

**DESIGN FOR GOOD: CREATING POSITIVE IMPACT IN SOCIETY**  
*Design Trust Launches Flagship Mentorship Programme*

(Hong Kong, 26 May 2017) Design Trust, an initiative of the Hong Kong Ambassadors of Design has announced two new initiatives, a new long-term flagship programme **Design Trust Futures Studio** and a fellowship with the Royal College of Art.

**Design Trust Futures Studio**, initiated and conceptualized by Marisa Yiu, Co-founder, Executive Director of Design Trust, makes visible the processes and debate on the culture of contemporary design. Formatted as a series of workshops, discussions and conceptual design interventions, established designers (mentors and advisors) work closely with nominated participants (designer mentees) to showcase new ideas and works to the public. Cross-discipline in nature, experts in their fields focus on future thinking with outcomes that are impactful to society or public spaces relating to Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, and show how design can positively contribute to our lives.

For its inaugural year, **Design Trust Futures Studio** will focus on the theme of “small is meaningful” as a design issue. Specifically, the group explores the future of micro-parks in Hong Kong by examining the importance of smallness in local communities, and how this can be harnessed to create positive change for the city.

The research and outcomes of the programme will challenge connotations that smallness is trivial, by demonstrating the impact that smallness can have. **Design Trust Futures Studio** will use design to suggest improvement to social well-being and health, and to raise awareness of environmental issues through creative means via design processes and critiques.

“In bringing various communities together, I hope we can advance a spirit of generosity and dialogue within our region and internationally. We advocate for the positive values of design to better shape the city and region we live in,” says Marisa Yiu, Co-founder, Executive Director of Design Trust.

“**Design Trust Futures Studio** explores and experiments with new ideas. It is a platform for exchange and the goal is to ultimately transform both the individual and collective notion of how we participate in the creation of a city. The greatest hope is to actually be able to empower and change not only the mentors’ and mentees’ experience, but also the public and the community. Design can really be impactful to making change.”

The diverse and multi-disciplinary designer-mentees were selected by a nominating committee and selection committee involving professionals, advisors and academics. The inaugural programme will include 10 Hong Kong-based Designer Mentees and two Designer Mentees from the Pearl River Delta Region.

The Hong Kong-based mentors include architect Gary Chang and artist, photographer and designer Stanley Wong (anothermountainman). International mentors include Elizabeth Diller of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (New York), Mimi Hoang of nARCHITECTS (New York), and Sam Jacob of Sam Jacob Studio (London).

The mentor/mentee process is documented throughout the project and shared on the Design Trust platforms to update the community. Mentors and mentees use the Sketch Diary to document their research, drawings and final concepts. Frequently, a page, sketch or an idea is shared online. Alongside this, the participants are captured in photography and film, creating a real-time visual record of the creative process from beginning to end.

**Design Trust Futures Studio** is presented in three core parts starting with an introductory workshop that took place in March 2017 for participants to meet and brainstorm on the topic. Throughout March to June, the groups will meet and work closely with the mentors, attending workshops and fieldtrips. For the second phase, Design Trust will collaborate with New York-based Storefront for Art and Architecture – one of the most critical, independent non-profit organizations committed to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture, art and design, on the first ever appearance of its International Series in Hong Kong. During the three-day event from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July, the groups will present their concepts through a public review. Finally, research findings, proposals and models will be presented at an exhibition in October together with a documentary archive booklet and video.

To access high-resolution images of workshops and events, please click:

[http://ftp.catchonco.com/DTFS\\_Images.zip](http://ftp.catchonco.com/DTFS_Images.zip)

For more information on Design Trust Futures Studio, visit <http://designtrust.hk/design-trust-futures-studio> or stay tuned to the following social media accounts:

Instagram: [@designtrust](https://www.instagram.com/designtrust)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/designtrust>

### **Design Trust / RCA Followship in Design Curation 2017**

In addition, Design Trust has partnered with the Royal College of Art in London for a fellowship in design curation. Funded by the Design Trust and executed by RCA, the fellowship is designed to address the burgeoning field of design curating in a global context, and its place within the interdisciplinary curatorial field.

Based at the Royal College of Art in London, the Fellow will be part of a centre for research and teaching in both curating and the history of design. The successful Fellow will have the opportunity to engage in advanced research into curatorial contexts for contemporary design practice and recent design history, as well as develop new thinking in curating practice and theory aligned with the social and cultural contexts for design. The Fellow will devise and develop an original research project related to design in Asia and its global contexts, supported by subject specialists at the RCA.

Starting in September 2017, the Fellow will undertake 12 months of research supported by a tailored programme of academic training designed to broaden their knowledge and skills in curatorial practice,

theory and understanding of design, together with a curatorial placement with an internationally renowned London-based museum.

For more information, visit:

[https://www.rca.ac.uk/schools/school-of-humanities/humanities\\_research/design-trust-rca-fellowship-design-curation-2017/](https://www.rca.ac.uk/schools/school-of-humanities/humanities_research/design-trust-rca-fellowship-design-curation-2017/)

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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 Pearl River Delta Region. Working across a multiplicity of design disciplines from graphics, media, 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.

For media enquiries or interview opportunities, please contact:

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