

SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion

Session Title: **Curating the Future**
Date & Time: 19 January 2019, Saturday, 14.30-16.00
Venue: JC Cube Auditorium, Tai Kwun

Summary / Description:

An exploration of museums and digital innovations and the future of museum and art curation.


A dialogue with curators, artists and museum/collections professionals on the in-residence model of collection use and its benefits for organisations and audiences, as well as the potential for using creative writing as a public engagement practice. Discussion will include: creating compelling narratives around objects, collections/archives and heritage spaces; devising educational resources and sessions; and exploring hidden and neglected histories in order to revitalise collections and attract new audiences.


Panel Speakers



Dave Patten, Head of New Media, The Science Museum, UK

Dave Patten is Head of New Media at The Science Museum, London, where his role includes managing all aspects of new media and AV, from conceptual design, prototyping and production to project managing external developers and production companies. He has a background in electronics and computer science, and has worked at the Science Museum for over 30 years, developing exhibitions and leading development teams. He developed the technical systems for the Science Museum's Wellcome Wing and Dana Centre, which opened in 2000 and 2004 respectively. Recent work includes Web Lab, the multi-award winning collaboration with Google, Engineering Your Future, an interactive exhibition for teenagers on engineering, the Science Museum Group's Digital Lab and a secondment to Frost Science in Miami to help develop exhibitions and systems for a new museum which opened in 2017. Dave Patten runs the Science Museum Groups Digital Lab Initiative which experiments in emerging technologies and visitor experiences (<https://lab.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>).

	<p>Dave will give a short introduction to the aims of the Science Museum Group’s Digital Lab and the work they have done using VR to put visitor at the heart of an object based experience as well as the work the Science Museum have done on digital labels.</p>
	<p>Dr Jacek Ludwig Scarso, Artist and Senior Lecturer at The Cass, London Metropolitan University</p> <p>Jacek Ludwig Scarso (PhD) is an internationally exhibited artist, whose work spans live performance, video, photography and installation. He is Course Leader in Theatre and Film at the Sir John Cass School of Art, Architecture and Design, London Met, where he was recently awarded the honorary title of University Teaching Fellow. He is the Artistic Director of critically acclaimed Elastic Theatre. He collaborates with Anise Gallery in London and Collezione Lubich and Studio CS in Rome. He is the recipient of several arts awards including grants from the Wellcome Trust and Jerwood Foundation. Recent works were shown at Tate Modern, Weissraum Gallery in Kyoto, MACRO Museum in Rome, the Science Museum in London, Carrousel du Louvre in Paris and Nord Art in Budelsdorf. For more details, www.jacekludwigscarso.com</p> <p><i>Jacek will discuss the following:</i></p> <p>For Curating the Future, Dr Jacek Ludwig Scarso will discuss his recent project at Tate Modern, in collaboration with Tate Exchange, The Cass, Anise Gallery and A-VR. Entitled In Limbo, this was a participatory live/VR installation, reflecting on the meaning of waiting. Here, the public was invited by “bureaucratic angels” into a metaphoric waiting room, to fill out forms reflecting on what they may be waiting for. Several hundreds of responses were completed, becoming part of a collective artwork, built up over the course of a week. Alongside this, the project included a special VR journey and additional talks, or “waiting lounge chats”. This contribution will reflect on the poignant ephemerality of audience participation and how</p>

	<p>technology and theatricality can help museums reach new audiences.</p>
	<p>Dr Maria Mok, Curator (Chinese Antiquities), Hong Kong Museum of Art</p> <p>Maria joined the Hong Kong Museum of Art since 1996, she has extensive experience in museum work, with exposure in various departments, including China Trade Paintings, Chinese Antiquities, Modern Art, Education and Extension. She is responsible for research, curating, publication, and acquisition of the museum collection, as well as various education projects. Apart from her involvement in numerous exhibitions, she authored many articles and conference papers pertinent to the studies in Chinese art and China trade art, with a particular interest in the artistic interactions on global trade, epitomized in <i>Images of the Canton Factories 1760-1822: Reading History in Art</i> (HKU Press: 2015) co-authored with Paul A. Van Dyke. She received a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts Studies, a Master degree on Chinese Historical Studies on Guangdong decorative arts of the Qing dynasty, a Doctoral degree on China trade paintings, and a graduate diploma in Museum Studies.</p> <p><i>Maria will discuss the following:</i></p> <p>To conclude the progress of mankind since the past century, some say that never before has humanity advanced so much, so fast. In the brief history of a mere century, we proceed from the first transcontinental telephone call to connecting with almost all corners on the globe in real time with the Internet. As we move forward in full speed, we are widening the gap between us and our past, also in full speed. As the coffer of golden memories of our civilization, the museum is responsible to bridge the gap between contemporary audience and their past — a gap which is enlarging by the drastic changes around us. In this session, the speaker will share behind-the-scene curatorial concerns, and will talk about how the museum remodels, recovers and rejuvenates the past encapsulated in art.</p>



Zoë Strachan, Director of Glasgow Women's Library, Senior Lecturer and Programme Convenor, Creative Writing, University of Glasgow

Zoë Strachan is an award-winning novelist who teaches Creative Writing at University of Glasgow. Her work has appeared in various magazines and anthologies and been broadcast on BBC Radio, and performed at the Citizen's Theatre and Óran Mór. Her short opera *Sublimation* (with composer Nick Fells) toured Scotland with Scottish Opera before going to Cape Town, South Africa. *The Lady from the Sea*, composed by Craig Armstrong, premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2012, where it won a Herald Angel Award. Zoë has an academic background in archaeology and has been UNESCO City of Literature writer-in-residence at the National Museum of Scotland, amongst other international fellowships including the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa. She is a Director of Glasgow Women's Library, winner of numerous awards and the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women's lives, histories and achievements.

Twitter: @zoestrachan

Zoe will discuss the following:

Zoë is passionate about the power of literature and heritage to engage and inform diverse audiences. In this panel she will discuss the 'in-residence' model of collection use, in which artists in various disciplines can be based in museums or galleries to create new work inspired by artefacts, as well as working with different groups of people to open up the collections to new audiences. Glasgow Women's Library, where she is a Director, is a pioneer of practice and research into embedding equality in institutions with the purpose of increasing access, representation and inclusion at all levels.



Professor Louise Welsh, Professor of Creative Writing, University of Glasgow

Louise Welsh works in several forms including novels, short stories, opera libretti, radio, performance and sound art. She has written eight novels, most recently Plague Times Trilogy, a series of books exploring a contemporary pandemic. Louise has collaborated on four operas with the composer Stuart MacRae. Their new opera Anthropocene will premier in Glasgow in 2019. Louise was co-founder and director of the Empire Café (with Jude Barber of Collective Architecture) an award winning, multi-disciplinary exploration of Scotland's relationship with the North Atlantic slave trade. Objects from The Empire Café are now housed in the National Museum of Scotland. A frequent broadcaster, Louise has written and presented radio features on many topics including Scottish history, gothic, Robert Louis Stevenson and contemporary art. Louise is Professor of Creative Writing at University of Glasgow. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature @louisewelsh00.



**Moderator and Lead:
Alice Mong, Executive Director, Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

Alice Mong became the Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center (ASHK) in August of 2012. Prior to ASHK, she worked in New York for almost a decade in the non-profit sector in senior management position.

While in New York, Ms. Mong was the Director of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) from 2009 till 2011. Ms. Mong left MOCA in July 2011 after successfully transforming the museum from a New York Chinatown institution to become the leading national museum. Ms. Mong also served as the Executive Director for the Committee of 100 in the United States, a Chinese-American non-profit membership organization founded by architect, I.M. Pei and cellist, Yo-Yo Ma. Prior to New York, Ms. Mong worked in Hong Kong from 1992 to 2002. She is

	a graduate of the Ohio State University and received her EMBA from Kellogg and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.
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