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LIFESTYLE | ARTS

From Broadway musical concerts to teamLab's exhibition, 9 cultural events to catch this season

By Aaina Bhargava and Zabrina Lo | Jul 21, 2023

COVER 'Graffiti Nature—Beating Mountains and Valleys, Red List' by teamLab (Image: courtesy of teamLab)

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Culture vultures should put these exciting arts events and exhibitions on their radar

From concerts featuring songs from the Broadway musicals *Anastasia* and *West Side Story* to art collective teamLab's debut exhibition in Hong Kong, there's a lot happening in the world of art and culture this season. Meanwhile, those who like dance can't miss the Rendezvous with the World Champions III charity dance night that brings to Hong Kong the world champions of Blackpool, widely considered as the most famous ballroom and Latin dance competition in the world. To find out about these and more such exciting events, read on.

In case you missed it: NewJeans's 'Get Up' and 'Cool With You' music videos star Tony Leung and Jung Hoyeon

1. M+ Cinema summer programme

When: until September 22

Where: M+ Cinema, West Kowloon

What: The cinema will host a comprehensive programme this year that features period-defining works from around the world and influential Asian names. The Animation Pioneers in Asia series looks at independent Asian animations from the 1960s to 1990s that featured hand drawing, stop motion, puppets, papercuts, sand and ink. Disquieted Water of the South presents films that examine how archipelagic geography and aquatic nature shape the histories of the economies of different places. The rest of the programme revisits films by Ann Hui; Charlie Chaplin; Helga Fanderl, who edits her films in camera and doesn't go through post-production; and Marcell Jankovics, known for the psychedelic animation masterpiece *Son of the White Mare* (1981).

2. Our Playlist: Songs from Stage and Screen

ABOVE Roy Rolloda (Photo: courtesy of Roy Rolloda)

ABOVE Crisel Consunji (Photo: courtesy of Crisel Consunji)

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Plaid cashmere blanket, woven and dyed by hand.

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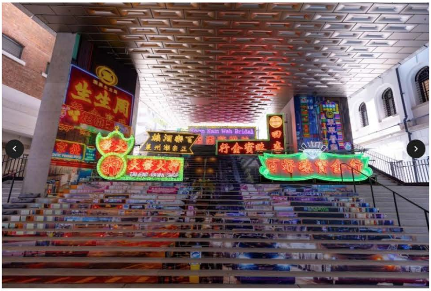
When: August 12-13

Where: Black Box Theatre, West Kowloon

What: Arts educators Crisel Consunji, known for her award-winning performance in the local film *Still Human*, and Roy Rolloda, creative director at Creative Collab, make a return to the stage as musical theatre performers in Our Playlist: Songs from Stage and Screen. This is the first time they have produced a show together. It will feature popular numbers from stage and screen musicals, such as *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *Wicked* and *Anastasia*. The show on the second day will be modified specially for kids and families.

Consunji and Rolloda performed together at Repertory Philippines 26 years ago before they separately developed their performing and education careers in Hong Kong from about 2005.

3. 'Vital Signs' exhibition

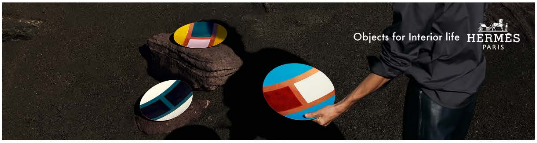


ABOVE 'Vital Signs' (Photo: courtesy of Tai Kwun)

When: Until September 3

Where: Tai Kwun, 10 Hollywood Road, Central

What: Neon lights, which used to light up the business, shopping and entertainment districts of Wan Chai, Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay in the 1980s and 1990s, are a rare sight in Hong Kong today as they are gradually being removed for safety concerns. Cardin Chan, who runs the think tank Hong Kong Neon Heritage, has been collecting some of these neon light signs and preserving this sunset industry. She is behind the Tai Kwun exhibition *Vital Signs*, which displays more than 20 removed or recommissioned neon signs, as well as tools used by the few remaining masters of the trade.



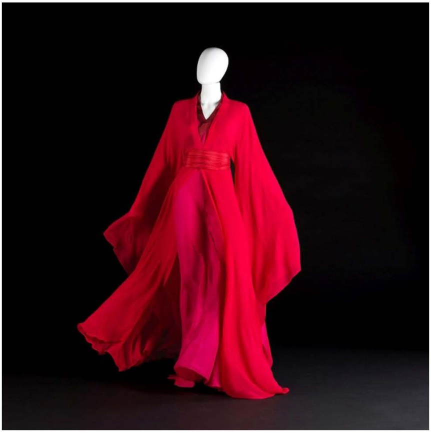
4. Rendezvous with the World Champions III

When: July 21-23

Where: Grand Theatre, Xiqu Centre

What: The crème de la crème of the dance world is descending on Hong Kong for a charity dance showcase hosted by local charity, Margaret Zee Charitable Foundation. Some of the performers include champions and finalists of Blackpool, the world's most prestigious annual international ballroom dance competition that has been held in England since 1920. Besides featuring dance maestros from Russia, Europe and the US, the event will also showcase rising Chinese dancers.

5. 'Out of Thin Air: Hong Kong Film Arts & Costumes Exhibition'



ABOVE Maggie Cheung's red wuxia costume from "Hero" (2002) (Image: courtesy of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and Hong Kong Film Arts Association)

When: Until September 4

Where: Hong Kong Heritage Museum

What: Some of Hong Kong cinema's most memorable costumes, including Brigitte Lin's smuggler outfit from *Chungking Express* (1994), Maggie Cheung's red wuxia costume from *Hero* (2002) and Richard Ng's Chinese vampire costume and compass from *Rigor Mortis* (2013), will be displayed alongside film props, set designs and paraphernalia in this exhibition dedicated to the city's film art. Jointly organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and Hong Kong Film Arts Association, the show offers a comprehensive look at the importance of costumes and props in storytelling, and the creative team behind each piece.

In case you missed: From 'In the Mood for Love' to 'Irma Vep': 5 Maggie Cheung Films You Should Watch

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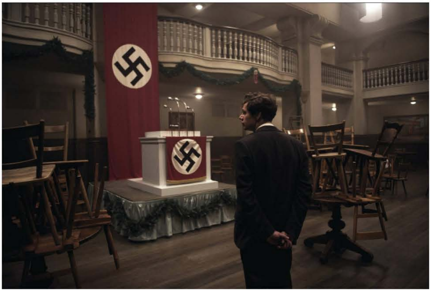
6. 'Camera Women'



ABOVE A still from the film 13 Minutes (2021) (Image: courtesy of Hong Kong Arts Centre)

When: Until September 23

Where: Louis Koo Cinema, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Wan Chai

What: Cinematography was once considered a male-only profession due to the physical demands and technicality. But women are working hard to upend this stereotype. Hong Kong Arts Centre's moving image programme is a series of screenings accompanied by talks with cinematographers and designers. It spotlights five female cinematographers, some award-winning, others pioneering: Claire Mathon, who won the César Award for Best Cinematography for *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* (2019); Judith Kaufmann, who shot *The Divine Order* (2017) which was Switzerland's submission for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film; and Caroline Guimbal, Virginie Surdej and Gabriela Betschart.

7. #Musicismore programme

ABOVE #musicismore (Photo: courtesy of Project21st)

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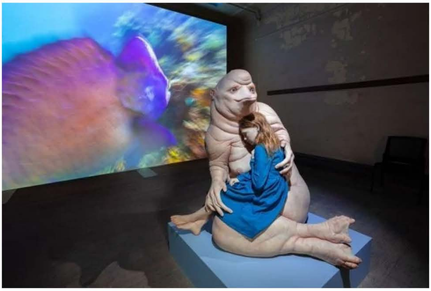
When: July 21-29

Where: Second Serve Coffee, Peng Chau

What: Don't miss *Euphonia*, an experimental arts production by Project21st, a new music platform founded by Hong Kong composer Charles Kwong and performing arts producer Sharon Chan. This show is a part of Project21st's *#Musicismore* programme, which expands the idea of musical performances beyond conventional concerts. *Euphonia* features a 3D-printed organ that produces chords and pitches beyond what the traditional instrument can.

8. 'Hope' exhibition



ABOVE An installation at "Hope" (Photo: courtesy of Patricia Piccini and Tai Kwun)

When: Until September 3

Where: Tai Kwun, 10 Hollywood Road, Central

A mix of a grotesque, cutesy and hyperrealistic, Australian artist Patricia Piccini's sculptures always elicit strong reactions. The artist's surreal artworks are now on view in Hong Kong in her new solo exhibition *Hope*, at JC Contemporary, Tai Kwun. The artist often references art historical forms to explore both the positive and negative collateral consequences of the impact of science on humanity, and in doing so taps into our hopes and fears about the future. Her work deals with the nature of history, progress and technology, and questions our collective ability to create, sustain and maintain warm and caring relationships that allow for peaceful co-existence.

9. TeamLab Future Park

ABOVE 'Graffiti Nature—Beating Mountains and Valleys, Red List' by teamLab (Image: courtesy of teamLab)

When: Until January 14, 2024

Where: MegaBox, Kowloon Bay

Beloved for its popular exhibitions in London, New York, Paris and, most recently, Macau, Japan-based art collective TeamLab is opening a new show in Hong Kong this month. Inspired by the future of humans in the digital age, this educational, interactive experience takes the form of an amusement park, and is themed around "co-creation". TeamLab Future Park will feature interactive installations which allow visitors to create their own works which then become part of the exhibition.

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Topics

TeamLab | Latin dance | Crisel Consunji | M+ | Hong Kong film