

## HERITAGE IS INNOVATION

Design Trust Futures Studio Launches Third Edition



**Hong Kong, 18 March 2019** – Design Trust, an initiative of the Hong Kong Ambassadors of Design, is pleased to announce the third year of their flagship design programme, **DESIGN TRUST FUTURES STUDIO (DTFS)**. A long-term flagship programme, **DTFS** aims to raise the visibility of the processes and positive role of design in contemporary culture.

Conceptualised by Marisa Yiu, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Design Trust, **DESIGN TRUST FUTURES STUDIO** is a cross-disciplinary think tank that brings together industry experts and emerging talents to create positive outcomes that impact society and public spaces in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. The initiative inspires the exchange of ideas, creatively raises awareness of environmental issues and uses design to improve social well-being.

In 2019, the theme and concept of **DTFS** will be 'HERITAGE IS INNOVATION'. With this singular focus, **DTFS** 2019 will curate new conversations and site-specific objects with Hong Kong-based designers, many of whom have been involved in Design Trust as grant recipients and designer mentees over the past years. The 2019 programme will test a series of design dialogues and prototypes at the historic 1936 Haw Par Mansion in Tai Hang, and experiment with whether they can extend to other cultures and communities beyond Hong Kong.

Haw Par Mansion will soon open as a home for a new music foundation in 2019. The mansion is emblematic of its surrounding neighbourhood of Tai Hang which is also undergoing transformation. Presenting a fascinating intersection of old and new, Tai Hang is where the modern and post-colonial meet the ancient traditions of the Tai Hang festival, and so the role of Haw Par Mansion is extending and continuously evolving as a public space.

“**HERITAGE IS INNOVATION** explores the difficult yet animated definitions of **Hong Kong identity** and how to shape conversations on “**Conservation**” to open up heritage sites in order to build new narratives around the role and place of heritage – not as a static subject but as a living and inspiring process. The programme deals with how design disciplines could relate and contribute to making Hong Kong's heritage artefacts and buildings more accessible to the public, while positioning for **sustainable and critical tourism in heritage sites** in the city and the region. Constituting a major part of our cultural background and collective memory, heritage conservation can be achieved through dynamic processes – design disciplines can play a significant role in shaping these intangible processes.” – Marisa Yiu (Co- founder/ Executive Director of DESIGN TRUST)

A total of 8 mentor-mentee teams have been tasked with creating a series of design dialogues and prototypes at Haw Par Mansion with the ultimate goal of creating objects that not only invite conversation, but present design innovation for opening heritage sites to the public. The efforts will contribute to sustainable and critical tourism within the creative culture, as well as to the city identity of Hong Kong.

The design teams and their respective areas are as follows:

### **Scenting**

Mentor: Michael Young

Mentee: Xavier Tsang of BeCandle

The Brief: The designer will create fragrances around a narrative that represents and complements the building as a holistic space that invites visitors to explore the complexity of the original site.

Xavier Tsang is a participant of Design Trust Futures Studio 2017 and 2018.

### **Light Installation**

Mentor: Douglas Young of Goods of Desire

Mentee: Florian Wegenast & Christine Lew

The Brief: The designers will better integrate the building's artefacts into design by transforming them into lighting elements/fixtures/objects for the mansion in repurposing found objects in relationship to the roofing architecture.

Florian Wegenast and Christine Lew are recipients of Design Trust Seed Grant for their project entitled “Hong Kong Harbour: Future Sea Craft”.

### **Souvenirs**

Mentor: Alexander Groves & Azusa Murakami of Studio Swine

Mentee: Ire Tsui, Michael Leung & Rony Chan of design\*Lab

The Brief: The designers will increase the visibility of Hong Kong-based manufacturers and artisans. They will design souvenirs that re-interpret the Haw Par Collection in making it more accessible to the public in particular to the youth.

Ire Tsui, Rony Chan and Michael Leung are recipients of Design Trust Feature Grant for their project entitled “Micro Factory”.

## **Graphics**

Mentor: Hunter Tura

Mentee: Adonian Chan

The Brief: The designer will develop a graphic design concept that relates the Haw Par Music Foundation to the mansion's history and mythology. The concept will be realised with wall murals and possibly incorporate other visual identity elements.

Adonian Chan is a recipient of Design Trust Seed Grant for his project entitled "Hong Kong Beiwei Kaishu".

## **Feature Carpet**

Mentor: Lyndon Neri & Rossana Hu of Neri & Hu

Mentee: Elaine Ng

The Brief: The designer will re-interpret the history and current needs of the mansion by rethinking its textile elements and question the role of authenticity in heritage conservation practice.

Elaine Yan Ling Ng is a recipient of Design Trust Feature Grant for her project entitled "UN/FOLD" Weaving Time Travel".

## **Acoustic Textile Object**

Mentor: Irene Lai & Frank Leung of via.

Mentee: Polly Ho & Andy Wong of Loom Loop

The Brief: The designers will re-interpret the history and current needs of the mansion to create a new functional textile item with acoustic possibilities.

Polly Ho and Andy Wang are recipients of Design Trust Seed Grant for their project entitled "Rejuvenation of Canton Silk Fabric and Traditional Chinese Needlework".

## **Sculptural Landscape Object**

Mentor: Puay-Peng Ho

Mentee: Julie Progin & Jesse Mclin of Latitude 22N

The Brief: The designers will re-interpret the history and current needs of the mansion by rethinking its textile elements to design a functional sculptural object in response to the original Tiger Balm Garden.

Julie Progin and Jesse Mc Lin participated in design\*lab's Feature Grant research.

## **Re-staging History & Heritage**

Mentor: Brenda Cormier of the V&A Museum

Mentee: Sharon Tsang de Lyster

The Brief: The design curator will re-stage objects and other materials like photos, films and posters from the Haw Par Mansion archives to complement the existing setting and work in archives in London.

Sharon Tsang de Lyster is a recipient of Design Trust Seed Grant for her project entitled "The Textile Atlas

**A selection of design objects will be displayed at Haw Par Mansion in March 2019 with the complete exhibition opening to the public in September 2019.**

For more information on Design Studio Future Studios, visit <http://designtrust.hk/design-trust-future-studios> or follow the journey on social media.

**Instagram:** @designtrust

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/designtrust](http://www.facebook.com/designtrust)

#DTFS #heritageisinnovation #indesignwetrust #designtrusthk #designtrust #futuresstudio

**-ENDS-**

**For media enquiries or interview opportunities, please contact PLUG:**

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### **About Design Trust**

Design Trust was established in 2014 by Hong Kong Ambassadors of Design, a registered charity in Hong Kong since 2007, as a grant funding platform. Design Trust supports creative projects that develop expertise, build research initiatives and content related to Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. Working across a multiplicity of design disciplines from graphics, media, and architecture to the built environment, Design Trust aims to actively accelerate creative research, design and development of meaningful projects that advocate for the positive role of design.

### **About Design Trust Futures Studio**

Design Trust Futures Studio (DTFS) is a long-term flagship programme that makes visible the processes and positive role of design in the culture of contemporary design and production. The programme stems from a project-studio concept that promotes life-long collaborations through a mentor-mentee programme.

DTFS is a cross-disciplinary initiative created and conceptualised by Marisa Yiu, Co-founder and Executive Director of Design Trust. Experts from different fields will contribute to the mentor-mentee teams in the exploration of materials, production, and put forth the positive value of design of public spaces in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area and internationally.

In 2017, we examined the theme of smallness in Hong Kong and how it can be harnessed to create meaningful change with the theme "Small is Meaningful". The 2018 edition continued this momentum with a new theme "Play is for The People" in designing and creating new micro-park designs for Hong Kong. In 2019, the theme and concept is focused on "Heritage is Innovation", exploring the difficult yet animated definitions of Hong Kong identity, shaping conversations on "Conservation", and finding new ways to open up heritage sites to build new narratives of the role and place of heritage – not as a static subject but a dynamic living and inspiring process.

### **Programme Partner: Tai Ping**

Established in 1956, Tai Ping is a custom handmade carpet house known for its innovation, expertise and heritage, celebrated archive, unparalleled design and service that has won international acclaim. Recognised for over six decades as choice for a discerning global clientele, Tai Ping graces the floors of the most prestigious residences, boutiques, hotels, private jets and yachts around the world. Headquartered in Hong Kong, with 14 showrooms across Europe, Asia and North America, Tai Ping creates designs and customises its creations to the unique vision of its clientele.

### **Partner Foundation: Haw Par Music Foundation**

Haw Par Music Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organisation formed in 2013 to serve a dual purpose. To create and operate Haw Par Music Farm, a centre for cross-cultural exchange through music (Chinese and Western), art and culture, from the former Haw Par Mansion; and to conserve and revitalize the unique former Haw Par Mansion, in partnership with HKSAR Government under its Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme as a heritage landmark open to the public.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### Heritage is Innovation Design Dialogue

Date: Tue 26 Mar, 1-3 pm

Details: Introduction by Lead Curator Marisa Yiu (Co-founder/ Executive Director, Design Trust), sharing by DTFS 2019 International Mentor Alexander Groves and Azusa Murakami (Co-founders, Studio Swine) and Hunter Tura (President and Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Mau Design).

Open to public with li, registration only <https://goo.gl/forms/fuX4Ls24Bm3mi2W82>

#### Heritage is Innovation Guided Tours at Haw Par Mansion

Dates:



Thu 28 Mar 1-2pm

Fri 29 Mar 7-8pm

Sat 30 Mar 1-2pm

Sun 31 Mar 1-2pm

Open to public, registration only <https://goo.gl/forms/cShqi2oydbrTViNj2>