

# Beyond Art Basel: 12 more cultural events to check out this month

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March is proving to be mayhem for goings-on in Hong Kong, with the recent successes of events including Clockenflap and the Hong Kong Arts Festival earlier in the month, and the hot-ticketed Rugby Sevens tournament taking place at the end of this month. And with Art Basel's 2023 iteration promising bigger names, more galleries and a whole host of new offerings, it may come as no surprise that the rest of the city is following suit.

Here's our pick of the biggest and best cultural events hitting Hong Kong in the weeks ahead.

## Coco Chanel: The Life of a Fashion Icon

Coco Chanel revolutionised the fashion world, and her iconic creations – the likes of which include the little black dress and bouclé jackets – have stood the test of time. Her story is told through ballet for the first time in this world premiere



Coco Chanel's story has been brought to the stage in a new production by HK Ballet. Photo: Handout

choreographed by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. The production features an original score by Peter Salem and costumes by award-winning designer Jérôme Kaplan.

March 24-26 at Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

## Hong Kong International Film Festival

The Hong Kong International Film Festival returns this year with a 47th edition in a hybrid format, offering a combination of in-person screenings and events as well as curated online programmes. With Aaron Kwok returning as festival ambassador, highlights include the complete

Jużo Itami retrospective, an eight-film tribute to Jean-Luc Godard and his muse Anna Karina, and screenings of eight classic films – including films by Satyajit Ray and Bernardo Bertolucci – digitally remastered in 4K.

March 30-April 10 at various locations

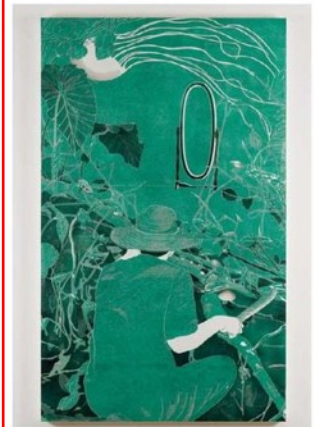
## Yayoi Kusama: 1945 to Now

From her instantly recognisable pumpkins her pervading use of polka dots, this exhibition is the largest retrospective of Kusama's work outside Japan. Featuring more than 200 paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations and archive materials, the exhibition also features three new pieces by Kusama – the large scale *Death or Nerves* installation, the immersive *Dot's Obsession – Aspiring to Heaven's Love* and two pumpkin sculptures.

Until May 14 at M+, 38 Museum Drive, West Kowloon Cultural District

## Rashid Johnson. Nudiustertian

For his first solo exhibition in Asia, American artist Rashid Johnson has created several new paintings and mosaics. The artist's work – whose work spans paintings, sculptures, filmmaking and installations among other mediums – draws upon diverse influences including art history, literature, philosophy, cultural



Bath (2022) by Li Ning will be displayed at The Collector's Choice Art Exhibition. Photo: Handout

identity and the personal realm. Kusama's creativity knows no boundaries, and he has been known to include unconventional materials in his works, ranging from a radio to tropical plants.

Until May 13 at Hauser & Wirth Hong Kong, 15-16/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central

## Eschenbach & Ray Chen

With acclaimed conductor Christoph Eschenbach at the helm, ticket holders will be transported to a whimsical world through Bruckner and Mendelssohn's music. The concert opens with celebrated violinist Ray Chen performing Mendelssohn's violin concerto in its entirety, before Bruckner's Symphony No 4 – nicknamed "Romantic" by the composer himself – is the embodiment of the Romantic period in musical history.

March 31 & April 1 at Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

## Golden Techniques II: Art of the Chinese Goldsmiths

The exhibition features 60 pieces that demonstrate three primary techniques – gold and silver inlay, damascene and the manufacturing and use of gold wire, highlighting the use of ancient craftsmanship over the last 3,500 years. An interactive zone invites visitors to delve further into the craft, while a series of complementary workshops allows people to experience the craft first hand. Until May 21 at Gallery 1, Art Museum, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Sha Tin

## Myth Makers – Spectrosynthesis III

Featuring new and historic works from more than 60 artists across Asia and its diasporas, this exhibition explores queer mythologies and is one of the first major exhibitions to do so in the city. Expanding upon the Spectrosynthesis series of exhibitions in Taipei and Bangkok, the Hong Kong



Art Central is back and unmasked, opening to the public at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from tomorrow until Sunday. Photo: Sam Tsang

instalment is curated by Inti Guerrero and Chantal Wong. One third of the artworks on display are on loan from the Sunride Foundation, an organisation dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the LGBTQ+ community and inspiring young creatives.

Until April 10 at Tai Kuan Contemporary, 10 Hollywood Road, Central

## Art Central

Handily located in the same building as Art Basel, the Art Central fair offers culture vultures the opportunity to experience art from an additional 70 participating galleries from around the world. Expect large scale installations, sculptures, paintings, mixed media, video art and more. To complement the artistic offerings, a series of talks, panels and performances will be made available to the public. March 22-25 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai

## French May

Annual cultural festival French May returns this year, celebrating its 30th anniversary. Highlights include a collaboration between local composer Olivier Cong and dance artists Zelia Tan and Ong Yong Lock, behind an immersive experience narrated by the festival's ambassador Karen Lam. Elsewhere renowned pianists Niu Niu and Théo Fouchenneret take to the stage for a piano duet, and a touring

immersive digital exhibition of Versailles comes to Hong Kong for the first time.

April-June, various locations

## HKwalls Festival 2023

HKwalls transforms ordinary facades into works of art, splashing creative murals and street art across the city, this year invading Central and Sheung Wan. For the first time in four years, the festival welcomes international artists including Koga One, Innerfields and Jurme. Experience the street art by your own pace or join a free guided walking tour led by Alexandra Unrein of Wanderlust Walks. Until March 26, various locations across Central and Sheung Wan

## HKT x WestK Popfest

Music fans will be pleased to know that Clockenflap isn't the only festival of this month. More than 70 home-grown acts are performing across West Kowloon Cultural District, including Anson Lo, Janice Vidal, Merry



A colourful mural from HKwalls, spotted at last year's event outside the Hong Kong Observation Wheel in Central. Photo: Jonathan Wong

Lamb Lamb and Mirror's Edan Lui. Event highlights include a tribute to Leslie Cheung, and a live music screening of graphic artist Kong Kee's animation *Dragon's Delusion – Paracusia*. March 22-April 2 at Freespace, Art Park, Wonderland and M+, West Kowloon Cultural District

## The Collectors' Choice Art Exhibition

Curated by the Hong Kong Arts Centre Alumni Network led by artist Shirky Chan, Pao Galleries hosts 30 pieces of art created by its former students. The exhibition invites local and international audiences to celebrate the successes of the Hong Kong Art School over the years. The works are on loan from nine private collections, and showcase various mediums, including painting, ceramics, photography, video art and installations.

March 23-April 10 at Pao Galleries, 5/F, Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wan Chai