



Press Release

Treasures from books
Extraordinary Encounters: Malou Hung's Bookplates

May 18, 2021

The Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) and The University of Hong Kong Libraries will present *Extraordinary Encounters: Malou Hung's Bookplates* from May 18 to June 6, 2021. Curated by Sarah Ng, the exhibition employs a cross-cultural perspective for visualising Chinese material culture through the bookplates (*ex libris*) of celebrated Hong Kong artist Malou Oi Yee Hung.

A bookplate is generally a small print placed on the inside front cover or free endpaper of a book to show ownership. In an era in which the popularity of print media continues to decline, the practice of including bookplates is fast becoming a dying art. *Extraordinary Encounters* refers to the surprising ways in which we still encounter bookplates during the act of reading. Alternatively, it stands for the remarkable encounters possible when viewing Hung's images, which go well beyond the general expectations of standard bookplates. These encounters have the ability to transport audiences across time and space, allowing for the appreciation of ancient artworks and diverse Hong Kong neighbourhoods as viewed from the artist's extraordinary perspective.

Bookplates have been appreciated for centuries as technically refined and beautiful artworks, as well as critical materials for learning about the history of art, printing, books and design. Many of the works on display here pay homage to everyday life in Hong Kong's bygone eras—informed by elements of traditional Chinese culture—which forms an invaluable resource for the study of Chinese art and Hong Kong heritage.

An opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at HKUL today (May 18).

The exhibition also highlights historical objects from UMAG's collection, and items displayed online as part of a complementary virtual exhibition. The exhibition's five sections range from daily life in bygone eras to the material culture and craftsmanship of Imperial China: Rituals and Daily Life, Collected, Superfluous Things, Revisiting and Craftsmanship. The bookplates are juxtaposed with items from UMAG's permanent collection and printmaking tools.

For more images and captions of the exhibit items, please click [here](#).

Curator-led Guided Tour

Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 11:45am–12:15pm

Venue: Atrium, 2/F, Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam

Language: English

Speaker: Sarah Ng, Curator of UMAG, HKU

Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3uY2EJs>





Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)*

Time: 2:00pm–2:30pm

Venue: Atrium, 2/F Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam

Language: Cantonese

Speaker: Sarah Ng, Curator of UMAG, HKU

Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3uY2EJs>

*Participating artist Malou Oi Yee Hung will be present for a Q&A session after the guided tour.

Workshop: DIY Printing Bookplates

Date: May 22, 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 2:45pm–5:00pm

Venue: Workshop Room, G/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

Language: Cantonese

Instructor: Cheng Taigo, Co-founder of The Hong Kong Exlibris Association

Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3uZgg7a>

Date: May 29, 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 2:45pm–5:00pm

Venue: Workshop Room, G/F, Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

Language: Cantonese

Instructor: Cheng Taigo, Co-founder of The Hong Kong Exlibris Association

Registration required: <https://bit.ly/3uZgg7a>

Details of the Exhibition (Main Library)

Period: May 18, 2021 (Tuesday) to June 6, 2021 (Sunday)

Opening Hours:

8:30am–11:00pm (Monday to Friday)

8:30am–7:00pm (Saturday)

10:00am–7:00pm (Sunday)

Please refer to the HKU Libraries website for public holidays' opening hours:

<https://lib.hku.hk/general/hours/index.html>

Venue: Atrium, 2/F Main Library, HKU, Pokfulam

Tel: (852) 3917 2203

Email: libis@hku.hk

Admission: Free

Website: <https://lib.hku.hk>

Other enquiries (UMAG)

Tel: (852) 2241 5500

Email: museum@hku.hk

Admission: Free

Website: <https://www.umag.hku.hk/en/>





Connect with UMAG on social media:

Facebook: http://bit.ly/umag_facebook

Instagram: @umag_hku, #UMAG

Weibo: @香港大學美術博物館 UMAG

YouTube: http://bit.ly/umag_youtube

LinkedIn: http://bit.ly/umag_linkedin

Connect with HKUL on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hkulevents/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/HKULibrariesCollection>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hkulibrary/>

About UMAG

UMAG was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was originally established as the Fung Ping Shan Library in 1932 in honour of its benefactor. For more information on UMAG, please [click here](#).

Media enquiries

UMAG Manager of Public Engagement and Education Elena Cheung, Tel: (852) 2241 5512, Email: elenac@hku.hk

UMAG Programme Officer Chelsea Choi, Tel: (852) 2241 5509, Email: cchelsea@hku.hk

UMAG Curatorial Assistant Jasmin Lin, Tel: (852) 2241 5500, Email: jasminl@hku.hk

~ End ~





For use of copyrighted images, please cite acknowledgement as:
“Image Courtesy of Malou Oi Yee Hung”.

Artist Biography

Malou Oi Yee HUNG has more than 30 years of experience in creating bookplates and printmaking. In addition to her work with bookplates, she is the author of the printmaking manual *Etching Techniques & the Art of Ex-libris* (Taiwan, 2009), which has become one of the most influential technical manuals on printmaking. Her works have been widely exhibited and collected by museums and libraries in various cities throughout China, Taiwan and Europe, and many of her works have received major international prizes, including *A Hakka Village*, which received Honorable Mention in 2016, and is now in the permanent collection of the Jinling Library, China; and the *Jiufan* series, which also received an Honorable Mention at the FISEA Congress in Spain 2014, and at the 24th international Biennial of Small Graphic Forms and Ex libris, Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland.

