

asian cultural council
亞洲文化協會 香港分會

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(For Immediate Release: March 1, 2019)

Asian Cultural Council Salutes to Hon Chi Fun (1922–2019)

Please scroll down for Chinese version



The Asian Cultural Council joins the arts community in paying tribute to the late Hon Chi Fun, who passed away earlier this week. He will be missed but we wish to remember him through his artistry and his significant contribution to the arts. Most of all, Mr. Hon was a great friend of the ACC's extended family of staff, supporters and alumni.

Hon Chi Fun was one of the most respected visual artists who painted a colourful legacy in an artistic landscape at a time when Hong Kong's art scene was brimming with new ideas.

Mr. Hon was a self-taught painter who fuses Chinese art and Western methodology. In 1969, he was the first recipient from Hong Kong who was awarded a fellowship from the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award—the predecessor of the Asian Cultural Council. He was to spend one year in New York and observe the latest developments in contemporary art.

At the time, there was very little art to see in Hong Kong. Though Mr. Hon and his peers were familiar with the trends of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art through magazines and publications, they have never seen the original works of art since there were no exhibition spaces nor funding for the arts.

When Mr. Hon arrived in New York, the United States in the 60's was going through a time of tumultuous social upheaval embroiled with the Vietnam War abroad. That did not stop the 45-year-old artist from venturing into the cultural environment, absorbing every nook and cranny of New York's vibrant and ubiquitous art scene.

During his one-year fellowship, Mr. Hon studied print-making at the Pratt Graphic Center in New York. He visited museums, galleries and bookstores, frequented jazz bars at night and attended performances at venues such as Lincoln Center, the Bowery District and many more. He was the only audience member who prevailed through a six-hour film by Andy Warhol, featuring a man sleeping throughout the entire film.

Mr. Hon believed his experience in New York brought a profound impact to his overall thinking and philosophy. It spurred a new sense of purpose in him which made him

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dedicate himself totally into art. He returned to Hong Kong rejuvenated, resigned his job at the Post Office where he worked for nearly two decades, and embarked on a new journey as a full-time artist.

Mr. Hon was one of the founders of the Circle Art Group in 1963, a pioneering Modernist Art Group in Hong Kong. His works were presented at opening exhibitions of museums, galleries and art festivals. When the first Art Festival began in 1960, Mr. Hon participated in the group show. In 1962, he was part of the inaugural group show at City Hall and at Chatham Gallery when they first opened, with the latter being the first commercial exhibition in Hong Kong. His work is collected by the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong, other private and corporate collections. In 2013, Mr. Hon received the Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong SAR Government in recognition of his outstanding artistic achievement. Today, Mr. Hon's paintings grace many public spaces in Hong Kong, such as the Jardine House (previously called the Connaught Center), Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Kwun Tong MTR station.

The ACC is grateful to have co-presented with Hong Kong Land for "Hon Chi Fun's Perspective @91" in 2013, in honour of Mr. Hon at 91 years old. In 2018, Mr. Hon kindly donated his painting "Late Encounter" (2009) in celebration of ACC Hong Kong's 30th Anniversary.

Mr. Hans Michael Jebsen, Chairman of ACC Hong Kong, expressed his deepest sympathies to Mr. Hon's family. "A great human being has left us," said Mr. Jebsen. "Hon Chi Fun was everything the ACC is about, a man of great integrity and originality in many ways, a trailblazer and yet somebody with substance, subtlety and impact. We all lose a great friend. A sad day for Hong Kong and the great community of individuals whose lives Hon Chi Fun touched."

The Asian Cultural Council is honoured to cite the name of Hon Chi Fun at the top of its roster of talented recipients from Hong Kong. And as we now reap the fruits sowed by generations of artists, we salute to Mr. Hon, a distinguished artist who has tirelessly painted an extraordinary artistic landscape to Hong Kong's cultural legacy.

Memorial Service

Sunday March 3, 2019, 7–9pm

Jockey Club Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

Official Funeral

Friday March 15, 10:30am–1:30pm, followed by cremation

Sky Chapel, 22/F Wesleyan House, Methodist International Church, HK, 271 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai (MTR A3 exit)

Exhibition

Tuesday March 12, 2019–June 9, 2019

Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

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About the Asian Cultural Council (HK) Foundation

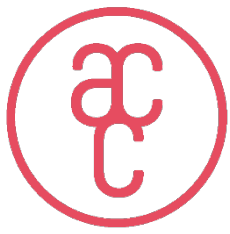
For more than 50 years, ACC has awarded approximately 6,000 fully customized fellowships and grants to arts professionals and institutions. More than 600 fellowships and grants have been awarded to individuals from China, Hong Kong and Macau. These outstanding individuals have participated in ACC's transformative cultural exchange experiences in the US and other Asian countries.

Many of the ACC's alumni, including Cai Guo-Qiang (1995 Fellow), Chen Kaige (1986 Fellow), and Wucius Wong (1971 Fellow), received ACC's support in the early stages of their careers and are now shaping the vibrant cultural landscape across Asia. These cultural leaders make up ACC's robust network of support across the globe and continue to contribute to the programs of ACC through their invaluable professional knowledge and active engagement.

Asian Cultural Council (HK) Foundation Limited is registered as a charitable institution in Hong Kong under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

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亞洲文化協會向韓志勳致敬 (1922—2019)



藝術先驅韓志勳會友已於本星期初辭世，亞洲文化協會在此謹與藝術界內好友向他致敬。我們深切懷念韓志勳會友，他的藝術成就和貢獻將永遠流芳。志勳會友更是亞洲文化協會大家庭同寅、支持者與會友的摯友。

韓志勳是本地德高望重的視覺藝術家，他的妙筆為其時新潮湧現的香港藝壇帶來絢爛異色。

作為自學成才的畫家，志勳會友筆下融合中國藝術與西洋技法。1969 年，他獲亞洲文化協會獎助前身一約翰·洛克菲勒三世獎項，成為第一位得此獎項的香港人。

當時香港藝術正當萌芽，志勳會友與同儕雖然從雜誌、出版物等熟知抽象表現主義與普普藝術，卻因為缺乏支持藝術資助和展覽場地，未能得見這些藝術品的真蹟。

1960 年代韓會友到達紐約，其時美國社會正因海外越戰天翻地覆，深陷動盪。雖然如此，時年 45 歲的藝術家，在瀟灑紐約各處活躍藝術氛圍中，踏遍大街小巷，欣然漫遊不同文化。

獎助一年期間，韓會友在紐約 Pratt Graphic Center 學習版畫。他到訪大大小小博物館、畫廊和書店，流連爵士酒吧、林肯音樂中心、Bowery 區與不同場地觀看演出。他也是安迪·華荷長達六小時電影作品的首位觀眾，欣賞一個人在整部電影中從頭昏睡到尾。

志勳會友認為紐約之行深切影響他的思想與哲學。是次經驗激勵他航向新方向，決心為藝術奉獻。他光彩煥發翩然歸家，辭去在郵局接近二十年的工作，並從此搖身成為全職藝術家。

韓會友在 1963 年聯合創辦香港先鋒當代藝術組織「中元畫會」。他的作品見於博物館開幕展、畫廊和藝術節。1960 年香港舉辦第一屆藝術節，群展席上即包括韓志勳。1962 年，他參與大會堂開幕展和 Chatham 畫廊開幕展，日後成為香港第一個商業展覽。他的作品被香港藝術館、香港文化博物館、香港大學美術館和藝廊、公司和私人等納為收藏。2013 年，韓志勳會友獲香港特區政府頒發香港榮譽勳章，表揚他在藝壇的卓越貢獻。時至今日，志勳的畫作使香港各公共空間生輝，如怡和大廈、香港會議及展覽中心和觀塘地鐵站。

亞洲文化協會非常榮幸，在 2013 年韓志勳會友 91 誕辰之際，與香港置地攜手呈獻《韓志勳選展》。2018 年為慶祝香港分會成立三十周年，他亦慷慨捐贈作品《遲詩》。

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亞洲文化協會香港分會主席捷成漢先生向韓志勳家人致以深切慰問。他表示：「一個偉大的人已離我們而去，他代表著亞洲文化協會的精神。他具有高尚品格與才華，是一位畫壇先鋒，以其藝術成就與謙和深深影響著我們。我們失去了一位摯友。對香港和認識韓志勳的親朋好友而言，今天是悲傷的一天。」

亞洲文化協會為人津津樂道的出眾會友間，韓志勳會友一直名列其中，這是我們莫大榮幸。一代又一代藝壇先行者種下的種子，如今花葉成蔭，讓我們得享纍纍成果。讓我們毋忘這位偉大的先行者，殷勤妙筆為香港文化風貌繪畫出一片燦爛盛景。

追思會

2019年3月3日晚上7-9時(星期日)
亞洲協會香港中心香港賽馬會廳，香港金鐘正義道9號

正式喪儀

2019年3月3日上午10:30-1:30時，然後火葬
循道衛理聯合教會，衛斯理大樓22樓，天空小禮堂
香港灣仔皇后大道東271號(A3出口)

展覽

2019年3月12日-2019年6月9日
亞洲協會香港中心，香港金鐘正義道9號

關於亞洲文化協會

五十多年來，ACC頒發約6,000項度身訂造的獎項與資助予藝文人才和機構。當中逾600項獎項與資助頒發給中國、香港、澳門的人才。出類拔萃的藝術家參與ACC在美國與亞洲各地的文化交流，深入體驗，豐富他們的事業與生活。

許多ACC會友，在事業初期獲得ACC的幫助，如今影響整個亞洲的文化地貌，例如蔡國強（1995會友）、陳凱歌（1986會友）、王無邪（1971會友）等。這群文化領袖凝聚成ACC蓬勃的全球會友網絡，持續為ACC獎助計劃提供專業意見，時刻參與ACC活動。

亞洲文化協會基金會有限公司是根據《稅務局條例》第八十八條獲豁免繳稅的香港註冊慈善機構。

(完)

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