Image courtesy of Ben Brown Fine Arts.



Hon Chi-fun, *Nil and Void*, 1996, acrylic on canvas, 103.5 x 103.5 cm. Collection of the artist. Image courtesy of Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

Asia Society Hong Kong Center presents

***Yukaloo* by James Turrell**

The artist's first installation at an institution in Hong Kong

12 March – 9 June 2019 at Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

(Hong Kong, February 1, 2019) Asia Society Hong Kong Center is honored to present *Yukaloo* (2011) by **James Turrell**, marking the artist's first installation at an institution in Hong Kong. James Turrell (b. 1943, Los Angeles) is a leading American artist who uses light as a medium for his immersive installations. Associated with the Light and Space movement of the 1960s, Turrell has dedicated his practice to what he has deemed perceptual art, investigating the materiality of light and the sensorial experience of space, color and perception.

Yukaloo is an aperture within which LEDs are engineered to change colors gradually over the course of several hours. Colored light emitted from the work fills the space, creating an immersive atmosphere similar to the awe-inspiring fashion in which the sky changes from late afternoon to night. Best known for his installations of colored light that appear boundless and infinite, Turrell draws us closer to the presence of light and how it transforms our perception of space.

Since his first solo exhibitions at the Pasadena Art Museum in 1967 and the Stedelijk in 1976, James Turrell has had nearly 200 solo exhibitions and 250 group shows worldwide. Notable recent one-person exhibitions include *James Turrell*, held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2013) as well as *James Turrell: The Light Inside*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2013). These exhibitions were held concurrently with *James Turrell: A Retrospective*, organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California (2013), which subsequently travelled to the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (2014), before closing at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem (2015). Another retrospective of his work was exhibited at Mass MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (2017), and *The Substance of Light* was organized by Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Württemberg, Germany (2018).

In addition to twenty-two permanent installations at institutions such as the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; de Young Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; and MoMA PS1, Long Island City, New York, Turrell's work is held in over eighty collections throughout the United States and abroad. He has received numerous accolades in the arts throughout his career including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1968, and has also been the recipient of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (1984); Chevalier, L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France (1991); Commandeur, L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2006); and National Medal of Arts, Washington, D.C. (2014).

Yukaloo at Asia Society Hong Kong Center is supported by the JK and Ingrid Lee Foundation. Additional support is provided by Wellington and Virginia Yee. Special thanks to Pace Gallery and Kayne Griffin Corcoran Gallery.

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Arts & Culture at Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center actively provides access to art, cultural education and experiences for all audiences. Since moving into the historic former Explosives Magazine in 2012, the Center has held over 20 art exhibitions both in its world-class gallery spaces and throughout its outdoor heritage site. The Center organizes exhibitions that respond to local contexts with an international outlook and celebrate the convergence of talent in Hong Kong. A diverse arts and culture program includes artist talks, concerts, dance performances, lectures, panel discussions, and film screenings. Guided tours, workshops, and events for families, schools, companies, clubs and groups are offered regularly.

The state-of-the-art facilities in historic heritage buildings at Asia Society Hong Kong Center feature a unique location for art exhibitions that open to all. The Chantal Miller Gallery is a 4000sqft space named in 2014 in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Miller's donation of HK\$100m to the Center to promote Hong Kong as an international platform for the arts; the transformative gift marked the single largest donation to the arts by an individual in Hong Kong at the time. The gallery has presented a range of groundbreaking events ranging from ***Transforming Minds: Buddhism in Art*** (2012) displaying works from the Rockefeller Collection and contemporary artists, to first solo exhibitions in Hong Kong for acclaimed artists **Xu Bing** (2014), **Yoshitomo Nara** (2015), **Shazia Sikander** (2016), and recently recognized the painting careers of pioneers **Fang Zhaoling** (2017) and **Pan Yu-lin** (2018) as part of ***Asia Society Hong Kong Center's 20th Century Chinese Female Artist Series***.

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.

For more information, please visit the exhibition page as below:

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/story-light-hon-chi-fun-guangdegushihanzhixun>

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/yukaloo-james-turrell-0>

About the Exhibitions:

A Story of Light: Hon Chi-fun

Yukaloo by James Turrell

Date: March 12, 2019 – June 9, 2019

Free Admission

Venue: 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

Closed on Mondays

Art Week Period

March 25 – 31, 2019: 10am - 8pm

Last admission: 30 minutes before closing

Media Tour

March 11, 2019 at 3pm

Opening Ceremony

March 12, 2019 at 6:30pm

– End –