

Arts in Hong Kong Variety and Vitality

The notion that Hong Kong is a 'cultural desert' has long been a misunderstanding. A quick look through an art and culture guidebook, Art Map, will show that there are more than 300 arts and cultural events taking place in Hong Kong every month. In addition to these listed events, there are also independently organised local and international culture events, film screenings and literature appreciation events throughout the year. Despite its relatively small geographic size, Hong Kong's talented artists and its strategic location make it a favourable city to develop into "Asia's Capital of Art and Culture".

Hong Kong's unique east-meets-west culture stimulates diversity in its art and cultural scenes – from opera, philharmonic concerts and ballet performance, to Cantonese Operas and local experimental theatre. Hong Kong displays an openness and international outlook that makes it the most vibrant and exciting transit spot for art. It is the pioneer city in Asia that launched events such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the new Hong Kong International Art Fair. Hong Kong values artistic innovation and creativity; it is an important driving force in art development in Asia.



Hong Kong Arts Festival (HKAF)

www.hk.artsfestival.org

The HKAF is the highlight annual event in Hong Kong that takes place during February and March. Since 1972 it has brought the city tremendous inspiration and joy. It also plays a role in diversifying Hong Kong's tourism - as it is a major event in the region that attracts many visitors.

The HKAF represents the highest standard of art and cultural events in many ways, from the participating artists to the quality of performance and variety of programmes. Each year, it creates a gathering for local, Asian and international artists. The performances are also highly versatile as they cater to both traditional and alternative tastes. In recent years, HKAF has focused on promoting local performing groups. With help from the HKAF, local artists have collaborated with international arts organisations to create experimental performances. Many international programmes have launched their Asian premieres at the HKAF. Numerous internationally renowned artists and groups have performed at HKAF, such as the Glyndebourne Festival Opera Group, Shanghai Kunqu Group, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Dresden State Orchestra, Jose Carreras, Sir James Galway, Philip Glass, Tan Dun, Paris Opéra Ballet and Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.



 香港藝術節
Hong Kong Arts Festival

Photos provided by Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd.

Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)

www.hkiff.org.hk



The HKIFF takes place in March and April every year. As one of the oldest film festivals in Asia, the HKIFF Society organises three flagship events during this period: the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), the Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) and Asia Film Awards (AFA).

The HKIFF was established in 1977 with a focus on showing international films. In 1978, it launched a retrospective of

Hong Kong films from the 1950s. Since then the festival has published a series of books on films in Chinese and English every year and these publications have since become an icon of the HKIFF. The HKIFF values diversity and features a wide variety of films from different parts of the world covering different genres. The meet-the-audience sessions after the screenings allow viewers to have discussions with the filmmakers and actors in person. Every year the HKIFF shows over 300 films from more than 50 countries. The screenings at the 11 cultural

venues in Hong Kong have attracted 580,000 visits.



**International
HK Film Festival**

Photos provided by Hong Kong International Film Festival



Hong Kong International Art Fair (HKIAF)

www.hongkongartfair.com

Since 2008, every year during the month of May, Hong Kong is transformed into a vital destination for art collectors. The reason that the HKIAF is regarded as one of the three major art events in this category is because despite its short history, it has attracted over 110 galleries from 24 countries to participate (in 2009). Within no time Hong Kong has established itself as Asia's most prominent art trading and display platform and earned its status as the gateway to world art. Hong Kong does not charge any tax on imported art works, a fact that is all the more appreciated by art lovers. The city is the world's third largest art market in terms of auction revenue. Furthermore, Hong Kong's central location in Asia makes it an ideal base for galleries from all parts of the world to establish their presences and to expand their clientele in the East.

The HKIAF attracts collectors, curators, artists and galleries from Asia and the rest of the world as well as local art enthusiasts. The organiser also arranges guided tours and workshops for collectors. Art works are available for US\$1,000 right through to US\$10 million.



Photos provided by Hong Kong International Art Fair

EVENT
CALENDAR

January

City Festival
www.cityfestival.com.hk

February

Hong Kong Arts Festival
www.hk.artsfestival.org
 Hong Kong Salsa Festival
www.hksalsafestival.com

March
April

Hong Kong International Film Festival
www.hkiff.org.hk
 Mui Wo Hung Shing Festival
www.hungshingfestival.com.hk
 Hong Kong International a cappella Festival
 Over 70 a cappella groups from Australia, Japan, Sweden, Britain and the USA will be performing at a series of indoor and outdoor concerts.
 Hong Kong Musical Festival
www.springtime.com.hk

May

Cheung Chau Bun Festival
www.cheungchau.org
 Le French May
www.frenchmay.com
 Hong Kong International Art Fair
www.hongkongartfair.com

Arts & Antiques Fair
www.aiaa.com.hk

June

Italy : Quality & Lifestyle
www.icc.org.hk

July

Hong Kong Book Fair
www.hkbookfair.com
 International Arts Carnival
www.hkiac.gov.hk

August

Summer IFF
www.hkiff.org.hk
 Summer Pop-Live in Hong Kong Concert
www.summerpop.hk

September

Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance

The Fire Dragon Dance is a traditional practice in Tai Hang, Causeway Bay. It is held during the Mid-Autumn festival, between the 14th and 16th days of the eighth month in the Lunar Calendar. The origin of the fire dragon dance was to pray for the health and prosperity of the residents. Now it has become an attraction that appeals to local and overseas visitors alike. The Fire Dragon Dance is a festive and vibrant event. Spectators can get a close view of the dance as the long Fire Dragon parades through the streets of Tai Hang to the sounds of cheers and drumbeats.

discoverhongkong.com

October

Hong Kong International Art and Antiques Fair
www.hkiaaf.com

New Vision Arts Festival
 (once every two years)
www.newvisionfestival.gov.hk

Hong Kong International Jazz Festival
www.hkja.org
 Creative October
www.creativeoctoberhk.com

November

Hong Kong International Kungfu Festival
www.kungfufestival.com
 (Festival held in different months in different years)
 Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival
www.hkjewishfilmfest.org
 French Cinepanorama
www.frenchcinepanorama.com
 Hong Kong Asian International Film Festival
www.hkaiff.hk
 Taiwan Festival
www.taiwaninfo.org
 Budding Winter
www.buddingwinter.hk
 Standard Chartered Arts in the Park
www.hkyaf.com

December

Hong Kong International Antiquarian Bookfair
www.hongkongantiquarianbookfair.com
 Business of Design Week
www.bodw.com.hk