

## **Hong Kong House (香港部屋)**

<https://www.facebook.com/apo.hkhouse/>

### **Introduction**

Venue: 29-4 Miyanohara, Kamigo, Tsunan-machi, Nakauonuma-gun, Niigata Prefecture, Japan

The 7<sup>th</sup> Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale was launched in July 2018 (details at Annex 1). Art Promotion Office has joined hands with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale to feature the works of Hong Kong artists in the Hong Kong House located in Tsunan Town of Japan in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

The “Hong Kong House” project was kick-started by an open call for architectural design proposal and artwork proposal launched in July and August 2017. Among the 105 architectural design proposals and 111 artwork proposals, the selection panel from Hong Kong and Japan nominated one architect team to be responsible for the exterior, structural and interior design of the Hong Kong House, while three artist groups were commissioned to showcase their artworks at the Hong Kong House in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively (details at Annexes 2 – 4). Architects and artists engaged as follows.

Selected architect team:	Yip Chun-hang (葉晉亨), Otto Ng (吳鎮麟), Adam Kor (許崇正), Lau Chun-tat (劉駿達), Lee Lit-kwan (李烈君), Lau Yip-fay (劉業斐) and Yau Chiu-ting (游超婷)
Selected artist groups:	2018 - Leung Chi Wo (梁志和) + Sara Wong (黃志恆) 2019 - Annie Wan (尹麗娟) 2020 - L sub (Pak Sheung-chuen 白雙全, Wendy Wo 胡敏儀 and Yim Sui-fong 嚴瑞芳)



Located at Tsunan Town of Japan, the construction of Hong Kong House was completed in June 2018 to coincide with the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale from 29 July to 17 September 2018. In 2018, we invited local artist, Kwok Mang-ho (a.k.a Frog King), to join hands with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for a series of art activities and performances in the neighborhood, so as to connect with the Tsunan community and kick-off the Hong Kong House.

Other than featuring artworks by local artists, a range of fringe activities and special programmes has been organised throughout the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale 2018, summer in 2019 and 2020, including artist workshops, performances, sonic experience programmes, writer-in-residence programmes, literature sharing and printmaking activities.



Opening Ceremony of Hong Kong House and parade led by Frog King on 29 July 2018



“On Harmony as Such and on Harmony of Men” performed by The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts





Various workshops conducted by the Activities Collaborators in 2018 and 2019

Supplementary Information**Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (ETAT)**  
**越後妻有大地藝術祭**

Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale is the largest international outdoor art festival in the world and is held once every three years in the Echigo-Tsumari region. Contemporary artworks are exhibited in locations such as the semi-natural satoyama woodlands, rice terraces, settlements and closed schools in the Echigo Tsumari area of Niigata Prefecture. Using art as a catalyst, the Triennale provides a platform to present projects and initiatives which aim to reveal existing assets of the region and rebuild the relationship between human and nature through artistic creation, appreciation, and participation. Since 2000, over 700 artists from all over the world have made them of the plentiful resources from the land and community to create thousand pieces of art. Abandoned houses and schools in Echigo-Tsumari are adaptively-reused and transformed into public places to showcase works of arts and creative ideas.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition in Hong Kong House

### *Tsunan Museum of the Lost* by Leung Chi Wo + Sara Wong 梁志和 + 黃志恆 《津南遺失博物館》

Exhibition period: 29 July – 17 September 2018



The inaugural exhibition of Hong Kong House featured a collaborative work of Tsunan Museum of the Lost by Leung Chi Wo + Sara Wong. Echoing with the spirit of the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, it re-affirmed and re-established the forgotten people and events through the power of art. If photographs are witnesses to history, then the people caught on camera by chance have also become witnesses to history without being aware of it. However, the narratives of significant events in history often focus on the protagonists while the existence of the unknown entities in the periphery is overlooked. Leung and Wong have a unique way of seeing images. They believe that all things are equally important before the camera. Anonymous figures from collected images and archival documents were selected. Through research and imagination, they re-established the characters of bygone and re-enacted a slice of history by staged photography.



Artists - Leung Chi Wo (梁志和) + Sara Wong (黃志恆)

The artists visited residents and held workshops in Tsunan Town in April 2018. Having the privilege of gaining support from the residents, the artists selected more than fifty old photographs between 1960s and 1970s from family albums as the spark of their inspiration. Every photograph showcased in the exhibition embodied the memories of Tsunan citizens, such as ceremonies for the new school year, graduation trips, domestic tours etc.

#### **Fringe Activities organised by Education Partners**

Besides the exhibition, sound artist So Wai-lam from soundpocket, Fleur des Lettres's writers Chan Lai-kuen and Lee Chi-leung, art critic Ying Kwok and Chan Sai-lok from Art Appraisal Club, as well as students from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts also visited the Hong Kong House and created works and performances in response to their artist-in-residence experiences.

2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition in Hong Kong House

***Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread by Annie Wan***  
**尹麗娟《今日予我我日用糧》**

Exhibition period: 10 - 18 August (Summer) & 12 October - 4 November 2019 (Autumn)



In this exhibition, Annie Wan used the abundant agricultural produce and traditional food culture as the starting point and explored ways to narrow the distance between the public and contemporary art through ceramics, offering the perspective that art can be a sociocultural activity as well as a part of daily life.



arch of this year, Annie stayed in the Hong Kong House for a month. She prepared a variety of Hong Kong-style home-cooked dishes and invited the residents to a small party at the house, opening a cultural dialogue with food. Annie sometimes likens making ceramics to cooking. From her perspective, both activities involve a transformative process in which new objects or dishes are created and given new meaning through the act of firing. During her stay in Tsunan, Annie interviewed the residents about food. Annie selected six of those stories casting and firing the six representative foods in ceramics for her exhibition at the Hong Kong House. Mould-casting is an act

of replicating the original object as well as a process of interpretation, one that is permeated with the artist's ideas and thoughts.

**Fringe Activities organised by Education Partners**

Meanwhile, sound artists Mark Chung and Jacklam Ho from soundpocket, Fleur des Lettres's editor Lee Yat-hong and writer Lui Siu-lung, art critic Vivian Ting and Chan Sai-lok from Art Appraisal Club also visited the Hong Kong House and created works in response to their exotic experiences. Hong Kong Open Printshop organised cyanotype workshops in the local community with the aid of the sun and water from the nature, participants experienced the inter-relationship between people, nature and art.

3rd Exhibition in Hong Kong House

Introduction of *Still Life Object* by L sub

L sub 《心安之物》

Exhibition period: October – November 2020 (to be confirmed)

Exhibition concept:

The vessels embodying “sense of comfort” will be collected, reproduced or recreated to spread the comforting messages through exhibition, interpretation and conducting workshops. This project is about making use of the significance of the objects and transforming it into a place that makes our lives still. As a poem goes, “Nowhere is my motherland. The place that calms me is my home.” One’s ultimate destination is the still mind at the present moment.

**Art Group - L sub** (Pak Sheung-chuen 白雙全, Wendy Wo 胡敏儀 and Yim Sui-fong 嚴瑞芳)



L sub, an artist collective formed in 2012, is comprised of its core members Pak Sheung-chuen, Wendy Wo and Yim Sui-fong. The two axes of letter “L” represent their creative belief. The vertical axis represents spiritual relationships connecting with the higher being, while the horizontal axis symbolises relationship with other human beings and the environment around us. The vertical and horizontal axes together form a “L” and a cone that represents a spiritually-oriented art community. This conical space is called L Museum. L sub is a group of believers who safeguard the “L” creative belief.

With a mission of making various idiosyncratic ideas alive in the community and liberating the imaginations of the world, the group has presented their projects in different parts of the world, including L (Hong Kong, 2012), SuperMarkham (Toronto, 2013), Heaven’s Corners (Shenzhen, New York, 2014), Northeast “Photography of Disappearance” Tour (Hong Kong, Fukushima, Taipei, 2014), HACK (Hong Kong, 2015) and Jinhetao Quartet (Nanjing, 2016). L Museum, their collective work, will be featured at the Hong Kong House in 2020.

**Student Internship Programme**

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (2018 – 2020)



Home visit with the Hong Kong House working team in the Tsunan community



To greet visitors at the Hong Kong House





To introduce the Hong Kong House project and the exhibition to the visitors





To assist in the fringe activities conducted at the Hong Kong House