

# Hong Kong Art Week 2019 Opening Party Speech

By Dr. Johnny Hon, Hong Kong, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

Thank you, Catherine and Fabio.

Ladies and Gentlemen  
Fellow Art Lovers

Good evening,

It is really a pleasure to be here this evening in support of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association and to launch the 7th annual Hong Kong Art Week, one of my favourite festivals in Hong Kong's rich and diverse calendar.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association. For their continuous commitment to further enrich the ever-growing Hong Kong art community. And for bringing our local Hong Kong art galleries and the international art community onto a common platform with a shared goal to inspire art appreciation and understanding throughout our society.

I have been a lover of the arts since a very young age. Perhaps because my mother was an actress and I grew up in an environment that instilled a fascination for art and film. But whether it was performing arts, such as theatre and film, or visual arts, I have always been drawn to the deep importance and profound connection that art has with history, culture and society. I am a firm believer that exposure to, and appreciation of, art is very important for a healthy society and should be a part of everyday life.

Over recent years, and with this notion in mind, I have become ever more dedicated to my involvement in the arts. Not only through expanding my own personal knowledge and appreciation but also through my company, The Global Group. In 1997, when I first established Global Group, my ultimate goal was always to find ways to help people and the community around us - both in establishing successful businesses and also on a personal developmental level.

And now, over twenty years and much experience later, I am pleased to be able to say that , while successfully assisting many clients in raising funds and growing their businesses, we have also established avenues to enhance lifestyle and well-being, not only for our clients but also, and most importantly, for the Hong Kong society as a whole.

I am delighted to share with you that Global has recently hosted a series of art events exploring different cultural perspectives - an important step towards creating a community where each of us feels connected. It is with the collaboration of Areteos Art Space in Hollywood Road, Central, and with my position as the Honorary Consul of Grenada, that we have successfully launched an initiative to join hands with various countries, and often in collaboration with the various consulates in Hong Kong, to display outstanding art works from around the world.

To date, we have hosted four exceptional exhibitions highlighting the work of talented and renowned artists from Argentina, Mongolia, South Africa, and Cuba, all as part of our commitment to bridge the new frontiers between various cultures and artists worldwide. Global has been committed to providing a unique platform for Hong Kong society to view art from different cultures, thereby enriching minds and inspiring audiences with fresh creative and aesthetic cultural viewpoints. We are very pleased with the direction in which this initiative is headed and we look forward to future artistic collaborations. I would like to invite everyone here to visit Areteos Art Space for future exhibitions.

It is very exciting to witness the progression of the Hong Kong art scene as we all work together to raise up our city as one of the world's dynamic artistic and cultural centres. I look forward to enjoying the fascinating line-up of events for Hong Kong Art Week, as I am sure you do too.

Thank you for listening. Enjoy your evening and have a splendid Art Week.