

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Arts and Culture Virtual Gala**

**Hong Kong, May 13, 2021** – Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) is pleased to announce its Arts and Culture Virtual Gala on June 8, 7pm-8:30pm. In the spirit of celebrating diversity and inclusion, ASHK will honor trailblazers of the arts in Hong Kong and around the world, while providing a variety of musical entertainment from the region. On May 21, leading up to the gala, ASHK is organizing its first ever online auction featuring artworks from over 40 leading artists around Asia. 50% of the auction proceeds will be given back to the donating artists, and 50% will be directed towards ASHK’s arts and culture initiatives.

ASHK will pay tribute to the following trailblazers of the arts:

**AAN Foundation**, for providing support to a broad range of art forms and encouraging discourse on visual arts, with a focus on enabling and encouraging the arts in Pakistan, and South Asia and Asia Pacific

**Candace Chong Mui Ngam**, Asian Culture Council Fellowship recipient, and award-winning playwright from Hong Kong who was part of the creative team of ASHK’s first commission, chamber opera *Mila*

**Du Yun**, Chinese-born Pulitzer Prize winning composer, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and performance artist who created the critically acclaimed opera *Angel’s Bone*

**Hong Kong Arts Development Council**, for supporting the development of the arts in Hong Kong, and sponsoring ASHK exhibitions, including the current *Extended Figure: The Art and Inspiration of Lalan*

**Dr. Daniel Yat Chiu Ng**, godfather of classical music in Hong Kong who was behind many commissioned works of music, including the innovative Cantonese singing version of Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde*

**Sanjoy K. Roy**, the leading force behind the Jaipur Literature Festival as well as film, TV and theater productions, and arts festivals around the world, including ASHK’s annual *India by the Bay*

**Shen Wei**, a Chinese-American choreographer, painter, and director widely recognized for his defining vision of an intercultural and interdisciplinary mode of movement-based performance

**Agnes Hsu-Tang, Ph.D. and Oscar L. Tang**, for their wide-ranging support of works across art, film, opera and music, and in the advancement of social justice, including their latest campaign *The Yellow Whistle*

**Janet Yang**, Golden Globe- and Emmy Award-winning Hollywood producer with deep roots in China, and extensive film and TV credits to her name, including groundbreaking *The Joy Luck Club*

**Ruby Yang**, Oscar-winning director and producer of feature and documentary films, including *The Blood of Yingzhou District*, recipient of the 2007 Academy Award for Best Documentary (Short Subject)

ASHK’s first online auction will feature artworks by more than 40 artists, including:

**Cheng Ting Ting**, AVA Digital Awards-winning contemporary artist from Hong Kong known for her paintings and drawings that recreate narratives from the everyday

**Chow Chun Fai**, a contemporary artist of the visual arts from Hong Kong, and recipient of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize and Hong Kong Arts Centre 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award Grand Prize

**Fung Ming Chip**, Guangdong-born, Hong Kong-raised, self-taught multi-talent of the word, including essayist, novelist, poet, playwright, seal carving and calligraphy

**Gimhongsok**, artist born and raised in Seoul who is recognized internationally for his hyper-realistic and humorous translations of one material into another

**Hon Chi-fun**, self-taught modern maverick who pioneered 20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong art, and played a pivotal role in building Hong Kong's art ecology

**LuYang**, Shanghai-based innovator whose work explores themes and formats that combine traditional Chinese medicine and spirituality with contemporary digital cultures

**Dawn Ng**, Singaporean artist working with an array of media, including collage, photography, illustration, light, and installations, with past solo shows at Art Basel Hong Kong and Art Paris Art Fair

**Qiu Deshu**, Chinese contemporary artist best known for founding Caocao Group, an artist collective that endeavors to promote artistic originality

**Tsherin Sherpa**, master of Tibetan thangka paintings who uses the traditional techniques learned from his artist father Urgen Dorje to explore the blend of cultures that followed the Himalayan diaspora

**Wilson Shieh**, Hong Kong-born painter specializing in the traditional Chinese fine-brush technique gongbi who focuses on human bodies as his main medium of narration

**Sun Xun**, contemporary Chinese artist renowned for his animated videos made using multi-media techniques, with his animations nominated at Berlin International Film Festival and Venice Film Festival

**Tsang Kin-Wah**, visual artist hailing from Hong Kong whose work is commonly identified as wallpaper art, large-scale wallpaper installations that evoke the floral designs of William Morris

**Wang Keping**, widely recognized for producing figurative sculptures, and a founding member of The Stars (Xing Xing), often considered as the first avant-garde contemporary art movement in China

**Adrian Wong**, Hong Kong-based artist, and Co-Founder and Director of Embassy Projects, an arts consultancy and independent production studio

**Wucius Wong**, celebrated ink painter and leading figure of the Hong Kong New Ink Movement who grew up in Hong Kong under the tutelage of Lui Shou-kwan, Hong Kong's pioneer in the New Ink Movement

**Haegue Yang**, South Korean artistic talent renowned for creating award-winning works that reflect the transitory nature of her own experience of living and working in multiple locations

**Samson Young**, inaugural Sigg Prize winning, multi-disciplinary artist who works in the mediums of sound performance and installations, and represented Hong Kong at the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale in 2017

ASHK Executive Director S. Alice Mong said: "I am delighted to announce the Arts and Culture Virtual Gala in celebration of our organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On this momentous occasion, we celebrate an outstanding group of individuals who have paved the way in the arts in Hong Kong and around the world. We are also organizing our first online auction, which opens on May 21, to celebrate the creativity and diversity of artistic talents across the region. I would like to thank the participating artists for donating their artworks, and making the auction possible. To support the participating artists and the wider art ecosystem, we will give half of the auction proceeds back to the donating artists."

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**Arts and Culture Virtual Gala**

<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/events/arts-and-culture-virtual-gala>

**Auction Catalogue**

[https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ArtGala2021\\_E\\_0.pdf](https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/ArtGala2021_E_0.pdf)

**About 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 cultural and education programs to the community.

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