

Press Release

To: Local Education / Arts & Culture / Feature Editors

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**Exclusively presented by Hong Kong Art School
【Japan Art Tour】 July 2016**

**Travel between Islands in The Seto Inland Sea,
Experience the fusion of Art, Architecture and Nature in Japan!**

18 April 2016 | Hong Kong - In this coming July, Hong Kong Art School will be launching another tailor-made Japan Art Tour, bring art lovers to the islands in the Seto Inland Sea, namely Naoshima, Teshima, Shodoshima and Awajishima. Tour participants will be able to experience the breathtaking natural environment and visit well-known museums designed by Tadao Ando to inspire them with the understanding of the harmonious blend between nature, art and architecture. They will also visit Setouchi Triennale 2016, which is one of the most significant contemporary art festivals in Japan.

The School's Japan Art Tour is led by our experienced art lecturers, whose professional views and knowledge about Japanese Art and Culture are widely recognized. Since 2011, the exclusive tours have been attracting hundreds of art lovers from a wide range of backgrounds and ages.

In this upcoming tour, participants will be visiting Benesse Art Site, Chichu Art Museum, Lee Ufan Museum, Teshima Art Museum and Miho Museum. Not only will they be enjoying a series of famous masterpiece and art installations by James Turrell, Richeal Long and Walter De Maria etc., but they will also be viewing the

stunning architectural styles of different museums. Japanese traditional folk house Kominka, the Water Temple with exquisite design and outlook in Awaijishima and Les Archives du Coeur are also the key attractions and the cultural and leisure sites to be explored in the tour.

Key attractions:

Setouchi Triennale 2016

Being one of the most significant international art festivals in Japan, the Setouchi Triennale is a must-attend event for every art enthusiast and nature lover. With installations and site-specific works scattering all over the Setouchi Islands together with special art projects, the Triennale demonstrates the perfect harmony among art, nature and community in the region.

Shodoshima

Fukutake House

This year, Artist-Lecturers and Artist-Alumni of Hong Kong Art School again take part in the Fukutake House project on the Shodoshima 小豆島 and have their artworks exclusively exhibited there. Come and have a direct exploration of art with our artists and friends there!

Naoshima

Benesse Art Site

Jointly developed by the architect master, Tadao Ando and a group of artists, Benesse Art Site Naoshima is one of the worth-visiting cultural attractions in the Seto Inland Sea. The site showcases the works of contemporary artists including James Turrell, Richeal Long, Walter De Maria, Yayoi Kusama and Cai Guo Qiang, demonstrating the harmonious relationship between art and natural environment.

Chichu Art Museum

Widely considered to be one of the world's best museums for contemporary art, Chichu Art Museum, designed by Tadao Ando (安藤忠雄), is itself a work of art. The museum houses the "Water Lilies" series by Claude Monet, also a few works by James Turrell and Walter De Maria. It is located underground and mainly utilizes natural light for illumination, creating a unique viewing experience for audience.

Lee Ufan Museum

Opened in 2010, the Lee Ufan Museum is another museum designed by Tadao Ando (安藤忠雄) that adds flavor to the tourism of Naoshima. It features works by the Korean contemporary artist Lee Ufan (李禹煥), including large installations and a number of paintings from earlier in his career.

Teshima

Teshima Art Museum

Being a new attraction on Teshima island, Teshima Art Museum is a collaboration project by the Tokyo-based architect, Ryue Nishizawa (西沢立衛) and the Japanese artist Rei Naito (内藤礼). The museum is more than a building to showcase art installations — it aims to create an immersive environment where the building and the art become inseparable, requires the full attention of all the senses to fully appreciate.

Les Archives du Coeur

One of the inspiring projects by the French artist, Christian Boltanski, whose primary purpose in art has been to remind us of our own mortality. It houses the recordings of human heartbeats around the world since 2008. Visitors can have their own heartbeats recorded there, or listen to those from others.

Awaijishima

Water Temple

Built on a hilly landscape, the Water Temple is another masterpiece by Tadao Ando, providing one of those sensorial experiences to visitors. The lily pond, staircase and temple rooms built beneath the pond create a spiritual atmosphere and give new definition to the Japanese temple architecture.

Dream Stage

Dream Stage is a resort complex with church, galleries, observation terrace, botanic gardens, hotel and convention center. The open spaces with complex geometric shapes, rounded concrete walls, huge glass windows, waterfalls and ponds create a very special spatial experience. Strolling within and around the building, visitors will experience the sense of peace and tranquility.

Shiga

Miho Museum

Inspired by the work of the Chinese poet Tao Yuanming, the architect master, Dr. I.M. Pei, applied the Chinese concept of “Utopia” on the construction of the museum, demonstrating the harmonious assimilation between architecture, art, environment and nature, creating an innovative style for the museum.

Kominka

Kominka is a type of Japanese traditional folk houses, that some of these existing “houses” may have more than 300 years of history. Paying visit to the Kominka may lead you back to the 17th -18th century of Japan with a general understanding of this typical architecture and the life of the Japanese at that time.

Photos of the above attractions can be downloaded from the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ur7gcuo1cfkaw13/AAAWgo5FSSAb6ei8zEteCAmPa?dl=0>

Tour's highlights and related information are as follows:

Date: 23 July – 28 July, 2016 (Total: 6 days)

Highlights

(may vary according to itinerary):

- Experience Setouchi Triennale 2016;
- Explore harmonious relationship between nature, contemporary art and architecture in Japan by visiting Benesse Art Site, Chichu Art Museum, Lee Ufan Museum, Teshima Art Museum and Miho Museum;
- Visit Les Archives du Coeur, Water Temple, Dream Stage and Kominka to see the cultural and leisure side of Japan

Tour fees: HKD28,500

Tour fee includes flights, accommodations, daily breakfasts, most of the lunches and dinners, museums' entrance fees, highway charges and coach fees.

Airport tax, cost for travel insurance and service charges for tour guide and coach (altogether in an amount of HKD1,200) are not included. Passenger fuel surcharge will not be collected in accordance with the recent announcement of the Civil Aviation Department of Hong Kong that related surcharge for flights originating from Hong Kong will be suspended with effect from 1 Feb 2016 onwards until further notice. Participants will take care of their own personal expenditures incurred during the trip.

Application deadline: 13 May 2016 (Friday)

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About Hong Kong Art School

Hong Kong Art School (HKAS), founded in 2000, is a division of the Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC). Closely associated with HKAC's environment of cultural venues, client art groups and creative enterprises, HKAS offers a unique setting for students to draw on a vast spectrum of artistic practices.

HKAS is an accredited institute staffed by a group of dedicated artists, who are active and distinguished practitioners in the field. The focus of HKAS award-bearing curriculum lies in four core academic areas, namely, Fine Art, Applied Art, Media Art, and Applied Theatre & Drama Education, and its scope covers programmes with academic levels ranging from Higher Diploma, Professional Diploma, Bachelor Degree to Master Degree. The short courses and the outreach projects of the School that run parallel to the award-bearing curriculum span an even wider variety of artistic disciplines, and they genuinely bridge art and the community. www.hkas.edu.hk



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