HONGKONG: ARTISTS' VISION
Kong would vicariously experience living and moving about in this city. These images are vivid reminders of our past and the stunning changes that had taken place in the city in the last century.

While Hong Kong’s early inhabitants clustered around fishing villages prefaced the idyllic backdrop of the Hong Kong story, the succeeding chapters of evolution and change have been written by waves of immigrants from Mainland China. Trickle of Chinese artists from the Mainland and overseas visiting and settling in Hong Kong laid the foundation for the beginning of a small and informal artistic community in Hong Kong in the 1920s and 1930s (Figs. 2 & 6). The first major wave of Chinese refugees arrived in Hong Kong to seek shelter from the Japanese occupation of China that began in 1937. It was followed by another wave of arrivals around 1949 with the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Political instability in China triggered the successive influx of refugees from China in the successive decades. The 1960s and the 1970s saw momentous expansions in Hong Kong economy fuelled by these influxes of labour and talents. Development in art and culture also picked up momentum (Figs. 7-9). The local residents that had gone overseas to receive training in art have also returned to Hong Kong to develop their career in art (Fig. 10). Into the nineties, Hong Kong had to prepare itself for the important political and administrative change that would come with the reversion of the administration of the city back to China. Psychologically, artists began a process of intense introspective of their cultural identity that involves a reconsideration of history and politics as well as intimate and personal sentiments and aspirations (Figs. 11-13). In the past ten years that straddled two millennia, the common issue of cultural inquisition was the search for a cultural identity that may be unique of Hong Kong as a cross-road of the east and the west.

The varied expressions presented by works in this exhibition show the artists’ acute observation and at times reveal their sentimental attachment to people and places that appear in these pictures. Pictures in the exhibition have been selected from the collections of the Hong Kong Museum of Art and from the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Photographs on display along with these pictures are on loan from the Hong Kong Museum of History. The collaboration and assistance of these institutions has been a contributory factor for the successful organisation of this exhibition. Grateful acknowledgement is registered here for each and every one who partakes in the process in realizing this exhibition.
百年以來，香港經歷了許多轉變。城市的建設由開埠前只有二十條村落，發展至今，已成為國際性的商貿大都市。香港的自然地貌與城市景觀，固然歷盡滄海桑田，而社會民生的改變，亦是一日千里。香港一直是華洋雜處的地方，市民的生活模式以至藝術文化，既保存中國傳統，又受西方思潮的影響，形成多元化的社會及文化面貌。然而，隨著社會急劇發展，很多富有地方色彩的傳統習俗和文化遺蹟都逐漸消失 (圖 1－5)。

今次專題展，特意選取香港藝術家筆下描畫香港的作品近九十幀，集中反映藝術家表述的香港印象。他們緊扣著時代脈搏，或以傳統和抽象，又或以水墨和西方媒介如繪畫、素描、水彩、版畫等，描繪了香港的風貌、人民生活和歷史變遷。所展出的展品亦同時闡述了香港藝術的發展與社會變遷並進的大略。二、三十年代，一些內地及海外畫家的往來交流已凝聚了發展的基礎 (圖 2 及 6)。一九四九年後又有不少國內藝術家相繼移居香港，及至六、七十年代社會經濟起步，現代思潮湧入，文化藝術瀰漫一片銳意創新的氣氛 (圖 7－9)；尤其是曾留學海外的藝術家引進各國藝術潮流，形成更多元化的藝術發展 (圖10)。踏入九十年代，香港面對政治變遷，藝術家藉創作對歷史、政治作出迴響。而香港藝術在中國文化中的定位，亦成為重要課題 (圖 11－13)。香港藝術家過往的持續努力，誠然締造了具有一定本土特色的藝術風格和面目。

這些作品風格多樣化，各具特色，不只反映了藝術家們的敏銳觸覺和富於創意的想像力，更流露著他們對所居住城市的深摯情懷。展示於眼前的每件作品亦猶如香港過往歲月的雪泥鴻爪，均見證了部份香港的滄桑和蛻變。冀望觀眾在欣賞藝術之餘，亦能加深對香港的感情和歸屬感。展品全由本館及香港文化博物館藏品中精選，展場的照片說明則由香港歷史博物館借出，謹此一併致謝。