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**Sun Museum Presents “Dreams of Chinese Painters: Yitao Collection”
Viewing the Thoughts of Chinese Art Masters through their Paintings**

(Hong Kong, 11 April 2019) Sun Museum is pleased to present the exhibition “**Dreams of Chinese Painters: Yitao Collection**”, from 12 April 2019 to 13 July 2019. The exhibition showcases some 50 pieces of paintings selected from the Yitao Collection. They are from the “Four Monks” of the early Qing Dynasty such as **Bada Shanren** and **Shitao**, advocates of the reformation of Chinese painting in the early 20th century such as **Gao Jianfu** and **Xu Beihong**, and celebrated masters who made remarkable breakthroughs within tradition such as **Qi Baishi** and **Zhang Daqian**. Altogether, 22 artists are featured in this exhibition.

The exhibition opening was held on 11 April. The officiating guests included: **Mr LAU Kong Wah**, JP, Secretary for Home Affairs; **Mr TANG Ying Yen, Henry**, GBM, GBS, JP, Chairman of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Board; **Mr LAU Ip Keung, Kenneth**, BBS, MH, JP, Member of Legislative Council and Chairman of Heung Yee Kuk; **Prof LEE Chack Fan**, GBS, SBS, JP, Director of Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole, The University of Hong Kong; **Dr WONG Man Li**, BBS, JP, Chairman of Man Wah Holdings Limited; **Dr MA Ho Man, Hoffman**, BBS, Executive Chairman of Hong Kong Culture Association; **Mr CHEUNG Wing Lam, Linus**, JP, Member of the Board of Directors of Sotheby's; **Mr LUI Yiu Tung, Francis**, Vice Chairman of K. Wah Group; and **Dr SUEN Siu Man, Simon**, BBS, JP, Founding Chairman of Simon Suen Foundation.

The paintings on display range from the early Qing Dynasty to modern times, all selected from Dr Simon Suen’s Yitao Collection. They illustrate how Chinese artists portray an ideal world that is more enchanting and delightful than reality through weaving techniques, themes and embodied meanings together to form beautiful painted dreams.

Among the exhibits lies a rare masterpiece, **“Scenery of Tiaoxi”**, by Shitao which stands over 3.5 meters high. The name of “Yitao Collection” is also derived from this masterpiece, which is indicative of the owner’s love for this painting. “Scenery of Tiaoxi” illustrates Mi Fu’s “Tiaoxi Poems”. Mi Fu was a famous calligrapher of the Northern Song Dynasty who once travelled to Tiaoxi to visit a friend and composed poems during his journey. Unlike traditional compositions that feature an entire scene, this painting shows only a partial view: Shitao selected best parts of a scenery for his painting and omitted the remaining parts. He also employed different ink tones in a controlled manner to avoid a disorderly visual effect. This rare masterpiece was deeply appreciated by the acclaimed sinologist Prof Jao Tsung-I. He specifically composed a superscription for the painting. “Scenery of Tiaoxi” was once collected by Zhu Qizhan, a modern Chinese painter, and has not been revealed to the public for many years. The display of “Scenery of Tiaoxi” in this exhibition is certainly good news for art lovers.

“Ink Flowers”, by Bada Shanren, is over 3 meters long and is divided into seven closely connected units, showcasing the artist’s extraordinary skills of composition. Xu Beihong's **"Pine"** is based on western realistic sketching techniques, with the aim of reforming traditional Chinese painting. In the work **"Cock and Cockscomb"**, Qi Baishi skillfully conveys the auspicious meaning of rising in official rank. Zhang Daqian employed colour and ink-splashing techniques to create his dream-like **"Autumn Landscape"**. Fu Baoshi applied his self-developed texture strokes in his **“Mount Taihua in Autumn”**.

Mr Yeung Chun Tong, Director of the Sun Museum said, “Using a variety of techniques, these artists have all constructed very special compositions that convey specific meanings and emotions. Their paintings may not always reflect the real world that they saw, but they definitely reveal what they thought and felt.”

Dr SUEN Siu Man, Simon, is the owner of Yitao Collection. Dr Suen is passionate about art and Chinese culture and has been collecting masterpieces of Chinese paintings from different periods as a way to preserve Chinese culture and traditional art. He founded Simon Suen Foundation and Sun Museum so as to promote Chinese arts and culture and give back to the society.

Dr Suen remarked, “Since its establishment in May 2015, Sun Museum has organised 25 exhibitions and 75 cultural talks and serves as a platform for the public to appreciate arts and culture. Through the museum, my aspiration of promoting art and Chinese culture has turned into reality. I love art because it encompasses philosophy,

aesthetics, literature and history, and it represents the pinnacle of a culture's achievement. I believe collecting art is more about guardianship and less about possession – we are taking care of the art pieces for later generations! It is truly my pleasure to share parts of my collection with the public through this exhibition. I hope everyone would enjoy the exhibits and discover the quintessence of Chinese culture they embody.”

Concurrently on display is an exhibition "**Ink Art: A Different Perspective**", co-organized with i-dArt, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs). The exhibition, which runs until 15 June 2019, presents a total of 30 artworks by 10 members of the Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex, including ink paintings, calligraphy works and watercolours.

Sun Museum is housed on the 4th floor, SML Tower, 165 Hoi Bun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Opening Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Close on Sunday, Monday and Public Holidays. Free Entry.

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About Sun Museum

Sun Museum, a non-profit institution established by Simon Suen Foundation is housed on the 4th floor of the SML Tower along the Kwun Tong waterfront (165 Hoi Bun Road) with a total area of 12,500 sq. ft. It fosters the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong and China through organizing feature exhibitions, seminars and other educational activities. Mr. Yeung Chun Tong is the Director of Sun Museum.

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About i-dArt of TWGHs

Art is a barrier-free common language. To appreciate beautiful things and to do creation freely are the inborn abilities and rights of human beings. The focus of art

appreciation should be on the power that the creators give to their creations and also their abilities, instead of their intelligence or physical ability. Holding such beliefs, in 2010, the Rehabilitation Service Section of TWGHs set up the community inclusive gallery 'i-dArt' to connect people with different abilities through arts, to explore and develop more possibilities and creative spaces in the community, so as to increase the interactions between various social groups and art media lovers in the community.