

# 2025

## ASIAN CULTURAL COUNCIL HONG KONG FELLOWS



CHEN Jie  
Curation



CHEN Yanyi,  
Summer Cat  
Literature



Mo LAI Yan Chi  
Theater



Elsbeth Mary LEE  
Architecture



Donn HOLOHAN  
Architecture



Cynthia LEUNG  
Architecture



SHAO Chun  
Crafts



SO Lai Ping  
Visual Art



Toby TSE  
Music



WEN Peng  
Crafts



YE Wujia  
Visual Art



ZHU Ning  
Architecture



Caro CHAN  
Theater



Florence  
CHEONG  
Dance



Serene HUI  
Visual Art



ZHANG Ruyi  
Visual Art

We are very happy to share with you the list of Asian Cultural Council Hong Kong 2025 Fellows. This year, we will award 15 grants to individuals whose practices promise to contribute meaningfully to the cultural landscape of Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China. In 2024, ACC Hong Kong awarded 11 grants.

The selection jury, comprised of distinguished arts professionals and ACC Hong Kong alumni, were impressed by the range and quality of this year's applications. With a 70% increase in applications compared to 2024, the selection process was highly competitive.

The fellowships range from one to six months, and will take place between August 2025 and December 2026 in the United States or within Asia. The fellowships offer unique opportunities for immersive cultural experiences that foster creative growth, broaden perspectives, and build connections.

Below is the list of this year's cohort with a brief summary of each of their fields of research.

Please join us in congratulating the 2025 ACC Hong Kong Fellows, whose work exemplify the cultural vitality we aim to support.

We are so deeply grateful to all of you who have made these fellowships possible.

Sincerely,

Asian Cultural Council Hong Kong

*Image credit: Photo of Elspeth Mary Lee by Raffaella Endrizzi; Photo of Shao Chun by Ladina Bischof*

## **Individual Fellowships**

### **CHEN Jie, Curator (Mainland China)**

Curation | Mainland China → United States | February to April 2026

#### **Xiaoyang Yu Fellowship**

Chen Jie will conduct two months of research in the United States to study the cultural interplay between Western art and Eastern ceramics. Her project aims to expand her expertise in global ceramic traditions, investigate diverse curatorial practices, and strengthen international collaborations in the field.

---

### **CHEN Yanyi, Summer Cat, Literary Scholar (Hong Kong)**

Literature | Hong Kong → Taiwan | December 2025

#### **Altius Fellowship**

With years of research in literary studies, Chen Yanyi (Summer Cat) plans to do one month of research in Taiwan to learn more about how illustrated novels resonate with readers—beyond children, but also for adults. Through visits to publishers, bookstores, and literature research institutes, she seeks models that can be adapted for Hong Kong.

---

### **Mo LAI Yan Chi, Director (Hong Kong)**

Theater | Hong Kong → Japan | July to December 2026

#### **ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Mo Lai Yan Chi will spend six months in Japan researching physical theater creations and training methods, from classic Noh to modern Butoh and contemporary styles.

---

### **Elsbeth Mary LEE and Donn HOLOHAN, Architects (Hong Kong)**

Architecture | Hong Kong → Japan | June to August 2026

#### **ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Elsbeth Mary Lee and Donn Holohan will spend two months in Japan to explore traditional building techniques, focusing on monolithic stone and earth constructions. Through conversations and sharing sessions with local artisans, they aim to deepen understanding of regionally specific methods of material sourcing and construction.

---

### **Cynthia LEUNG, Architect (Hong Kong)**

Architecture | Hong Kong → Japan | February to April 2026

**ACC Hong Kong-Hsin Chong Foundation Young Architects Fellowship, in partnership with the American Institute of Architects Hong Kong Chapter**

As the inaugural fellow of the Hsin Chong Foundation Young Architects Fellowship, in partnership with the American Institute of Architects Hong Kong Chapter, Cynthia Leung will spend around two months in Japan conducting research on traditional craftsmanship and local design approaches, under the mentorship of renowned heritage architecture specialist Tomoaki Tanaka, Professor, Department of Architecture at Meiji University. She will explore and engage in hands-on workshops focused on a variety of traditional Japanese crafts techniques.

---

### **SHAO Chun, Visual Artist (Mainland China)**

Crafts | Mainland China → Japan | March to July 2026

**Désirée & Hans Michael Jebsen Fellowship**

Shao Chun will conduct four months of research in Japan, focusing on traditional craftsmanship. She is especially interested in wabi-sabi and the boundary of ritual sites and installation art. Her work explores “digital intimacy” through multimedia installations, e-textiles, and more.

---

### **SO Lai Ping, Visual Artist and Editorial Designer (Hong Kong)**

Individual Fellowship | Visual Art | Hong Kong → United States | February to May 2026

**Altius Fellowship**

So Lai Ping intends to conduct research for three months on the Cantonese diaspora community in San Francisco, with a focus on its visual presence and linguistic landscape.

---

### **Toby TSE, Clarinetist (Hong Kong)**

Music | Hong Kong → United States | June to August 2025

**Lady Fung Music Fellowship**

A student at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Toby Tse was selected for the Lady Fung Music Fellowship to attend workshops at the Aspen Music Festival and School for two months in Summer 2025. The experience will provide one-on-one lessons and the opportunity to work with more musicians from all over the world, in the context of one of the most prestigious music festivals.

---

**WEN Peng, Visual Artist (Mainland China)**

Crafts | Mainland China → Japan | September to November 2025

**ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Wen Peng will spend three months in Japan to further his research on the relationship between space and plants. He will study ikebana at Sogetsu Kaikan, visit revered temples in Kyoto, and study garden typologies and architecture in Tokyo, Osaka, and Sapporo. He will also research spatial projects and the archives of the late Isamu Noguchi's time in Japan.

---

**YE Wuji, Visual Artist (Mainland China)**

Visual Art | Mainland China → Pakistan | September 2025 to January 2026

**ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Ye Wuji will visit northern Pakistan for four months to study the region's histories and mobile societies connected with surrounding regions. His research exploring Central Asia began in 2018, and he has previously visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, creating video works informed by his findings. He will explore the connections between daily experiences and historical happenings.

---

**ZHU Ning, Architect (Mainland China)**

Architecture | Mainland China → United States | August 2025 to January 2026

**Hsin Chong-K.N. Godfrey Yeh Education Fund: Tsinghua-MIT Exchange Fellowship**

Zhu Ning will attend the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for one semester, researching teaching methods and the use of artificial intelligence design tools with a cultural dimension.

**New York Fellowships**

**Caro CHAN, Actress (Hong Kong)**

Theater | Hong Kong → United States | July to December 2026

**ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Caro Chan will participate in playwriting, acting, and stand-up comedy workshops in New York City. A Hong Kong talent working both on the stage and in front of the camera, she was nominated for the 2025 International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong) Actor Award for her role in "Flowing Warblers."

---

**Florence CHEONG, Choreographer (Macau)**

Dance | Macau → United States | July to December 2026

**Lee Hysan Foundation - ACC Fellowship**

As a choreographer and musical director with popular productions across Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China, Florence Cheong will explore American theater in New York City, with an interest in the use of videography in productions and in musicals.

---

**Serene HUI, Visual Artist (Hong Kong)**

Visual Art | Hong Kong → United States | January to June 2026

**Altius Fellowship**

Serene Hui will explore how Asian diasporic and multigenerational immigrant artists use archives and theoretical writings to articulate migration, identity, and the construction of place and time—considering future possibilities for interdisciplinary expression.

---

**ZHANG Ruyi, Visual Artist (Mainland China)**

Visual Art | Mainland China → United States | July to December 2026

**ACC Hong Kong Arts Circle Fellowship**

Zhang Ruyi will examine residential typologies in New York City. She will focus on identity, social dynamics, and spatial perceptions, enabling a comparative study between New York City and Shanghai.

---