

Arts

Creatives

Humans

2025 Symposium, Tokyo

Panelist's Topic (Tentative)

11th November 2025

The Past –

Guardians of Heritage: Preserving and Connecting through Traditional Art

Democratizing Masterpieces: Innovative Approaches to Bringing Iconic Art into Everyday Life (Ms Yukari Suzuki | Founder, Arte & L' Art Tokyo)

Yukari will share her work and introduce how Arte & L'Art brings the transformative power of art into everyday life by making masterpieces accessible in hospitals, offices, and public spaces through curated subscriptions and tailor-made installations. Inspired by the vision of reviving the excitement of viewing iconic works up close, her company utilizes advanced digital archive technology from leading museums, such as Italy's Uffizi Gallery, to democratize heritage and culture, offering authentic experiences beyond the limitations of traditional galleries. She will discuss her commitment to low-carbon, sustainable art integration, and highlight collaborations with renowned museums, as well as the psychological and emotional benefits that art brings to shared environments.

Restoring Value and Visibility: Advancing Oriental Art Recognition in the Contemporary East Asian Art Scene (Ms Kaya Ozawa | Collection Consultant, Aura Gallery Tokyo)

Kaya will address how traditional and contemporary oriental arts from Japan and Greater China region are often undervalued in the global and regional art market, highlighting examples of cultural bias and underappreciation. She will share her gallery's efforts to travel and showcase these works across East Asia, such as Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, Beijing, Taipei etc., focusing on strategies for cultural sustainability, creative advocacy, and building networks that give oriental artists and art traditions the recognition they deserve. This creates a platform for discussing both market and cultural barriers and new opportunities for promoting the value of East Asian art.

Revitalizing Cantonese Opera: Innovating Traditions and Connecting Cultures on the Global Stage (Mr Henry Cheng | Co-Founder & Director, One Table Two Chairs Foundation Hong Kong)

Henry explores how innovative approaches can breathe new life into the centuries-old tradition of Cantonese opera. By blending fresh elements such as interactive children's theatre and cross-media collaborations, his work makes this rich performing art form accessible and engaging for new generations in Hong Kong and beyond. Under his leadership, the foundation has actively brought Cantonese opera to international audiences, most notably through successful showcases at global festivals like the Edinburgh Fringe in 2024 and 2025, where creative adaptations helped bridge Eastern heritage with Western appreciation. Henry's efforts illustrate how combining tradition with innovation is critical for cultural sustainability and for propelling Cantonese opera onto the global stage.

The Present –

Creative Crossroads: Innovation in Contemporary Design, Creativity & Industries

Redefining Product Design for Sustainability: Universities' Role and the Future of Circular Materials, Modularity, and Lifecycle Innovation (Mr Patrick Lee | Honorary President, HKU Meicom Alumni Association; PhD Student & HK Tech 300, CityU & Founder & CEO, Invisible Tech)

Patrick will discuss how product designers are transforming sustainability by embedding circular design principles into every stage of product development. He will address the use of renewable or recycled materials, modular and adaptable structures, and lifecycle strategies that prioritize durability, repairability, and resource efficiency—minimizing waste and extending product longevity. Patrick will also highlight how university-led initiatives and academic-industry partnerships empower designers to pioneer innovations with real-world sustainability impact—enabling businesses to develop closed-loop systems, maximize resource value, and foster sustainable production and consumption across the economy.

Spatial Design for Human Wellbeing: Harmonious, Inclusive, and Social Connections (Mr Arthur Tang | Founder & Design Director, ARTTA Concept Studio)

Arthur will explore how human-centered spatial design elevates wellbeing and social sustainability by shaping harmonious environments that encourage inclusivity, community, and mental health. He will highlight the value of organic lines, nature-inspired palettes, and seasonal or sensory elements—such as flowing forms, tactile materials, and adaptive spaces—that foster connection to place and to others. Drawing from experience with residential and hospitality interiors, his approach emphasizes the integration of minimalist touches, artful layering, and thoughtful lighting to create settings that promote both serenity and engagement.

Borderless Architecture in Practice: Integrating Human Experience, Nature, and Heritage — Revitalizing Kominka for Contemporary Japan (Mr. Joe Jun Liao | Founder & CEP of EXP. / Principal, EXP.ARCHITECTURE | M.Arch, Harvard GSD)

Joe Jun Liao explores the philosophy of borderless architecture—design that dissolves boundaries between people, nature, and the built environment. His talk examines how flexible, adaptive spaces can connect individuals, communities, and ecosystems through human-centered design. Currently leading EXP.ARCHITECTURE's expansion in Japan as part of the wider EXP. ecosystem, Jun focuses on revitalizing kominka—traditional Japanese homes—by blending heritage preservation with contemporary living and sustainability. These projects breathe new life into rural landscapes, transforming historic structures into vibrant community spaces while retaining their timeless spirit. Through this work, Jun demonstrates how architecture can foster cross-cultural connections and contribute to rural renewal in modern Japan.

The Future –

Frontiers of Creativity: Technology and the New Creative Landscape for a Borderless Era

Technology Meets Imagination: Catalyzing Innovation and Business Through Tech-Driven and Human Design (Mr Mikkel Hansen | Visiting Lecturer, Central Saint Martins, UAL; Exco Member, UAL HK Alumni Association; Founder, Project Hong Kong)

Highlights the intersection of technology and creative industries, discussing practical strategies for fostering invention, scaling new ventures, and unlocking value through adaptive strategies that are relevant to our culture.

Mikkel champions the integration of technology, culture, design, and entrepreneurship — guiding clients to adopt interdisciplinary mindsets and apply relevant emerging technologies and solutions to practical and creative challenges. Through hands-on projects and collaborative learning with global clients, he leads a team of researchers, designers and strategists at Projct, bridging continuous learning and business to accelerate ventures and transform corporates across diverse industries. Mikkel, as a visiting lecturer at Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design (UAL), also shares his extensive industry expertise to inspire the next generation of creative leaders. He has worked and lived in New York, London, Paris, Singapore and, now, Hong Kong.

Tokenizing Japanese Creativity: Building the IP Capital Market for Web3 Cultural Assets (Mr Jerome Wong Founder, City Protocol CP; Former Co-founder & CBO, Everest Ventures Group EVG)

Jerome will share his vision for City Protocol, focusing on how intellectual property from Japan's creative industries can be transformed into liquid, programmable assets via Web3 blockchain technology. He will explain how City Protocol is building an IP capital market that enables creators to tokenize films, art, protocols, and brands, making them accessible for trading and investment in the crypto economy. He will also discuss the implications of this new financial infrastructure—how it empowers communities to participate in cultural assets, brings revenue flows back to creators, and sets a new standard for sustainable growth and global reach in the digital age. By enabling broader participation in cultural assets and equitable revenue distribution, City Protocol fosters a sustainable creative economy where value circulates among creators, communities, and investors for long-term cultural and economic vitality.

Curatorial Practice for a Borderless Future: Intercultural Collaboration and Digital Possibility (Dr Wilson Yeung | Founder, Curatorial Ensemble; PhD, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; Collaborator, Independent Curators International New York)

Drawing from his international research and projects, Wilson will explore how curatorial practice is evolving for a borderless and sustainable future, focusing on the opportunities created by intercultural collaboration and digital innovation such as AI-driven curation, data-informed creative exchange, and intelligent archiving systems that bridge artistic communities across cultures, institutions, and geographies to foster access and long-term impact, while highlighting how curatorial strategies—through inclusive dialogue and thoughtful integration of technology—can democratize participation, reinforce creative ecosystems, and ensure that emerging models of collaboration remain resilient, ethical, and meaningful in a rapidly changing digital world.