For immediate release

West Kowloon Cultural District
Quarterly Programme Highlights

Inaugural editions of Freespace Jazz Fest and Sigg Prize 2019 exhibition to be launched this season

(19 September 2019, Hong Kong) The West Kowloon Cultural District (the District / West Kowloon) will present a dynamic array of programmes encompassing indoor and outdoor performances, exhibitions, workshops, and education events between September and December 2019. The programmes bring to life West Kowloon’s vision of a world-class integrated arts and cultural district comprising local, traditional, international, and modern elements.

Upcoming

Anna Viebrock on What is Stage: Space as Poetry (Public Seminar)

Since 2017, West Kowloon has collaborated with Hong Kong’s Edward Lam Dance Theatre on the three-year programme “What Is Stage”, looking at the work of leading contemporary European scenographers. This year’s programme culminates with renowned German stage designer, costume designer and art educator Anna Viebrock presenting an in-depth series of workshops with local artists followed by a public seminar.

Viebrock has worked with Christoph Marthaler and Jossi Wieler, the world’s leading theatre and opera directors to reinvent contemporary stage design with her radical and poetic approach to space and architecture. In conversation with co-curators, Edward Lam and West Kowloon’s Low Kee Hong, Viebrock talks about her work and explores how stage design can shape perceptions of time, space and emotion.

Click here for more details.
Edward Lam Dance Theatre – Art School Musical

Date: 3–13 October 2019
Venue: The Box, Freespace, Art Park, West Kowloon Cultural District

After successful tours in dozens of cities across Chinese speaking regions including Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Taipei, Edward Lam Dance Theatre’s hugely popular Art School Musical returns to Hong Kong for its fourth restaging adapted for Freespace, the newest venue of the District. Premiered in 2014, Art School Musical is a contemporary adaptation of the classic story The Butterfly Lovers that transforms a traditional tale of heartbreak into a story about a search for identity. Featuring 18 original songs and a cast from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, the plot centres around three students and their struggle to find meaning in love, art and life. Alongside 10 performances, director Edward Lam, the creative team and invited guests also lead a series of public seminars on the unique creative process and unique challenges in creating Chinese-language musicals.

Click here for more details.

Inaugural Freespace Jazz Fest

Date: 9–10 November 2019
Venue: Freespace and Art Park, West Kowloon Cultural District

This November, West Kowloon will present Freespace Jazz Fest – a new annual event which brings together a stellar line-up of local and international jazz and world music artists. Headlining the inaugural festival are Grammy Award Winner Robert Glasper, UK’s GoGo Penguin, Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and line-ups include House of Waters, Eugene Pao, Ted Lo, Patrick Lui, Elisa Chan for a full weekend of indoor and outdoor performances. The festival will also feature a series of workshops and educational programmes including jazz concerts for children aged 3-12 to engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds. The diverse programme also features jazz-infused dance performances by programme partner Hong Kong Ballet, with the popular The Great Gatsby set to a fantastic jazz score, and a series of exciting site-specific works along the waterfront promenade.

Click here for more details.
CCDC in Residence 2019

To mark the start of the new three-year CCDC in Residence programme, Freespace partners with City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC) to present two major dance productions which will be presented in The Box as part of City Contemporary Dance Festival 2019. The opening performance Re-Mark is a thought-provoking new work on body, space of the city and memory by CCDC Resident Choreographer Sang Jijia. Almost 55, created by a team of artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan, is a solo piece for CCDC Resident Artist Qiao Yang that celebrates her forty-year career.

The week-long event also includes experimental presentations of a futuristic virtual reality dance film on memory and emotion Afterimage for Tomorrow by Taiwanese film director Singing Chen and choreographer Chou Shu-yi, indoor and outdoor performances for audiences of all ages, and open studio presentations for local and international dance artists and professionals from the global industry.

Click [here](#) for more details.

The Sigg Prize 2019 exhibition

Established by M+ in Hong Kong in 2018, the Sigg Prize is a global platform for recognising contemporary art practices from the Greater China region. The Sigg Prize was formerly the Chinese Contemporary Art Award, founded by Uli Sigg in China in 1998. For this inaugural edition of the prize, the shortlisted artists are Hu Xiaoyuan (born 1977, lives and works in Beijing), Liang Shuo (born 1976, lives and works in Beijing), Lin Yilin (born 1964, lives and works in New York), Shen Xin (born 1990, lives and works in London), Tao Hui (born 1987, lives and works in Shanghai), and Samson Young (born 1979, lives and works in Hong Kong). An exhibition of recent work and new commissions by the artists will be held at the M+ Pavilion, opening in December. Encompassing different generations and geographies, the selected artists articulate distinguished perspectives on topics that defy easy categorisation. The winner of the inaugural Sigg Prize will be selected by an international jury and announced in March 2020.

Details on the exhibition will be announced soon.
This exhibition, presented by M+, brings together an international group of artists whose varied approaches offer ways to rethink ideas of site and place. The exhibition features a wide array of work—including sculptures, installations, and films—by May Fung, Lee Bul, Ana Mendieta, and Charlotte Posenenske, as well as a specially commissioned project by Lara Almarcegui. This all-female line-up, spanning multiple generations and geographies and hailing from different historical moments, offers distinct individual perspectives on the idea of site—from intangible to tangible and imagined to real. Together, the artists’ work provides a thought-provoking dialogue with the site around the soon-to-be-completed M+ building, and more generally prompts us to explore our sense of belonging in the world.

Programmes accompanying the exhibition include a reconfiguration of Charlotte Posenenske’s sculptures led by artist and stage designer Tsang Man-tung (24 September 2019) and a conversation between Lee Bul and architectural historian Cole Roskam (3 October 2019).

Click [here](#) for more details.
Shirley Tse: Stakeholders, Hong Kong in Venice

Curated by Christina Li, Guest Curator, with Doryun Chong, Deputy Director, Curatorial, and Chief Curator, M+, as Consulting Curator
Date: Closes on 24 November 2019
Opening hours: 10am–6pm, closed on Mondays (except 18 November 2019)
Venue: Campo della Tana, Castello 2126-30122, Venice, Italy (in front of the main entrance of the Arsenale)

M+ and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council present the exhibition Shirley Tse: Stakeholders, Hong Kong in Venice as the Hong Kong Collateral Event at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. The Venice exhibition is a solo presentation of work by Los Angeles–based Hong Kong artist Shirley Tse. It is a culmination of Tse’s career-long interest in plasticity and in the various meanings and possible interpretations of materials and things. In two installations that respond to the exhibition site and negotiate with its spaces, Tse addresses the complex ways individuals relate to each other in contemporary society. The installations—titled Negotiated Differences and Playcourt—bring together plastics with raw materials, namely wood, and ready-mades such as studio and sports equipment to unravel the histories, imaginations, applications, and technologies embedded within these things.

Click here for more details.

Notes to editors

About the West Kowloon Cultural District
The West Kowloon Cultural District is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural projects in the world. Its vision is to create a vibrant new cultural quarter for Hong Kong on forty hectares of reclaimed land located alongside Victoria Harbour. With a varied mix of theatres, performance spaces, and museums, the West Kowloon Cultural District will produce and host world-class exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, providing twenty-three hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

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Free admission

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