



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ASIA SOCIETY TODAY HONORS ARTISTS SHAHZIA SIKANDER, DO HO SUH,
WUCIUS WONG, XU BING
AT THIRD ANNUAL ASIA SOCIETY ART GALA**

**EVENING WILL INCLUDE AUCTIONING OF ARTWORKS DONATED BY ARTISTS
IZUMI KATO, EN, LEUNG KUI TING, WANG KEPING ZHANG XIAOGANG,
AMONG OTHERS**



(Hong Kong, March 11, 2015) Timed to coincide with Art Basel in Hong Kong and in celebration of the global focus on Asian art as well as a month-long program of artist talks, screenings and discussions at the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Asia Society’s third annual **Art Gala** will honor four exceptional contemporary artists today (March 11) at the spectacular Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Conrad Hong Kong Hotel. Major collectors, artists, gallerists, and dignitaries from around the world, as well as Asia Society Trustees and patrons, will gather to celebrate acclaimed artists **Shahzia Sikander, Do Ho Suh, Wucius Wong**, and **Xu Bing** for their significant contributions to contemporary art. *(Note 1)*

Hosted by S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Peggy Loar, Interim Vice President, Global Arts and Cultural Programs and Museum Director for Asia Society, New York, the celebratory evening will commence with a cocktail reception and auction viewing at Asia Society Hong Kong Center, where the first major solo exhibition of **Yoshitomo Nara** in Hong Kong is on view. Major highlights from the benefit auction include unique works by world-renowned artists **Izumi Kato, Vincent Leong, Leung Kui Ting, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, UuDam Tran Nguyen, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Wang Keping**, and **Zhang Xiaogang**. Guests will then be led to Conrad Hong Kong for a seated dinner, auction, and special presentation in which the night’s honorees will be recognized for their unique artistic contributions by long-time advocates of each artist. *(For details of auction items, please refer to the enclosed listing of artworks.)*

“We are excited once again to be hosting the signature event during the week of Art Basel in Hong Kong, which this year also coincides with a month-long *Art Season* at the Hong Kong Center. With a distinguished line-up of artists, authors, films and experts in the arts, we hope an even wider

demographic and a larger number of people will participate and get involved in what has become this city's official Art Month," says S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center. *(For details of ASHK Art Season, please refer to the enclosed program fact sheet.)*

Peggy Loar, Interim Vice President, Global Arts and Cultural Programs and Museum Director for Asia Society, New York, echoes similar sentiments and adds, "This is such an exciting time for art in Asia and we are privileged to have been a part of it for over twenty years, identifying and fostering the latest contemporary artists and engaging new audiences for their work around the world."

Since its foundation in 1956 and now with 11 centers across the globe, Asia Society is the world's leading educational organization dedicated to forging common ground between East and West and bringing pan-Asian art and culture to an international audience. In recent years, it has also developed a contemporary art collection to complement the Asia Society Museum's renowned collection of traditional Asian art, gifted to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd.

In Hong Kong, the Center has just celebrated its third year at the former Explosive Magazine where in addition to staging blockbuster exhibitions—"Caravaggio," "Dead Sea Scrolls," and the first solo exhibitions of Xu Bing and Yoshitomo Nara—it has produced a comprehensive public art and cultural program aimed at promoting and nurturing Asia's emerging young talents as well as encouraging young people's interest in the arts. From master classes to lectures, performances and talks, Asia Society in Hong Kong has helped spark creative interest in some 15,000 young people.

The Art Gala is just one of the many ways Asia Society helps Asian artists gain international prominence.

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Note 1 – About the Artists

Shahzia Sikander

Shahzia Sikander is a Pakistani-born artist whose pioneering practice takes Indo-Persian miniature painting as a point of departure and experiments with scale and media, including animation, video, and mural. Recipient of the inaugural U.S. Medal of Art (2012) and the MacArthur Fellowship (2006), Sikander's work helped launch a resurgence in the miniature painting department in the nineties at the National College of Arts in Pakistan.

Do Ho Suh

Do Ho Suh is an internationally renowned Korean artist whose site-specific installations and meticulously crafted sculptures question boundaries of identity and conventional notions of scale and space in both its physical and metaphorical manifestation. His thought-provoking works have been represented in many of the world's leading museums. He was named Wall Street Journal Magazine's 2013 Innovator of the Year in Art.

Wucius Wong

Hong Kong based artist Wucius Wong explores the synthesis of traditional Chinese painting and contemporary Western design, primarily through ink art. Wong has participated in numerous exhibitions worldwide, and his works have been collected by museums in America, Europe, Australia, and China. He received the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Fund Grant in 1971, and was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star Medal by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2007. He is currently an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and advisor to several Hong Kong public museums

Xu Bing

Xu Bing is a Chinese conceptual artist whose works draw on the creative use of language, words, and text. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship in 1999, Xu's artworks have been exhibited at museums worldwide, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum (London), and several Venice Biennales. In 2015, Xu Bing received the U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts award.

The 2015 Asia Society Art Gala is supported by:

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Asia Society's Art Gala is co-organized by Asia Society Museum (New York) and Asia Society Hong Kong Center. All proceeds from the Art Gala will support Asia Society initiatives worldwide.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York, The Asia Society is a leading 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. Asia Society is an international organization with 11 centers in the United States and Asia: Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, and Washington, DC.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

As an affiliate of the Asia Society global network with 11 centers, Asia Society Hong Kong Center 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, Hong Kong at the Old Victoria Barracks, Former Explosives Magazine site steeped in history, cultural significance and natural beauty and offers a broader variety of programs in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community.

Asia Society Museum

Asia Society Museum organizes ground-breaking exhibitions of both traditional and contemporary Asian and Asian American art. The Museum, located on Park Avenue and 70th Street in New York City, is known for its Mr and Mrs John D. Rockefeller Collection of masterpiece-quality traditional Asian works. The collection, universally described as "gemlike", includes objects from cultures across Asia that date from the 11th century BCE to the 19th century CE. Asia Society was one of the first American museums to establish a program of contemporary Asian art in the early 1990s. A recognized leader in identifying and fostering contemporary Asian and Asian American artists, the Museum announced the establishment of a Contemporary Art Collection in 2007.

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