Treasures from books

Extraordinary Encounters: Malou Hung’s Bookplates

May 18, 2021

The Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) and The University of Hong Kong Libraries will present Extraordinary Encounters: Malou Hung’s Bookplates from May 18 to June 6, 2021. Curated by Sarah Ng, the exhibition employs a cross-cultural perspective for visualising Chinese material culture through the bookplates (ex libris) of celebrated Hong Kong artist Malou Oi Yee Hung.

A bookplate is generally a small print placed on the inside front cover or free endpaper of a book to show ownership. In an era in which the popularity of print media continues to decline, the practice of including bookplates is fast becoming a dying art. Extraordinary Encounters refers to the surprising ways in which we still encounter bookplates during the act of reading. Alternatively, it stands for the remarkable encounters possible when viewing Hung’s images, which go well beyond the general expectations of standard bookplates. These encounters have the ability to transport audiences across time and space, allowing for the appreciation of ancient artworks and diverse Hong Kong neighbourhoods as viewed from the artist’s extraordinary perspective.

Bookplates have been appreciated for centuries as technically refined and beautiful artworks, as well as critical materials for learning about the history of art, printing, books and design. Many of the works on display here pay homage to everyday life in Hong Kong’s bygone eras—informed by elements of traditional Chinese culture—which forms an invaluable resource for the study of Chinese art and Hong Kong heritage.

An opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at HKUL today (May 18).

The exhibition also highlights historical objects from UMAG’s collection, and items displayed online as part of a complementary virtual exhibition. The exhibition’s five sections range from daily life in bygone eras to the material culture and craftsmanship of Imperial China: Rituals and Daily Life, Collected, Superfluous Things, Revisiting and Craftsmanship. The bookplates are juxtaposed with items from UMAG’s permanent collection and printmaking tools.

For more images and captions of the exhibit items, please click here.

Curator-led Guided Tour

Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)
Time: 11:45am–12:15pm
Venue: Atrium, 2/F, Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam
Language: English
Speaker: Sarah Ng, Curator of UMAG, HKU
Registration required: https://bit.ly/3uY2EJs
Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)*  
Time: 2:00pm–2:30pm  
Venue: Atrium, 2/F Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam  
Language: Cantonese  
Speaker: Sarah Ng, Curator of UMAG, HKU  
*Participating artist Malou Oi Yee Hung will be present for a Q&A session after the guided tour.

**Workshop: DIY Printing Bookplates**  
Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)  
Time: 2:45pm–5:00pm  
Venue: Workshop Room, G/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam  
Language: Cantonese  
Instructor: Cheng Taigo, Co-founder of The Hong Kong Exlibris Association  

Date: May 29, 2021 (Saturday)  
Time: 2:45pm–5:00pm  
Venue: Workshop Room, G/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam  
Language: Cantonese  
Instructor: Cheng Taigo, Co-founder of The Hong Kong Exlibris Association  

**Details of the Exhibition (Main Library)**  
Period: May 18, 2021 (Tuesday) to June 6, 2021 (Sunday)  
Opening Hours:  
8:30am–11:00pm (Monday to Friday)  
8:30am–7:00pm (Saturday)  
10:00am–7:00pm (Sunday)  
Please refer to the HKU Libraries website for public holidays’ opening hours: [https://lib.hku.hk/general/hours/index.html](https://lib.hku.hk/general/hours/index.html)  
Venue: Atrium, 2/F Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam  
Tel: (852) 3917 2203  
Email: libis@hku.hk  
Admission: Free  
Website: [https://lib.hku.hk](https://lib.hku.hk)

**Other enquiries (UMAG)**  
Tel: (852) 2241 5500  
Email: museum@hku.hk  
Admission: Free  
Website: [https://www.umag.hku.hk/en/](https://www.umag.hku.hk/en/)
Connect with UMAG on social media:
Facebook: http://bit.ly/umag_facebook
Instagram: @umag_hku, #UMAG
Weibo: @香港大學美術博物館 UMAG

Connect with HKUL on social media:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/hkulevents/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/HKULibrariesCollection
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hkulibrary/

About UMAG
UMAG was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was originally established as the Fung Ping Shan Library in 1932 in honour of its benefactor. For more information on UMAG, please click here.

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**Artist Biography**

Malou Oi Yee HUNG has more than 30 years of experience in creating bookplates and printmaking. In addition to her work with bookplates, she is the author of the printmaking manual *Etching Techniques & the Art of Ex-libris* (Taiwan, 2009), which has become one of the most influential technical manuals on printmaking. Her works have been widely exhibited and collected by museums and libraries in various cities throughout China, Taiwan and Europe, and many of her works have received major international prizes, including *A Hakka Village*, which received Honorable Mention in 2016, and is now in the permanent collection of the Jinling Library, China; and the *Jiufan* series, which also received an Honorable Mention at the FISEA Congress in Spain 2014, and at the 24th international Biennial of Small Graphic Forms and Ex libris, Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland.