

Speech by SCST at opening ceremony of Collect Hong Kong Art Fair 2025 (English only)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Miss Rosanna Law, at the opening ceremony of Collect Hong Kong Art Fair 2025 today (March 21):

Mr Peter Lau (Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Arts Centre), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In fact, this is the third event of this afternoon that I attended. And just now I was in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, at the opening of the Art Museum's expansion. The second art event also related to our tertiary institution. It is actually a great pleasure to join you all today at the opening of Collect Hong Kong Art Fair 2025. This remarkable biennial event celebrates the immense talent of our local artists and brings together art lovers from all around the world. As we can see, Collect Hong Kong is not just an art fair – it is a platform that nurtures creativity, fosters connections, and enriches our city's vibrant cultural landscape. Seeing and hearing is believing. It's really vibrant.

With the clear support in the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Hong Kong Government strives to develop Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. Blessed with a unique background as a cultural melting pot of East and West, extensive international connections, as well as large-scale arts and cultural facilities developed one after another, Hong Kong has made remarkable achievements in the development of the art trading market. In 2023, the total trade value of works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques exceeded HK\$100 billion, making Hong Kong one of the world's top three art trading centres. This reaffirms Hong Kong's position as an international hub for arts and culture.

Collect Hong Kong 2025 plays a vital role in showcasing the depth and diversity of our artistic community. This year, the event coincides with globally renowned fairs such as Art Basel and Art Central, which further adds colour to the fantastic art month – Hong Kong Super March, and will definitely present an immersive art experience to visitors from all around the world.

But, as Peter said, unlike the two fairs I mentioned just now, you would have noticed that Collect Hong Kong is mainly showcasing the works of our home grown local artists. I very much appreciate Collect Hong Kong's dedication to provide a platform to showcase our home-grown talents to the community and the rest of the world. This event brings together an impressive range of creative minds, from emerging talents taking their first steps into the art world, to established artists whose works have already made a significant impact. I encourage everyone here today to explore the incredible

works on display, engage with the artists, and if possible, support them by acquiring their art. Every piece tells a unique story, and every purchase is an investment in the future of our creative community.

I would like to commend the Hong Kong Arts Centre for making this event happen, and particularly for opening the event with free admission. This effort ensures that art is for everyone – students, families, and those who may be experiencing an art fair for the very first time. By making art more accessible, we cultivate a deeper appreciation and understanding of creativity in our society.

I would also like to thank all supporting and collaborating institutions including our colleges, tertiary institutions and all the art schools, and everyone who has contributed to the Hong Kong art scene. I wish Collect Hong Kong 2025 a resounding success, and everyone of you here a memorable and enriching experience. Thank you.