

On 鯊魚與人類 Sharks & Humanity

Art Exhibition *On Sharks and Humanity* Opens Today Bringing Together Top International Contemporary Artists to Raise Awareness on the Negative Impact of the Shark Fin Trade

When the buying stops, the killing can too

#OnSharksandHumanity



Caption: Li Hui's *Nirvana - Shark*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action



Caption: Wang Luyan's *Downward Force on Upward Moving Objects*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action

[Hong Kong – 28 June 2017] – Major art exhibition presented by Parkview Arts Action, *On Sharks and Humanity*, opened today at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Open until the end of September, the powerful collection of 36 contemporary artworks by internationally recognised artists as well as emerging artists, brings together the worlds of visual art and humanitarian action and is set to be a highlight among Hong Kong's cultural offerings this summer.

Co-curated by internationally lauded curator Huang Du on behalf of Parkview Arts Action, and the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, the multidisciplinary collection is sponsored by Hong Kong Parkview in partnership with the international non-profit organization WildAid. Showcasing contemporary sculpture, painting, film, photography and poetry, the exhibition has a unique and interactive dialogue alongside the Maritime Museum's permanent collection. "Hong Kong Maritime Museum is dedicated to presenting exciting viewpoints on ocean conservation topics. We are proud to be co-curating with Parkview Arts Action on this major summer exhibition engaging visitors in this important conversation," comments Richard Wesley, Museum Director of Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

On Sharks and Humanity demonstrates the relationship between art and society, and sets out to raise public awareness of shark conservation in Hong Kong and the Greater Pearl River Delta region. George Wong, Parkview Arts Action Founder said, "Declining shark numbers pose a fundamental threat to the health of the world's oceans. Through the artists' varied interpretations, *On Sharks and Humanity* can inform and confront audiences in ways that strike more directly into the human psyche than the abstract language of scientific debate."

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Three acclaimed local Hong Kong talents; **Professor Ho Siu-Kee**, **Peggy Chan**, and **William Tong**, are exhibited for the first time in the Hong Kong edition of *On Sharks and Humanity*, which is now in its fifth phase having travelled from Monaco, Moscow, Beijing and Singapore to great acclaim. All three artists present works that express unique perspectives on the relationship between humankind and the oceans, the individual, the city and nature, and reflect the concerning and disturbing future the oceans and sharks face. Celebrated figure in both the international and local art scene for over three decades, Professor Ho Siu-Kee said, “*On Sharks and Humanity* is a chance to rethink human relations with nature, which is something I have considered greatly in creating my work **Confessional** for the exhibition. The work on its own, and as part of the *On Sharks and Humanity* collection, offers a platform for reflection, and hopefully a change in attitude.”

Renowned artists from China, Singapore, Taiwan, Germany, France and the United States have added their voices to the exhibition with visceral interpretations of the human impact on global shark populations. **Wang Luyan's** mixed media installation, ***Downward Force on Upward Moving Objects*** confronts the viewer with a mass of stainless steel buoys at different levels, each one pierced by iron rods. Another sculptural highlight includes **Li Jiwei's *Forgotten Landscape*** that uses abstract objects that rotate, at a times aligning to create the profile of a shark. **Liu Zining's** oil painting, ***Blue***, presents a hyper-realistic image of a shark's eye. Over a metre in diameter, every fleck and shadow can be seen in remarkable detail and holds a direct gaze that encourages viewers to see the shark as an equal.

Zheng Lu's *Butterfly in Love with the Flower* brings the inspiring and educational content of the exhibition beyond the walls of the museum and further into the public forum. The distinctive surface of the sculpture, a large stainless steel depiction of a shark fin made up of web-like bubbles, represents the idea that while the shark is a powerful creature it is in fact in danger of disappearing as a result of human urge to dominate nature. The title of the work refers directly to a Chinese poem in which a butterfly falls in love with a flower that is about to disappear.

A dynamic series of education and engagement programmes will run throughout the exhibition period, supporting the exhibition's desire to provide diverse platforms for the public to discover, learn and enjoy the exhibition. Ranging from tours, family programmes and workshops led by artist Peggy Chan and WildAid Campaigner Alex Hofford there is something for everyone, please visit the Maritime Museum [website](#) for more details.

Alex Hofford said, “WildAid is calling on the public to visit this important art exhibition and to stop buying and eating shark fin soup. It is time for Hong Kong's big restaurant groups to act ethically and sustainably by phasing out all shark fin from their set menus – including unsustainable blue shark”.

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On Sharks and Humanity Art Exhibition:

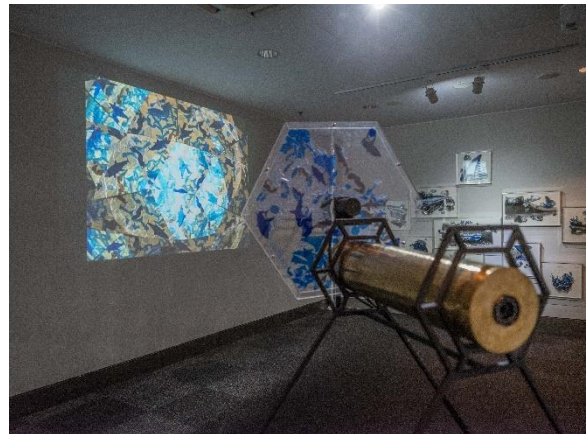
Exhibition period: 29 June to end of September 2017
Opening hours: Monday-Friday 09:30-17:30
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 10:00-19:00
Place: Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier No. 8, Hong Kong
Public enquiries: (852) 3713 2500
Website: www.hkmaritimemuseum.org
Instagram: @hongkongmaritimemuseum
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HKMaritimeMuseum/>
Ticketing: HKD 30 (Adult) / HKD 15 (Student/Senior). Available at reception.

All followers on Instagram and Facebook will receive a free ticket!
Promotion period from 29 June to 30 September 2017
For details, please visit Hong Kong Maritime Museum website

Images:



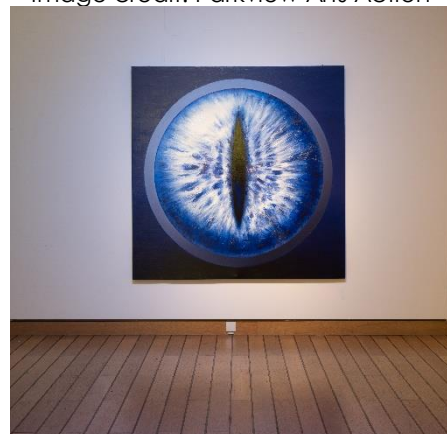
Caption: Li Jiwei's *Forgotten Landscape*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action



Caption: Peggy Chan's *The Shore Beyond*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action



Caption: Professor Ho Siu-Kee's *Confessional*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action



Caption: Liu Zining's *Blue*
Image credit: Parkview Arts Action

High resolution images and further information can be downloaded here:

<http://gallery.sinclairasia.com/>

Password: talkofthetown

Media Contacts

For more information on individual art works or interview requests, please contact Sinclair Communications at (852) 2915 1234

Rosanna Herries | rosanna@sinclairasia.com | (852) 6117 3390

Hannah Hodson | hannah@sinclairasia.com | (852) 9826 6193

About The Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM), an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, private individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government, is a vibrant cultural institution dedicated to preserving, collecting and displaying objects that tell the story about trade and maritime in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and the vital roles that ships and the sea play in our past, present and future. The Museum opened its door to the public at Murray House in Stanley in 2005 and then relocated to the Central Pier No. 8 in the heart of the Central Harbour Waterfront since 2013. Today the Museum displays nearly 1,000 objects in 15 galleries and attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually.

HKMM also houses various event spaces, resource centre, roof-top social enterprise café, and gift shop that contribute to visitor's experiences, and the community of Hong Kong actively engages in education and public programming offered for schools, adults, community groups and families.

For more information, please visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

About Parkview Arts Action

Parkview Arts Action is a new arts organisation that aims to harness the transformative power of art to raise awareness of critical environmental issues and inspire change among global communities. They are dedicated to providing a platform for emerging artists to address pressing environmental issues. Parkview Arts Action's ambition is to support and encourage debate between arts, business and scientific communities, advocacy organisations and the public around environmental sustainability.

Parkview Arts Action was set up by the Parkview Group. This organisation is a natural extension of Parkview's commitment to improving environmental sustainability across its commercial ventures and its support and patronage of arts. For more information, please visit <http://www.parkviewartsaction.com>

About Parkview Art Collection

Parkview Group has been collecting art for the past 50 years and holds numerous art works by western masters, including the largest Dali collection outside of Spain, a substantial collection of contemporary Chinese art amounting to over 10,000 works, an invaluable collection of imperial Chinese stone Buddhist carvings, and a vast collection of ancient archaic bronze ware. Mr George Wong, eldest son of founder CS Hwang, is an Honorary Professor at the Nanjing University of the Arts and has been instrumental in shaping a coherent and structured art collection. Under his aegis the art collection has grown considerably since 2013 in scale and prestige, to include masterpieces from Italian, Austrian, German, French and American contemporary artists.

About WildAid

WildAid's mission is to end the illegal wildlife trade in our lifetimes by reducing demand through public awareness campaigns and providing comprehensive marine protection. The illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth over \$10 billion per year and has drastically reduced many wildlife populations around the world. Just like the drug trade, law and enforcement efforts have not been able to resolve the problem. Every year, hundreds of millions of dollars are spent protecting animals in the wild, yet virtually nothing is spent on stemming the demand for wildlife parts and products. WildAid is the only organization with a mission focused on reducing the demand for these products, with the strong and simple message: **When the buying stops, the killing can too.**

WildAid works with hundreds of Asian and Western political figures, celebrities and business leaders, including the Duke of Cambridge, Yao Ming, Jackie Chan, Li Bingbing and Sir Richard Branson, to dissuade people from purchasing endangered wildlife products. These public service messages and educational initiatives reach hundreds of millions of people per week in China alone through donated media space. www.wildaid.org

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The Hong Kong Edition of *On Sharks and Humanity* is sponsored by:

