



CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Dear Members,

Season's greeting to you and your family!

Like the rest of Hong Kong, we have encountered some disruptions that had necessitated the postponement of a few activities. Fortunately, our resource persons have kindly allowed us to reschedule which put our activities back on track. Among these are two public programmes jointly presented with the University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG). The first is a morning viewing of two exhibitions *Along China's Coast: Dezső Bozóky's Travel Photography 1908–1909* and *Chak: Landscapes and other Natural Occurrences*. We will be guided by the artist Chak 翟宗浩 and Museum Director Dr. Florian Knothe. The second is a viewing of two exhibitions *Silk Poems* and *Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation*. The artist Tobias Klein and Museum Curator Christopher Mattison will reveal the stories behind the exhibited works. Please note that you must register in advance with name matching your HKID or passport to enter the HKU campus.

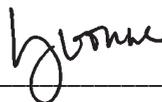
We are delighted to collaborate with Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Friends of HK Museum of Art to present *Art and its Histories: Scholars in Lecture* – a series of public lectures organised by the Department of Fine Arts, HKU to promote the importance and relevance of art history in Hong Kong. The first lecture will be given by Professor Greg Thomas on *Catholic Realism in the Qing Court: Qianlong's Jesuit Painters* at the ASHK in Admiralty.

Collector and long-standing member Angus Forsyth will share fascinating stories from his newly published book *Ships of the Silk Road – The Bactrian Camel in Chinese Jade*. The talk and dinner will be held at the private clubhouse of the illustrious Min Chiu Society.

We have also rescheduled a guided viewing of the exhibition *Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan* at the HK History Museum with Dr. Joseph Ting. Furthermore, we are planning on a day trip to Macau with Dr. Ting to include lunch and a guided tour of the exhibition *The Long Journey: The Forbidden City and Maritime Silk Road* at the Macao Museum of Art. More details will be forthcoming.

A gentle reminder that annual memberships expire on 31 December 2019. Your membership is important for us to continue our goals of supporting the University Museum and Art Gallery, and promoting the understanding and appreciation of art. You can renew your membership with the Membership Form attached to this newsletter or on our website <http://www.hkums.com/membership/membership-form/>.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy year of 2020 and a prosperous Year of the Rat!



Yvonne Choi
Chairman



ACTIVITIES January – February 2020

Lecture Synopsis

Art and its Histories: Scholars in Lecture by Fine Arts Department, Hong Kong University – jointly presented by Asia Society, Friends of HKMA and HKUMS – *Catholic Realism in the Qing Court: Qianlong's Jesuit Painters*

With Prof Greg Thomas

Date: Saturday, 11 January 2020

Time: 10:00 Light Breakfast Reception
10:30 – 11:30 Lecture

Place: Asia Society Hong Kong Center, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Cost: \$150 Member; \$250 Non-member; Free for students with valid ID

Limit: NIL

Note: Register online at

<https://ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk/Index?eventId=a0l2v000008bxmb>
(Registration code for HKUMS members: fHKUMsGT)

Enquiries: Chung Yan Chan at officeadmin@hkums.com or 2241-5507

Art and its Histories: Scholars in Lecture is a series of public lectures organized by the Department of Fine Arts, HKU and presented in collaboration with Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Friends of Hong Kong Museum of Art, and The University of Hong Kong Museum Society. The programs aim to deliver current art-historical thinking in an accessible manner presented by specialists in the field. The series is part of the Department of Fine Art's broader dedication to promoting the importance and relevance of art history in Hong Kong.

Lecture synopsis

One of the greatest cases of Sino-European cultural interaction before 1911 took place in the Qing court when emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng, and Qianlong hosted and patronized a number of Jesuit artists and artisans from Europe. The Jesuits were trying to impress the emperors with supposedly superior scientific knowledge in order to help spread Christianity in China, while the emperors integrated the missionaries' foreign painting techniques into court art to extend their own political ends.

This talk presents two cases of this remarkable cultural exchange, analyzing the techniques and effects of realism in illusionistic wall paintings designed by



the famous Italian brother Giuseppe Castiglione (Lang Shining, 1688-1766) and in military portraits by the more obscure French brother Jean-Denis Attiret (Wang Zhicheng, 1702-68). Both artists worked directly for the Qianlong emperor (r.1736-95), faithfully serving his imperial ideology, and both achieved a degree of intercultural fusion rarely seen anywhere else.

Resource Person

Professor Greg Thomas

Greg Thomas is a Professor of art history in the Department of Fine Arts at The University of Hong Kong. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and has worked at HKU since 1999, teaching the department's survey of western art and advanced courses on European art of the 18th and 19th centuries, modern western architecture, and intercultural interactions. A specialist in 19th-century French painting, he has published "Art and Ecology in Nineteenth-Century France: The Landscapes of Théodore Rousseau" (Princeton University Press, 2000) and "Impressionist Children: Childhood, Family, and Modern Identity in French

Art" (Yale University Press, 2010). Recent research has focused on Sino-European cultural interaction in the 18th and 19th centuries, and he is currently working on a book examining European engagements with Chinese art and architecture at the palace of Yuanming Yuan.



Giuseppe Castiglione, *Spring's peaceful message*, c. 1736
Ink and colours on silk



[RESCHEDULED] Guided Viewing

Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan

With Dr. Joseph Sun Pao Ting 丁新豹博士

- Date:** Wednesday 15 January 2020
Time: 10:30 – 12:30
Place: Hong Kong Museum of History, 100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Cost: \$200 Member; \$250 Non-member; Free for students with valid ID
Limit: 22
Note: Optional lunch afterward on share-cost basis
Enquiries: Karina Kwok at karinakwok@hkums.com or 9469-6094

Through the display of 231 items/sets of rare artefacts including goldware, glassware, bronze sculptures and ivory carvings, unearthed from the four famous archaeological sites of Tepe Fullol, Ai Khanum, Tillya Tepe (Hill of gold) and Begram, now in the collection of the National Museum of Afghanistan, the exhibition *Glistening Treasures in the Dust – Ancient Artefacts of Afghanistan* demonstrates the profound influence of foreign ancient cultures such as Greek, Indian and Roman on Afghanistan and its surrounding regions from the Bronze Age to the first century AD, as well as a cultural diversity embracing the features of different Steppe cultures. These artefacts also attest to the role played by ancient Afghanistan as the cultural crossroads of the Silk Road, which subsequently promoted the exchange and integration of world civilisations.



Pair of clasps with cupids riding dolphins

Tillya Tepe, Tomb 3
 AD 25-50



"King and Dragons" pendants
Tillya Tepe, Tomb 2
AD 25-50

We are pleased to organize this guided tour with Dr. Joseph Ting. The exhibition is jointly presented by the Hong Kong Museum of History and Art Exhibitions China.

Resource Person

Dr. Joseph Ting majored in Chinese Literature and Chinese History from HKU and graduated with a BA degree in 1974. He was conferred an MPhil in 1979 and a PhD in 1989, both from HKU. Dr. Ting joined the Hong Kong Museum of Art as an Assistant Curator in 1979 and was appointed Chief Curator of the HK Museum of History in 1995. He retired in 2007 after serving for 28 years. He is currently an Honorary Assistant Professor in the School of Chinese at The University of Hong Kong, as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Joint UMAG Programme - Guided Viewings

Along China's Coast: Dezső Bozóky's Travel Photography 1908–1909

With Dr. Florian Knothe [RESCHEDULED] and

Chak: Landscapes and other Natural Occurrences

With Chak

- Date:** Saturday, 8 February 2020
Time: 11:00 - 12:30
Place: 1/F, T. T. Tsui Building, UMAG, HKU
Cost: Free with online registration at <https://bit.ly/34VcEXm>
Note: Register before 5 February 2020. No walk-in accepted.
 HKID/Passport matching registered name required for entry.
Enquiries: Chung Yan Chan at officeadmin@hkums.com or 2241-5507

The HKU Museum Society and the University Museum and Art Gallery are pleased to present guided viewings of two current exhibitions, *Along China's Coast: Dezső Bozóky's Travel Photography 1908–1909* and *Chak: Landscapes and other Natural Occurrences*. We will be guided by the artist Chak 翟宗浩 and Museum Director Dr. Florian Knothe.

Along China's Coast: Dezső Bozóky's Travel Photography 1908–1909



This exhibition presents a larger group of photographs that Dezső Bozóky took along China's coast from 1908–1909. A naval officer with the Austro-Hungarian Navy, Bozóky first left Hong Kong for Canton before travelling to Fujian province, Shanghai and Beijing, documenting the countryside and cities as well as their inhabitants. The photographer's interest in nature and architecture and, above all, the Qing dynasty street scenes and people he met, continue to transmit the excitement and wonder of this early European traveler in a country and culture so far from his own.



Chak: Landscapes and other Natural Occurrences

Chak 翟宗浩 graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at the CUHK and later studied with Liu Kuo-sung. In his early years, Chak incorporated a number of contemporary theories and materials into his practice for which he received several prestigious awards, and scholarships in Japan and the USA. After living abroad for nearly 30 years, Chak returned to Hong Kong and continued to create abstract landscapes that explores traditional elements in Chinese art while incorporating more contemporary mediums and motifs.



Resource Person

Dr. Florian Knothe teaches the history of decorative arts in the 17th and 18th century with particular focus on the social and historic importance of royal French manufacture. He has long been interested in the early modern fascination with Chinoiserie and the way royal workshops and smaller private enterprises helped to create and cater to this long-lasting fashion. Dr. Knothe worked at The Metropolitan Museum of Art focusing on European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, and on European and East Asian glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, before his current position as Director of the University Museum and Art Gallery at HKU.



Dinner and Lecture

Lecture at Min Chiu Society on Ships of the Silk Road – The Bactrian Camel in Chinese Jade

With Angus Forsyth

- Date:** Tuesday, 18 February 2020
Time: 18:00 Reception
18:30 Lecture
19:30 Dinner
Place: Participants will be notified 7 days in advance
Cost: \$500 Member; \$550 Non-member
Limit: 24
Enquiries: Anna Yeung at annayeung@hkums.com or 9122-0303

The HKU Museum Society is pleased to present a guided lecture and dinner on *Ships of the Silk Road – The Bactrian Camel in Chinese Jade* by Angus Forsyth at Min Chiu Society.

For hundreds of years, the Bactrian Camel ploughed a lonely furrow across the vast wilderness of Asia – a routing now popularly known as the Silk Road.

This bizarre-looking temperamental and yet hardy creature here came into its own as the core goods vehicle, resolutely and reliably transporting to China – over the huge and unforgiving distances – fine things from the West while taking treasures out of the Middle Kingdom in return. Throughout, where the chariot, wagon and other wheeled conveyances proved useless amidst the shifting sense of the desert dunes, the sure footed progress of the camel – the archetypal “Ship of the Silk Road” – now reigned supreme over 2500 years only being edged into replacement in the closing century of the last millennium by the construction of proper roads and the passage of goods using the internal combustion engine transforming the Bactrian Camel from a major utility to a tourist attraction.

Resource Person

Angus Forsyth

Angus Forsyth commenced work in private practice as a solicitor in 1971. In 1972 he joined the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch and has been a life member for many years. He began a jade collection in 1973 focusing only on nephrite jade worked in China from Neolithic Times up to the Qing Dynasty.



He was a founder member of the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong in 1974 and was its President in the two year period from 1984 to 1986. In 1975 he acquired his first jade Bactrian Camel of a Tang Dynasty date. This was an introduction to the mystique surrounding this remarkable animal as the unique beast of burden which carried all manner of goods from East and West on an exclusive role of trade linking China in the East with Rome in the West. From the 2nd to the 8th Century A.D. the principal traffic control and management providing Bactrian Camel transport on the Silk Road was operated by the Soghdians, an Iranian tribe from the Northeast Altai Mountains who followed the Zoroastrian fire worship religion.

In 1990 Angus Forsyth contributed an article on his study of the development of human sculptural form in Hong Shan Neolithic jade working which was published in Orientations Magazine and remains a leading article on the subject. In 1991 he contributed two chapters on Early Chinese jade to a large book on jade featuring the jade of all producer countries worldwide. In 1994 he wrote the first half on early jades of a joint publication with Brian McElney forming the catalogue of a major exhibition of both their collections at the Museum of Far Eastern Art in Bath, England.





Joint UMAG Programme - Guided Viewings

Silk Poems

With Jen Bervin (RESCHEDULED) and

Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation

With Tobias Klein and Curator Christopher Mattison

Date: Saturday, 22 February 2020

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Place: 1/F, T. T. Tsui Building, UMAG, HKU

Cost: Free with online registration at <https://bit.ly/2Rspk3U>

Note: Register before 19 February 2020. No walk-in accepted. HKID/Passport matching registered name required for entry.

Enquiries: Chung Yan Chan at officeadmin@hkums.com or 2241-5507

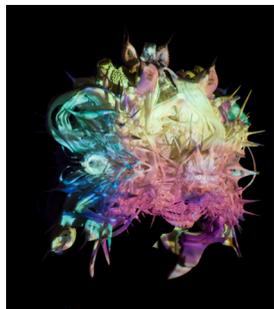
The HKU Museum Society and the University Museum and Art Gallery are pleased to present guided viewings of two current exhibitions, *Silk Poems* and *Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation*. We will be guided by the artist Tobias Klein and Museum Curator Christopher Mattison.

Silk Poems

Beyond silk's traditional use in textiles, researchers are now experimenting with the material in novel forms of biomedical technology; as silk is compatible with human tissue, the immune system can accept silk on surfaces as sensitive as the human brain. In the UMAG exhibition *Silk Poems*, visual artist and author Jen Bervin melds the medium's traditional applications with cutting edge research – engaging with silk's cultural, scientific and linguistic complexities.



Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation



Trained as an architect, Tobias Klein explores applications of three-dimensional printing through the fields of architecture, art design and interactive media installation. With these various fields of study, he creates a syncretism of contemporary CAD/CAM technologies with site- and culturally-specific design narratives, intuitive non-linear design processes and historical architectural references. Klein understands the multiple roles of architect, designer and cultural agitator as being the keys to a new form of creator-craftsman who is set to overcome the 15th and 16th century schism between intellectual and manual labourer, as well as the 19th century gulf between automation and poetic creation.



Day Trip to Macau

With Dr. Joseph Sun Pao Ting 丁新豹博士

Date: Thursday, 27 February 2020

Note: Details of this will be forthcoming

Enquiries: Sef Lam at seflam@hkums.com /
Winnie Tong at winnietong@hkums.com or 9471-2673

The HKU Museum Society is pleased to have Dr. Joseph Ting lead us on a day trip to Macau. The programme for the day will include lunch and a guided tour of the exhibition *The Long Journey: The Forbidden City and Maritime Silk Road* at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM). Further details will be emailed to members in due course.

About the exhibition

The exhibition is co-presented by the Palace Museum and the Macao Museum of Art. It follows the theme of 'One Belt, One Road' without forgetting the original purpose of the Maritime Silk Road, while reflecting on history and looking to the future. Large in scale and rich in content with a wide array of exhibits, the exhibition prompts the public to retrace the history of Chinese and Western cultural exchanges throughout the Maritime Silk road, a route of civilisation. The exhibits include treasures of the Qing palace from the collection of the Palace Museum, and newly added cultural relics after the founding of the New China.



Resource Person

Dr. Joseph Ting majored in Chinese Literature and Chinese History from HKU and graduated with a BA degree in 1974. He was conferred an MPhil in 1979 and a PhD in 1989, both from HKU. Dr. Ting joined the Hong Kong Museum of Art as an Assistant Curator in 1979 and was appointed Chief Curator of the HK Museum of History in 1995. He retired in 2007 after serving for 28 years. He is currently an Honorary Assistant Professor in the School of Chinese at The University of Hong Kong, as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



EXHIBITIONS at the UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Along China's Coast: Dezső Bozóky's Travel Photography 1908–1909

8 November 2019 – 9 February 2020

1/F T.T. Tsui Building, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU

Following the success of UMAG's 2016 exhibition *Two Years in Asia: Travelling in Hong Kong 1907–1909*, the Museum is now presenting a larger group of photographs that Dezső Bozóky took along China's coast from 1908–1909. A naval officer with the Austro-Hungarian Navy, Bozóky first left Hong Kong for Canton before travelling to Fujian province, Shanghai and Beijing, documenting the countryside and cities as well as their inhabitants. The photographer's interest in nature and architecture and, above all, the Qing dynasty street scenes and people he met, continue to transmit the excitement and wonder of this early European traveler in a country and culture so far from his own.

Our 2019 exhibition records an abundance of impressions from areas of China that have undergone phenomenal amounts of social and economic change. For 70 of the years since Bozóky's journey along China's coast, Hungary has had a diplomatic representation in Hong Kong – a history that our project celebrates with this exhibition. We thank the Ferenc Hopp Museum of Asiatic Arts in Budapest for our continued collaboration and the Hungarian Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau for its generous support.

Silk Poems

15 November 2019 – 23 February 2020

1/F Fung Ping Shan Building, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU

Beyond silk's traditional use in textiles, researchers are now experimenting with the material in novel forms of biomedical technology; as silk is compatible with human tissue, the immune system can accept silk on surfaces as sensitive as the human brain. In the UMAG exhibition *Silk Poems*, visual artist and author Jen Bervin melds the medium's traditional applications with cutting edge research – engaging with silk's cultural, scientific and linguistic complexities.

Bervin's *Silk Poems* began as a six-year research project developed with expertise from more than thirty international textile archives, medical libraries, nanotechnology and biomedical labs, and sericulture sites in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. In 2016, Bervin began collaborating with scientists at the Tufts University Bioengineering Department on fabricating her poetry at nanoscale. In this process, a mask was used to etch her poetry in gold spatter onto a silicon wafer, and then liquid silk was poured over the wafer. As the silk dried, the letters remained suspended in the film, resulting in a work that can be viewed through a microscope. Throughout the exhibition, Bervin's poetry is recreated in the form of strands of DNA so as to reflect both the filament pattern that



EXHIBITIONS at the UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

silkworms create when making their cocoon and the genetic structure of silk, which forms like the weft thread in weaving.

We thank Jen Bervin for our fruitful collaboration and express our gratitude to the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau for their financial support, and to Creative Capital, which funded the early stages of the project.

Chak: Landscapes and other Natural Occurrences

7 February – 3 May 2020

2/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU

Chak 翟宗浩 (b. 1958, Hong Kong) graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1981. At Chinese University, he studied with Liu Kuo-sung, who reinforced the importance of considering multiple artistic traditions and unconventional modes of brushwork as a way of modernising Chinese painting. During his undergraduate years, Chak incorporated a number of contemporary theories and materials into his practice, for which he received several prestigious awards. After graduation, he received a Monbusho Scholarship to continue his education at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts, and then went on to study in a variety of programmes in the U.S., including a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine and the National Artists Program at the PS1 Museum in New York City.

After living abroad for nearly 30 years, Chak returned to Hong Kong in 2009, where he has continued to create abstract landscapes that explore traditional elements in Chinese art while incorporating more contemporary mediums and motifs. The exhibition features a selection of Chak's recent drawings and large-scale paintings in both oil and acrylic. We thank Chak for his donation of artworks to the University Museum and express our gratitude to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for their financial support of the accompanying publication.



EXHIBITIONS at the UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation

21 February – 17 May 2020

1/F, TT Tsui Building, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU

Tobias Klein trained as an architect and taught at the world-renown Architects' Association in London. Today he teaches at the School of Creative Media at City University in Hong Kong, where he explores applications of three-dimensional printing through the fields of architecture, art design and interactive media installation. With these various fields of study Klein creates a syncretism of contemporary CAD/CAM technologies with site- and culturally-specific design narratives, intuitive non-linear design processes and historical architectural references. Klein understands the multiple roles of architect, designer and cultural agitator as being the keys to a new form of creator-craftsman who is set to overcome the fifteen- and sixteenth-century schism between intellectual and manual labourer, as well as the nineteenth-century gulf between automation and poetic creation. Throughout his work, Klein has established the idea of Digital Craftsmanship as an operational synthesis between digital and physical materials, and tools as poetic and technical expressions.

The UMAG exhibition *Tobias Klein: Metamorphosis or Confrontation* aims to explain and communicate the quality of each of his technically refined works by displaying a significant number of artworks developed from various materials and periods of creation. Together, these individual pieces serve as an all-encompassing overview of his broader exquisite project. We thank the German Consulate of Hong Kong and Macau and the HKU Museum Society for their support of this unique exhibition.



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG MUSEUM SOCIETY

The University of Hong Kong Museum Society was established in 1988 by Mrs. Margaret Wang, whose husband, Dr. Wang Gungwu, was Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong from 1986 to 1996. Since then, the Museum Society, a non-profit organization, besides supporting The University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) has become a vital force in the promotion of art and culture in the Hong Kong community.

The Museum Society is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of volunteer members. The Committee organizes a variety of activities and trips related to art and culture. Proceeds generated from the Society's activities are donated to UMAG for acquisition of selected artworks, sponsorship of special exhibitions and notable programmes, as well as to The University of Hong Kong and the local community for the support of educational initiatives.

Bearing a legacy of over sixty years, UMAG is one of Hong Kong's oldest and most distinguished museums. Situated in the elegant and historic Fung Ping Shan Building and the adjoining T.T. Tsui Building, the Museum has over 2,000 pieces of Chinese antiquities in ceramics, bronzes, paintings, Chinese oil paintings, as well as carvings in jade, wood and stone.

The Museum is open to the public free of charge from Tuesday to Saturday 09:30 to 18:00, and Sunday 13:00 to 18:00. It is closed on public holidays.

Objectives

- To support and assist the University Museum and Art Gallery
- To promote the understanding and appreciation of art, particularly Chinese arts and antiquities
- To raise funds for the purpose of enriching existing collections, sponsoring exhibitions and financing cultural activities and scholarship programs
- To promote friendship among members

Activities

- Local – lectures and symposiums, museum and gallery tours, visits to artists' studios and collectors' homes, culinary evenings, heritage walks and weekend trips
- Overseas – guided tours to places of historical and cultural significance, including museums, galleries, private collections and special events

Benefits for Members

- Museum Society newsletters and invitations to lectures and symposiums
- Invitations to previews of UMAG exhibitions
- 20% discount on UMAG publications and gift items
- Exclusive Members Only events

Membership

- To become a member, please complete the Membership Form attached in the newsletter.



Honorary Life President: Mrs. Margaret Wang

Patron: Mrs. Jane Qian Zhang

Executive Committee

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Immediate Past Chairman		Bonnie Kwan Huo	
Administration	Chung Yan Chan	2241-5507	officeadmin@hkums.com

Advisory

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Honorary Legal Advisor		Angus Forsyth	
Honorary Company Secretary		Esther Chan	

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