Friday, November 3, 2023









From left: Dunhuang Fantasy (I) – Feitian with the Saxophone by Lo Sai-keung; Do it Moron by Damon Tong; What? I pull a sword out of garden fences?! by Michelle Yim; and Encounter with Tiger Wong at the Museum of History by Virginia Lo.

Discovering new worlds

Roxanne Li

Collectors usually play it safe by buying works of established artists but then they miss out on the thrill of discovering the next big thing.

The Hong Kong Arts Centre
hopes to change this mindset
with its Collectible Art Fair, which
highlights local artists. Executive
director Rebecca Ip hopes "this
meaningful fair will enhance public
awareness of local art."

To this end, the center worked with its educational arm, the Hong

FM2 by Kathryn Chung.

Kong Art School, and the school's alumni network.

"We wish to nurture a new generation of art talents," said Ip. "This fair is also aiming for fundraising. All proceeds will be donated to the Art Center to support its development and ongoing commitment to nurturing aspiring students who are passionate about art."

Over 200 alumni and artists are participating in the fair. To allow the public to appreciate a variety of art creations, there are more than 300 artworks on show from diverse media – including painting, ceramics, installation, photography and video.

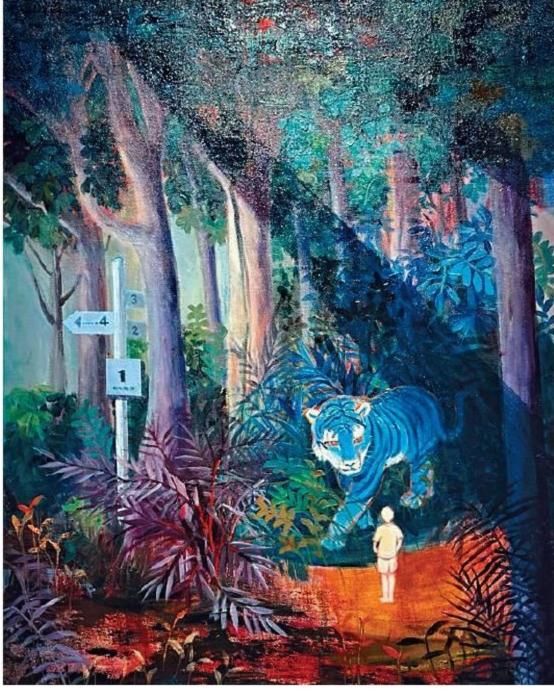
As you head to the ground floor of the arts center, you will be surrounded by pretty floral paintings. "We want to bring a sense of welcome," said fair curator Shirky Chan.

Along the staircase are artworks in various genres, ranging from dreamy fantasy to surreal landscape and from monotone to colorful.

Furthermore, a display of the Hong Kong porcelain paintings, which carry the characteristics of the local culture, forms a different artistic perspective.

"We were inspired by London's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, which is presented like a saloon-style art fair," Ip noted.

The artworks are an eclectic mix. "We don't focus on certain topics – like some gallery exhibitions – but we present a variety of local artworks to allow people to reach out freely to the art forms they like," explained Chan.



As they are not bound by specific criteria, the artists are free to express the form they want to create, she added.

"Such a fair with genuine art professionalism and marketing efforts doesn't exist much in Hong Kong," said fine art photographer Rorce Lau Tak-ming.

He presents two of his works – Somewhere Out There, a series of photographs that showcase the aftermath of crucial Hong Kong events in the past few years, and Bear Obscura, a handmade ceramic camera obscura in the shape of a toy bear – aimed to remind people of history and a fundamental way of seeing the real world.

"I'm now devoting myself as an artist to capture something truly meaningful with my camera," Lau said. "My style involves capturing scenes and adding elements that seem nonsensical or illogical to the composition. This approach often results in bizarre and surreal effects."

Yung Sau-mui, the program director and the principal printer at the Hong Kong Open Printshop, presents a silkscreen printing, *Prayer Book*.

A series of Latin words in a blue font are printed on off-white paper. The two phrases "Agnus Dei" and "Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha" which refer to "Lamb of God" and "Gone, gone, everyone gone to the other shore, awakening, svaha" float on the paper in an attempt to represent different voices overlapping each other.

She said: "Printmakers not only use traditional techniques but also take advantage of cutting-edge technologies, such as 3D printing, or laser cutting to create our works."

Quoted Brazilian artist Romero Britto, Chan said: "Art is too important not to share."

She hoped that the fair will bring art to the masses. "When walking into the arts center, people will find that the arts are not highbrow and obscure but approachable and affordable."

The Collectible Art Fair is on at the Pao Galleries and the Jockey Club Atrium of the Hong Kong Art Centre until November 16.





From far left: Hong
Kong Arts Center
executive director
Rebecca Ip; Collectible
Art Fair curator Shirky
Chan; Art Fair setting;
Bear Obscura by Rorce
Lau; and Finger Hill,
Peng Chau by Chui
Man-kit.



Next time you're taking the Star Ferry between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, make sure not to miss the digital artworks illuminating both sides of Victoria Harbour.

For Fill in the Blanks, the debut exhibition of Arts • Tech Exhibition 2.0, four artists will provide a mesmerizing visual experience in Hong Kong.

When: until November 12 Where: Sino LuminArt Façade, Tsim Sha Tsui East

Mirror to the world



Music and dance allows us to explore our body and identities in an instinctive way. Visual artist

Maria Hassabi brings her first Asian exhibition, I'll Be Your Mirror, which combines free-flow choreography with still images and sculptures in the top floor galleries of JC Contemporary.

When: until November 26 Where: Tai Kwun, Central



Anniversary plus

To celebrate its second anniversary, M+ will open its general admission exhibitions and programs to the public for free on that day.

Visitors can explore gallery spaces on the B2, L2, and G floors from 10am to 6pm. When: November 12

Where: M+, West Kowloon Cultural District DISU DANG

Culture vultures, rejoice! All the world's a stage in *The Standard*'s Art & Culture



Facebook page, which is filled with showings and events around town.

