

SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion

Session Title: **What is Creativity?**
Date & Time: 18 January 2019, Friday, 14.00 – 15.30
Venue: SPARK Hub, Tai Kwun

Summary / Description:

Creativity is not just the province of the Arts; it has a vital role to play across all areas of human endeavour - imagining and pursuing novel ideas and developing curiosity. Creativity underpins scientific and technological development. It drives forward our economies and social development and enables us to contribute more fully as citizens. It is hard to imagine any aspect of our fast-changing lives that does not call on human creativity to open up new possibilities and yet governments, businesses and education systems around the world are concerned that people are not creative enough.

This panel discussion will explore the significance of creativity for four highly creative and successful individuals: two artists, a business professional and passionate advocate of the creative industries, and a scientist. The panel will attempt to get to the heart of what it means to be creative by exploring whether the creative process differs between disciplines and to understand what sparks imagination and originality. The discussion will also touch on the conditions that enabled our panellists to develop their creative abilities and explore whether modern society enables people to fully realise their creative potential.

Panel Speakers



Faye Wei Wei, Artist, UK

British painter Faye Wei Wei's bold, poetic works quiver with a lively, lyrical motion, combining classical poise with vibrant immediacy. Working on a large scale, Wei Wei conceives of the painting process as an intimate choreography between actual and pictorial space. Often revolving around spiritual iconography and classical myth, love rituals and the theatricality of gender, her works sometimes suggest the themes of particular mythic narratives, and at other moments seem to depart into a more ambiguous, interior space of incongruity and uncertainty. Stateliness coincides with brute force and pastel softness; symbols seem to shake free of their moorings and float, surrealistically, on the liquid expanse of dream. The scenes might be imagined, but the energetic, bold brushstrokes, executed in thin layers, suggest something actually witnessed, balanced on the edge of reality.

	<p>Faye Wei Wei graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2016, where she was awarded the Cass Art Painting Prize.</p>
	<p>FUNG Wai Hang, Assistant Artistic Director, Hong Kong Repertory Theatre</p> <p>Fung Wai Hang is an awarded actress, director and a curator. She obtained an MFA in Theatre Practice at the University of Exeter and was a graduate of the inaugural class of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' School of Drama. Fung joined the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre since 1988 and has taken on various positions including Principal Actress, Project Coordinator and Resident Director. In 2016, she became Assistant Artistic Director at the HKREP.</p> <p>In recent years, Fung has devoted her efforts in developing the HKRep Black Box Production series, which aims to provide a nurturing platform for local theatre practitioners, promote new formats of theatre works as well as cross-media collaborations. She strongly engages in national and international theatre exchanges. She curates the Hong Kong International Black Box Theatre Festival in 2014 which becomes an important biannual event in Hong Kong theatre.</p>
	<p>Professor Dan Lloyd, Deputy Head of School, School of Biosciences, University of Kent</p> <p>Dan Lloyd joined the University of Kent in 2001 after completing undergraduate studies at the University of York and a PhD at the Institute of Cancer Research. Awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), he was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University before taking his position at Kent, where he is now Professor. He is a National Teaching Fellow, Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. Currently he is Director of Graduate Studies (Taught) and Deputy Head of School.</p>

His background in cancer research has underpinned the development of an MSc in Cancer Biology and other Master's level programmes. Beyond the laboratory, interests relate to the development of creative opportunities for public engagement. A pioneer of science communication training in undergraduate degrees through final year research projects, interests focus particularly on the intersection of science and the arts. Recent public engagement developments have included Chain Reaction (a gallery exhibition marking 30 years of PCR), and the Cocktail Laboratory (a science-themed interactive cocktail party). Cellular Dynamics, which combines cutting-edge biological research with live musical performance, has been featured in the Cheltenham Festival, Canterbury Festival, Norwich Science Festival and as far afield as Hong Kong.



Dr Edmund Lee, Executive Director, Hong Kong Design Centre

Dr Edmund Lee is the Executive Director of Hong Kong Design Centre, the HKSAR Government's strategic partner dedicated to raising Hong Kong's profile as a hub of design and innovation. Dr Lee is a Companion of Chartered Management Institute and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce. He currently serves as Board of Director of PMQ, Joint Convenor of the Business of IP Asia Forum, and Member of the Advisory Committee on Design, Licensing and Marketing of Hong Kong Trade Development Council. He is also a committee member of the Design Council of IE School of Architecture and Design (Spain), and of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee of Hong Kong International Airport. Dr Lee received his PhD in biotechnology from King's College London, and MBA from Warwick Business School in the UK. He has obtained the HBS Club Scholarship on non-profit management at Harvard Business School.



**Moderator and Lead:
Jeff Streeter, Director, British Council,
Hong Kong**

Jeff was born in Devon in the South West of England, growing up on a farm many miles from the nearest town. He went on to study English Literature and Language at the universities of Oxford and East Anglia in the UK before starting an international career with the British Council. He has worked in North America, South America, Asia, Europe and Africa. All of his postings have involved engagement in education as a teacher, lecturer, project leader or adviser. Most recently, he was Country Director of the British Council in Egypt, based in Cairo. He took up the post of Director Hong Kong on 3 April 2018.