



For Immediate Release

## M+ in Hong Kong opens to the public on Friday 12 November 2021 Asia's first global museum of visual culture

(11 November 2021, Hong Kong) M+, Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture in the West Kowloon Cultural District of Hong Kong, opens to the public on **Friday, 12 November 2021** with three weekends of celebratory programmes for everyone to enjoy.

The opening displays feature M+'s pre-eminent collections of visual art, design and architecture, and moving image from Hong Kong, Greater China, Asia, and beyond. The presentations showcase approximately 1,500 works across thirty-three galleries and other spaces in the museum.

To inaugurate the new galleries, six exhibitions invite visitors to explore the overarching multidisciplinary, and interregional themes and narratives at the heart of the collections, which M+ has been building since 2012:

- ***Hong Kong: Here and Beyond*** (G/F, Main Hall Gallery) – divided into four chapters, Here, Identities, Places and Beyond, the exhibition captures the city's transformation and unique visual culture from the 1960s to the present;
- ***M+ Sigg Collection: From Revolution to Globalisation*** (level 2, Sigg Galleries) – a chronological survey of the development of contemporary Chinese art from the 1970s through the 2000s drawn from the M+ Sigg Collection;
- ***Things, Spaces, Interactions*** (level 2, East Galleries) – a thematic and chronological exploration of international design and architecture over the last seventy years and its relevance to our lives today;
- ***Individuals, Networks, Expressions*** (level 2, South Galleries) – a narrative of post-war international visual art told from the perspective of Asia;
- ***Antony Gormley: Asian Field*** (level 2, West Gallery) – an expansive installation of tens of thousands of clay figurines created by the world-renowned British sculptor together with 300 villagers from a Guangdong village over five days in 2003, reflecting the country's vast territory and population; and
- ***The Dream of the Museum*** (level 2, Courtyard Galleries) – a global constellation of conceptual art practices at the heart of M+'s unique Asian context.

Visitors will encounter additional new commissions upon entering the Main Hall by Taiwan's leading calligraphy artist Tong Yang-Tze. In the Found Space, M+'s subterranean display space for large-scale multidisciplinary works, the first in a dynamic series of installations will present the work of artists Chen Zhen and Danh Vo. A new M+ Commission by Haegue Yang features long braids of metal bells that hang from ceilings of different heights. Video highlights from the collection and a ten-part animation *How to Build a Museum* by Vincent Broquaire are featured on the M+ Facade.

Designed by a global team of the world-renowned architecture practice Herzog & de Meuron in partnership with TFP Farrells and Arup, the 65,000-square-metre M+ building is among Hong Kong's most iconic landmarks, both monumental in its architectural form and radically open in its position in the

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urban landscape. Located on the Victoria Harbour waterfront, the architecture consists of a striking terracotta tile-clad tower, featuring a dynamic LED media system on the south facade for the display of M+ content, defining the museum's place within the urban landscape and contributing to the city's vibrant night-time environment.

**Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director, M+**, said, 'Our vision for M+ is to build a community of learning that encourages empathy, respect, multiple perspectives, and creativity through visual culture for all our audiences to benefit from. By offering an open and welcoming platform with creative learning experiences, M+ is dedicated to creating an active culture that connects people, objects and spaces. It is our hope that the museum inspires the city's residents and international visitors alike.'

**Doryun Chong, Deputy Director, Curatorial and Chief Curator, M+**, said, 'The building of M+, from its collections to the museum itself, is the culmination of nearly ten years of investment and expertise to create a museum of our time, that tells multidimensional narratives, comprising geographies and chronologies, from a global viewpoint that originates from and is framed by the unique context of Hong Kong. There simply is no other museum in the world like M+.'

To celebrate the opening of the museum, M+ will stage opening programmes for the public across the first three Fridays and weekends following the launch, featuring special tours, making workshops, sensory experiences, live performances, screenings, and digital engagement. The Grand Stair will screen the documentary *Building M+*, and host *M+ Live Art x Hong Kong Ballet—Five Tiny Dances*. A dedicated learning programme will engage families and audiences from different backgrounds and community groups in Hong Kong with the full breadth of its offer as a museum of visual culture. Visitors can explore M+'s moving image collection of in the Mediatheque, selecting artists' films and videos to watch, including works related to multimedia artist Nam June Paik. The M+ Cinema, which will be open early next year, is a unique addition to Hong Kong's art house landscape, comprising a suite of three cinema houses of different capacities.

All visitors will enjoy free admission to M+ exhibitions in the first twelve months after the opening date. Special exhibitions, events and cinema screenings may require separate paid tickets. Further details on M+'s registration arrangements, opening hours and opening programmes can be found on the [M+ website](#).

M+ would like to acknowledge the sponsors of its inaugural exhibitions, including Major Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies, Presenting Sponsors J.P. Morgan and Principal Financial Group, as well as Supporting Sponsors Chartwell Capital Limited and Hublot. Support for the museum's learning and community programmes have been provided by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation and Sino Group. M+ also acknowledges the General Sponsors of the museum opening, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, as well as De Ying Foundation which supports a curatorial position.

The public is welcome to join M+ Membership and support the development of the museum through sponsorship, donations, and patronage. For members and patrons, the M+ Lounge, occupying level 11 of the M+ tower, is not only a comfortable space reserved exclusively to dine, drink and relax, but also a showcase of the Living Collection of Hong Kong-based artist and architect William Lim and his wife Lavina Lim. For details, please visit the [M+ website](#). M+ members will enjoy greater access to the museum and exclusive privileges.

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Online presence**

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| Website   | <a href="https://mplus.org.hk/">https://mplus.org.hk/</a> |
| Facebook  | <a href="#">M+, West Kowloon Cultural District</a>        |
| Instagram | <a href="#">@mplusmuseum</a>                              |
| Twitter   | <a href="#">@mplusmuseum</a>                              |
| YouTube   | <a href="#">M Plus</a>                                    |
| WeChat    | <a href="#">MPlus 博物馆</a>                                 |



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|----------|----------------------------|
| Weibo    | <a href="#">@MPlus 博物馆</a> |
| Bilibili | <a href="#">MPlus 博物馆</a>  |

### **About M+**

M+ is a museum dedicated to collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District, it is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary visual culture in the world, with a bold ambition to establish ourselves as one of the world's leading cultural institutions. M+ is a new kind of museum that reflects our unique time and place, a museum that builds on Hong Kong's historic balance of the local and the international to define a distinctive and innovative voice for Asia's twenty-first century.

### **About the West Kowloon Cultural District**

The West Kowloon Cultural District is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural projects in the world. Its vision is to create a vibrant new cultural quarter for Hong Kong on forty hectares of reclaimed land located alongside Victoria Harbour. With a varied mix of theatres, performance spaces, and museums, the West Kowloon Cultural District will produce and host world-class exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, providing twenty-three hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

### **For Media Enquiries**

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