

HONG KONG

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ASIA'S CULTURAL METROPOLIS

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Chief Executive of HKSAR with Cantonese opera children performers

Foreword

Hong Kong has made a name for itself as one of the world's most important international financial centres and business hubs. In recent years, with major government investment and the organic growth of talents and the arts and cultural communities, Hong Kong is emerging as an arts and cultural metropolis. This book provides a snapshot of our arts and culture scene, and aims to present to you a new perspective on our city.

I believe that the major factors for our accelerating development on the arts and culture front are our people, our inclusiveness, our willingness to learn and share, and our connectivity to the rest of the world.

With our unique cultural and historical background, Hong Kong has a diverse blend of arts and culture practitioners. The Government is dedicated to supporting and nurturing a wide variety of arts organisations, more than 1 000 performing arts groups, numerous individual artists, arts administrators, and more. A vibrant arts and culture ecosystem is developing to fuel Hong Kong's evolution into an inviting stage for local and global artists.

The Government, as a facilitator, is committed to investing in our arts and cultural infrastructure. Apart from supporting arts and performance groups, public investment has also gone into key exhibition and performance venues through new developments and the revitalisation of historical buildings. In the next few years, the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is set to draw global attention. The 40-hectare WKCD will provide a diverse range of world-class facilities set against the backdrop of our beautiful Victoria Harbour.

Hong Kong continues to flourish under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, upholding the rule of law, freedom of expression and association, free flow of information, openness and diversity. These are crucial elements for the continuous and sustainable development of our arts and culture sector. Our city is well connected to the rest of the world, which enables us to thrive as a hub not only for international economic activities and businesses, but also for cultures to connect, and for talents to converge and excel.

I hope this book provides you with an inspiring visual journey of our exciting arts and culture developments.

Carrie Lam / Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Spring 2019



Overview

From a small fishing village to a metropolis located at the heart of Asia, Hong Kong is where different cultures meet, mix and bloom and where the new and old co-exist side by side. With a land area of about 1 100 square kilometres, of which only 25 per cent has been developed so far, Hong Kong is equipped with a high density of arts and cultural amenities. In our eclectic range of cultural venues, top-notch exhibitions, performances and events are showcased every day, opening doors to a world stage of artistic and cultural creation. The city, which stages prestigious art fairs and hosts top-tier galleries and auction houses, is one of the world's top three art markets.

Hong Kong's cultural vibrancy is vividly on display in charming neighbourhoods, and further heightened during art fairs and cultural festivals in our busy event calendar. Apart from benefiting from our creativity and innovation, our rich intangible cultural heritage is highly valued, carefully preserved and passed on from generation to generation to complete the spectrum of arts and cultural endeavour.

Staunch Government support as a promoter and facilitator, coupled with prospering tri-sector partnerships (government-business-arts groups) means that our arts and cultural scene is growing and flourishing. Visitors from near and far can be sure of unique and quality arts and cultural experiences throughout the year.

Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Hong Kong Space Museum cluster along Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade against the iconic backdrop of Victoria Harbour.

Transcending Time

A modern, forward-looking city underpinned by rich cultural heritage



Left to right:
Youqua (attri.), *Victoria City* (1854) | Shieh Ka-ho, Wilson, *Hong Kong Panorama* (2017)

Bonding East and West

A strategic location and welcoming community that captures the best of both worlds



Left to right:
Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong | Hong Kong Ballet



Celebrating Diversity



A meeting place for artists and ideas from across the globe

Arts space alive

For a compact city like Hong Kong where land is a scarce resource, creating space for our arts and cultural scene to thrive is a challenge. Today, Hong Kong has about 40 major performing arts venues, more than 40 museums and many other cultural spaces of various natures, a network of more than 80 public libraries, etc., which have contributed to an accessible arts and cultural scene for local citizens.

To further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international cultural hub, the Government has made it a priority to embark on various arts and cultural space and cutting-edge infrastructure projects: from the opening of new performance venues, the renovation of museums and expansion of the library network, to the development of the world-class West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) on the harbourfront. With the combined and complementary efforts of the private sector and numerous arts organisations, creating valuable arts spaces and a burgeoning number of private art galleries, Hong Kong is fast developing as a global cultural metropolis.

Festive Korea, Freespace Happening at West Kowloon Cultural District





“By building this cultural hub, we are investing both in our future and our heritage, to celebrate **Hong Kong’s unique cultural identity.**”

Mrs. Carrie Lam

Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

The West Kowloon Cultural District – a new 40-hectare quarter with more than 20 cultural facilities located on a prime harbourfront site – will take us to new heights.

Bird's eye view of West Kowloon Cultural District



Left to right:
Cantonese opera performance at Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre | Atrium, Xiqu Centre





Left to right:
Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre | Xiqu Centre | Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre



Left to right:
M+ (digital rendering) | Hong Kong Palace Museum (digital rendering) | Freespace Happening



Performance Venues /



Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Performance Venues /



Left to right:
Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre | East Kowloon Cultural Centre (digital rendering)

Performance Venues /



Left to right:
Ko Shan Theatre | Cantonese opera performance | Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Museums /



Left to right:
Digital Dunhuang — Tales of Heaven and Earth Exhibition, Hong Kong Heritage Museum |
Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Museums /



Left to right:
Hong Kong Railway Museum | Hong Kong Space Museum | *Eternal Life – Exploring Ancient Egypt Exhibition*, Hong Kong Science Museum

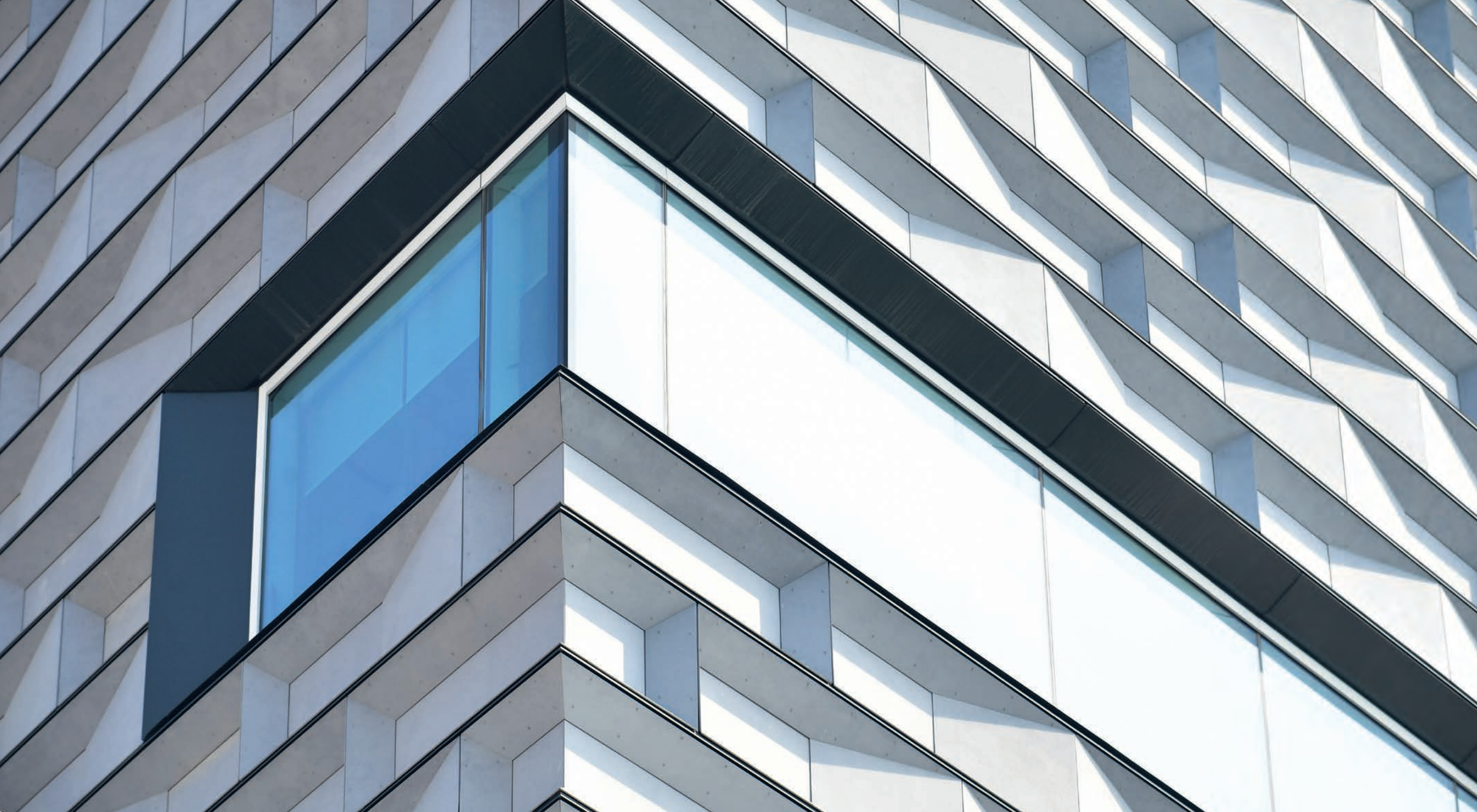
Museums /



Left to right:
Made in Hong Kong: Our City. Our Stories, Hong Kong Maritime Museum | *Treasures of Time Exhibition*, Hong Kong Science Museum



Museums /



Hong Kong Museum of Art (left and right) | Hong Kong Museum of Art (digital rendering) (middle)

Museums /



Left to right, top to bottom:

Lui Shou-kwan, *Zen Painting* (1970) | Zhao Wuji, *10.9.73* (1973) | Lee Chin-fai, Danny, *Waterdrop* (2014) | *Carved Black Lacquer Dish with Bird and Flower Design* (Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)) |

Canton Enamel Vase in Double-gourd Shape (Qianlong Period, Qing Dynasty (1736-1795)) | *Twelve Months Cups in Wucai Enamels* (Kangxi Period, Qing Dynasty (1662-1722)) |

Wu Guanzhong, *Two Swallows* (1981) | Xu Bing, *A Book from the Sky* (1987-1991)

Libraries /



Left to right:
Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library | Hong Kong Central Library

Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts

A place of...

**INSPIRATION,
STIMULATION
& ENJOYMENT**

for all

Arts & Cultural Venues /



Arts & Cultural Venues /



Left to right:
Bird's eye view of Tai Kwun | Tai Kwun Happening



Arts & Cultural Venues /



Left to right:
Tai Kwun Contemporary, Tai Kwun | Tai Kwun Happening



Left to right:
Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre | Hong Kong Arts Centre



Arts & Cultural Venues /

Arts & Cultural Venues /



Left to right:
The Mills | PMQ

Arts & Cultural Venues /



Left to right:
Oi! Happening | Avenue of Stars



Arts & Cultural Venues /



Left to right, top to bottom:
Asia Society Hong Kong Center | ArtisTree | K11 Art Mall | H Queen's



Passion and Engagement

Blessed with devoted talents and enthusiastic arts engagements with all walks of life, Hong Kong celebrates the passion and diversity of arts and culture. Presenting a wide mixture of both traditional and modern genres, the nine flagship performing arts groups, countless small and medium arts groups, as well as renowned and budding artists, all contribute to a diverse arts and cultural ecology. The Government continues to nurture local talents, welcome exchange opportunities across the globe and strive to promote arts and culture to enhance the quality of life of our people.

Hong Kong is a top destination for signature arts and cultural events and festivals. World-class art fairs filled with art enthusiasts, have helped cement Hong Kong's position as one of the world's top three art auction markets. With our unique cultural background, Hong Kong is where art lovers gather from all around the globe.

Performances / Dance



Left to right:
City Contemporary Dance Company | Hong Kong Dance Company | Hong Kong Ballet

Performances / Music



Left to right:
Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra | Hong Kong Sinfonietta | Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

Performances / Theatre



Left to right:
Chung Ying Theatre Company | Hong Kong Repertory Theatre | Zuni Icosahedron



Arts & Cultural Events /



Left to right:
Lumieres Hong Kong | Le French May Arts Festival

Arts & Cultural Events /



Top to bottom, left to right:
Chinese Opera Festival | World Cultures Festival | International Arts Carnival | New Vision Arts Festival

Arts & Cultural Events /



Left to right:
Arts in the Park - Night Parade | Hong Kong Arts Festival

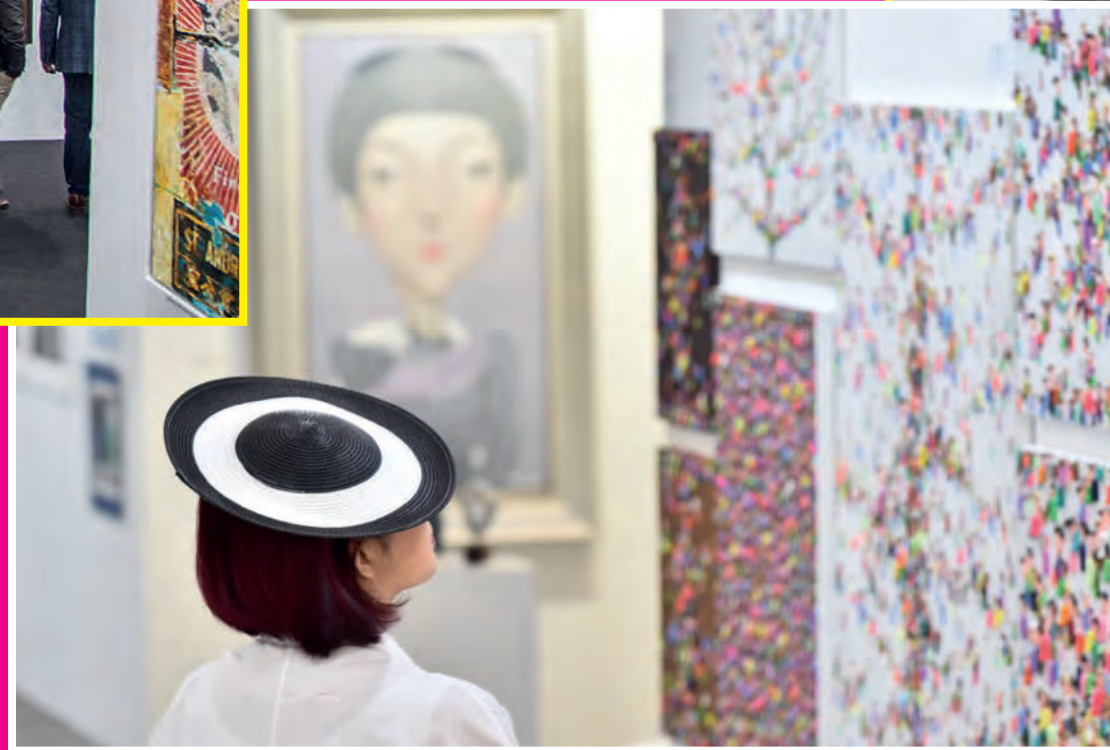
Arts & Cultural Events /



Clockenflap Music and Arts Festival



Art Fairs /



Left to right:
Art Central | Affordable Art Fair | Ink Asia | Fine Art Asia

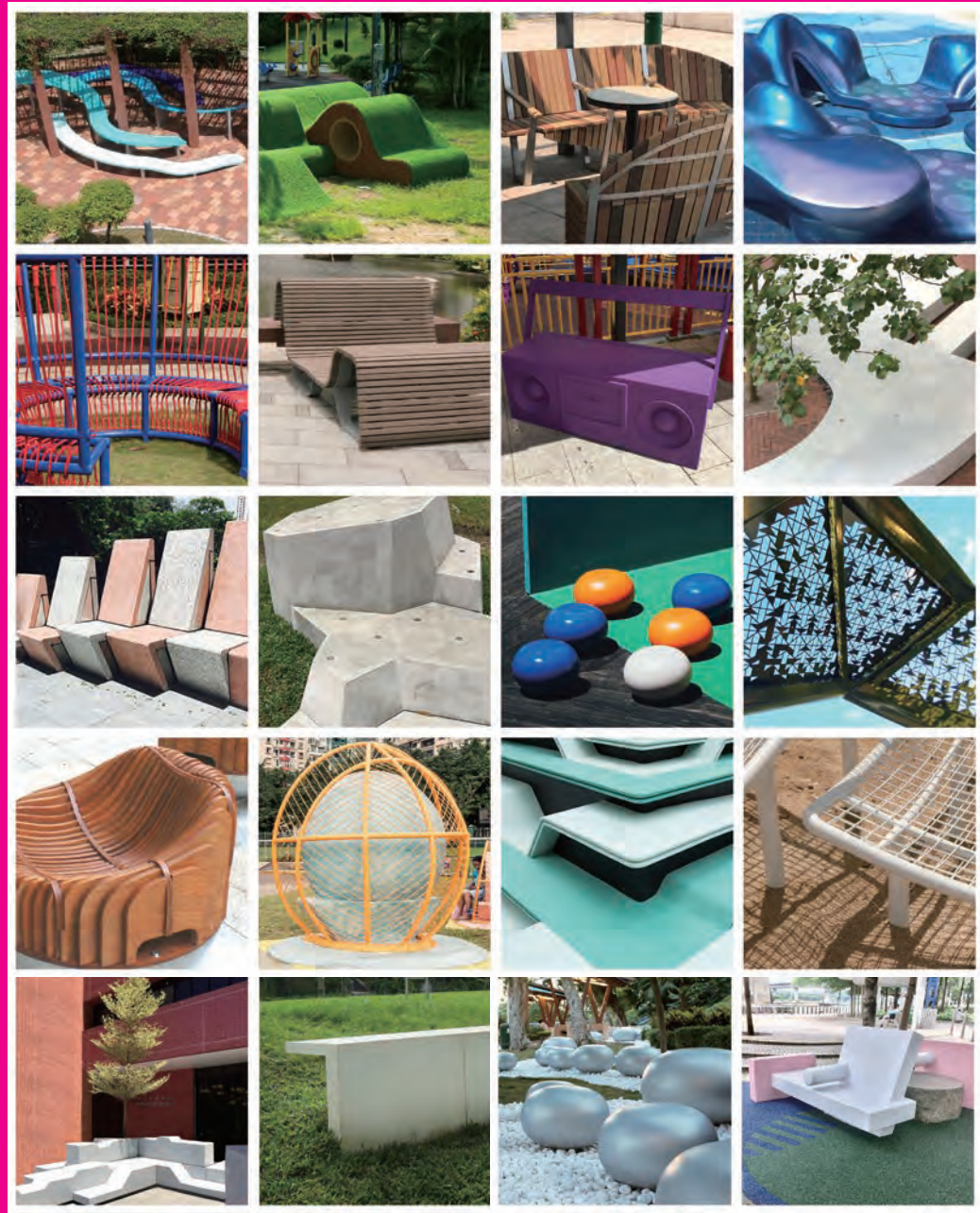
Public Art /



Left to right:
Event Horizon by Sir Antony Gormley, Central | *#ddWalk* art piece at footbridge, Wan Chai |
Art in Station Architecture, Sai Ying Pun MTR station



Public Art /



Left to right, top to bottom:
 HKWalls, Sham Shui Po | City Dress Up: Seats • Together |
 Hapi Reading Club shutter art, Tsuen Wan | Harbour Arts Sculpture Park, Admiralty

Arts for All /



Left to right:
The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts | Hong Kong Art School | Children's Troupe, Hong Kong Dance Company

Arts for All /



Left to right, top to bottom:
Draw HK | Art in Hospital | Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong

Cultural Exchange /



Left to right:
 Frog King, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, Japan | Hong Kong House, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, Japan | Hong Kong Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy

Cultural Exchange /



Left to right, top to bottom:
Genesis and Spirit: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Gansu, Hong Kong | Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum, Hong Kong (top left and right) | Kazakhi x Chinese music performance, Kazakhstan | Japan Autumn Festival, Hong Kong

Pass it on

However modern and multicultural Hong Kong is, we very much cherish our unique Chinese cultural heritage. Apart from Cantonese opera, which has been inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, there are 480 items of intangible cultural heritage on the city's inventory – from social practices, rituals and festivities to traditional crafts and foods. This “cultural capital” is much treasured and zealously protected and preserved. With the joint efforts of the Government and the community, intangible cultural heritage will continue to be passed down from generation to generation and remain an inseparable part of daily life.

Lion dance



Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance /



Cheung Chau Jiao Festival (Bun Festival) /





Paper Crafting Technique and Unicorn Dance /



Tai O Dragon Boat Water Parade /





PASS IT ON

Cantonese Opera /





PASS IT ON

Sewing Techniques of Hong Kong-style Cheongsam /





Left to right:
Hong Kong-style milk tea making technique | Herbal tea | Sek Pun (Basin Feast)

Hong Kong

Life and Vibrancy

Apart from being a leading global financial and trade centre, Hong Kong is also a charming city full of life and vibrancy. The sophistication of an international city, cultural diversity and metropolitan lifestyle are at the very core of Hong Kong's attraction.

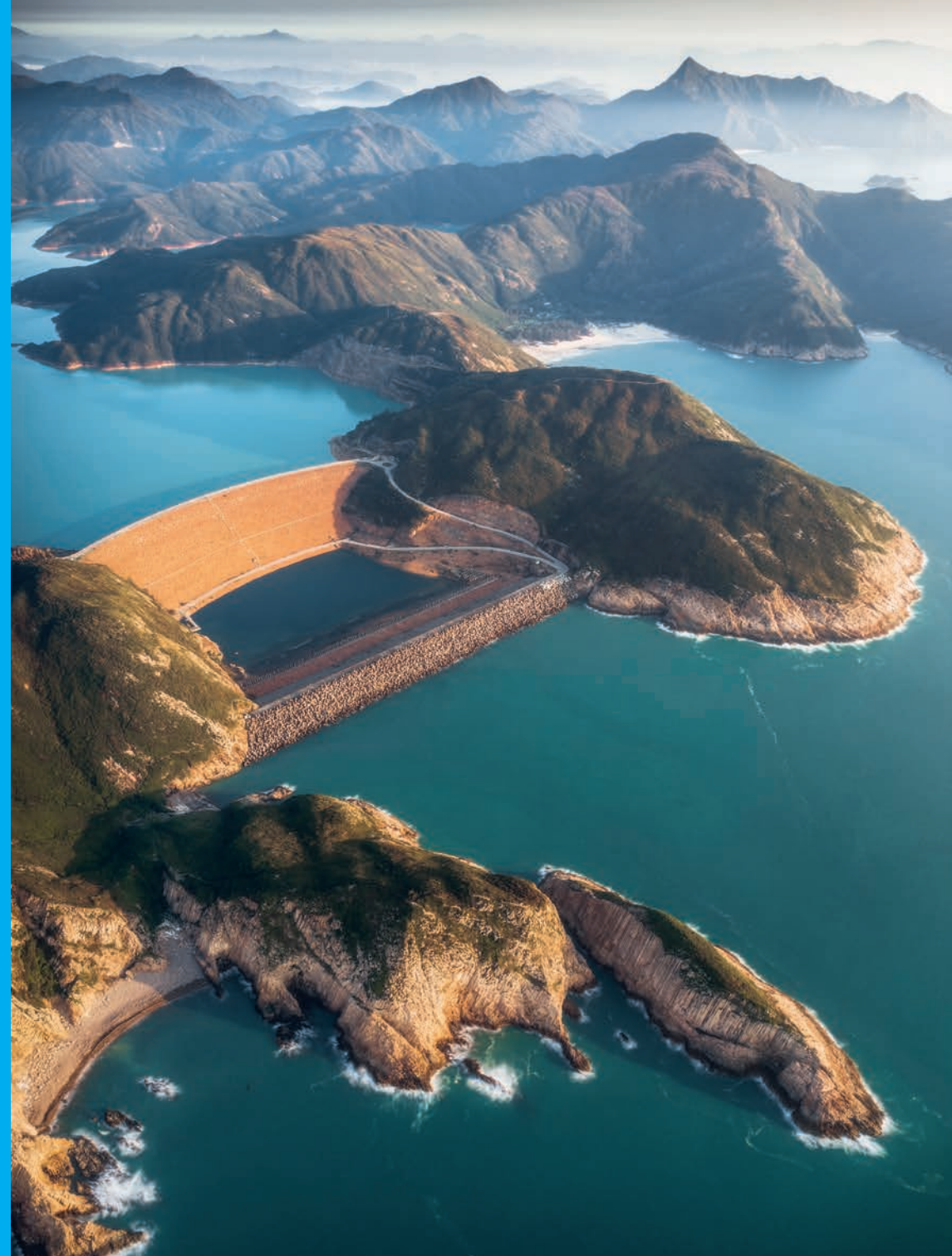


Hong Kong has maintained its own currency, political and legal systems, which allow the city to continue to flourish as an international business metropolis. Having one of the lowest crime rates in the world, Hong Kong is proud to be a safe city where rule of law is underpinned by an independent judiciary.



Hong Kong's transportation and communication infrastructure has remained at the leading edge, boosting traditional strengths in trade and logistics, financial services, professional services and tourism and opening unrivalled access to new opportunities in areas such as creative industries, arts, culture, innovation and technology.





Hong Kong impresses people from home and abroad with a vast array of enjoyable events – unique and diverse arts and cultural experiences, exciting world-class sports events, authentic local and international cuisines, beautiful landscapes within easy reach of the central business district, and more. Our well-connected and efficient transportation system offers affordable convenience, making a visit to any part of the city a snap.



Acknowledgements

2-3 • Sing Fai Cantonese Opera Troupe

6-7 • Shieh Ka-ho, Wilson | *Hong Kong Panorama* | 2017 | Chinese ink and gouache on paper | 40 x 142.5 cm | Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art
• Youqua (attri.) | *Victoria City* | 1854 | Oil on canvas | 50 x 100 cm | Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art

8-9 • Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong | *Prime Minister of Six States*
• Hong Kong Ballet | Septime Webre's *The Great Gatsby* | Hong Kong Ballet Dancers | Photo by Conrad Dy-Liacco

10-11 **Left to right, top to bottom:**
• Freespace Happening | West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
• World Cultures Festival | Soweto Gospel Choir (South Africa)
• Myanmar performers | *Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances*
• Engor performers | *Guangdong Music under the Tree Concert*
• Le French May Arts Festival | Malandain Ballet Biarritz | *Cinderella*
• Our Hong Kong, Our Talents - Play Me, I'm Yours
• Vienna Boys Choir
• Hong Kong Dance Federation | *Dunhuang Reflections performance*
• Fly Together Art Jam
• Mongolian performers | *Inner Mongolia Traditional Dance Performance*
• Korean performers | *International Chinese New Year Night Parade*

12-21 • West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

12-13 • Festive Korea | Korean Cultural Center in Hong Kong

16-17 • Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong | *Prime Minister of Six States*

16-19 • Revery Architecture | Photo by Ema Peter

22-23 • Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra | Photo by Nathan King

24-25 • Berliner Philharmoniker
• Rocco Design Architects Limited

26-27 • Lai Yiu-wai

28-29 • Dunhuang Academy | Hong Kong Heritage Museum |
Digital Dunhuang — Tales of Heaven and Earth Exhibition (2018)

30-31 • British Museum | Hong Kong Science Museum | *Eternal Life – Exploring Ancient Egypt Exhibition (2017)*

32-33 • Hong Kong Maritime Museum | *Made in Hong Kong: Our City, Our Stories (2015)*
• Palace Museum | Science Museum, London | Hong Kong Science Museum | *Treasures of Time Exhibition (2018-2019)*

36-37 **Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art (left to right, top to bottom):**
• Lui Shou-kwan | *Zen Painting* | 1970 | Ink and colour on paper | 180 x 97 cm
• Zhao Wuji | *10.9.73* | 1973 | Oil on canvas | 200 x 162 cm
• *Carved Black Lacquer Dish with Bird and Flower Design* | Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368) | Lacquer | H 3.4 cm D 21.5 cm
• *Canton Enamel Vase in Double-gourd Shape* | Qianlong Period, Qing Dynasty (1736-1795) | Enamel | H 56.5 cm D 33 cm
• *Twelve Months Cups in Wucai Enamels* | Kangxi Period, Qing Dynasty (1662-1722) | Ceramics | Each H 5 cm D 6.5 cm | Donated by Dr K.S. Lo
• Wu Guanzhong | *Two Swallows* | 1981 | Ink and colour on paper | 69 x 138 cm | Donated by Mr Wu Guanzhong and his family
• Xu Bing | *A Book from the Sky* | 1987-1991 | Mixed media | 1500 x 850 x 400 cm

Hong Kong Museum of Art commissioned work (third from the left, top):
• Lee Chin-fai, Danny | *Waterdrop* | 2014 | Stainless steel | H 3.05 m L 6.5 m W 2.12 m | Hong Kong Museum of Art commissioned work for the “Heaven, Earth and Man – A Hong Kong Art Exhibition” at Art Square of Salisbury Garden (2014)

40-41 • Hong Kong Ballet | Yuh Egami's *Keeper* | Hong Kong Ballet Dancers | Photo by Conrad Dy-Liacco

42-43 • Hong Kong Arts Festival | Photo by Cheung Wai Lok
• Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
• Tai Kwun

44-45 • Hong Kong Arts Festival | Photo by Keith Hiro

46-47 • Hong Kong Arts Centre
• Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

48-49 • Mills, The | *3D Printed Christmas Tree* (2018)
• PMQ | *KAWS: ALONG THE WAY* (2019)

50-51 • Avenue of Stars | New World Development Company Limited

52-53 • ArtisTree | Swire Properties
• Asia Society Hong Kong Center
• Hauser & Wirth Hong Kong 2018 | Roni Horn | Installation View, '*Roni Horn*' | Photo by JJYPHOTO
• H Queen's | Henderson Development Agency Limited
• K11 Art Mall | New World Development Company Limited

54-55 • Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra | Photo by Ka Lam

56-57 • City Contemporary Dance Company | *Jangdan in Come Across* | Photo by Conrado Dy-Liacco
• Hong Kong Ballet | Terence Kohler's *The Nutcracker* | Chen Zhiyao, Xia Jun | Photo by Conrad Dy-Liacco
• Hong Kong Dance Company | *Spring Ritual • Eulogy* | Photo by Conrad Dy-Liacco

58-59 • Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra
• Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra | Photo by Keith Hiro
• Hong Kong Sinfonietta Limited

60-61 • Chung Ying Theatre Company, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts |
HKAPA MFA Directing Graduate Production Thesis Project The Memorandum (2018) | Photo by Ka Lam
• Hong Kong Repertory Theatre | *Castle of Glass* | Photo by Carmen So
• Zuni Icosahedron | *Hong Kong Belt-Road 2017- One Table Two Chairs* | Photo by Vic Shing

62-63 • Le French May Arts Festival | Compagnie des Quidams | *Dreamlike Horses*
• Lumieres Hong Kong | Benjamin Petit, Salvatore Barletta | *Long Striker, the Light Keeper 1153*

64-65 • Chinese Opera Festival | Shanghai Yue Opera Group
• International Arts Carnival | Acrobuffos | *Air Play*
• New Vision Arts Festival | Wayne McGregor (UK), Jamie xx (UK) and Olafur Eliasson (Iceland/Denmark) |
Tree of Codes | Photo by Joel Chester Fildes
• World Cultures Festival | Soweto Gospel Choir (South Africa)

66-67 • Hong Kong Arts Festival | Robert Wilson, Philip Glass | *Einstein on the Beach* | Photo by Lesley Leslie-Spinks
• Standard Chartered Arts in the Park | Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

68-69 • Clockenflap Music and Arts Festival | Photo by Kitmin Lee

70-71 • Art Basel Hong Kong 2017

72-73 • Affordable Art Fair 2018
• Art Central 2019
• Fine Art Asia 2018
• Ink Asia 2018

74-75 • Design District Hong Kong
• Louise Soloway Chan | *Inside, Outside* | MTR
• Sir Anthony Gormley | *Event Horizon* | British Council Hong Kong

76-77 • Hapi Reading Club
• HKwalls
• Hong Kong Arts Centre

78-79 • Children's Troupe of the Hong Kong Dance Company | Photo by Tony Lee
• Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, The
• Hong Kong Art School

80-81 • Art in Hospital
• Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong
• Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation

82-83 • Samson Young | *Songs for Disaster Relief* (2017)
• West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

84-85 • Japan Autumn Festival | Tokushima Awa Dance Performance | Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong
• Ministry of Culture of China, Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government |
Genesis and Spirit: Intangible Cultural Heritage of Gansu (2015)

92-93 • International Guoshu Association Limited

100-101 • International Guoshu Association Limited
• Lam Sai Wing Hung Kuen Research Society

104 • Photo by Kelvin Yuen

105 • Hong Kong Sevens

106 • Photo by Neo Lo (middle)

108 • Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association
• Photo by Kelvin Yuen (top left and right)

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