

Visual Arts Activities for the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Handover: Painting Two Different Pictures

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2017 is the year that marked the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's Handover to China. A series of related activities took place, government- or community-led. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) established an inter-departmental Steering Committee (with Chief Secretary for Administration Cheung Kin-chung Matthew as the president) at the end of 2016 to plan the 20th anniversary celebrating events.¹ They earmarked \$640 million to be spent on a series of local and overseas celebratory activities organized by the Home Affairs Bureau, Development Bureau, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Information Services Department, and Planning Department. The Mainland also played an active role and provided resources to facilitate the organization of the activities, for example, by lending out artifacts. Art associations and interest groups at the community level organized various visual arts exhibitions in the name of "Celebrating Handover Anniversary." In addition, Chinese-funded media groups, culture companies, overseas Chinese associations and business associations put together similar visual arts events.

On the other hand, independent art practitioners and groups ran activities to reflect on, or even protested against, the Handover Anniversary, resulting in a scene distinctly different from that of the government and the pro-China associations. There was a wide disparity in scale and resources between the two camps without any overlap in regard to the participating artists and publicity channels used.² Official and pro-China organizations adopted a narrative entirely different from that of the independent arts groups. The former put forward the ideas of "promoting and perpetuating Chinese culture," "expressing patriotic sentiments," "restoring the spirit of Chinese civilization," "developing a stronger sense of national identity," "Chinese artists," "a hub of cultural exchange," "east meeting west," "integrating traditional and modern beliefs," "promoting Hong Kong cultural and creative industries," "showcasing achievements," "painting and calligraphy as essential components of Chinese culture," "brushwork and skill," and "combining traditional ink painting and contemporary art technique," etc. The latter looked into "1997," "identity," "locality," "dilemmas of the individual," "artistic labor," "art space," "political censorship," "political sensitivity," "operation of arts groups," "social movements," and the "Hong Kong-China relationship," etc.³

The official and pro-China organizations planned a large number of activities, in general homogeneously festive. In comparison, independent arts groups were more concerned about deconstructing historical events and offering critical reviews by deploying contemporary art forms (including performance art, installation, video, mixed media, etc.). In comparison to the visual arts activities for the celebration of the 10th Handover Anniversary, 2017 events were highly similar in nature and approach, both for the official and pro-China organizations. Their perceptions of Hong Kong's cultural positioning and development of visual art remained basically unchanged, while the independent arts groups and artists continued their reflection on the issues concerning the handover at the political, social and cultural levels.

1 The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, press release, <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201612/02/p2016120200861.htm>.

2 The only exception was the exhibition "Hong Kong ∞ Impression" staged by the Planning Department.

3 The keywords were drawn from the relevant news articles and promotional material of the following activities. Those of the official and pro-China activities are mainly found in *Tai Kung Pao*, *Wen Wei Po* and government propaganda, whereas those of the independent arts groups' activities are taken from *Apple Daily* and online news portal, *The Stand News*.

Information:

- Local press and online news portal
- Government website for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HKSAR (<http://www.hksar20.gov.hk>)

Governmental financial deployment and activities

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Bureaus/ Departments/ public institute(s) involved	Details
January 19	Information Services Department	Launched a series of six “HK20” visuals which were “vibrant” and “creative and balanced by the addition of a traditional chop.” ⁴ ISD encouraged community organizations to integrate the design into their 20 th anniversary promotional materials. The designs were poorly received, as comic artist Wong Chiu-tat Justin criticized them for “being cultural symbols that are clichés heard over and over again and slogans to paper over the cracks.” ⁵
February 23	Financial Secretary	According to the Budget Speech for 2017/2018, the Government allocated extra funds for the celebration of Handover anniversary. Financial Secretary Chan Mo-po Paul said that apart from the regular funding programs run by the Home Affairs Bureau and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, on the occasion of Handover anniversary, the Government would financially support more performances of local arts groups and artists in Mainland China and abroad in order to demonstrate the city’s cultural strength. Local arts groups and artists would be invited, and financially supported, to many of the celebratory events held in around eighty cities all over the world by the Economic and Trade Offices. Chan also spoke of a series of exhibitions subsidized by the Government that would show the world Hong Kong’s flourishing creative industries. A government source said the Government had deployed at least \$39.5 million to relevant events. The design exhibitions staged in Hong Kong, five Mainland and three overseas cities costed \$29.5 million. They showcased Hong Kong achievements in fashion, interior and branding design since the handover. ⁶
April 4	Home Affairs Bureau	In response to a LegCo member’s inquiry on government expenditure, the HAB said that the Government had earmarked a provision of \$640 million for hosting or sponsoring various celebratory events for the Handover anniversary and would hold more than 300 of those events locally in Hong Kong and about 200 Mainland and overseas cities. The HAB set aside \$76 million for its organization of celebratory arts and cultural events (\$32.6 million) and the operation of the Celebrations Coordination Office (\$20.7 million). ⁷

4 Website celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HKSAR, accessed June 19, 2018, <http://www.hksar20.gov.hk/eng/creative.html>.

5 Press coverage, *The Stand News*, January 19, 2017, <https://www.thestandnews.com/art/回歸廿周年推官方－創意圖像－業界－視覺污染－粉飾太平/>.

6 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* A08, February 23, 2017.

7 Press coverage, *Ming Pao* A05, April 4, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Bureaus/ Departments/ public institute(s) involved	Details
April 5– December 31	Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Hong Kong Museum of Art	The outdoor art project “City Dress Up: Blossoming Stairs,” presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and organized by the Hong Kong Museum of Art, opened on April 5 to celebrate the Handover anniversary as well as the 55 th anniversary of the Hong Kong Museum of Art. The total expenses in phase 1 amounted to HK\$600,000, including production, design and maintenance fees. Stairways of Hong Kong’s public facilities were decorated with the images of selected famous Chinese paintings and artifacts, such as Wu Guanzhong’s <i>Spring Rain</i> , Ding Yanyong’s <i>Crane</i> , Au Yeung Nai-chim’s <i>Orchid</i> , Zhao Shao’ang’s <i>Red Kapok Tree</i> , <i>Purse with Embroidered Bird and Floral Design</i> of the late Qing period and <i>Painted Enamel Hand Warmer with Design of Three Goats and Mandarin Ducks in Lotus Pond in Reserved Panels</i> . ⁸
April– December	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	The Department set aside \$190 million to organize activities to celebrate the Handover anniversary, including five major exhibitions: (1) “Eternal Life: Exploring Ancient Egypt” (Hong Kong Science Museum) with around 200 objects and six Egyptian mummies from the collection of the British Museum, (2) “Inventing le Louvre: From Palace to Museum over 800 Years” (Hong Kong Heritage Museum) in which more than 130 masterworks from the Louvre, including a Rembrandt’s print in its first state, were displayed; (3) “Hall of Mental Cultivation of the Palace Museum: Imperial Residence of Eight Emperors”; (4) “Longevity and Virtues: Birthday Celebrations of the Qing Emperors and Empress Dowagers”; (5) A large-scale exhibition on the Silk Road with around 200 cultural relics of the Chang’an–Tianshan Corridor from Gansu, Henan, Shaanxi and Xinjiang. More than half of the exhibits were classified as grade-one national treasures. This exhibition had the highest ratio of grade-one relics among Hong Kong’s exhibitions featuring national treasures, notwithstanding the regular limitation of grade-one relics on loan lower than one-fifth of the total number of exhibits. ⁹

8 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B10, April 6, 2017.

9 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* A05, April 12, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Bureaus/ Departments/ public institute(s) involved	Details
June 19– November 30	Development Bureau and Planning Department	<p>“Hong Kong ∞ Impression” showcased Hong Kong’s achievements in city planning and infrastructure development over the past 20 years. The exhibition comprised of four thematic zones: Liveable, Visionary, Cultural and Playful which together presented the infinite future possibilities for the city.¹⁰ On August 18, an exhibit presenting a collection of old newspaper headlines was “allegedly brought under political censorship.” The outdoor installation <i>DynamiCity</i>, created by XCEED, consisted of four screen panels showing data of different times. It focused on four themes, namely films, typhoons, newspapers and public architecture, to present how Hong Kong had changed over the last twenty years. The “newspapers” theme was a collection of close to 10,000 headline keywords displayed randomly on the screens resembling database interfaces, on which the keywords were red-bordered white text against a black background. Cheung Hon-him Chris, Artistic Director of XCEED, said in an interview that the Government had many concerns about the curatorial process, since the officials did not want to see any negative elements in the artwork in a celebration event. XCEED could not reach a consensus with the organizer, and the venue was not available for the setting-up due to bad weather, rendering the artwork incomplete when the exhibition opened. The team explained to the Department that the data was objective and neutral, as it was collected from the libraries and presented using data visualization, while an algorithm was used to calculate the random frequency. After multiple rounds of explanations, the Department accepted the creative direction and allowed a complete version of <i>DynamiCity</i> to be shown in the City Gallery’s outdoor exhibition zone, which opened at the end of June. The Planning Department responded to media inquiry, claiming it contradicted with the fact to say the Department asked XCEED not to display “sensitive words” in the installation at the opening ceremony; the Department did not dispute how XCEED conveyed their impression of the city by randomly searching the keywords of Chinese newspaper headlines in the past twenty years.¹¹</p>

¹⁰ Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A09, June 19, 2017.

¹¹ Press coverage, *The Stand News*, August 18, 2017.

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Visual arts activities organized by community groups in the name of celebrating the anniversary of the Handover¹²• Exhibitions:¹³

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
January 1–4	Exhibition of Paintings and Calligraphies by the Famous Mainland and Taiwan Artists in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	China International Painters Calligraphers and Collectors Association Limited	Chinese painting and calligraphy
April 6–9	Celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong Returning to China with the Belt and Road Initiative: Exhibition of Landscape Paintings by the Famous Oil Painters from the Mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong	Hong Kong Oil Painting Research Society	Oil painting
May 16–18	Exhibition of Paintings and Calligraphies by Eminent Figures of the Mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong for Celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of the Handover	The Hong Kong Doyens' Club, and Bauhinia Magazine	Chinese painting and calligraphy: Chairwoman of the Kuomintang Hung Hsiu-chu, Chairman of the People First Party Soong Chu-yu James, Chairman of the New Party Yok Mu-ming, Wang Jin-pyng, etc. ¹⁴
May 24–29	Exhibition to Celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland and the Exhibition of the Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy	Zhong Hua Liang Bao Lou, Gold 100 Co. Limited (Shenzhen), Hong Kong Culture Association, etc.	Chinese painting and calligraphy: modern painters Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi, Xu Beihong, Fu Baoshi, Pan Tianshou, Liu Haisu, Lin Fengmin, Wu Guanzhong, Zhao Shao'ang, Yang Shanshen, Qi Gong, etc.; contemporary painters Huang Yongyu, Liu Dawei, Wang Xijing, Lin Yong, Feng Yuan, etc.; Hong Kong painters Jao Tsung-i, Cha Leung-yung, Ho Pak-lee, Hung Hoi, etc. Exhibits included Professor Jao's calligraphic works <i>Guo fu min qiang</i> (Rich country with strong people) and <i>Minzu zhenqi xinhua xiangchuan</i> (National integrity, passing on the torch), and Cha Leung-yung's <i>Cujin Zhonghua wenhua bian shamo wei lüzhou</i> (Promoting Chinese culture, transforming a desert into an oasis). Besides, one of the exhibits, an ankle bone fossil of Peking Man who was believed to be the ancestor of Chinese people, was on display in Hong Kong for the first time. ¹⁵

¹² The information was collated from the *Yearbook's* data, exhibition brochures and media / newspaper coverage.

¹³ If there is no specification on the sources, the information is collated from the *Yearbook's* data and the government website for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HKSAR (<http://www.hksar20.gov.hk>).

¹⁴ Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B06, May 17, 2017.

¹⁵ Press coverage, *Ming Pao Daily* A12, May 22, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
May 31– June 7	Art Exhibition for Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland	Hong Kong Federation of Overseas Chinese Associations	Chinese painting, calligraphy, oil painting and sculpture; artists from Hong Kong, Macau and the Mainland
June 2–7	Chinese Ink, Chinese Narrative: Special Exhibition of the 20 th Anniversary of the HKSAR	Hong Kong Federation of Overseas Chinese Associations, and Bai Jia Lake International Culture Investment Group	Ink art: ¹⁶ Pi Daojian and He Guiyan were the curators. Divided into “Chinese Ink” and “Chinese Narrative,” the exhibition featured around 300 artworks by eighty-five artists from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan. The “Chinese Ink” section covered some representative ink paintings created in the past twenty years and “Chinese Narrative” depicted China in a “narrative” way focusing on three themes. ¹⁷
June 5–7	Photo Exhibition in celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong (Hong Kong International Annual Photo Exhibition)	Hong Kong Photographic Press	Photography
June 6–28	Confluence • 20+	Hong Kong Design Centre	Design: Exhibits from twenty groups of local designers
June 9–11	Exhibition of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy in celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s Return to the Motherland and of the 45 th Anniversary of Shatin Women’s Association	Shatin Women’s Association	Chinese painting and calligraphy
June 10–24	Choi Kai-yan’s Solo Exhibition of Ink Paintings: Celebrating the Handover with Chinese Characters and Art of Nature	Art of Nature Contemporary Gallery	Ink painting: Choi Kai-yan

¹⁶ If “ink/ink art” is adopted by the organizers in describing the exhibition media, “ink art,” instead of “Chinese painting and calligraphy” will be applied in this summary.

¹⁷ Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A15, June 2, 2017.

Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A07, June 1, 2017.

Press coverage, *Hong Kong Commercial Daily* A11, June 3, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
June 10	To Celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong: Outstanding Chinese Artists Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition 2017	China International Culture Exchange Center, Association of Artists Poem Calligraphy Society China, United Nations World Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation, Hong Kong Foundation of Oriental Art, Society for the Promotion of World Culture, American Philatelic Group Inc. Chinese Art Foundation, etc.	Chinese painting, calligraphy and oil painting: An exhibition on the theme of “the Chinese dream and Xiangjiang emotion” featuring 137 artworks by more than forty painters, calligraphers and cultural celebrities such as Chan Peiqiu, Liu Wenxi, Chen Guangwen, Jiang Kun, Tang Guoqiang, Zhang Jinling, Zhao Zhongxiang, Zhu Jun, Zhao Baole, etc. ¹⁸
June 17–18	Art Exhibition of Blink Gallery: The Art of Water Poon in Celebration of the 20 th anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China	Blink Gallery	Painting: Water Poon (Poon Kwing-wing)
June 26–27	Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition by Guangzhou and Hong Kong Artists for Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Institute of Calligraphy and Painting of Guangzhou Political Consultative Committee, and Association of Aesthetic Fine Arts	Chinese painting and calligraphy: Among the nearly sixty artworks by forty-five painters and calligraphers, forty of them were Chinese paintings on the subjects of landscapes, birds and flowers and the 20 th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China, and twenty of them were calligraphy. ¹⁹
June 27– July 4	The Charms of the Silk Road, the Colorful Ink of Hong Kong: Exhibition of Ink Works by Famous Artists in celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland	Hong Kong Celebrations Association	Chinese painting and calligraphy

18 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B03, June 12, 2017.

19 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B10, June 27, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
June 28– July 4	Beautiful China and Blissful Hong Kong: Exhibition of Painting and Calligraphy by Famous Artists, Writers and Historians	Central Research Institute of Culture and History, Chinese Culture Promotion Society, Hong Kong Culture and Art Foundation, and Xianggang Meixie	Chinese Painting calligraphy: Over sixty researchers from the research institutes of culture and history at central and local levels and seventy some painters and calligraphers from Xianggang Meixie participated in the exhibition. ²⁰
July 6–16	The Painting Shows of Visual Arts to Celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Hong Kong Culture and Art Promotion Association	Chinese painting, calligraphy, modern ink painting, printing, ceramics, and photography: more than 800 artists from Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou and Singapore joined the exhibition. ²¹
August 3–8	Ink Global 2017	Young Artists Development Foundation	Ink art
August 8–10	Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition of Elder Academies in Celebration of 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification with the Motherland	New Territories West Elder Academies Cluster	Chinese painting and calligraphy
August 9–11	Culture Forest: Art Exhibition in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Handover	Hong Kong Youth Power Association, Hong Kong Island Chaoren Association Limited, and Cultural Broadcast Limited	Design: twelve Hong Kong students studying the art of design abroad were invited to take part in the exhibition. ²²

²⁰ Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B15, June 30, 2017.
Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* B08, July 6, 2017.

²¹ Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A27, July 6, 2017.

²² Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A20, August 10, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
August 17–23	Colors of Words and Bauhinia in Bloom: 2017 Exhibition of Paintings by Artists from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to Celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong	Shanghai International Culture Association, Shanghai FTZ International Artwork Exchange Center, Shanghai Duoyunxuan Group, Hong Kong Modern Ink Painting Society, and Macao Culture and Macao Culture and Art Association	Painting: sixty-nine artworks by twenty-four renowned artists from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan were shown in the exhibition. ²³
August 22–28	Grand Chinese and Western Art Exhibition 2017 in celebration of the Hong Kong SAR 20 th Anniversary	Central and Western District Association for Culture and Arts	Calligraphy, traditional Chinese and Western paintings, and handicraft
August 29–31	Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China: Exhibition of Chinese Painting, Calligraphy and Photography by Workers from Fujian, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan	The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Cultural and Arts Advancement Association	Chinese painting, calligraphy and photography
August 30– September 4	The Great Wall of Endurance: Exhibition of Works by a Hundred of Commanders-in-Chief, Painters and Calligraphers	Hong Kong Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group	Chinese painting and calligraphy: Paintings and calligraphic works by 120 commanders-in-chief and some twenty Mainland painters and calligraphers were featured in the exhibition. ²⁴
September 12–17	Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR—Exhibition of Chinese Calligraphy and Painting of Sha Tin Arts Association	Sha Tin Arts Association	Chinese painting and calligraphy

²³ Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A18, August 18, 2017.

²⁴ Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A12, August 31, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
September 15–18	Exhibition of Members' Works in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Reunification and the 35 th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Art Researching Association	Hong Kong Art Researching Association	Painting
September 22	To Commemorate the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region–Basic Law Calligraphy Inscriptions Exhibition	The Chinese Manufactures' Association of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Overseas Chinese Chamber of Commerce	Seal carving: Exhibits including 103 engraved stone tablets with calligraphy inscriptions of the full text of the Basic Law were shown in the show. The engraved Lingbi stone tablets were created by ninety-seven renowned Chinese calligraphers and engraved by fifty-six sculpture artists over a period of six years. The engraving project was completed before the handover in 1997 and cost RMB 70 million. ²⁵
September 28– October 1	Celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China: The Art of Tang Yuling	Ling Ngai Art Association	Mixed media
September 28–30	Exploration and Snapshots: Exhibition of Teachers' and Students' Photography 2017 in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland and the 40 th Anniversary of Ng Lin-sing's Teacherhood	South China Film Industry Workers Union	Photography
October 2–4	Celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland: Exhibition of Works by the Members of the Hong Kong Ink Association	International Penmanship and Painting Collector Exchange Association, and Hong Kong Ink Association	Ink art
October 4–6	Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition of Heung To Alumni	Heung To Middle School Alumni Association	Chinese painting, calligraphy and photography
October 18–19	Exhibition of Works by Famous Painters and Calligraphers in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Return to Hong Kong to the Motherland	Poly Development International Company Limited	Chinese painting, calligraphy and photography

²⁵ Press coverage, *Ming Pao Daily* A16, September 8, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Title of exhibition	Organizer(s)	Media, participating artists and description
October 19–25	Ink Painting, Two Cities: Shenzhen and Hong Kong 2017 Works Exhibition of Ink Painting and Metropolis: Hong Kong in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Handover	Hong Kong Culture and Art Exchange Association	Ink art
November	Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR cum Joint Hong Kong-Guangzhou Arts and Calligraphy Exhibition	Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong Limited	Chinese painting and calligraphy: Hong Kong and Guangzhou painters and calligraphers of the Lingnan School
November 6–8	The 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Handover: Exhibition of Art Exchange	Wu Yongxiang	Mixed media
November 11–28	Growing with Hong Kong's Reunification: Exhibition of Ink Paintings by Yang Tianyi	HKI Tea Development Limited	Ink art: Yang Tianyi ²⁶
November 15–19	Passing On the Torch to the Bright Pearl: Beijing- Hong Kong Exhibition of Calligraphy in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China	Hong Kong Calligraphy Association	Chinese calligraphy
November 20–22	Celebrating the 20 th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China: First National Exhibition of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy by Disabled Persons (Hong Kong)	Bauhinia Magazine	Chinese painting and calligraphy
November 21–23	Two Decades of Fond Memories to Be Shared: Exhibition of Chinese Painting, Calligraphy and Photography	Hong Kong Senior Education Workers Association	Chinese painting and calligraphy and photography: Over 300 artworks by 160 association members ²⁷

²⁶ Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B10, November 13, 2017.

²⁷ Association Website (<http://www.sew.com.hk/department-detail.php?id=1846>).

• Other activities:²⁸

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Name of event	Organizer(s)	Description
April 1	“Bauhinia Radiates its Beauty in HK” Visual Arts Contest cum Variety Show	Yu Chun Keung Memorial College No. 2	A drawing competition for primary school students
May – December	The Photography Competition in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	The Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong and the Photographic Salon Exhibitors Association	A photography competition with the themes of “celebration events of Hong Kong’s reunification with the Motherland” and “Hong Kong’s achievement in the past twenty years.” The competition received more than 1,000 photographs from some 300 citizens. ²⁹
June 1– July 31	Celebration of 20 th Anniversary of HKSAR & 120 th Anniversary of Ebenezer Photo Contest	Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired	A photography competition with the themes of “Ebenezer,” “Hong Kong” and “Celebration of 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR” to foster cooperation between visually-impaired and sighted people and promote inclusiveness and harmony.
June 13	Calligraphy and Symphony Show in Celebration the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Hong Kong Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group, China Pictorial, China Publication Association, and the Hong Kong Branch of Chinese Calligraphers’ Association	Sixty Mainland calligraphers, twenty-two Hong Kong calligraphers, fifteen Taiwanese calligraphers and seven Macau calligraphers were invited to create works on site. ³⁰
June– December	Hang Hau and Tseung Kwan O District Calligraphy Competition and Exhibition in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Hang Hau Rural Committee and Sai Kung District Office	
September	Exhibition of Winning Entries of Youth Calligraphy and Painting Competition in Celebration of the 20 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR	Central and Western District Council, Central and Western District Office, and Tung Sin Tan	

²⁸ If there is no specification on the sources, the information is collated from the Yearbook’s data and the government website for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the HKSAR (<http://www.hksar20.gov.hk>).

²⁹ Press coverage, *Hong Kong Commercial Daily* A11, December 23, 2017.

³⁰ Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* A27, June 8, 2017.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Name of event	Organizer(s)	Description
September 12	Art Exhibition and Auction Dinner in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland		The organizer hoped to make use of culture and art to promote Chinese public welfare projects, and donated the funds raised from the auction to the charitable cause in the Mainland. ³¹
October 7–8	2017 Reunification Cup: Painting Competition for Hong Kong Art Talents	Hong Kong Academy of Contemporary Art	
December 4	First Competition of Calligraphy for Hong Kong Youth and the Exhibition of Artworks by Famous Painters and Calligraphers in Celebration of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland		1,500 students from close to 160 primary and secondary schools joined the competition. Under the instruction of over fifty artists from the delegation of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, 100 primary and secondary students wrote out the theme “Together, Progress, Opportunity” together on site. ³²

31 Press coverage, *Wen Wei Po* A27, September 12, 2017.

32 Press coverage, *Tai Kung Pao* B08, December 27, 2017.

Activities organized by independent arts groups and artists

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Name of event	Organizer(s) / creator(s)	Description
March–July	Talkover/Handover 2.0	Curatorial team of “Talkover/Handover 2.0”	The curatorial team conducted a public poll to identify the five topics most concerned by the art and culture sector: art and “localism,” art in politically-sensitive times, art labor, censorship, and sustainable development of independent artists-run space. They selected five projects after an open call-for-proposals, including (1) Workshop “Draw My Mom, Draw My Dad: My Mom and Dad Gave Birth to the Local” held by Tsang Tak-ping; (2) Discussion “What We Talk About When We Talk About Art Labor” hosted by Law Yuk-mui; (3) Workshop “Refall” run by Yim Sui-fong; (4) Survey and forum on “My Ideal Art Space” conducted by Floating Projects Collective; (5) Discussion on alcohol and art labor hosted by Zoie Yung and Lo Lai-lai. The five teams held public discussions of the five main topics in May to have a better understanding of the local artscape, and presented their works in the exhibition at 1a space between June and July. ³³
June 4– July 1	Infinite Lying Program: Literary Hypocrite Exhibition	Green Wave Art	Artists Sanmu Chan, Au Yeung Tung, Kacey Wong and Wong Yan-kwai participated in the exhibition with the works on the themes like the June Fourth Incident, Chinese Dream, official rhetoric and anti-nuclear movements. ³⁴
June 19–24	Screening of Kwan Sheung-chi’s Works	Edouard Malingue Gallery	Kwan exhibited video works including <i>A Flags-Raising-Lowering Ceremony at My Home’s Cloths Drying Rack</i> , <i>Doing It With Mrs. Kwan — Make Pepper Spray, Take Away an “Iron Horse” barricade from the Entrance (Designated Protest Zone) of the Central Government Offices</i> , and <i>Drinking a Glass of Hot Chocolate with a Fork</i> . ³⁵
June 29– July 29	Reload_HK	Videotage	Artworks on display included Ip Yuk-yiu’s <i>Another Day of Depression in Kowloon</i> (2012) and an installation by Wong Wing-shan Pat (a.k.a. Flyingpig). ³⁶
June 30	Online video <i>A Harbor Without Fireworks</i>	Wong Yu-hin Sampson and Add Oil Team	In the video, all visible traces of the celebration of the Handover anniversary in Victoria Harbor at night were removed, and the wall of the International Commerce Centre was decorated with the “Countdown Machine” ticking down the seconds till 2047. ³⁷

³³ Press coverage, *The Stand News*, May 5, 2017.

³⁴ Press coverage, *The Stand News*, June 15, 2017.

³⁵ Press coverage, *The Stand News*, June 16, 2017.

³⁶ Enid Tsui, “Hong Kong handover-themed exhibitions give artists freedom to explore political landscape,” *South China Morning Post*, July 4, 2017, <http://www.scmp.com/culture/arts-entertainment/article/2101207/hong-kong-handover-themed-exhibitions-give-artists>.

Date(s) (Year: 2017)	Name of event	Organizer(s) / creator(s)	Description
June 30– July 30	31 June 1997	Videotage	Participating artists included David Clarke, Ho Hing-kay Oscar and writer Xu Xi. Clarke interviewed fifty Hong Kong citizens about what they did on June 31, 1997 and his work was a record of the citizens' answers. Some interviewees mistook June 31 as June 30, while others make the best use of their imagination. In response to Clarke's questions, Ho did eight sketches to depict an ideal day, and Xu showed the short writing <i>Transubstantiation of the Ants</i> . ³⁸
September 19– November 11	Tale of the Wonderland	Blindspot Gallery	"Tale of the Wonderland" was a group exhibition that borrowed <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> , the Victorian fantasy novel published in 1865, as the framework to construct a collective narrative of the twenty years of post-colonial Hong Kong. The exhibition was divided into eight chapters, each abstracting elements from the storyline of the novel. An artist responded to a chapter by employing different methodologies and diverse mediums to interpret and realize respective ideas. The eight chapters were "White Glove" (Sarah Lai), "The Rabbit Hole" (Lam Tung-pang), "Drink Me" (Ho Siu-nam South), "Who in the World am I" (Chong Wai Isaac), "Pool of Tears" (Leung Chi-wo), "Alice's Adventures" (Amy Cheung), "White Rose Red" (Chow Chun-fai), and "Books–A Speechless Goodbye" (Pak Sheung-chuen). ³⁹
October 20– November 2	Handover 20 th - Vincent Yu's Photography Exhibition	Fringe Club	The exhibition consisted of two documentary portfolios <i>HKG</i> (1992-1997) and <i>Hong Kong Paradox</i> (2017). The black-and-white <i>HKG</i> captured the social, political and psychological commotions of Hong Kong people before 1997, and was a direct contrast with Yu's recent color works. <i>Hong Kong Paradox</i> utilized the tilted lens to maneuver a hyper-realistic scenario of the dystopic condition. Apart from photographic prints, the exhibition extended beyond the frame to the realm of screen-based interfaces and experimented with video installations. ⁴⁰

37. Press coverage, *The Stand News*, June 30, 2017.

38. Enid Tsui, "Hong Kong handover-themed exhibitions give artists freedom to explore political landscape," *South China Morning Post*, July 4, 2017, <http://www.scmp.com/culture/arts-entertainment/article/2101207/hong-kong-handover-themed-exhibitions-give-artists>.

39. Exhibition's website: <https://blindspotgallery.com/zh-hant/exhibition/tale-of-wonderland/>.

40. Website of Hong Kong's Fringe Club: <http://www.hkfringeclub.com/zh/whatson/1170-%E5%9B%9E%E6%AD%B8%E4%BA%8C%E5%8D%81%E9%80%B1%E5%B9%B4.html>.