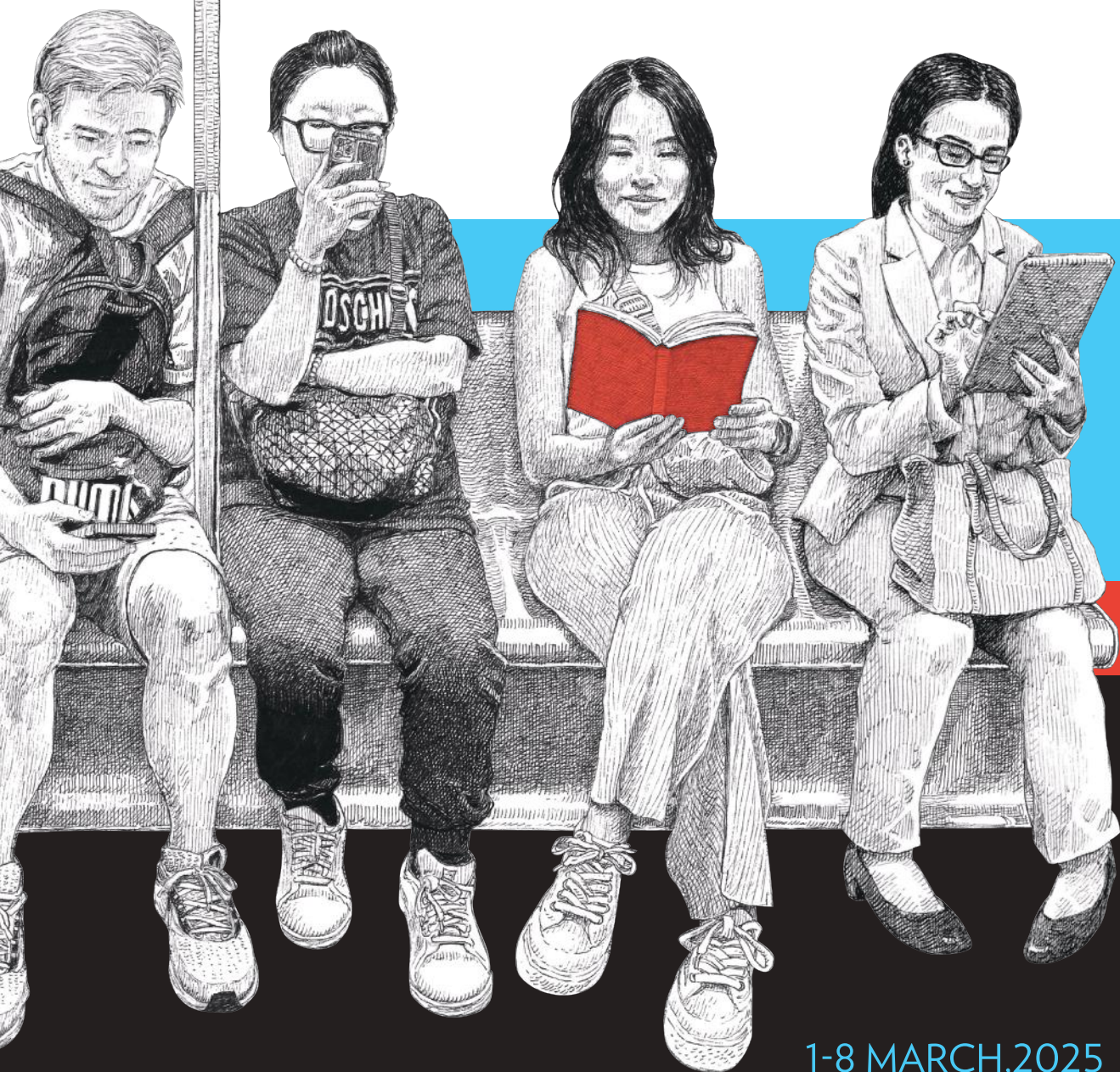




Hong Kong International  
Literary Festival  
香港國際文學節



1-8 MARCH, 2025

**INTO THE FUTURE: STORIES FOR TOMORROW**

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INTO THE FUTURE





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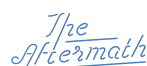
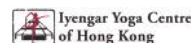
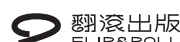
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STORIES FOR TOMORROW

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Hong Kong International Literary Festival, celebrating this year's theme, "Into the Future: Stories for Tomorrow." This festival is a tribute to the limitless power of imagination, the art of storytelling, and the enduring importance of reading in shaping our lives and futures.

Stories have always connected us—across time, place, and culture—helping us to dream, reflect, and reimagine the world. Here in Hong Kong, a city defined by its unique cultural landscape and dynamic energy, we are reminded of how storytelling bridges diverse perspectives and brings people together.

In today's technology-driven world, reading and storytelling remain essential: they nurture creativity, expand our horizons, and inspire empathy. We are proud to present a vibrant program featuring writers and storytellers from around the globe and right here in Hong Kong.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, patrons, and partners for making this festival possible, and to you, our audience, for keeping the magic of stories alive.

Let your imagination take flight, and may these stories inspire your tomorrows.

Bonny & Jessica  
Co-Chairs

INTO THE FUTURE





# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers, Writers, and Storytellers of Hong Kong,

Into the Future: Stories for Tomorrow

What will the future of reading and storytelling look like?

As an avid reader, I am curious about how the world and our reading habits will evolve. I love a book, a real book, with paper pages, and a cover to turn back to when I'm pausing between chapters; to contemplate a fresh plot twist, or the abrupt death of a character, or a tender moment that has brought me to tears, or a slice of comedy gold.

While others have taken to e-books, or scroll through devices to get the latest news and stories found across the web, I find holding tactile tomes and scented pages relax my computer weary eyes after a long day at work. Finding time to write and meet with my fellow storytellers for monthly critique meetings has enriched my life, has led to friendships, and thought-provoking conversations. A few years back, when we all had to meet online, it didn't feel right. My concentration floundered and my creativity waned. I longed for the moment we could gather again, across a table, to talk books, plots, voice, character and all things that go into crafting, or simply enjoying, the literary arts.

As we move forward into the future, I hope our festival emotes a warm and inviting spirit for all our attendees. I hope you leave inspired and want to talk about the stories you've heard. I hope you consider writing a poem inside a welcoming notebook. I hope you buy a book and walk your fingers through the pages. I hope you consider joining us for our 25th anniversary celebration in March 2026, when we will find out together what the future of stories will look like.

Thank you for joining us and making our literary community a friendly and welcoming place to read, think, and talk with each other... amongst some really fabulous books!

With gratitude,  
Laura Mannering

# ABOUT HKILF 2025

## INTO THE FUTURE: STORIES FOR TOMORROW

This year's festival will embrace a new age of technology that is rapidly changing the publishing industry and the world of books. Readers, writers, and storytellers will attend talks and discussions around the city, to provide opportunities to share thoughts on how to embrace AI, or maybe to disconnect from it, and discover how to plug in to our creativity. Join us as we celebrate and encourage Stories for Tomorrow.

INTO THE FUTURE





# MODERATORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the moderators and interpreters for their invaluable contributions and dedication in facilitating the inspiring conversations and discussions.

## MODERATORS

Anasuya Sanyal  
Angela Mackay  
Benita Chick  
Cat Nelson  
Christopher DeWolf  
Cruzanne Macalligan  
Daniella Lopez  
Deepa Jivan  
Diana Wu David  
Elle Kwan  
Erica Fong  
George Dovas  
Gladys Liu  
Henrik Hoeg

Innocent Mutanga  
J Daniel Alam  
James Zimmerman  
Jess Cheung  
Jemma Daley  
Jo Lusby  
Karen Koh  
Krizia Li  
Mary Foxworth  
Maureen Tai  
Michelle Garnaut  
Paul French  
Paul Mottram  
Rachel Ip

Rachel Smith  
Rebecca Brosnan  
Rina Hiranand  
Rinkoo Ramchandani  
Ritu Hemnani  
Siew Fong Y  
Sun Man Tseng  
Sylvia Yu Friedman  
Treena Nairne  
Victoria Finlay  
Voon Siang Lee

## INTERPRETERS

Ikumi Yoshida

Soomin Park



# EVENT CALENDAR

INTO THE FUTURE

Date	23 Feb (Sun)	1 Mar (Sat)			
Venue	Wyndham Social	Fringe Underground	Fringe Jockey Club Studio Theatre	Fringe Dairy	Others
8:00am - 8:30am					
8:30am - 9:00am					
9:00am - 9:30am					
9:30am - 10:00am					
10:00am - 10:30am				<b>Veronica Llorca-Smith</b> The Anti-Procrastinator: Mastering The Art of Getting Things Done	
10:30am - 11:00am			<b>Kaitlin Chan, Andreas Von Buddenbrock &amp; Bryan Bentley</b> Narratives of Healing: Exploring Storytelling & Creative Arts		<b>African Center Hong Kong</b> African Drum Storytelling
11:00am - 11:30am		<b>Kevin Chong</b> The Double Life of Benson Yu			
11:30am - 12:00noon					
12:00noon - 12:30pm				<b>Patrick Holland</b> Oblivion: High Finance, Prostitution, and Political Intrigue of East Asia	
12:30pm - 1:00pm			<b>Insuk Kim</b> A Trailblazing Voice of the Korean 386 Generation: Celebrating Women Writers		
1:00pm - 1:30pm		<b>Tony Banham</b> The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru: An Oscars Movie Contender			
1:30pm - 2:00pm					<b>明泰 Tsz Lok Cheng</b> Unveiling Hong Kong's Funeral Industry and Death Rituals (English)
2:00pm - 2:30pm				<b>黃怡 Wong Yi</b> 過去與現在，地景與奇想： 小說和古蹟裡的中環歷史	
2:30pm - 3:00pm			<b>Matthew Wong Foreman</b> Sunset at Lion Rock		
3:00pm - 3:30pm		<b>Jan Lee, Matthew Friedman &amp; Nalok Lok</b> Stories that Shape the Future of Society			
3:30pm - 4:00pm					
4:00pm - 4:30pm	<b>Brian Kwok</b> Making Neon Lights in Hong Kong			<b>Yeoh Jo-Ann</b> Deplorable Conversations with Cats and Other Distractions	
4:30pm - 5:00pm			<b>Vince Siu, Page Richards &amp; Sheung-King</b> The Intersection of AI in Creative Storytelling		
5:00pm - 5:30pm		<b>Benny Chia, Sophia Hotung, Wong Yi &amp; Christopher DeWolf</b> Exploring HK Culture through Words & Pictures			
5:30pm - 6:00pm					
6:00pm - 6:30pm				<b>Aube Rey Lescure</b> River East, River West: Identity, Race, and Belonging in Modern China	
6:30pm - 7:00pm			<b>HK Stories</b> Top Notch		
7:00pm - 7:30pm					
7:30pm - 8:00pm				<b>Jan Lee &amp; Steve Willis</b> Defying Futility: The Fairhaven Stories	
8:00pm - 8:30pm					
8:30pm - 9:00pm					
9:00pm - 9:30pm					
9:30pm - 10:00pm					



# EVENT CALENDAR

STORIES FOR TOMORROW

2 Mar (Sun)					3 Mar (Mon)	Date
Fringe Underground	Fringe Jockey Club Studio Theatre	Fringe Dairy	Wyndham Social	Others	Others	Venue
						8:00am - 8:30am
						8:30am - 9:00am
				Family Fun Meet the Authors		9:00am - 9:30am
		Namita Moolani Mehra Dreaming Beyond the Pages				9:30am - 10:00am
Colin Urwin Songs & Stories for the Whole Family	Pim Wangtechawat The Moon Represents My Heart					10:00am - 10:30am
						10:30am - 11:00am
		Deborah Abela Writers are Troublemakers	Benson Shum Illustrative Workshop for Kids		11:30am - 12:00noon	
劉偉霖 William Lau 三島由紀夫百年回顧： 從文學到影像的啟示				明泰 Tsz Lok Cheng Unveiling Hong Kong's Funeral Industry and Death Rituals (Cantonese)	Pim Ng Let Your Body Tell a Story	12:00noon - 12:30pm
	Eric Huang, Alka Joshi & Jo Lusby The Future of Publishing					12:30pm - 1:00pm
		Benny Chia Life on the Fringe				1:00pm - 1:30pm
			陳曦成 Hei Shing Chan The World of Books			2:00pm - 2:30pm
	Pim Wangtechawat, Kevin Chong, Yeoh Jo-Ann & Naz Kutub Exploring the Boundaries of Speculative Fiction					
		Stephanie Sy Building Dreams: Writing from the Heart				3:00pm - 3:30pm
Dariusz (Darek) Wójcik The Atlas of Finance			Rachel Smith Creative Book Binding Workshop	Alka Joshi An Afternoon with Alka Joshi, International Bestselling Author of the Jaipur Trilogy	Josée Bisaillon Deep Dive Into Creativity: Sketchbook Explorations with Mixed Media	4:00pm - 4:30pm
	Sylvia Yu Friedman & Matthew Friedman Fearless Advocacy: Fighting Modern Slavery and Empowering Change					
		Michelle Garnuat, Paul French & Karolina Pawlik Tribute to Lynn Pan				5:00pm - 5:30pm
						5:30pm - 6:00pm
	Hong Kong Writers Circle 20 <sup>th</sup> Anthology Book Launch				Asako Yuzuki The Real and Make-believe Worlds of Japanese Crime	6:00pm - 6:30pm
						6:30pm - 7:00pm
						7:00pm - 7:30pm
						7:30pm - 8:00pm
						8:00pm - 8:30pm
						8:30pm - 9:00pm
						9:00pm - 9:30pm
						9:30pm - 10:00pm

# EVENT CALENDAR

INTO THE FUTURE

Date	4 Mar (Tue)	5 Mar (Wed)			6 Mar (Thu)	
Venue	Central Library / Others	Central	Central Library / Other	Others	Others	Social Room
8:00am - 8:30am					<b>Chin Huat Ong, Aneeta Sundararaj &amp; Claire Betita de Guzman</b> IWD Breakfast Panel: Gender Roles in Fiction	
8:30am - 9:00am						
9:00am - 9:30am						
9:30am - 10:00am						
10:00am - 10:30am	<b>Georgina Challen &amp; Yoshiko Nakano</b> Meiji Graves Cemetery Walking Tour					
10:30am - 11:00am						
11:00am - 11:30am						
11:30am - 12:00noon						
12:00noon - 12:30pm				<b>Bernardine Evaristo</b> Lunch with Bernardine Evaristo		
12:30pm - 1:00pm						
1:00pm - 1:30pm						
1:30pm - 2:00pm						
2:00pm - 2:30pm	<b>Iosi Havilio</b> Natures of Fun: Sonic Meditation Creative Writing					
2:30pm - 3:00pm						
3:00pm - 3:30pm						
3:30pm - 4:00pm						
4:00pm - 4:30pm						
4:30pm - 5:00pm						
5:00pm - 5:30pm						
5:30pm - 6:00pm						
6:00pm - 6:30pm						
6:30pm - 7:00pm	<b>Asako Yuzuki</b> Butter: A Novel of Food and Murder		<b>Steven Schwankert</b> The Six: Untold Stories of Chinese Titanic Survivors		<b>Denise Tang &amp; Wing Yan Ng</b> Unheard Stories of Older Lesbians and Bisexual Women in HK	<b>Peel Street Poetry</b> Poetry Performances: Future Expressions
7:00pm - 7:30pm		<b>WIPS</b> Imprint 23: Women's Voices				
7:30pm - 8:00pm			<b>Claire &amp; Aneeta</b> Womens, Words & Wine Book Club			
8:00pm - 8:30pm						
8:30pm - 9:00pm						
9:00pm - 9:30pm						
9:30pm - 10:00pm		<b>Aigerim Tazhi, Krystyna Dąbrowska &amp; others</b> OutLoud Poetry Night: Into the Future				



# EVENT CALENDAR

7 Mar (Fri)		8 Mar (Sat)			24 Mar (Mon)	Date
The Executive Centre	Others	Soho House Studio	Soho House Yellow Room	Other	Christie's	Venue
						8:00am - 8:30am
						8:30am - 9:00am
						9:00am - 9:30am
						9:30am - 10:00am
		<b>M.T. Anderson</b> Nicked: The True Quest to Steal the Mystical Corpse of a Long-Dead Saint				10:00am - 10:30am
						10:30am - 11:00am
			<b>Chin Huat Ong &amp; Claire Betita de Guzman</b> Exploring Fictional Drama	<b>建築宅男 ArchiPodcastHK</b> 城市之美，或不美？	<b>Enid Tsui</b> Hong Kong's Future as a Global Art Centre	11:00am - 11:30am
		<b>Jennifer Wong &amp; ArChan Chan</b> Woks to Wonders: Exploring Chinese Cuisine				11:30am - 12:00noon
						12:00noon - 12:30pm
	<b>Madeleine Gray</b> Green Dot: Lunch with Madeleine Gray					12:30pm - 1:00pm
		<b>Michelle Jungmin Bang</b> Sun & Ssukgat	<b>Connie Wang</b> Oh My Mother: The Immigrant Mother / Daughter Relationship			1:00pm - 1:30pm
						1:30pm - 2:00pm
						2:00pm - 2:30pm
						2:30pm - 3:00pm
		<b>Chin Huat Ong, Madeline Gray, Stewart McKay</b> Queer Narratives in Fiction				3:00pm - 3:30pm
			<b>Matthew Wong Foreman, Aube Rey Lescure &amp; Connie Wang</b> Roots and Reflections			3:30pm - 4:00pm
		<b>Bernardine Evaristo</b> Manifesto: On Never Giving Up				4:00pm - 4:30pm
	<b>Sonia Leung</b> Writing Workshop: Courageous Confessions					4:30pm - 5:00pm
			<b>Aneeta Sundararaj</b> Tapestry of the Mind and Other Stories			5:00pm - 5:30pm
		<b>Paul French</b> The Shanghai Socialite: Wallis Warfield Spencer				5:30pm - 6:00pm
<b>Jennifer Wong, Billy Potts &amp; Connie Wang</b> Exploring the Chinese Diaspora						6:00pm - 6:30pm
						6:30pm - 7:00pm
	<b>Pete, Mary Chan &amp; Keith Chun</b> The Art and Strategy of Publishing					7:00pm - 7:30pm
						7:30pm - 8:00pm
						8:00pm - 8:30pm
						8:30pm - 9:00pm
						9:00pm - 9:30pm
						9:30pm - 10:00pm

STORIES FOR TOMORROW

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Author of the Jaipur Trilogy

The Real and Make-believe **52**  
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Butter: A Novel of Food **56**  
and Murder

Lunch with Bernardine Evaristo **57**

Manifesto: On Never Giving Up **77**

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Exploring Storytelling &  
Creative Arts

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Exploring HK Culture through **29**  
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Top Notch

三島由紀夫百年回顧：  
從文學到影像的啟示

Life on the Fringe

The Atlas of Finance

The Six: Untold Stories of  
Chinese Titanic Survivors

Exploring the Chinese Diaspora **67**

Nicked: The True Quest to **69**  
Steal the Mystical Corpse of a  
Long-Dead Saint

Woks to Wonders: Exploring **72**  
Chinese Cuisine

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Hong Kong's Future as a **80**  
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Cats and Other Distractions

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Race, and Belonging in

Modern China

Hong Kong Writers Circle 20th **50**  
Anthology Book Launch

Unheard Stories of Older **64**  
Lesbians and Bisexual Women  
in Hong Kong

Green Dot: Lunch with **65**  
Madeleine Gray

Exploring Fictional Drama: **70**  
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Oh My Mother: The Immigrant **74**  
Mother / Daughter Relationship

Queer Narratives in Literature **75**

Roots and Reflections: **76**  
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Complexities of the Human  
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# EVENTS BY SECTIONS

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- Stories that Shape the Future of Society 26
- The Intersection of AI in Creative Storytelling 28
- Defying Futility: The Fairhaven Stories 32
- The Moon Represents My Heart 36
- The Future of Publishing 40
- Exploring the Boundaries of Speculative Fiction 43
- The Art and Strategy of Publishing 68

## CRIME/ LIFE/ DEATH

- Oblivion: High Finance, Prostitution, and Political Intrigue of East Asia 20
- Fearless Advocacy: Fighting Modern Slavery and Empowering Change 48
- Tribute to Lynn Pan 49

## FAMILY FUN/ CREATIVITY

- Songs & Stories for the Whole Family
- Family Fun - Meet the Authors
- Writers are Troublemakers
- Illustrative Workshop for Kids

## IWD

- A Trailblazing Voice of the Korean 386 Generation: Celebrating Women Writers
- Words, Women & Wine Book Club
- Imprint 23: Women's Voices
- IWD Breakfast Panel: Gender Roles in Fiction

## POETRY

- OutLoud Poetry Night: Into the Future
- Poetry Performances: Future Expressions

## WALKS/ WORKSHOPS

- Making Neon Lights in Hong Kong 15
- The Anti-Procrastinator: Mastering The Art of Getting Things Done 16
- African Drum Storytelling 19
- Unveiling Hong Kong's Funeral Industry and Death Rituals 23
- 過去與現在，地景與奇想：小說和古蹟裡的中環歷史 24
- Dreaming Beyond the Pages: The World of Books 33
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- Deep Dive Into Creativity: Sketchbook Explorations with Mixed Media 51
- Meiji Graves Cemetery Walking Tour 53
- Natures of Fun: Sonic Meditation Creative Writing 54
- Writing Workshop: Courageous Confessions 55
- 城市之美，或不美？ 66



# Jump into science

# 探索科學

# 7 – 25 April 2025

A free  
festival  
exploring  
science and  
the world  
around us

CROUCHER 科學周  
SCIENCE WEEK



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康樂及文化事務署  
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香港科學館  
HONG KONG  
SCIENCE MUSEUM





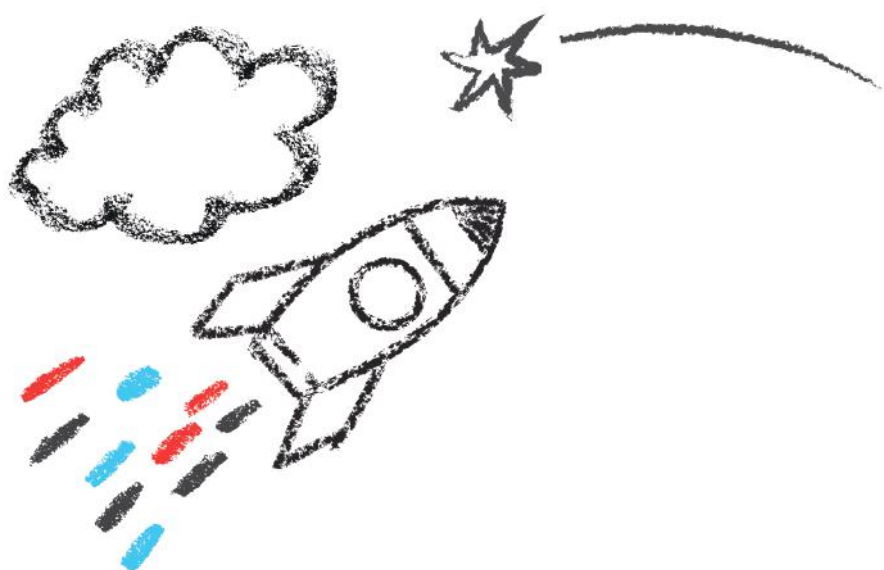
Hong Kong International  
Literary Festival  
香港國際文學節

# YOUNG READERS FESTIVAL 2025

青少年讀者節

24-28 FEBRUARY  
LOCAL SPEAKERS

3-7 MARCH  
INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS



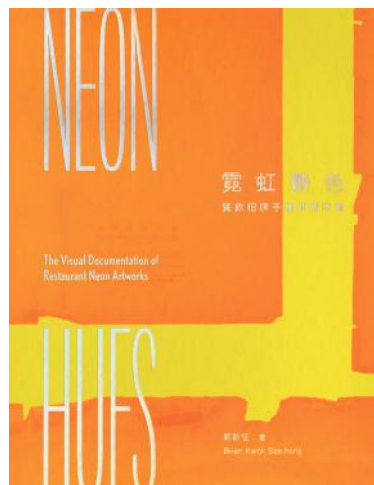
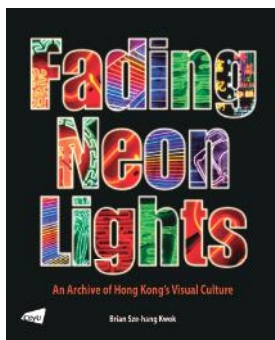
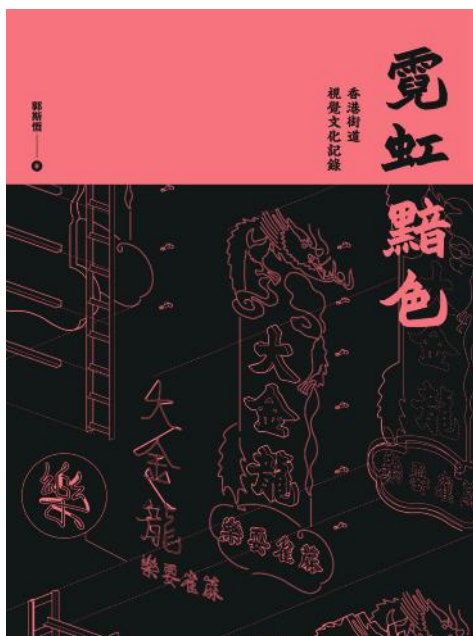
## Brian Kwok



Kwok Sze Hang, Brian is a design educator and visual culture scholar with a keen interest in visual ethnography and neon sign visual culture. He is renowned for his notable publications, including *I am a Street Ethnologist: Street Culture in Fa Yuen Street* (2017), *Fading of Hong Kong Neon Lights – The Archive of Hong Kong Visual Culture* (2018), *City of Scripts – The Craftsmanship of Vernacular Lettering in Hong Kong* (2020), *City of Scripts 2 — Hong Kong Type Designers* (2023), *Fading Neon Lights: An Archive of Hong Kong's Visual Culture* (2023), and *Neon Hues – The Visual Documentation of Restaurant Neon Artworks* (2024).

# MAKING NEON LIGHTS IN HONG KONG

Suspended above the bustling streets in a riot of color and intricate patterns, Hong Kong's neon signs are more than markers for businesses—they are cultural icons that evoke a deep sense of home. The workshop will introduce participants to the book which delves into the historical, socio-cultural, and artistic significance of Hong Kong's neon signs while creating your own piece of work to take home. Each participant can bring their laptop or a USB adaptor to provide power for the LED lights. Suitable for ages 12 and above.



📅 23 February (Sun)

🕒 4:00pm - 5:30pm

📍 Wyndham Social

💰 HKD \$248

★ Workshop

🗣️ English



33 WYNDHAM ST.

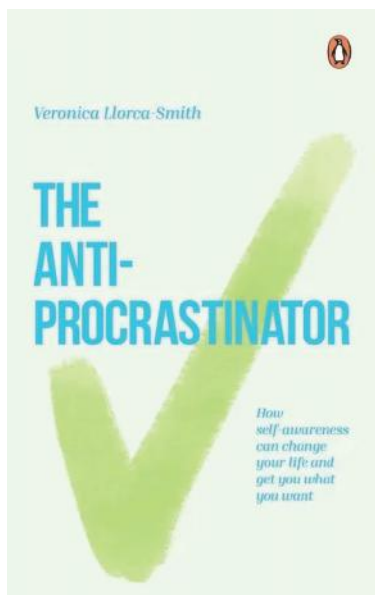
Presented with the support of Wyndham Social.

## Veronica Llorca-Smith



Veronica Llorca-Smith is a public speaker, author of 5 books and coach based in Hong Kong. During the pandemic, she left the corporate world to start a new career as a solopreneur. She uses her experience as a triathlete and global citizen as inspiration for her writing on growth mindset and inclusion. Her book *The Flight Home* won the 2024 Literary Titan Award and *The Anti-Procrastinator* is her first book with a major publishing house, Penguin Random House. Veronica has lived in 9 countries, speaks 6 languages and her most important job is CEM, Chief Executive Mom.

# THE ANTI-PROCRASTINATOR: MASTERING THE ART OF GETTING THINGS DONE



Whether you want to learn a new language, run a marathon, learn a new skill, or launch a business, *The Anti-Procrastinator* will show you that it's possible, but it starts and ends with you. Self-awareness is the name of the game. Veronica is turning her new book into a workshop to kiss procrastination goodbye. Come and discover more about yourself to lift your mental anchors and put up the productivity sails in your life. Thought-provoking, interactive and fun, this session will give you a boost of motivation to go from intention to action as you tackle your goals.

- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 10:00am - 11:15am
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Workshop
- 🗨 English

walks | workshops





## Andreas Von Buddenbrock



Andreas von Buddenbrock is a Swedish artist and freelance illustrator based in Hong Kong. He has collaborated with clients like AIA Group, and he illustrated the Guinness World Record-winning World's Largest Coloring Book.

## Kaitlin Chan



Kaitlin Chan is a Hong Kong-based cartoonist and gallery director. Her work has been featured in notable publications like The New Yorker and The Economist. She was shortlisted for the Cartoonist Studio Prize in 2021 and 2024.

## Bryan Bentley



Bryan Ervin Bentley is the Head of Content for 3D Modelling at CG Spectrum College of Digital Art and Animation. Previously, he led the Visual Effects Department at SCAD Hong Kong and worked at Industrial Light and Magic on award-winning films like *Rango*.

## hardcore fangirl



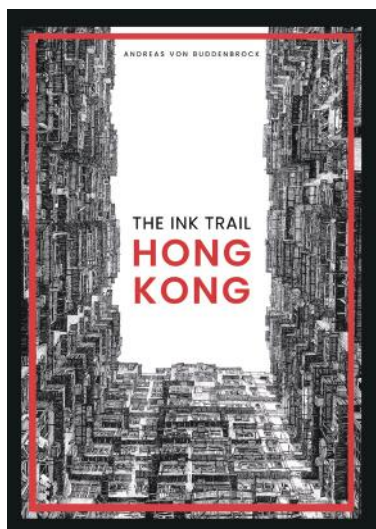
the early comics  
2020-22

kaitlin chan

# NARRATIVES OF HEALING: EXPLORING STORYTELLING & CREATIVE ARTS

This panel highlights the transformative power of storytelling and the creative arts in the journey of healing. The conversation will explore how narratives help individuals process trauma, find resilience, and foster emotional well-being through visual arts. Whether you're a storyteller, artist, or someone seeking connection, join us to explore how the arts can be a pathway to personal and collective healing.

(Moderator: Gladys Liu)



- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 10:30am - 11:45am
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 HKD \$128
- ★ Panel
- 🗣️ English

## Kevin Chong



Kevin Chong is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, most recently the novel *The Double Life of Benson Yu*, which was a finalist for the 2023 Scotiabank Giller Prize and named Best Book of Canadian Fiction by the CBC. His creative nonfiction and journalism have recently appeared in Time Magazine, Literary Hub, Montecristo, and the Globe and Mail. An associate professor at the University of British Columbia, he lives in Vancouver with his family.

# THE DOUBLE LIFE OF BENSON YU

This inventive work of metafiction blurs the lines between reality and storytelling as a graphic novelist battles to shape his narrative while unraveling his own troubled past. Set in a Chinatown housing project, the story centres on twelve-year-old Benny, his ailing grandmother, and Constantine, a quirky neighbour who claims to be a reincarnated samurai. When Benny's grandmother is hospitalised, he's reluctantly taken in by Constantine, forging an unexpected bond. But Yu, the narrator and creator of this tale, keeps interrupting—revealing cracks in the story and his own haunting secrets. A gripping exploration of memory, identity, and the power of storytelling. (Moderator: Krizia Li)

📅 1 March (Sat)

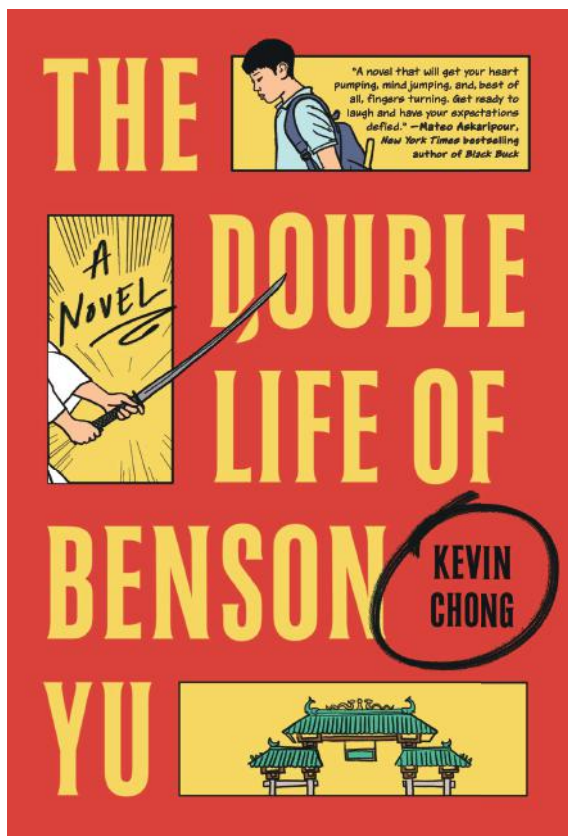
🕒 11:00am - 12:00noon

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

💰 HKD \$148

★ Talk

🗨️ English



fantasy | future | science



Presented with the support of Air Canada and Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao.

## Africa Center Hong Kong

Africa Center Hong Kong is a social enterprise that fosters value-creating interactions between African and non-African communities in Asia. We envision a future where Africa has an equal footing. Our mission is to rebrand blackness, connect communities, and raise black consciousness. We achieve this through various cultural exchange programs, such as food, arts and literature. We seek partnerships with schools, corporations, NGOs, and members of the public to conduct social impact programs.

## AFRICAN DRUM STORYTELLING



African drums drive narrative through their rhythms and patterns with a story unfolding. For example, varying drumming patterns combined with the different rhythms can be used to show specific words, phrases, or ideas. It's a unique form of storytelling with each beat or combination of beats sharing a meaning. Join for this interactive drum session perfect for all ages to come learn the art of storytelling through percussion. Guests are invited to stay for an optional authentic African lunch provided by the Africa Center as part of their regular programming.

- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 11:00am - 12:30pm
- 📍 Africa Centre
- 💰 Free
- ★ Performance
- 💬 English



In collaboration with Africa Center Hong Kong

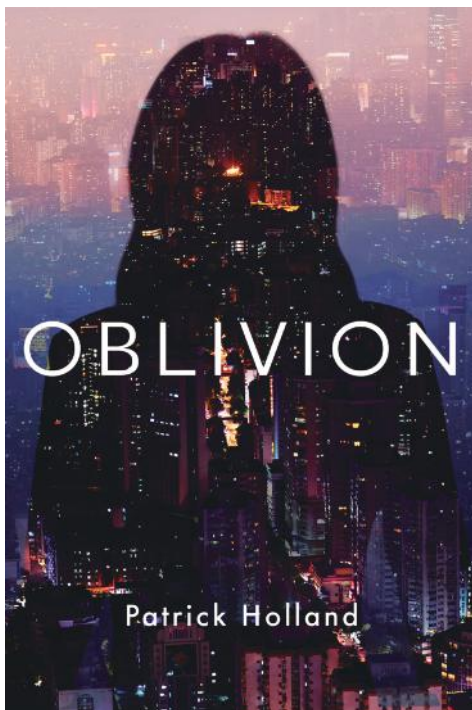


## Patrick Holland



Patrick Holland is an Australian novelist and short story writer. He is the author of eight books including *The Mary Smokes Boys* (2010), currently being made into a feature film, and his most recent novel *Oblivion* (2024). His work has been recognised by such as the Miles Franklin Award, the Dublin Literary Award, the International Scott Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and has been published, performed and broadcast in Australia, the USA, the UK and Ireland, Italy and Japan.

# OBLIVION: HIGH FINANCE, PROSTITUTION, AND POLITICAL INTRIGUE OF EAST ASIA



Patrick's 2024 novel *Oblivion* is lyrical and atmospheric. It's an impressionistic take on the world of high finance, prostitution, and the political intrigue of East Asia. As the influence of the West falls away, an unnamed narrator drifts through the East's floating world of non-places – chain hotels, airports, mega-cities – finalising often covert operations and deals. When he meets the enigmatic and beautiful Tien, a 21st-century floating world courtesan, he becomes involved with people and events that threaten his plan to escape life via various forms of oblivion. Evocative and sparsely written, in the tradition of *The Mary Smokes Boys*, this is a novel where the journey becomes the story, filled with acute observation, desire and dreams.

(Moderator: [Rebecca Brosnan](#))

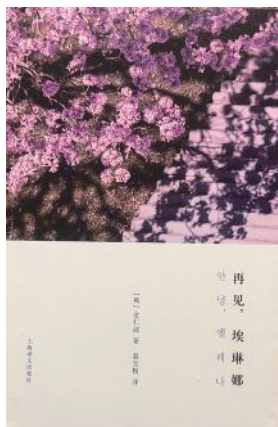
- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 12:00noon-1:00pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$148
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



## Insuk Kim



Insuk Kim is a South Korean novelist, short story writer with over ten novels and short story collections to her name. Her work explores themes of human relationships, memory, and the complex layers of history, resonating with readers both in Korea and around the world. Insuk's novels and stories have been translated into multiple languages. Her novel *Goodbye, Elena* has been published in China and Japan, while *The Long Road* was translated into English.

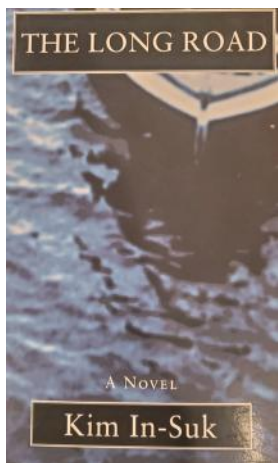


## A TRAILBLAZING VOICE OF THE KOREAN 386 GENERATION: CELEBRATING WOMEN WRITERS

This talk will celebrate the work of Insuk Kim who was born in 1963 in Seoul and is one of the prominent new wave female authors from the Korean 386 generation, a term from the 1990s describing writers who were in their 30s, attended university in the 1980s, and born in the 1960s.

In the conversation, Insuk will share more about the themes of human relationships, memory, and the complex layers of history within her literature. Insuk Kim's novels and stories have been translated into multiple languages. Her novel *Goodbye, Elena* has been published in China and Japan, while *The Long Road* was translated into English. Throughout her career, Kim has received multiple literary awards, including three of Korea's major literary awards. She is also a lifetime judge for the prestigious Dong-in Literary Award, where she continues to shape the literary landscape in Korea.

(Moderator: Sylvia Yu Friedman | Interpreter: Soomin Park)



- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 12:30pm - 1:30pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 HKD \$148
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



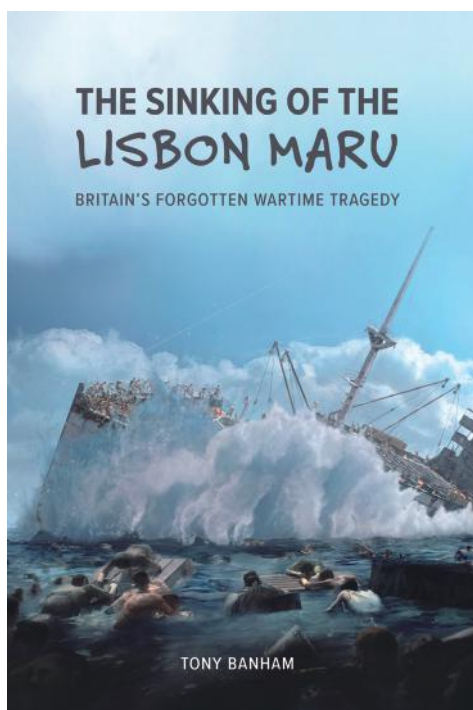
Presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.

## Tony Banham



Following a career in research & development with Royal Dutch Shell and the European Space Agency, Tony Banham moved to Hong Kong in 1989 and founded the Hong Kong War Diary project - which studies and documents the 1941 defence of Hong Kong, the defenders, their families, and the fates of all until liberation. He was awarded a PhD in history by the Australian Defence Force Academy in 2014. Banham has aided many historians, universities, governments, broadcasters, students, and others in their research. He speaks regularly on history and is Honorary Editor of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong.

# THE SINKING OF THE LISBON MARU: AN OSCARS MOVIE CONTENDER



Tony Banham, Editor of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, looks back over historical research in Hong Kong during 2024. He focuses on his creation of probably the world's first multi-volume hyperlinked peer-reviewed Journal index, and the behind-the-scenes story of a film based loosely on his book *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* being long-listed for not one, but two 2025 Oscars. *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* was the deadliest American-on-British 'Friendly Fire' incident of WWII, claiming the lives of 1,000 from Hong Kong's garrison. This book reconstructs the ship's fateful voyage and its aftermath through American, British, Hong Kong, and Japanese sources.

(Moderator: [James Zimmerman](#))

- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground
- 💰 HKD \$148
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



Presented with the support of Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong.



## 明泰 Tsz Lok Cheng



明泰自 2018 年以來一直從事死亡相關行業。作為一名殯葬策劃師和社會企業 LIVES ARE 的創始人，他全心投入於幫助人們有意義地生活，並富有尊嚴地離開。

Tsz Lok has been involved in the death industry since 2018. As the funeral planner and the founder of the social enterprise LIVES ARE, he strives to help people live meaningfully and depart with dignity.

# UNVEILING HONG KONG'S FUNERAL INDUSTRY AND DEATH RITUALS

死亡伴隨著地球上第一個生命誕生而出現，數億年前乃至這數百年間，看不見的歷史默默地見證著生命消逝。上環一帶的廣福義祠、東華醫院和百姓廟又見證過怎樣的故事？你有沒有想過如果我們在一百年前死去，以當時華人的生死觀，又會和現在有甚麼不一樣的地方？是次導賞團將帶領大家遊走中上環一帶，認識歷史的同時，感受過去每一個生命為其附加的重量和意義。

Death emerged alongside the first life on Earth, silently witnessing the extinction of life over millions of years and even in recent centuries. What stories have the Kwong Fuk Yi Temple, Tung Wah Hospital, and the Pak Sing Temple in Sheung Wan witnessed? Have you ever considered how the Chinese perspective on life and death a hundred years ago differs from our current views? This guided tour will take participants through Central and Sheung Wan, allowing them to explore history while feeling the weight and significance that each past life has added to our understanding.

**\*The event taking place on 2 March will be conducted in Cantonese.**

📅 1 March (Sat)

🕒 1:30pm - 3:00pm

📍 Sheung Wan

💰 HKD \$298

★ Walk

🗣️ English

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 12:30pm - 2:00pm

📍 Sheung Wan

💰 HKD \$298

★ Walk

🗣️ Cantonese



## 黃怡 Wong Yi



Wong Yi is an award-winning Hong Kong writer, librettist, radio show host, and a founding member of Xi Xi Foundation. In 2020, she was named one of 20 Young Sinophone Novelists to Watch by the Taiwanese literary magazine Unitas. She is the author of four short story collections: *Ways To Love In A Crowded City* (2021), *The Four Seasons of Lam Yip* (2019), *Patched Up* (2015), and *News Stories* (2010). She was the Hong Kong Writer-in-residence for Hong Kong Baptist University's first Chinese Writers Workshop in 2021, Writer-in-residence for Hong Kong Education University in 2023, and has participated in multiple literary festivals around the world.

## 過去與現在，地景與奇想： 小說和古蹟裡的中環歷史

今次寫作工作坊會帶大家參觀中環歷史景點，包括雪廠街、藝穗會（前牛奶倉庫）、砵典乍街（石板街）等，並透過閱讀香港作家董啟章、黃怡等小說作品，認識中環歷史，以及作家將香港地景和歷史融入文學作品的不同方法。大家亦可以在工作坊裡嘗試書寫小說片段，結合地景、歷史與想像，為未來的讀者留下獨一無二的故事。

\*This event will be conducted in Cantonese.

📅 1 March (Sat)

🕒 2:00pm - 3:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

💰 HKD \$128

★ Workshop

🗨 Cantonese

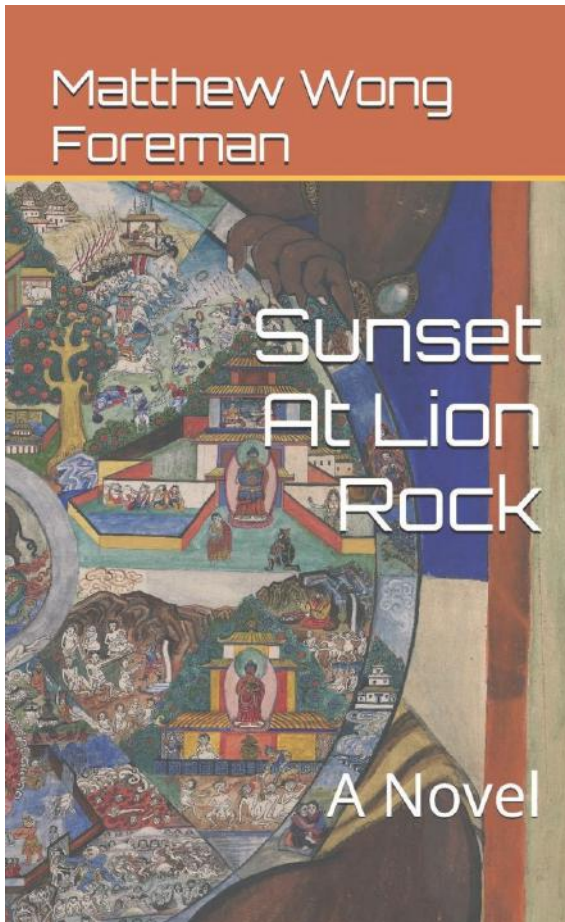




## Matthew Wong Foreman



Matthew Wong Foreman was born and raised in Hong Kong. He graduated from Hong Kong University with a B.A. in history and philosophy, before pursuing postgraduate studies in the UK and US. His debut novel, *Sunset at Lion Rock*, won the 2023 International Proverse Prize and was released in November 2024. A US version will be published by 7.13 Books in 2026.



## SUNSET AT LION ROCK

In *Sunset at Lion Rock*, Eric has always believed he is the reincarnation of his mysterious Uncle Mikey, whose photos are found on every table in the family home. Raised in silence and under the weight of a strict Buddhist upbringing, Eric's life unravels during a summer spent in the mountain temples of Lion Rock Hill, leading to a crisis of faith. As he uncovers painful truths about his family's past and his own identity, Eric must choose between honouring his heritage and forging his own path in a rapidly changing Hong Kong on the eve of its 1997 handover. ([Moderator: Innocent Mutanga](#))

📅 1 March (Sat)

🕒 2:30pm - 3:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre

💰 HKD \$128

★ Talk

🗨 English

## Jan Lee



Since 2022, Jan Lee has become a full-time writer and activist. An award-winning science fiction author, she co-wrote *Fairhaven*, winner of the Green Stories contest, and the upcoming *Defying Futility - The Fairhaven Stories*.

## Matthew S. Friedman



Matt, CEO of The Mekong Club, is a global human trafficking expert with 30+ years' experience. He advises governments, banks, and corporations on ending modern slavery. He won Asia's 2017 "Communicator of the Year" Gold Award.

## Nalok.Lok



Nalok.Lok, a committee member of The Hong Kong Society of Illustrators and a two-time Japan Illustrators' Association award winner, raises awareness about suicide prevention and school bullying through his impactful picture book and animation, *The Moment While Jumping Off*.



# STORIES THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SOCIETY

This panel celebrates the narratives that inspire change, challenge conventions, and envision a better world. The authors will delve into themes of climate change, suicide prevention and modern slavery in the context of human trafficking. Discover how stories and ideas are a form of activism by illuminating paths to progress. Whether you're an avid reader or a budding writer, join us in discussing the possibility of shaping a future where words become the blueprint for societal transformation. (Moderator: [Cruzanne Macalligan](#))

📅 1 March (Sat)

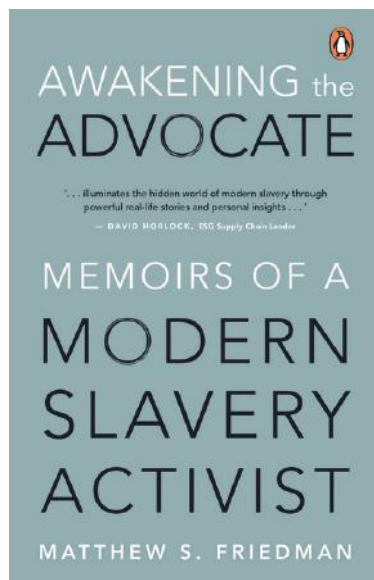
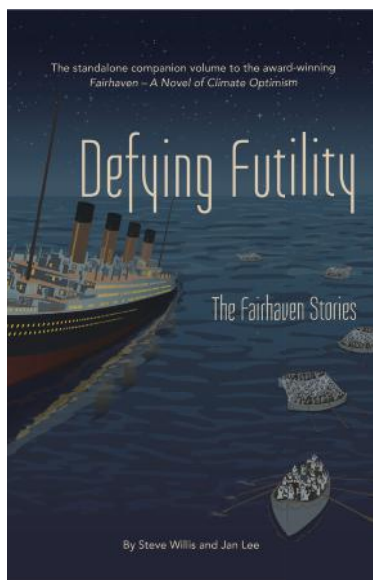
🕒 3:00pm - 4:15pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

💰 HKD \$198

★ Panel

🗣️ English

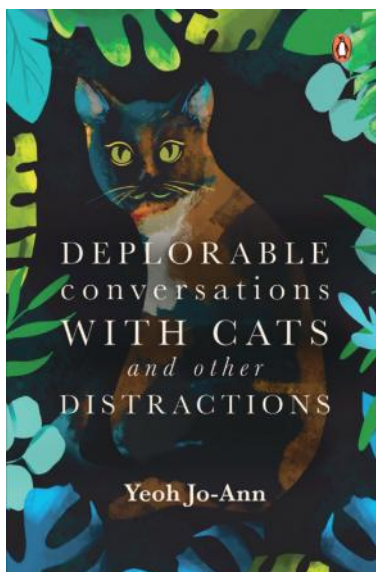


## Yeoh Jo-Ann



Yeoh Jo-Ann grew up in Malaysia and lives in Singapore. Her first novel, *Impractical Uses of Cake*, won the Epigram Books Fiction Prize in Singapore in 2018 and has been translated into German (Kroner, 2022). Her short stories have been included in Singaporean anthologies such as *Best Singaporean Short Stories: Volume Three*, and in 2020, her short story *Dog Tiger Horse* won the Boston Review's annual Aura Estrada Short Story Contest. Her second novel, *Deplorable Conversations with Cats and Other Distractions* (Penguin, 2024), is currently out in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

# DEPLORABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH CATS AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS



Lucky Lee has everything — wealth, charm, money, good looks — and does very, very little with it. He's content. He's happy. He takes for granted that life is good and always will be. But then his sister, the go-getting, successful, famous TV chef Pearl Lee, dies, horribly, and suddenly. Lucky is devastated. As he struggles to live without the big sister who's always been the dominant, often relentless force in his life, the inconceivable happens—her cat begins to talk to him. It wants to know where Pearl is. It questions his eating habits, his outfit choices, his life. It hogs the TV. It tells him stories. Now grief-stricken Lucky has a major problem: he may very well be mad.

(Moderator: [Deepa Jivan](#))

- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 4:00pm - 5:00pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



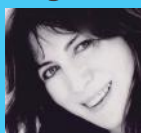


## Vince Siu



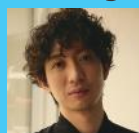
Vince is the Founder of Press Start Studios, a creative studio designing games for education and impact, and the Lead Designer for Fiero!, a creative storytelling card game.

## Page Richards



Page Richards is a poet, professor, and Director of Guild Hong Kong. Her work explores themes of identity and resilience, with publications spanning poetry, essays, and scholarly writing.

## Sheung-King



Sheung-King is the author of *You are Eating an Orange. You are Naked*. It was a 2021 Governor's General Award finalist. His second novel, *Batshit Seven* won the 2024 Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

# THE INTERSECTION OF AI IN CREATIVE STORYTELLING

This panel explores the intersection of technology and narrative in the age of artificial intelligence. This groundbreaking event brings together writers, technologists, and creatives to examine how AI is reshaping the storytelling process, from generating plotlines to enhancing character development. Through panels, interactive workshops, and demonstrations, participants will explore the ethical implications, creative possibilities and challenges of incorporating AI into fiction, poetry, and screenwriting. Discover how AI tools can amplify human creativity and envision the future of storytelling in a world where technology and imagination converge. Join this panel in shaping the future of creative narratives! (Moderator: [Elle Kwan](#))



fantasy | future | science



- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 4:30pm - 5:45pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 HKD \$148
- ★ Panel
- 🗨 English

**CROUCHER 科學周**  
**SCIENCE WEEK**

Presented in partnership with Croucher Science Week, a free festival exploring science and the world around us. Visit [croucherscienceweek.hk](http://croucherscienceweek.hk) to find out more.



## Benny Chia



Benny Chia founded Hong Kong's Fringe Club in 1984. A founding member of major arts organizations in HK, he has received the Bronze Bauhinia Star and other honors.

## Sophia Hotung



Sophia, a Eurasian writer and illustrator from HK, created *The Hong Konger* art collection including *The Hong Konger Anthology* and *The (Unlikely) Hong Konger*.

## Wong Yi

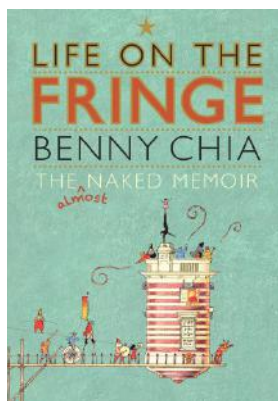


An award-winning Hong Kong writer and librettist, authored four short story collections, including *Ways to Love in a Crowded City* (2021).

## Christopher DeWolf



Christopher DeWolf is an award-winning journalist, author and managing editor of *Zolima CityMag* and co-author of the *Zolima Culture Guide* series.



# EXPLORING HK CULTURE THROUGH WORDS & PICTURES

This panel features 4 authors who have delved into the unique identity and rich heritage of Hong Kong through the written words or illustration. The vibrant event celebrates the city's stories, voices, and traditions, showcasing works that capture its dynamic blend of East and West. The talk will discuss the diversity of Hong Kong's cultural tapestry and how we're able to preserve and admire it. Whether you're a literature enthusiast or curious explorer, uncover the soul of Hong Kong through storytelling. (Moderator: [Rina Hiranand](#))



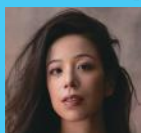
- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 5:00pm - 6:45pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground
- 💰 HKD \$298
- ★ Panel
- 🗨️ English



Australian Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.

## Aube Rey Lescure

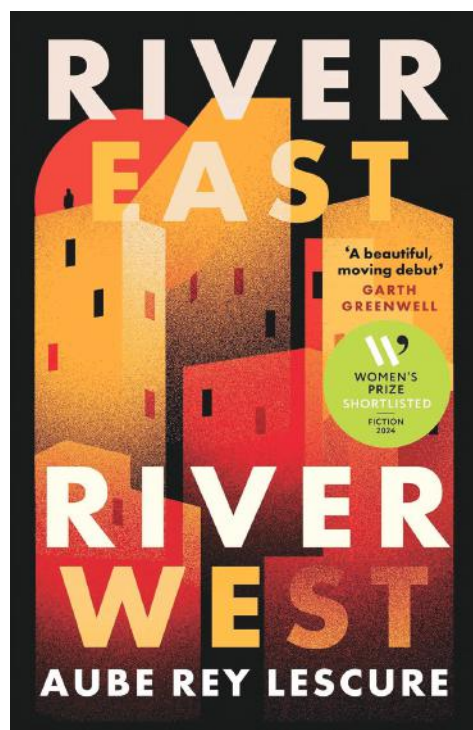


Aube Rey Lescure is a French-Chinese-American writer. She grew up between Provence, northern China, and Shanghai, and graduated from Yale University in 2015. She is the co-author and translator of two books on Chinese politics and economics. Aube's debut novel, *River East, River West*, has been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Maya Angelou Book Award, and the Stanfords' Fiction with a Sense of Place Award. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Granta*, *Guernica*, *LitHub*, *Electric Literature*, *The Millions*, *Litro*, and more. Her essay "At the Bend of the Road" was selected for Best American Essays 2022.

# RIVER EAST, RIVER WEST: IDENTITY, RACE, AND BELONGING IN MODERN CHINA

*River East, River West* is a compelling debut that delves into the complexities of identity, race, and belonging in modern China. Set in 2007 Shanghai and 1985 Qingdao, it follows two generations grappling with the changing tides of opportunity and self-discovery. Fourteen-year-old Alva, raised by her American expat mother, dreams of a better life in America, only to face new challenges when her mother becomes engaged to their wealthy Chinese landlord, Lu Fang. Meanwhile, in 1985, Lu Fang, once full of ambition, navigates the harsh realities of China's political and economic shifts, finding himself at crossroads after an encounter with an American woman. Alternating between their perspectives, *River East, River West* offers an intimate, moving portrayal of the intersection between family, class, and the elusive American Dream.

*River East, River West*, has been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. ([Moderator: Anasuya Sanyal](#))



- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 6:00pm - 7:00pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$128
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



Presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.

## Hong Kong Stories

Hong Kong Stories is a community-focused organisation run by people who like getting involved and telling great stories. We hold weekly free workshops and monthly live shows to bring fresh, original storytelling to Hong Kong. We mostly tell stories in English, though we don't require our storytellers to be perfect. Over the past 10 years we have built a really fantastic community of people. We are the only group dedicated to the art of true, first person storytelling in Hong Kong.



## TOP NOTCH

Hong Kong Stories is pleased to present Top Notch, an annual showcase of the best stories told on their stage from the past 12 months. Join the group to hear tales of excitement and terror, of anticipated wrongs and hard won rights, exceptional stories told live by the people they happened to. Hong Kong Stories is a not for profit society dedicated to the art of storytelling in Hong Kong.

(Moderator: [Rachel Smith](#))

📅 1 March (Sat)

🕒 6:30pm - 8:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre

💰 HKD \$198

★ Performance

💬 English

**Hong Kong Stories**  
香港故事

In collaboration with Hong Kong Stories.

## Jan Lee

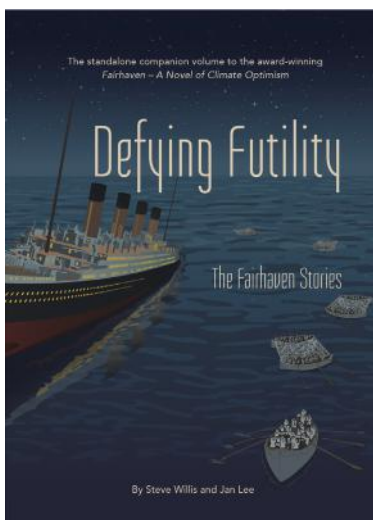


Jan Lee is a Hong Kong-based digital native, whose science fiction stories have been published in various small presses and anthologies, and are collected in the book *Route One and Other Stories*. Jan's work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and recognized several times in the "Writers of the Future" contest. Jan is Editor-in-Chief of *The Apostrophe*, the quarterly magazine of the Hong Kong Writers Circle.

## Steve Willis



Steve Willis is an engineer and innovator who works on industrial and environmental projects, and writes short climate action stories which explore potential positive outcomes to the climate crisis.



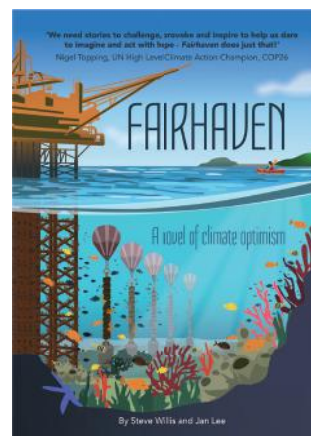
# DEFYING FUTILITY - THE FAIRHAVEN STORIES

*Defying Futility - The Fairhaven Stories* offers sixteen stories by the authors of the award-winning *Fairhaven: A Novel of Climate Optimism*. They offer a definitive answer to climate questions with a range of creative, heartwarming tales that showcase how real disasters in history might have gone differently. Instead of a "Black Mirror" future, the stories are a "Green Mirror" alternative, covering an ambitious range of locations, situations, and cultures spanning nearly a century. The various methods used to adapt to, prevent, or mitigate the impact of the disasters are designed to offer inspiration to readers who are eager to address the global climate crisis. These stories can help address climate anxiety both for adults and young adults. *Defying Futility and Fairhaven* are perfect for readers of Kim Stanley Robinson's *Ministry for the Future* and Neal Stephenson's *Termination Shock*. (Moderator: Paul Mottram)

- 📅 1 March (Sat)
- 🕒 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$298
- ★ Book Launch
- 🗨 English

**CROUCHER 科學周**  
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## Namita Moolani Mehra



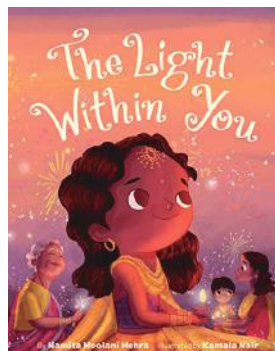
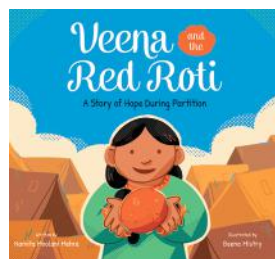
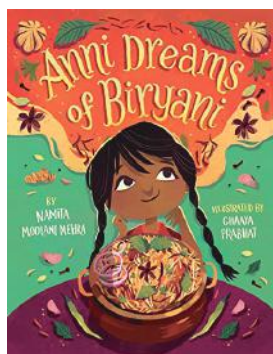
Namita Moolani Mehra is an award-winning children's book author and entrepreneur. Her published books include *The Greatest River*, *Veena and the Red Roti*, *The Light Within You* and *Anni Dreams of Biryani*. She has also authored children's cookbooks *The Magic Spicebox* and *Superfoods for Superheroes*. Namita is the founder of social-impact business, Indian Spicebox, a company that has helped fund almost one million meals for underprivileged children in India.



## DREAMING BEYOND THE PAGES

Join Namita Moolani Mehra as she discusses her picture book *Anni Dreams of Biryani* set in Little India, Singapore. As Namita shares the book, she will also share fun facts and the history behind it. Children will have the opportunity to participate in discussion about their dreams and will be encouraged to articulate them via words and pictures. Join Namita for a fun and interactive look at how stories make us feel and how they can inspire us to dream bigger. Suitable for ages 5-9 years old.

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 9:15am - 10:00am
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD \$198 (include admission for one parent and one child)
- ★ Interactive Event
- 🗣️ English



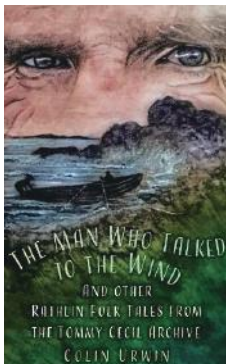
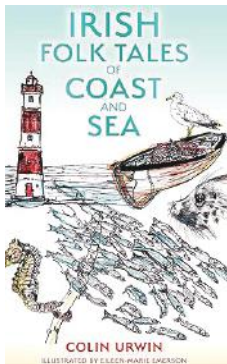
**CROUCHER 科學周**  
**SCIENCE WEEK**

Presented in partnership with Croucher Science Week, a free festival exploring science and the world around us. Visit [croucherscienceweek.hk](http://croucherscienceweek.hk) to find out more.

## Colin Urwin



Colin Urwin from the rugged north coast of Ireland is described as a modern-day seanchaí. He is a folk singer, songwriter, oral storyteller, workshop facilitator, recording artist and author of several collections of folktales. As well as telling hauntingly beautiful traditional tales in his rich and authentic voice, he weaves charming old folk songs and original rhyming monologues into his inspiring and delightful shows.



## SONGS & STORIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

This family fun morning event features Irish folklore singer Colin Urwin who will transport the audience to days when battles, shipwrecks, wolves, ghosts, faeries, shape-shifters and oral storytelling were all part of the everyday lives of native Glens folk. The stories are a mixture of original tales grounded in local legend, folklore and history, and traditional stories re-imagined. Audience members will be encouraged to partake in traditional Irish and Scottish music, song and story which are inspired by the people and places, the history and legends, and the sheer, rugged romance of the northeast coast of Ireland. For an hour, the Fringe will be awash in beautiful ballads, magical rhyming monologues and delicately woven tales of wonder.

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 10:00am - 11:00am

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

💰 HKD \$148 (general admission)  
HKD \$198 (include admission for one parent and one child)

★ Performance

🗣️ English



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Hong Kong  
Consulate General of Ireland | Hong Kong  
愛爾蘭駐香港總領事館

Presented with the support of the Consulate General of Ireland, Hong Kong.

## FAMILY FUN - MEET THE AUTHORS



Meet some of our international and local Young Readers Festival authors for book signings and photo opportunities for all ages. Come by and inspire the joy of reading at a young age in our pop-up festival book store.

**\*Please note space is limited, so it will be first come, first served.**

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 9:00am - 11:30am
- 📍 Fringe Club - Anita Chan Lai-ling Gallery
- 💰 Free
- ★ Drop-in Event
- 🗣️ English



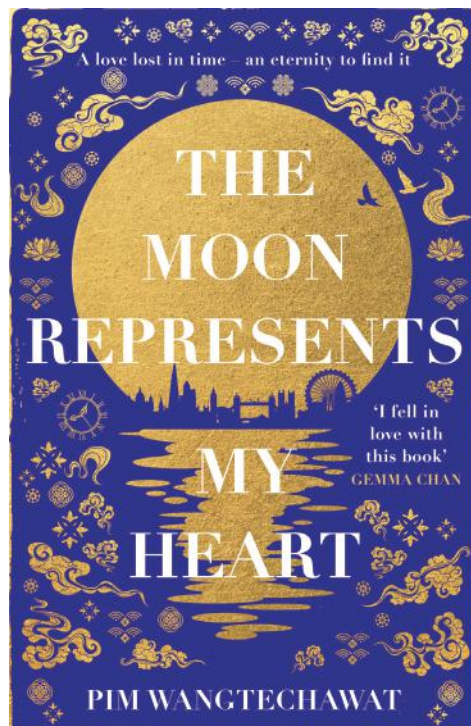
## Pim Wangtechawat



Pim Wangtechawat is a Thai-Chinese writer from Bangkok, Thailand. Pim's short stories, poems, and articles have been published in various websites, literary magazines and journals, including the Mekong Review, the Nikkei Asian Review, Den of Geek, and YesPoetry. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from King's College London, and graduated with Distinction from Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland with a Masters in Creative Writing. Her debut novel, *The Moon Represents My Heart*, was published by OneWorld Publications in June 2023.

# THE MOON REPRESENTS MY HEART

The Wang family has a remarkable secret: they can time travel. But when parents Joshua and Lily vanish into the past, siblings Tommy and Eva are left to navigate their grief alone. As Eva struggles to anchor herself in the present, Tommy becomes consumed by the allure of the past, seeking answers to their parents' disappearance. His journey takes a dangerous turn when he falls for a woman from another era, threatening to unravel his chance for true happiness. A poignant tale of love, loss, and the weight of history, this story explores the fragile balance between holding on and letting go. ([Moderator: Jess Cheung](#))



fantasy | future | science

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 10:30am - 11:30am
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 HKD \$128
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



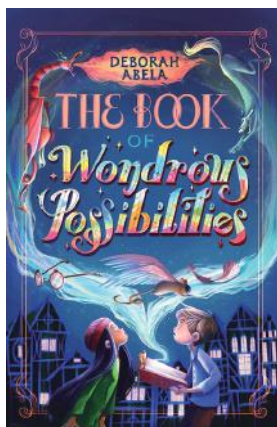
In Collaboration with Gentle Books.



## Deborah Abela



Deborah Abela is a trained teacher and was the producer/writer of an Australian national Kids' TV show before leaving to write 30 books for children. These include her cranky climate change trilogy, *Grimsdon*, *New City* and *Final Storm*, her love letter to books, booksellers and librarians: *The Book of Wondrous Possibilities*, and *The Kindness Project*, a story about four kids who try to change the world with a school project. Deborah has won awards for her books but mostly hopes to be as brave as her characters.



## WRITERS ARE TROUBLEMAKERS

Ever since Deborah Abela was 7 she's been good at making trouble. In this interactive event she'll share how being a troublemaker led her to write about flying machines, sword fights, wondrous books and sea monsters. She'll use images, videos and interactive storytelling to explain why writing is so much fun and will lead children through a series of exciting activities to help them turn troublemaking into their fantastic and engaging stories. Join Deborah to get your kids excited about books, reading and writing. Suitable for ages 8-13 years old.



- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 11:15am - 12:00noon
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 HKD198 (include admission for one parent and one child)
- ★ Interactive Event
- 🗣️ English



Australian Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

Presented with the support of the Australian  
Consulate-General Hong Kong.

CROUCHER 科學周  
**SCIENCE WEEK**

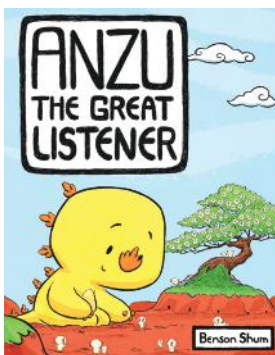
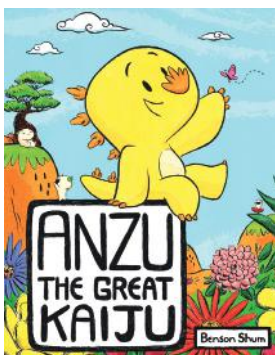
Presented in partnership with Croucher Science Week,  
a free festival exploring science and the world around us.  
Visit [croucherscienceweek.hk](http://croucherscienceweek.hk) to find out more.

## Benson Shum



Benson Shum is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. His books, *Anzu the Great Listener* & *Anzu the Great Kaiju* were selected as Kid's Indie Next List Recommended by the American Booksellers Association and was also awarded the Sakura Medal. Benson is Animation Supervisor at the Walt Disney Animation Studios, where he was a part of such films as *Frozen*, *Big Hero 6*, *Zootopia*, *Moana*, *Frozen 2*, *Encanto* and *Zootopia 2*. Originally from Vancouver, BC, Benson now lives in Los Angeles, CA.

## ILLUSTRATIVE WORKSHOP FOR KIDS



What future world would you like to see? Join Benson Shum, the author-illustrator and Disney Animator to create a unique and one of a kind Kaiju (type of giant monster). Together with the author, you'll gather ideas and inspirations to design fun characters and stories. Benson will also share techniques of storytelling, expressions and posing. Materials will be provided. This workshop is suitable for ages 8+ with a parent present.



- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 11:15am - 12:15pm
- 📍 Wyndham Social
- 💰 HKD \$198 (include admission for one parent and one child)
- ★ Workshop
- 🗣️ English

AIR CANADA

Canada



Presented with the support of Air Canada, Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao and Wyndham Social.

CROUCHER 科學周  
SCIENCE WEEK

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## 劉偉霖 William Lau



William Lau is a film critic and classical music critic whose first newspaper article dates back to 1998. He's also a translator of film subtitles as this combines his love for movies and languages (Japanese, French and German) and finances his opera and concert trips abroad. He is the author of *Reading Japanese Literature with Japanese Cinema: From Soseki Natsume to Haruki Murakami* and the editor of *Hong Kong Cinema 2016*, both written in Chinese and published by the Hong Kong Film Critics Society.

## 三島由紀夫百年回顧： 從文學到影像的啟示

今年是三島由紀夫（1925-1970）誕生一百週年，他是日本戰後最享負國際盛名的作家之一。《用日本電影讀日本文學：從夏目漱石到村上春樹》作者劉偉霖，將從電影角度介紹三島文學，以及三島對今天讀者或觀眾的啟示。

*\*This event will be conducted in Cantonese.*

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 12:00noon - 1:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

💰 HKD \$128

★ Talk

🗣️ Cantonese



In collaboration with the Hong Kong Film Critics Society.



## Alka Joshi



Alka is a New York Times Bestseller and Reese Witherspoon Bookclub Pick, her *Jaipur Trilogy* is translated into 29 languages and in development as a TV series. Alka was selected as Forbes Magazine's "50 Over 50".

## Eric Huang

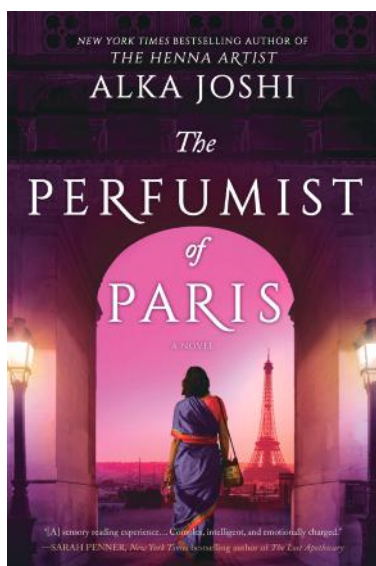


Eric is a former palaeontologist, pivoted to publishing, working at Disney Publishing, Penguin Australia, and Penguin UK. He's an author, podcaster, and lecturer in the Masters in Publishing course at City St George's, University of London.

## Jo Lusby

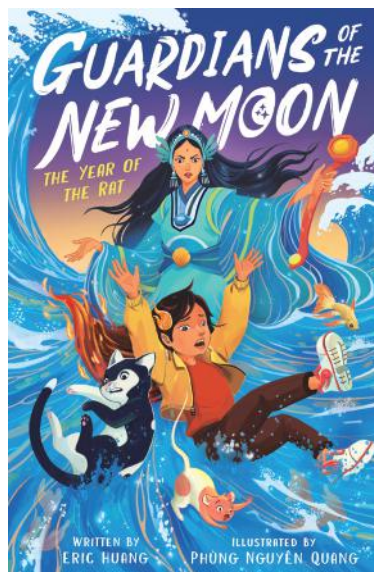


Co-founder of Pixie B, specializes in IP management across Asia. Jo was formerly North Asia head at Penguin Random House, where she managed the region's largest English language trade book sales portfolio.



# THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING

What are the current challenges in publishing from decreasing readership across demographics to the emergence of AI in writing, branding and licensing? This forward-thinking panel will explore how technology, creativity, and global trends are reshaping the publishing industry. Whether you're a publishing professional, an aspiring writer, or a curious reader, join us to explore how innovation and storytelling intersect, shaping the books and narratives of tomorrow. (Moderator: [Rachel Ip](#))



- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 12:30pm - 1:45pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Panel
- 🗨️ English



In collaboration with India by the Bay.

## Benny Chia



Born in Singapore and educated in Hong Kong, Paris and Louvain-la-Neuve, Benny Chia started the Fringe Festival in 1983, founded the Fringe Club in 1984, and steered the Fringe Club as Managing Director and Artistic Director through to 2022. Benny was a founding member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, and the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association. Honours include the Bronze Bauhinia Star from the HKSAR government, the Badge of Honour from the former Hong Kong government, Best Arts Promoter from the Hong Kong Artists Guild, and Hero of Hong Kong from Time Out Magazine.

## LIFE ON THE FRINGE

A stroll through a life's journey on the fringe of the arts during the times Hong Kong was shedding its colonial coil with promises to molt into an open city under Chinese rule. Benny Chia, author of *Life On the Fringe* - an almost naked memoir, will share stories spanning over four decades about chancing on a rundown ice depot and turning it into an iconic arts space, launching three alternative arts festivals, bringing artists to places near and far, meeting remarkable people on the way, and stumbling into life's many potholes. An unscripted and per chance inspiring conversation awaits.

(Moderator: [Victoria Finlay](#) and [Sun Man Tseng](#))

📅 2 March (Sun)

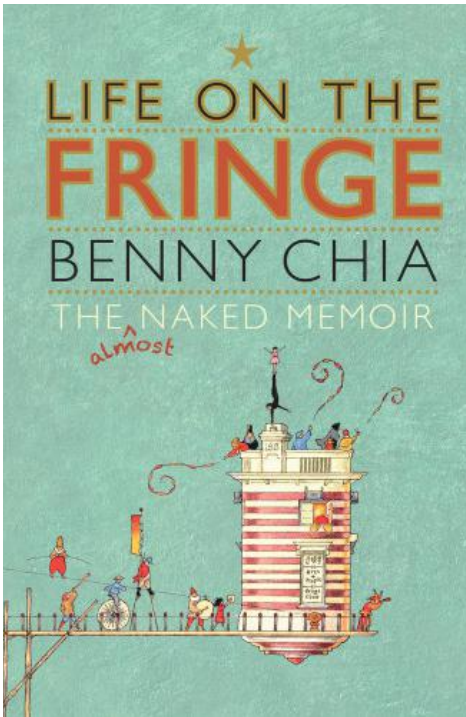
🕒 1:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

💰 HKD \$248

★ Book Launch

🗨 English



**Australian Consulate-General**  
Hong Kong

Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.

## 陳曦成 Hei Shing Chan

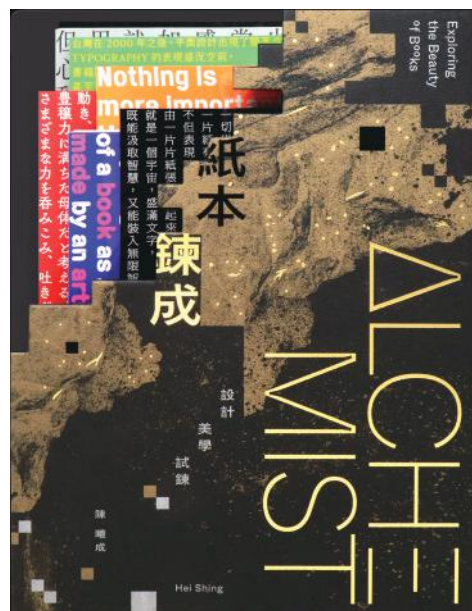
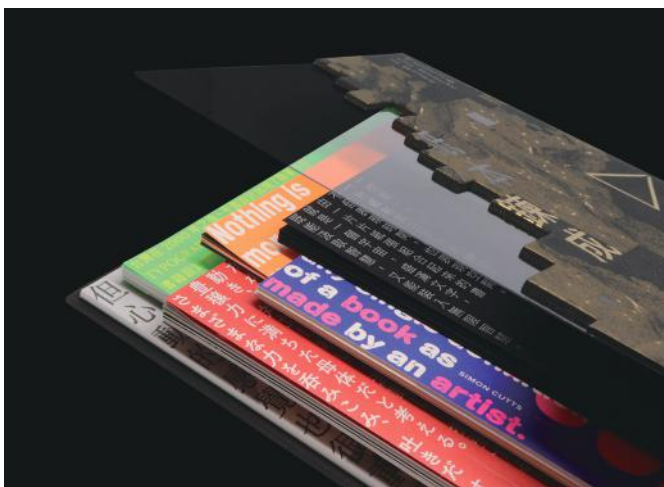


In 2006, Hei Shing graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University with a First Class Honours Bachelor Degree in Visual Communication Design. In the same year, he won the YIC Young Design Talent Award and received a scholarship for studying abroad. He furthered his studies in London and graduated with an MA in Book Arts at Camberwell College of Arts, UAL, with Distinction in 2008. Since 2015, he has been a visiting lecturer teaching BA (Hons) in Communication Design at the School of Design, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In 2016, he set up his design studio "Hei Shing Book Design" in Hong Kong, specialising in book and publication design.

## THE WORLD OF BOOKS

線裝書是中國古代書籍形式的最後一種，具有深厚的文化底蘊，散發著雅致的書卷氣息。它起源於五代，當時應用較少，至明朝中葉開始盛行，並在清代達到鼎盛。這種線裝形式經過長時間發展改進，成為古本圖書裝訂中最進步、實用且美觀的一種。書籍設計師、《紙本鍊成》作者陳曦成將帶領參加者由紙張開始製成線裝書。本工作坊適合青年、成人與親子參與。

\*This event will be conducted in Cantonese.



- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 1:30pm - 3:00pm
- 📍 Wyndham Social
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Workshop
- 🗣 Cantonese



Presented with the support of Wyndham Social.



## Pim Wangtechawat



A Thai-Chinese writer, Pim's work appears in *Mekong Review* and *Den of Geek*. Her debut novel, *The Moon Represents My Heart*, was launched in 2023.

## Kevin Chong



Author of seven fiction and nonfiction books, including *The Double Life of Benson Yu* — a 2023 Giller Prize finalist and named Best Book of Canadian Fiction by the CBC.

## Yeoh Jo-Ann

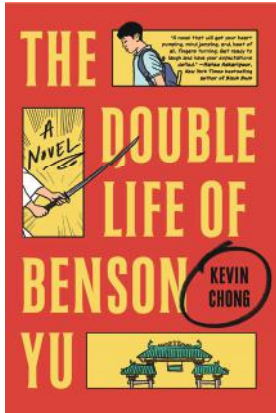
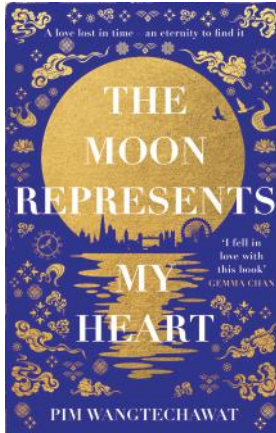


She won the 2018 Epigram Books Fiction Prize for *Impractical Uses of Cake*. Her second novel, *Deplorable Conversations with Cats*, was released in 2024.

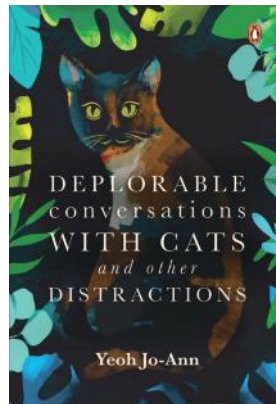
## Naz Kutub



Naz, a Singaporean writer based in Los Angeles, teaches Creative Writing at UCLA. He is the author of young adult books *No Time Like Now* and *The Loophole*.



# EXPLORING THE BOUNDARIES OF SPECULATIVE FICTION



This panel will explore the limitless possibilities of imagination, challenging traditional storytelling through bold and visionary narratives. The authors will discuss how speculative fiction pushes boundaries, addresses societal questions, and redefines our understanding of family, history and human nature. From world-building to tackling ethical dilemmas, discover the creative power of speculative storytelling. (Moderator: [Diana Wu David](#))

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 2:30pm - 3:45pm

📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre

💰 HKD \$128

★ Panel

💬 English



AIR CANADA

Canada

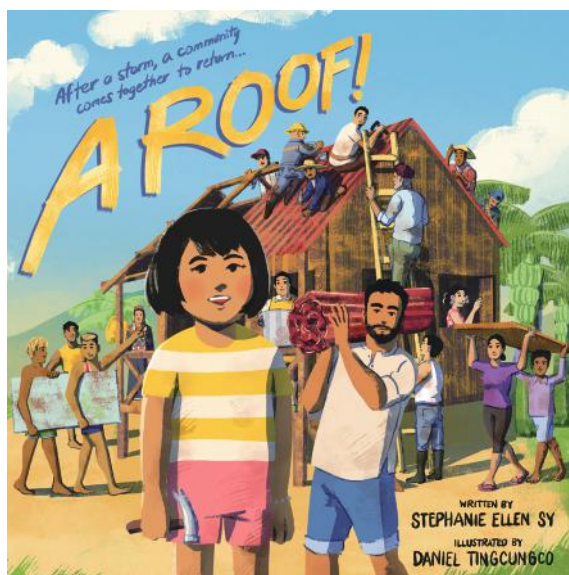
Presented with the support of Air Canada and Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao.

## Stephanie Sy



Stephanie Ellen Sy is a Filipino-Chinese-Canadian writer and interior designer from Hong Kong, now based in Vancouver, B.C. She holds a degree in International Relations and Asian Studies from Tufts University. Drawing inspiration from her diverse background, Stephanie creates picture books that explore the spaces between her cultures. Her debut, *A Roof!*, published by Kokila, Penguin Random House in 2024, received a starred review from Kirkus, with a French translation on the way.

# BUILDING DREAMS: WRITING FROM THE HEART



In this workshop for Migrant Writers of Hong Kong, we will explore the power of dreams — both the ones we hold close to our hearts and the ones that shape the world around us. It will focus on the importance of writing from personal experiences, finding creative ways to tell stories, and using imagination to transform everyday moments into meaningful narratives. Through a writing exercise, participants will learn how to express their dreams in ways that connect with others, share their unique perspectives, and use storytelling to inspire change. Whether it's the dream of a better future, a sense of belonging, or the strength found in community, this workshop will help participants harness the power of writing to dream big and share their stories.

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 3:00pm - 4:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Diary

💰 Free

★ Workshop

🗨 English



In collaboration with Migrant Writers of Hong Kong.

## Rachel Smith



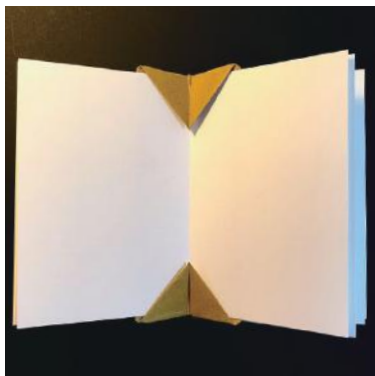
Rachel Smith is a Hong Kong-based multidisciplinary artist. Having lived in Hong Kong for 20 years, her current collage and paper-cutting works are a love note to the city that has shaped so much of her adult life. Smith started cutting paper seriously in 2019, in her studio, she collects and collates the paper ephemera of a life lived in Hong Kong, then cuts images of the city. She has a passionate belief that the arts are essential to creating lasting solutions to problems. Smith is the producer of Hong Kong Stories and the host of their eponymous podcast. She can usually be found in her studio, telling stories on stage, organising shows, or going on long, rambling walks around the city.



## CREATIVE BOOK BINDING WORKSHOP

Join Senselessart founder Rachel Smith for a book binding class. This style of binding uses recycled materials (large Manila envelope and recycled cardboard for the cover), with heavy watercolour paper for the inside. Once finished the pages are completely removable, making this style advantageous for painting, journaling and other artwork. The simplicity of the design is easily replicated once the class is finished. The paper we will be using in this workshop will be white. The finished book will be approx 10 x15 cm when closed. Suitable for ages 10+.

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 3:30pm - 5:00pm
- 📍 Wyndham Social
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Workshop
- 🗣️ English



Presented with the support of Wyndham Social.

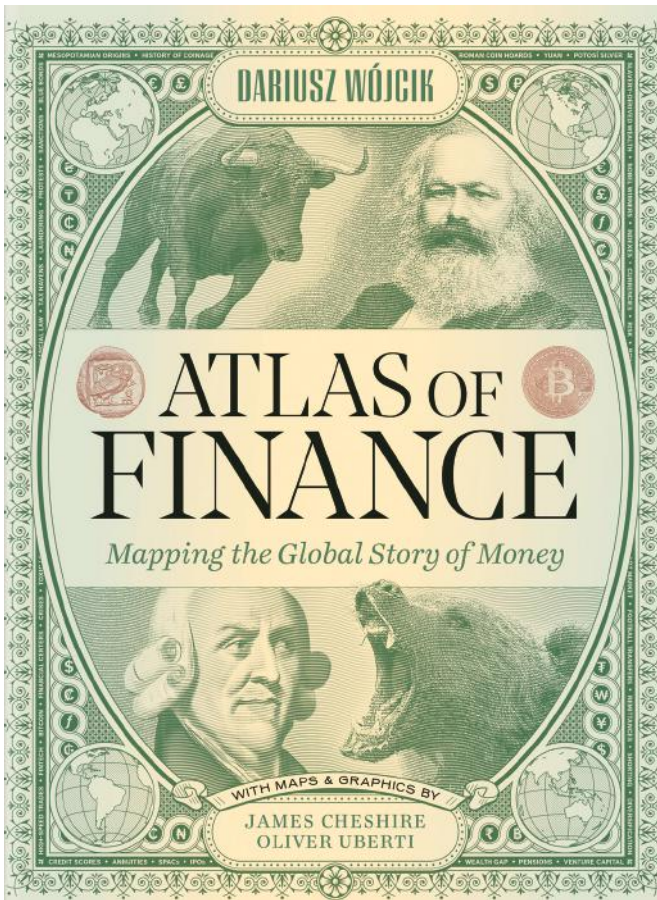




## Dariusz (Darek) Wójcik



Dariusz Wójcik is a Professor of Financial Geography at National University of Singapore and an Honorary Research Associate at Oxford University. While specializing in financial geography, he has published widely in human geography and urban studies, finance, economics, and political economy. His recent books include *The New Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography*, *International Financial Centres After the Global Financial Crisis and Brexit*, and *Sticky Power: Global Financial Networks in the World Economy*, and an international bestseller *Atlas of Finance: Mapping the Global Story of Money*. He is the Chair of the Global Network on Financial Geography, Editor-in-Chief of Finance & Space journal, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



## THE ATLAS OF FINANCE

Discover *The Atlas of Finance*, a groundbreaking illustrated journey through 5,000 years of global financial history. From ancient money to modern cryptocurrency, this visually rich volume reveals finance as one of humanity's most transformative social technologies. With striking graphics and maps, it explores how geography, history, and innovation shape finance and vice versa. Meet key thinkers like Adam Smith and John Maynard Keynes, and delve into finance's role in globalisation, inequality, and environmental change. Perfect for anyone curious about the interconnected world of money, this book will transform how you see your finances and their impacts on the world.

(Moderator: Siew Fong Y)

📅 2 March (Sun)

🕒 4:00pm - 5:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

💰 HKD \$248

★ Talk

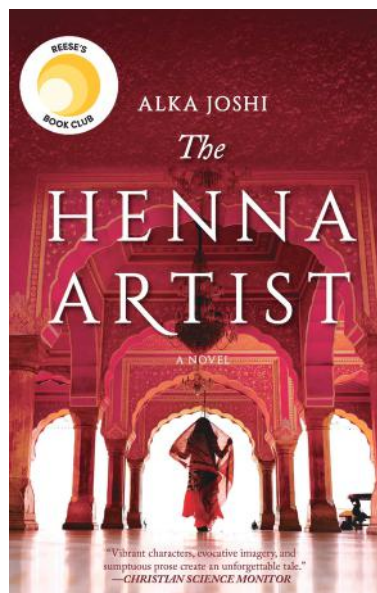
🗣 English

## Alka Joshi



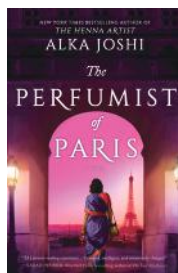
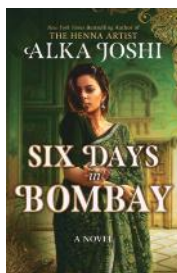
Born in India, Alka has lived in the U.S. since the age of nine. She has a BA from Stanford University and an MFA from California College of Arts. She was a New York Times Bestseller and a Reese Witherspoon Bookclub Pick. *The Henna Artist* was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and translated into 29 languages, it's in development as an episodic series. Alka was selected as one of Forbes Magazine's "50 Over 50" women shattering age and gender norms. Her fourth novel, *Six Days in Bombay*, will be released on April 15, 2025.

# AN AFTERNOON WITH ALKA JOSHI, INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE JAIPUR TRILOGY



This talk will cover the writings of Alka Joshi, the internationally bestselling author of the Jaipur Trilogy: *The Henna Artist*, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur* and *The Perfumist of Paris*. A new writer at age 50, Alka shatters age and gender norms in the industry. Her debut novel, *The Henna Artist*, immediately became a New York Times bestseller and a Reese Witherspoon Bookclub Pick. It has been translated into 29 languages and is currently in development as a TV series.

(Moderator: Ritu Hemnani)



- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- 📍 Asia Society - Miller Theater
- 💰 HKD \$298
- ★ Marquee
- 💬 English



In collaboration with India by the Bay.

## Sylvia Yu Friedman

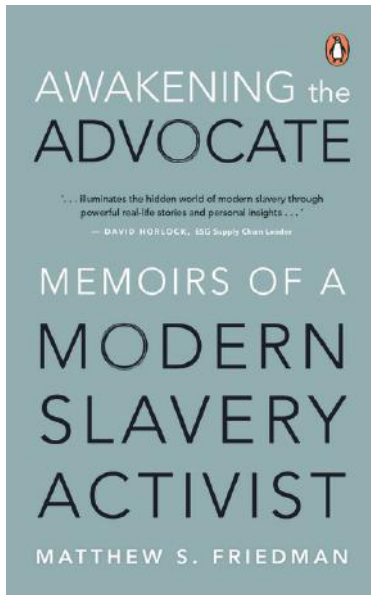


Sylvia Yu is an author, TV host, keynote speaker, and advisor to ultra-high-net-worth families. Since 2005, she has led philanthropic initiatives for some of the world's wealthiest families. A TV series inspired by her life and memoir, *A Long Road to Justice*, is in development. Sylvia has authored five books, including *Fearless: A Guide to Freedom and Fulfilling Your Fullest Potential*, and her upcoming novel, *Butterflies*.

## Matthew S. Friedman



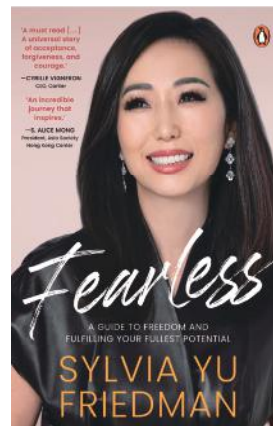
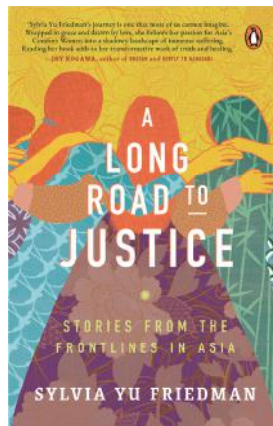
Matt is an international human trafficking expert with more than 30 years' experience. He is CEO of The Mekong Club, an organization of Hong Kong's leading businesses which have joined forces to help end all forms of modern slavery. He is the author of fifteen books. In 2017, Matthew won Asia's prestigious "Communicator of the Year" Gold Award.



# FEARLESS ADVOCACY: FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY AND EMPOWERING CHANGE

Join Sylvia Yu Friedman and her husband, Matt Friedman, as they share compelling insights from their respective memoirs. They will explore the transformative journeys that have defined their lives and careers, revealing the challenges and victories they experienced along the way. Attendees will be encouraged to reflect on their own journeys and consider how they can foster positive change within their communities. This is an opportunity to be motivated by two dynamic changemakers as they empower you to leverage your experiences and take bold actions that can create a meaningful, lasting impact on the world. Don't miss this chance to ignite your passion for a change!

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 4:30pm - 5:30pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theater
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Conversation
- 🗣️ English





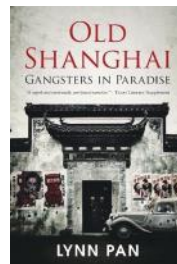
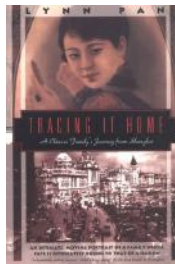


## TRIBUTE TO LYNN PAN

Lynn Pan (1946-2024), renowned writer, journalist, social scientist, historian and cultural advocate was born in Shanghai. She was the founding Director of the Chinese Heritage Centre and worked as a social scientist, journalist and writer in London, Cambridge, Geneva, Helsinki Shanghai and Hong Kong. She was a prolific writer with very broad interests and in addition to a great many articles published over ten books, including *In Search of Old Shanghai*, *Old Shanghai: Gangsters in Paradise*, *Into China's Heart: An Émigré's Journey Along the Yellow River*, *Sons of the Yellow Emperor*, *The New Chinese Revolution*, *True to Form: A Celebration of the Art of the Chinese Craftsman*, *The Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas*, *Tracing It Home*, *Shanghai Style: Art and Design Between the Wars* and *When True Love Came to China*. She had a great interest in Chinese gardens and was working on a book when she died last year.

Join us for a tribute celebrating her legacy with panels, readings, and discussions that delve into her profound impact on storytelling and cultural discourse honouring the enduring power of her words and vision.

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 5:00pm - 6:00pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy
- 💰 Free
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English



## Hong Kong Writers Circle

The Hong Kong Writers Circle is a member organisation for writers of all levels and genres. They are committed to creating an environment in which writers develop their writing skills and knowledge of the publishing industry with the support of their peers.



## HONG KONG WRITERS CIRCLE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANTHOLOGY BOOK LAUNCH

The scores are in! From music to seduction, from furrows to revenge plots, the twentieth anthology of the Hong Kong Writers Circle showcases Hong Kong's rich but often hidden literary talent. With more than thirty contributors, this collection includes short stories, poems, and memoirs from a city and wider diaspora of extraordinary writers.

- 📅 2 March (Sun)
- 🕒 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- 📍 Fringe Club - The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 💰 Free
- ★ Book Launch
- 🗨 English



Presented with the support of Hong Kong Writers Circle.

## Pim Ng



Pim is a picture book creator, creative arts and movement teaching artist. She enjoys blending different artistic mediums and creates works that oscillate between movement and stillness. Her creations often prioritize bodily movements, simplifying body lines while incorporating elements from picture book stories and nature to spark imagination, connect with daily life, and expand thought space. She is currently dedicated to exploring the possibilities of physical books, showcasing stories or interacting with readers through various forms of handmade books.

# LET YOUR BODY TELL A STORY

在日常生活中，我們身體的每一個動作都是一個經過考慮的行為，也是無聲語言的表達。這個工作坊將分享如何觀察日常身體動作、簡化身體線條，並使用不同的布料和顏料，以簡單輕鬆的方式，設計屬於你自己的故事角色

**\*This event will be conducted in Cantonese.**



- 📅 3 March (Mon)
- 🕒 11:30am - 1:00pm
- 📍 Bookazine
- 💰 HKD \$348  
(the price includes a HKD 100 Bookazine Social Voucher)
- ★ Workshop
- 🗣 Cantonese

BOOK **a** ZINE

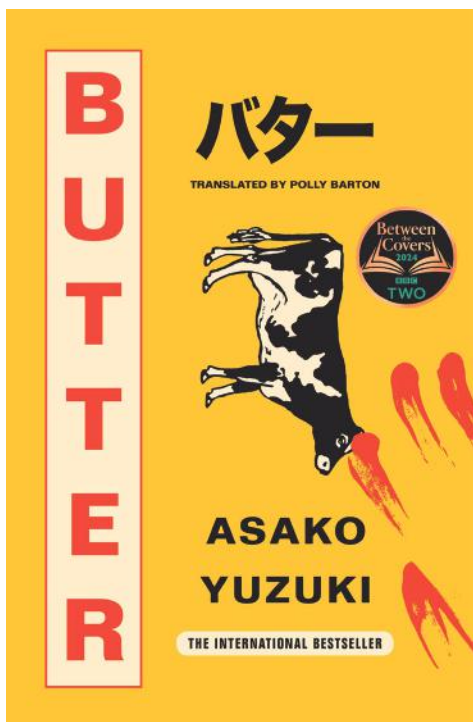
Presented with the support of Bookazine.



## Asako Yuzuki



Asako Yuzuki is a renowned Japanese author known for her compelling narratives and keen social observations. With *The Story of Diana and Her Books* and *Nile Perch Women's Club*, Yuzuki has garnered significant acclaim, winning the All Yomimono Prize for New Writers and the Yamamoto Shūgorō Prize. Her book *Butter* was nominated for the 157th Naoki Prize and won the 2024 Waterstones Book of the Year award in the UK.



## THE REAL AND MAKE-BELIEVE WORLDS OF JAPANESE CRIME

This special dinner boasts our guest of honor, Asako Yuzuki, the author of the acclaimed book *Butter*, which explores themes of murder, fatphobia, trauma, and misogyny. Crowned Waterstones Book of the Year 2024, we're pleased to host this renowned Japanese author, known for her compelling narratives and keen social observations. Her ability to intertwine psychological intrigue with societal themes has solidified her position in contemporary Japanese literature.

As we enjoy dinner, guests will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from the author about how her book *Butter* is inspired by actual events surrounding a series of suspicious deaths. Bring an open mind, an appetite, and all of your questions for the author. (Moderator: Cat Nelson)

📅 3 March (Mon)

🕒 6:00pm - 9:30pm

📍 Tango Argentinian Steakhouse, Central

💰 HKD \$988 (The price includes a set dinner at the restaurant)

★ Conversation

💬 English

South China Morning Post

**PostMag**

Presented with the support of SCMP PostMag.

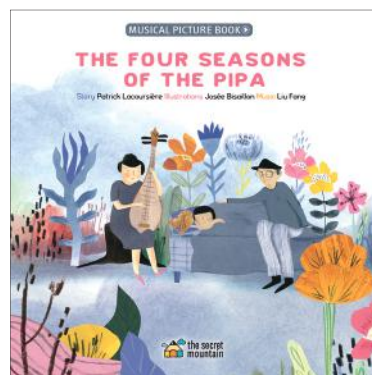
## Josée Bisaillon



Josée Bisaillon is an award-winning Canadian illustrator. Since 2005, she has illustrated more than 50 picture books and has done numerous editorial illustrations for magazines and newspapers, all around the world. Her work has received recognition from American Illustration and the Society of Illustrators, to name a few. She was shortlisted four times for the Governor General's Literary Awards. Her work, a unique mixture of collage, drawings, and digital art, takes us in a poetic, colorful and whimsical world.

# DEEP DIVE INTO CREATIVITY: SKETCHBOOK EXPLORATIONS WITH MIXED MEDIA

Keeping a sketchbook and daily practices are important for an illustrator as it helps overcome creative blocks. In this workshop, let your logical brain unite with your emotional brain to create sketchbook experiments with Josée's unique way of illustrating -using collage, pastels, watercolor and more, to help you develop your style more deeply.



📅 3 March (Mon)

🕒 4:00pm - 5:30pm

📍 Bookazine

💰 HKD \$348  
(the price includes a HKD \$100 Bookazine voucher and materials for the workshop)

★ Workshop

🗨 English



AIR CANADA

Canada

BOOK a ZINE

Presented with the support of Air Canada, Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao and Bookazine.

## Georgina Challen



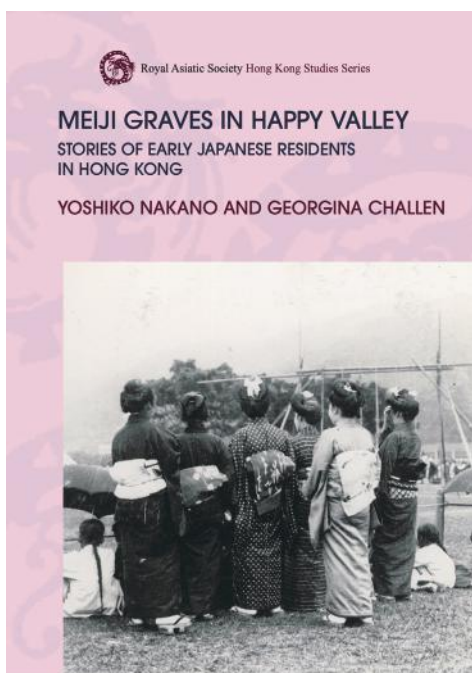
Georgina holds an MA in literary and cultural studies from the University of Hong Kong. Born in England, she grew up in Switzerland and has called Hong Kong home since 1990. She is the co-author of *Meiji Graves in Happy Valley: Stories of Early Japanese Residents in Hong Kong* (2024).

## Yoshiko Nakano



Yoshiko is a professor in the Department of International Design Management at Tokyo University of Science. She works on Japanese corporate history in a global context. She is the author of *Where There are Asians, There are Rice Cookers* (2009) and co-author of *Meiji Graves in Happy Valley: Stories of Early Japanese Residents in Hong Kong*.

# MEIJI GRAVES CEMETERY WALKING TOUR



The Hong Kong Cemetery in Happy Valley is home to over 470 graves connected to the city's Japanese population. Most of these graves belong to individuals who died during the Meiji era (1868–1912), a remarkable period of modernisation and opening up of Japan that saw thousands of its inhabitants travel to other parts of the world to study, work, and settle. Who were these people? What were they doing in Hong Kong? And why were unbaptised Japanese buried in what was at one time called the “Protestant Cemetery”?

This exclusive tour with the two authors of *Meiji Graves in Happy Valley* will reveal an often overlooked part of Hong Kong's oldest cemetery. Using their graves as a starting point, the authors will share the personal journeys of these mostly forgotten Japanese and their role in the development of our diverse city.

- 📅 4 March (Tue)
- 🕒 10:00am - 12:00noon
- 📍 Hong Kong Cemetery, Happy Valley
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Walk
- 🗣️ English



比較文學  
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

In collaboration with The Center for the Study of Globalization and Cultures, Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Hong Kong.





## Iosi Havilio



Born in Buenos Aires, in 1974, Iosi Havilio is a writer, visual artist and teacher with a background in philosophy, literature, music and film. He became a cult author in Argentina after his debut novel *Open door* (2007) was highly praised by the outspoken and influential writer Rodolfo Fogwill and by influential Argentine critic, Beatriz Sarlo. His work was included in many anthologies. *Petite Fleur* (2015), his fifth novel, was adapted to cinema and launched in 2022. His books have been translated into English, French, Italian, Turkish and other languages. *Buuuh!* (2023) is his latest novel published.

# NATURES OF FUN: SONIC MEDITATION CREATIVE WRITING



- 📅 4 March (Tue)
- 🕒 2:00pm - 3:30pm
- 📍 Iyengar Yoga Studio
- 💰 HKD \$228
- ★ Workshop
- 🗨️ English

Join us for a unique 75-minute workshop led by Argentinian author, artist, and creative writing professor Iosi Havilio. Inspired by David Foster Wallace's essay "Why I Write," this session will take place in a serene wellness studio, creating the perfect atmosphere for creativity and reflection. The workshop will begin with short readings from three of Havilio's eclectic works: *Open door* (2006), *Petite fleur* (2015), and *Buuuh!* (2023). Following the readings, participants will engage in a soothing sonic meditation designed to inspire relaxation and creative flow. The session will conclude with a hands-on creative drawing and writing experience, allowing participants to express their thoughts and feelings inspired by the readings and meditation. (Moderator: George Dovas)

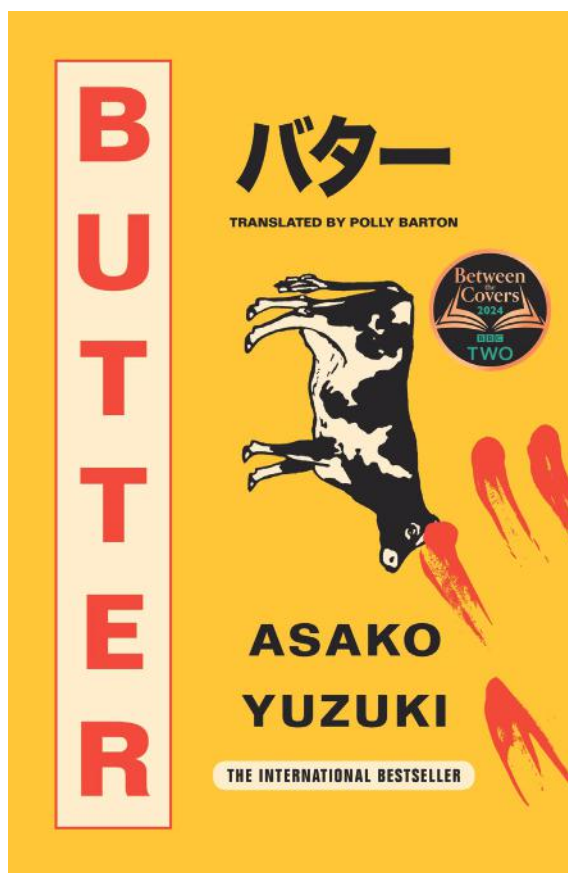


Presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.

## Asako Yuzuki



Asako Yuzuki is a renowned Japanese author known for her compelling narratives and keen social observations. With several published works, including notable titles such as *The Story of Diana and Her Books* and *Nile Perch Women's Club*, Yuzuki has garnered significant acclaim, winning the All Yomimono Prize for New Writers and the Yamamoto Shūgorō Prize. She has been nominated multiple times for the prestigious Naoki Prize. Her book *Butter*, nominated for the 157th Naoki Prize, delves into the dark story of a reporter investigating a woman accused of luring men through her cooking and subsequently murdering them. It won the 2024 Waterstones Book of the Year award in the UK, was a #1 paperback fiction bestseller and is being published in 30 countries around the world.



## BUTTER: A NOVEL OF FOOD AND MURDER

This Japanese bestseller begins with Manako Kajii, a gourmet cook convicted of seducing and murdering lonely businessmen. Locked away in Tokyo Detention Centre, she refuses all interviews—until journalist Rika Machida asks for her beef stew recipe. What starts as a culinary exchange becomes something deeper. Rika, a workaholic who rarely cooks, is drawn into Kajii's world of food, desire, and power. As she tastes Kajii's creations, Rika begins to question herself and her own appetites. Inspired by a real-life case, *Butter* explores misogyny, obsession, and the forbidden pleasures of food in modern Japan.

(Moderator: Maureen Tai | Interpreter: Ikumi Yoshida)

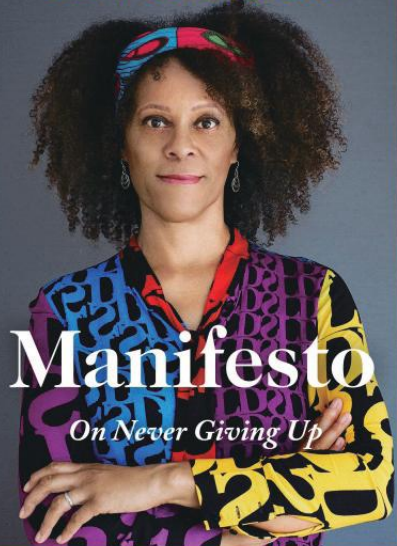
- 📅 4 March (Tue)
- 🕒 6:30pm - 8:00pm
- 📍 Hong Kong Central Library
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Marquee
- 🗣️ English

## Bernardine Evaristo

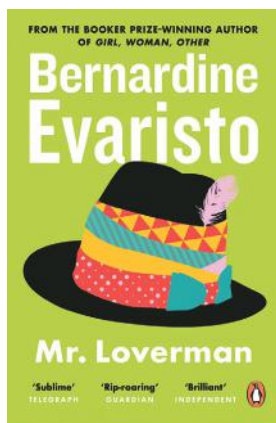


Bernardine Evaristo's Booker Prize-winning novel, *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019) is an international bestseller. Her novel *Mr Loverman* (2013) became a hit BBC television drama in 2024. The author of ten books, her works have been translated into over 40 languages. She has received over 80 awards, honours and nominations, including the two British Book Awards. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London, an Honorary Fellow of St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, and President of the Royal Society of Literature.

## Bernardine Evaristo



## LUNCH WITH BERNARDINE EVARISTO



Bernardine Evaristo is a major English language author, academic, and public figure. After forty years of publishing and writing critically acclaimed novels and essays, Evaristo finally became an "overnight" success in 2019, when her eighth book, *Girl, Woman, Other*, won the Booker Prize, propelling her into the forefront of the public consciousness as the first black woman to win the prize. A writer of novels, short fiction, drama, poetry, essays, literary criticism, and projects for stage and radio, she is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London. Evaristo is also President of the Royal Society of Literature, the second woman and the first black person to hold the role since it was founded in 1820. Evaristo has received more than 80 honours, awards, fellowships, nominations and other tokens of recognition. ([Moderator: Jo Lusby](#))

- 📅 5 March (Wed)
- 🕒 12:00noon - 2:00pm
- 📍 Soho House - Blue Room
- 💰 HKD \$698
- ★ Marquee/ Literary Lunch
- 🗣️ English



## Aneeta Sundararaj



Aneeta Sundararaj is the recipient of the Trisha Ashley Award in 2022 and the 2022 H.E. Bates Short Story Prize. She's also been longlisted for the Bristol Short Story Prize in 2023 and nominated for the Pushcart Prize 2024. Aneeta's work appears in many magazines, ezines, journals and the national newspaper. Her bestselling novel, *The Age of Smiling Secrets* was shortlisted for the Anugerah Buku 2020 organised by the National Library of Malaysia.

## Claire Betita de Guzman



Claire is a Filipina writer based in Singapore, and author of six novels. Her works include *Sudden Superstar* and *Hue City*, both published by Penguin Random House SEA and featured on The Straits Times Bestsellers List. Her debut novel, *No Boyfriend Since Birth*, was adapted into a TV series. A former journalist, she began her career as a reporter for TODAY before becoming an editor for Cosmopolitan Philippines and Harper's Bazaar Singapore.



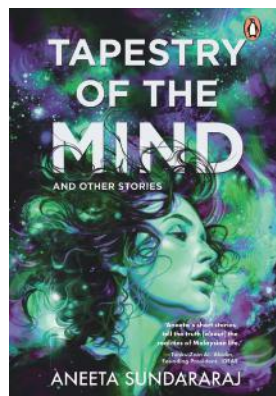
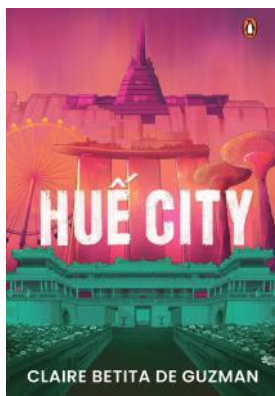
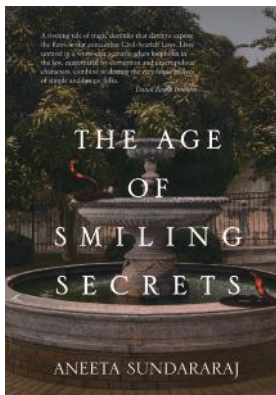
## WORDS, WOMEN & WINE BOOK CLUB

Words, Women & Wine Literary is a celebration of women's voices in literature, paired with the joy of community and conversation. This unique book club event, in conjunction with Women of Hong Kong, invites female authors, poets, aspiring writers, and readers to explore stories that inspire and empower. Malaysian author Aneeta Sundararaj (*Tapestry of the Mind*) and Filipina author Claire Betita de Guzman (*Hue City*) will be our guest of honor this month.

Each ticket comes with a glass of wine, and if you're an author, bring your book to share. Grab your copy of Claire or Aneeta's book in advance to get signed or purchase onsite from Bookazine. Join us for an unforgettable celebration of words, women, and wine to celebrate International Women's Day.

(Moderator: [Jemma Daley](#))

- 📅 5 March (Wed)
- 🕒 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- 📍 Women of Hong Kong
- 💰 HKD \$160
- ★ Book Club
- 🗣️ English



**WOMEN**  
OF HONG KONG

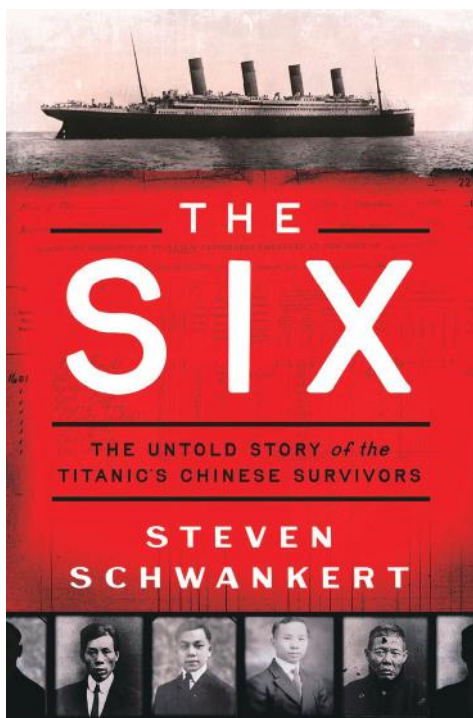
Presented with the support of Women of Hong Kong.

## Steven Schwankert



Steven Schwankert is an award-winning writer and editor. He is the co-creator of *The Six*, a documentary project about RMS Titanic's Chinese passengers. Steven is the author of *Poseidon: China's Secret Salvage of Britain's Lost Submarine*, and the guidebook *Beijing & Shanghai: China's Hottest Cities*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a fellow and East and South Asia Chapter Chair of The Explorers Club. He led the first-ever scientific expedition to dive Mongolia's Lake Khovsgol, where he and his team found two century-old wooden shipwrecks. He resides in New Jersey, USA.

# THE SIX: UNTOLD STORIES OF CHINESE TITANIC SURVIVORS



In *The Six*, historian Steven Schwankert uncovers the untold story of six Chinese men who survived the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. After the disaster, these men were met with suspicion, slander, and ultimately expelled from the United States, vanishing into obscurity. Through years of meticulous research, Schwankert pieces together their personal histories, revealing the lives of Ah Lam, Chang Chip, Cheong Foo, Fang Lang, Lee Bing, and Ling He—professional seafarers whose remarkable journeys highlight the pervasive racism and inequality they faced. A compelling narrative of survival and forgotten history, *The Six* adds a new, human layer to the Titanic tragedy. ([Moderator: Paul French](#))

📅 5 March (Wed)

🕒 6:30pm - 8:00pm

📍 Hong Kong Central Library

💰 HKD \$198

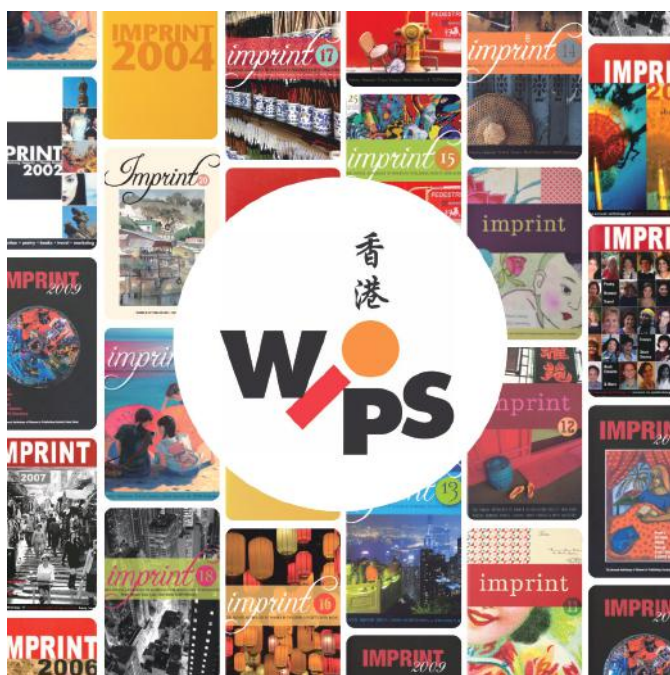
★ Book Launch

🗣️ English

## HK Women in Publishing Society

Hong Kong Women in Publishing Society (WiPS) brings together a dynamic group of publishing professionals working in all fields related to writing, journalism, photography, advertising, design, public relations, electronic and print publishing, television, radio and other media.

## IMPRINT 23: WOMEN'S VOICES



Women in Publishing Hong Kong will launch the latest issue of its annual anthology, *Imprint*, showcasing the talents of a multinational group of women writers who are based or were formerly based in Hong Kong. The event will feature readings from this issue of the anthology and other entertainment. Join us for a celebration of local talents and meet up-and-coming writers of Hong Kong in a literary evening of poetry and prose as you wine and dine at a historic venue in Central. Tickets include 2 drinks, refreshments and a copy of *Imprint 23*.

📅 5 March (Wed)

🕒 7:00pm - 10:00pm

📍 Central

💰 HKD \$400

★ Book Launch

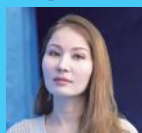
🗨 English



In collaboration with HK Women in Publishing Society.



## Aigerim Tazhi



Aigerim Tazhi is the author of the award-winning volumes of poetry БОГ-О-СЛОВ (or God O'Words) and Бумажная кожа/ Paper-Thin Skin, published in a bilingual edition by Zephyr Press (USA). She has been awarded international literary prizes, including the Literary Steps Prize, the Shabyt Prize (twice), shortlisted for the International Debut Prize, the Voloshin Prize and others. Her poems have been translated into about 20 languages. She now lives in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

## Krystyna Dąbrowska



Krystyna Dąbrowska is a poet, essayist, and translator, author of five poetry books, including *Miasto z indu* ("City of Indium", 2022). A recipient of the Wisława Szymborska Award and Kościelski Award, her poems are translated into over 20 languages. Her English collection *Tideline* (2022) was a finalist for the Derek Walcott Poetry Prize. Dąbrowska won a 2024 Pushcart Prize for "Travel Agency," translated by Antonia Lloyd-Jones. She resides in Warsaw, Poland.

# OUTLOUD POETRY NIGHT - INTO THE FUTURE

Join OutLoud, Hong Kong's longest-running English poetry collective, for a night "Into the Future". Prepare to be entertained as the group takes you into the future with a night of stellar poetry and spoken word, courtesy of OutLoud HK's finest performance poets and international poets from the HKBU Writer's Circle.

Hosted by Jason Eng Hun Lee and The Aftermath, the featured line-up includes Aigerim Tazhi, Krystyna Dąbrowska, Vishal Nanda, Sam Powney, Victoria Lee, Eugenia Ng, John Outsider, Lilli Chung, Lian Hee Wee and other readers. They will be reading covers and original versions of poems on the theme of "Future."

(Moderator: OutLoud)

📅 5 March (Wed)

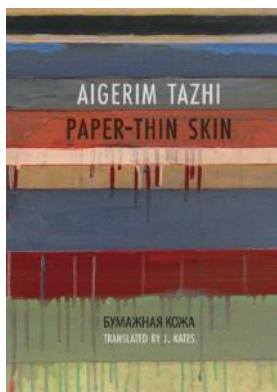
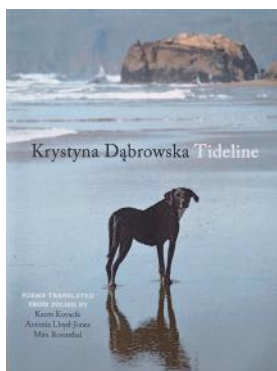
🕒 8:00pm - 10:00pm

📍 Aftermath

💰 Free

★ Performance

🗣️ English



poetry



Presented with the support of OutLoud, Aftermath and the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.

## Aneeta Sundararaj



Aneeta was the recipient of the 2022 Trisha Ashley Award and H.E. Bates Short Story Prize, was longlisted for the 2023 Bristol Short Story Prize and nominated for the 2024 Pushcart Prize. Her latest collection, *Tapestry of the Mind*, showcases her versatile writing.

## Chin Huat Ong

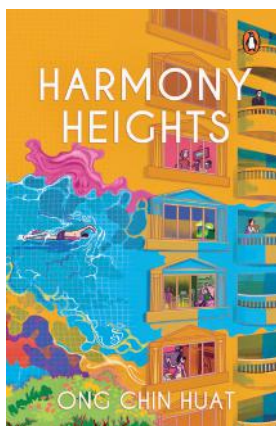


He is a freelance writer, fashion stylist, and TV host. He has contributed to publications like *Harper's Bazaar* and *Elle*, and hosted *Hong Kong High Life* on ATV Hong Kong and *Driven* on TheStarTV.com. His debut novel is *Harmony Heights* (2024).

## Claire Betita de Guzman



Claire is the author of six novels, including *Sudden Superstar* and *Hue City*, both featured on *The Straits Times* Bestsellers List. Her debut novel, *No Boyfriend Since Birth*, was adapted into a TV series.

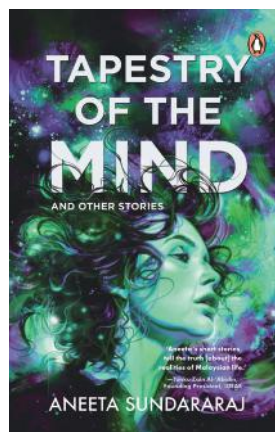


## IWD BREAKFAST PANEL: GENDER ROLES IN FICTION

- 📅 6 March (Thu)
- 🕒 8:00am - 9:30am
- 📍 The Executive Centre - AIA Central
- 💰 HKD \$298 (light breakfast included)
- ★ Panel
- 🗣️ English

In honour of International Women's Day, this engaging breakfast panel features three Southeast Asian fiction writers discussing the portrayal of gender roles in literature. They'll explore how their stories challenge traditional stereotypes, redefine identity, and reflect evolving societal norms. Through their unique perspectives, the panelists will share insights into creating nuanced, authentic characters and the impact of representation in fiction.

Expect thought-provoking conversations on how storytelling can reshape our understanding of power, relationships, and gender dynamics. Whether you're a writer, reader, or simply curious about the role of fiction in cultural change, come ready to hear how we can all challenge stereotypes while enjoying a light breakfast. (Moderator: [Daniella Lopez](#))



Presented with the support of The Executive Centre.

## Peel Street Poetry

Peel Street Poetry is a poetry collective that is now in its 20th year. In addition to regular open mics it runs special themed events, book launches, and other grassroots artistic collaborations. Open mics are open to all comers and we're always trying to grow the spoken word scene in Hong Kong.

## POETRY PERFORMANCES: FUTURE EXPRESSIONS

Peel Street Poetry is teaming up with HKILF to launch the 5th edition of their zine series, Tentacle Poetry. The zine—with the theme "Future Expressions"—features poetry from members of the group as well as submissions from the HKILF team. Additionally, it will include poems from the finalists of our 19th Anniversary Slam event, which took place at the end of last year. Expect to witness exceptional performances of the poems included in the zine, as well as an open mic section where you can take the mic yourself or simply sit back and experience Hong Kong's most captivating poets doing their thing.



- 📅 6 March (Thu)
- 🕒 7:00pm - 10:00pm
- 📍 Social Room
- 💰 Free
- ★ Performance
- 🗨 English



Presented with the support of Peel Street Poetry.



## Denise Tang



Denise is Head and Associate Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Her research specializes in gender and sexualities. Prior to entering academia, Tang was a program manager, HIV testing counsellor and treatment advocate for communities including Asian & Pacific Islander LGBTQI+, First Nations women, and others.

## Wing Yan Ng



Yan worked as a news and feature editor in Ming Pao Weekly, covering stories of social issues for Book B. Her work can be found in various media outlets including Initium Media, HK Feature and Yahoo OLO. Core member of producing the book 大愛同誌. Co-author of the book *Oral Histories of Older Lesbians and Bisexual Women in Hong Kong* and *New Ideals actualized by Young Social Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong*.



## UNHEARD STORIES OF OLDER LESBIANS AND BISEXUAL WOMEN IN HONG KONG

Through the voices of older lesbians and bisexual women in Hong Kong, this groundbreaking book turned documentary offers a rare and intimate glimpse into the lives, struggles, and triumphs of a marginalised community. These oral histories reveal personal stories of love, resilience, identity, and resistance in the face of societal expectations and shifting cultural norms. By exploring themes of family, relationships, activism and belonging, the book provides a rich tapestry of experiences that reflect the intersection of gender, sexuality, and age in contemporary Hong Kong. A powerful contribution to LGBTQ+ and oral history literature, it celebrates voices often left unheard. (Moderator: [Mary Foxworth](#))

📅 6 March (Thu)

🕒 7:00pm - 8:30pm

📍 Thirsty Shaker

💰 HKD \$198

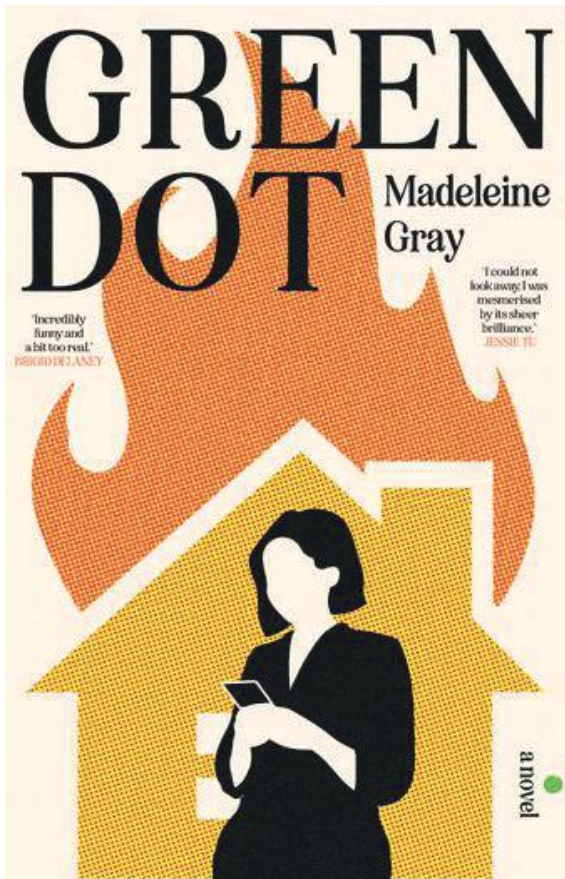
★ Talk

💬 English

## Madeleine Gray



Madeleine Gray is a writer and critic from Sydney. Her debut novel, *Green Dot*, has been published in over twelve territories, and won Madeleine the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year at the 2024 ABIA's. In 2019 she was a CA-SRB Emerging Critic, and in 2021 she was a finalist for the Walkley Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism, a finalist for the Woollahra Digital Literary Non-fiction award, and a recipient of a Neilma Sidney Literary Travel grant. Madeleine has an MSt in English from the University of Oxford and a PhD in literary theory from the University of Manchester.



## GREEN DOT: LUNCH WITH MADELEINE GRAY

This book has garnered significant acclaim, being recognized as a Best Book of 2024 by the BBC, a Best Book of February 2024 by People Magazine and labeled a Most Anticipated Book of 2024 by Debutiful.

With its dark humour and raw intimacy, *Green Dot* explores the complexities of adulthood, identity, and desire in the digital age through the eyes of 24-year old Hera who moderates comments for an online news outlet in Sydney. ([Moderator: Karen Koh](#))

📅 7 March (Fri)

🕒 12:00noon - 2:00pm

📍 Cafe 8, Hong Kong Maritime Museum

💰 HKD \$598 (lunch included)

★ Lunch Talk

🗣️ English



Australian Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

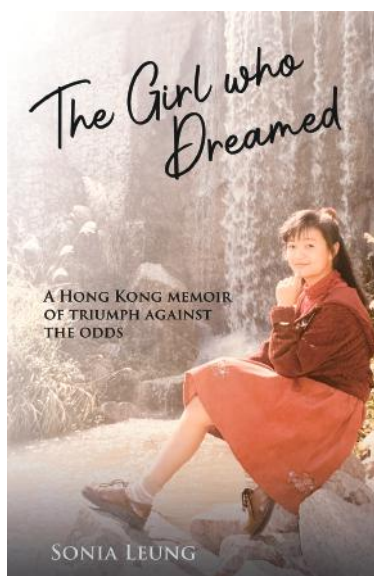
Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong and Cafe 8.

## Sonia Leung



Sonia Leung is a Hong Kong-based poet and author of fiction and creative nonfiction. Her awards include Hong Kong's Top Story 2015 and 2016 and Wordview 2013, a UK-based annual global poetry competition. Sonia is the author of *Don't Cry, Phoenix* (2020), an English and Chinese poetry collection with a CD of ten original songs, and the critically acclaimed autobiography *The Girl Who Dreamed: A Hong Kong Memoir of Triumph Against the Odds* (2024). The Chinese version of this memoir, 《追夢的少女》 will be published in 2025.

# WRITING WORKSHOP: COURAGEOUS CONFESSIONS



Join us for a 90-minute masterclass on memoir writing with award-winning author Sonia Leung, designed to provide a supportive atmosphere for those wishing to candidly share their experiences. This workshop aims to redefine the concept of "confessing" for individuals who have faced hardships, fostering a sense of commonality in our human experiences. The class will cover significant memoir writing techniques and the value of our life stories, guiding participants in transforming their narratives into compelling memoirs. Following the masterclass, Sonia will read excerpts from her memoir, *The Girl Who Dreamed*, which chronicles her childhood in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, detailing her journey toward independence. Through her readings and reflections on her path to becoming a memoirist, Sonia hopes to inspire participants on their own writing journeys.

📅 7 March (Fri)

🕒 3:30pm - 6:30pm

📍 Black Box, Centennial Campus, HKU

💰 Free

★ Workshop

🗨 English



SCHOOL OF ENGLISH  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Presented with the support of the School of English, University of Hong Kong.

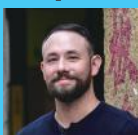


## Jennifer Wong



Jennifer is a writer and comedian, who co-authored *Chopsticks or Fork?*. Her humorous essays on food, culture, and mental health have appeared in *The Guardian* and *Monocle*. She performs comedy in English and Cantonese, with sold-out shows nationwide.

## Billy Potts



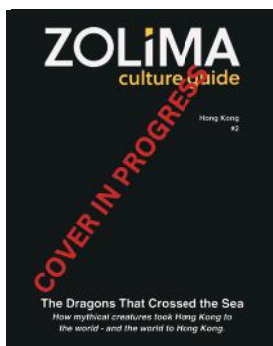
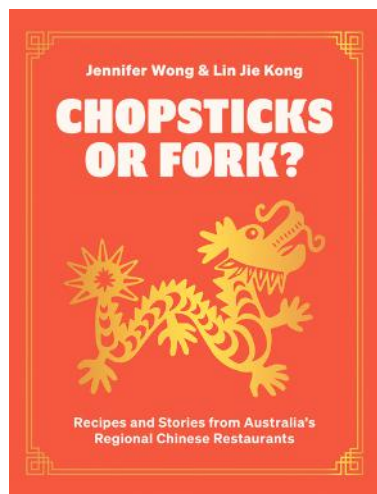
Billy Potts, a Hong Kong born writer and designer, is the founder of Handsome Co., a design consultancy focused on storytelling. A key contributor to Zolima CityMag, he co-authored the two first volumes of the Zolima Culture Guide series.

## Connie Wang

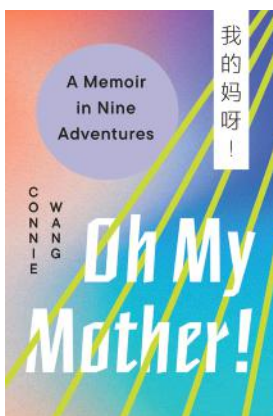


Connie is a journalist and writer based in Los Angeles, was born in China and raised in Minnesota. Former executive editor at Refinery29, she hosted *Style Out There*. Her debut memoir, *Oh My Mother!: A Memoir in Nine Adventures*, is published by Viking Books.

# EXPLORING THE CHINESE DIASPORA



Hosted in conjunction with Zolima CityMag, join us for an enlightening conversation on the Chinese diaspora, featuring three authors covering 3 different angles. Connie Wang will share her firsthand experience of her Chinese family's emigrating to the US. As the co-author of the upcoming Zolima Culture Guide vol.2, *The Dragons That Crossed the Sea*. How mythical creatures took Hong Kong to the world - and the world to Hong Kong, Billy Potts will delve into the cultural significance of the Chinese dragon, a symbol of strength and unity within the diaspora. While Jennifer Wong will discuss the evolution of Chinese cuisine, highlighting its role in preserving cultural identity and fostering community connections in Australia and around the world. (Moderator: [Christopher DeWolf](#))



- 📅 7 March (Fri)
- 🕒 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- 📍 The Executive Centre - Three Garden Road
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Panel
- 🗣️ English



Australian Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

ZOLiMA  
citymag

THE  
EXECUTIVE  
CENTRE

Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong, Zolima CityMag and The Executive Centre.

## Pete Spurrier



Pete Spurrier is the publisher at Blacksmith Books in Hong Kong, which has published more than 200 books about the city, including many local bestsellers. He is also the author of a series of local guidebooks.

## Mary Chan



Mary Chan is the founder of MCCM Creations, an independent book publishing house in Hong Kong in 2001. First started with illustrated picture books, a diverse genre of design, visual art, architecture & performing art books were later added to the list.

## Keith Chun



In 2017, Keith Chun founded flip & roll to promote independent publishing. His award-winning design work includes recognition from the DFA Design for Asia Awards and German Design Award. He is the author of *Pineapple Bun with Butter and Tiger*.

# THE ART AND STRATEGY OF PUBLISHING

This conversation delves into the creative and business aspects of the publishing world. Publishers and authors on the panel will uncover insights into crafting compelling content, navigating the publishing process, and the trends locally and globally for small publishers and up-and-coming authors. Topics include traditional vs. self-publishing, marketing strategies, and adapting to evolving industry trends. Whether you're an aspiring author or a seasoned professional, this event will help you to master the art and strategy of bringing stories to life.

(Moderator: [Rinkoo Ramchandani](#))

📅 7 March (Fri)

🕒 7:00pm - 8:00pm

📍 Bookazine

💰 Free

★ Panel

🗣️ English



fantasy | future | science



BOOK **a** ZINE

mccmcreations  
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翻滾出版  
FLIP & ROLL

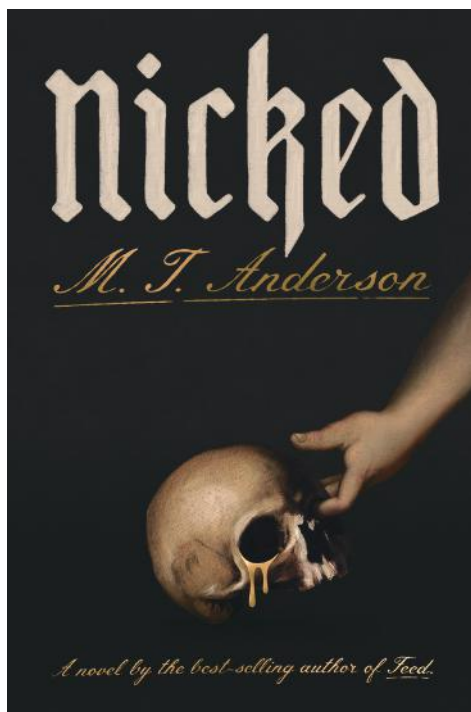
In collaboration with Bookazine, MCCM, Blacksmith Books and Flip & Roll Press.

## M. T. Anderson



New York Times best-seller M. T. Anderson writes for children, teens, and adults. He has won the L.A. Times Book Prize for his satirical science fiction novel *Feed*, and the (American) National Book Award for his historical novel *The Pox Party*. His novel *Landscape with Invisible Hand* was made into a movie starring Tiffany Haddish and Asante Blackk. His most recent novel for children, *Elf Dog & Owl Head*, won a Newbery Honor. His most recent book, a medieval heist novel for adults, is *Nicked*. He lives in New England.

# NICKED: THE TRUE QUEST TO STEAL THE MYSTICAL CORPSE OF A LONG-DEAD SAINT



New York Times best-selling author M. T. Anderson will talk about the bizarre and fascinating true story behind his new novel, *Nicked*. In reality, two rival Italian cities raced to steal the corpse of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) from his tomb in what is now southern Turkey. Anderson will talk about the evidence for this peculiar heist, the details of the theft, the role it played in Mediterranean geopolitics, and how and why he turned it into a swashbuckling monastic romantic comedy.

📅 8 March (Sat)

🕒 10:00am - 11:00am

📍 Soho House Studio, 2F

💰 HKD \$198

★ Talk

🗨️ English





## Chin Huat Ong

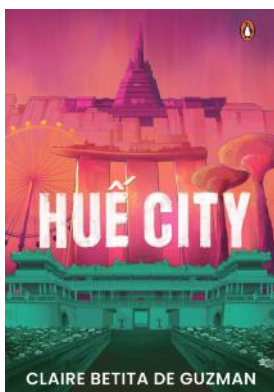


After graduating from the London School of Economics, Chin Huat studied History of Art at the British Institute of Florence in Italy. Currently, he is a freelance writer, fashion stylist and TV Host and has contributed to The Star, Life Inspired, Luxurious Magazine, Harper's Bazaar, Design Anthology, Elle and Condé Nast Traveler.

## Claire Betita de Guzman

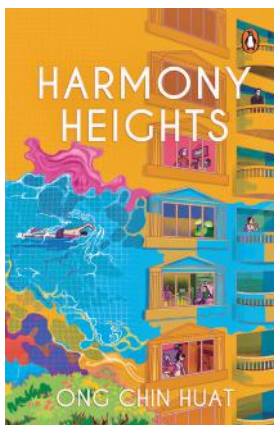


Claire is a Filipina writer based in Singapore, and author of six novels. Her works include *Sudden Superstar* and *Hue City*. Her debut novel, *No Boyfriend Since Birth*, was adapted into a TV series. A former journalist, she began her career as a reporter for TODAY before becoming an editor for Cosmopolitan Philippines and Harper's Bazaar Singapore.



## EXPLORING FICTIONAL DRAMA: TALES SET IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Join this talk with Southeast Asian authors Chin Huat Ong and Claire Betita de Guzman as they take us through their fictional tales of carefully crafted drama. *Harmony Heights* by Chin Huat is a sharp, entertaining glimpse into the lives of seemingly perfect residents in a nineties-style Malaysian condominium. Behind the polished exteriors of retired judges, doctors, CEOs, and side-hustling homemakers lies a tangled web of secrets, scandals, and ambitions waiting to unravel. As affairs, rivalries, and unexpected twists come to light, this microcosm of bourgeois society faces trials that challenge their carefully maintained facades. On the other hand, *Hue City* by Claire brings you deep into the soul of Southeast Asia—from the faded, enigmatic streets of Vietnam's former capital, to the fraught, gritty drags of Manila and the gleaming, cosmopolitan environs of Singapore—as it tells their intertwined journey towards the treacherous and sometimes heart-breaking path of starting over. (Moderator: Erica Fong)



- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 11:00am - 12:00noon
- 📍 Soho House - Yellow Room
- 💰 HKD \$248
- ★ Talk
- 🗣️ English

## 建築宅男 ArchiPodcastHK



《建築宅男》是以廣東話討論設計、建築和生活的 Podcast 節目，除了讓設計思維能更貼地傳達至普羅大眾，同時亦作為聯繫有志者及組織社區改變的催化平台。節目於 2020 年疫情期間由身處墨爾本的泰迪斯和在香港的查龍跨地創立，以每兩周一集的模式透過網絡傳播，至今播出一百八十多集，累積超過二萬五千追蹤。節目積極與其他設計單位合作，致力推廣創意，並於各地大學演講探討聲音和討論作為設計方法的價值與應用。

ArchiPodcastHK is a Cantonese podcast programme interrogating aspects of design, architecture and living. It aims to promote design thinking through the language of the public while its podcasts act as a platform to connect advocates and young designers to initiate changes in our community. The biweekly production was established in 2020 by Tidus Shing in Melbourne and Charon Lung in Hong Kong. To date, it has delivered over 180 meaningful conversations and received over 25,000 followers.

### 城市建築 不美學



## 城市之美，或不美？

縱然建築宅男出版了《城市建築不美學》，但絕對不能斷言我城不美，細心閱讀內文就會發現當中列舉了不少本地值得參考的案例。是次活動讓大家跟著書中所劃分的五個層次去遊走街頭，靠腳步去量度社區空間，透過親眼實地觀察，扣連各位參加者自己的經歷或提出質疑，嘗試分析並建立一套個人專屬的欣賞城市享受建築的方法。

**\*This event will be conducted in Cantonese.**

- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 11:00am - 12:30pm
- 📍 Tsim Sha Tsui
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Walk
- 🗣️ Cantonese

## Jennifer Wong

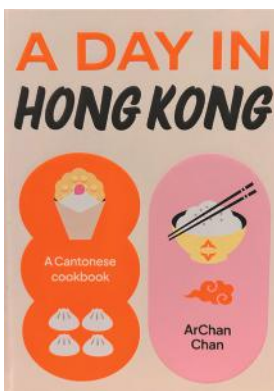


Jennifer Wong is a Sydney-based writer, comedian, and co-author of *Chopsticks or Fork?*. Her humorous essays on food and culture have appeared in The Guardian and Monocle. She performs comedy in English and Cantonese, with sold-out shows Australia-wide.

## ArChan Chan

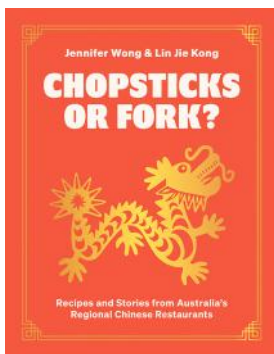


Hong Kong native, Chef ArChan Chan spent the formative years of her career refining her technique and expanding her cooking knowledge in Melbourne and Singapore. After over 13 years abroad, ArChan's return brings a sense of harmony and homecoming to her next chapter. Author of *Hong Kong Local*, and *A Day in Hong Kong*.



## WOKS TO WONDERS: EXPLORING CHINESE CUISINE

Join authors, Archan and Jennifer Wong, for an insightful discussion about their respective books, *A Day in Hong Kong: A Cantonese Cookbook* and *Chopsticks or Fork?* Archan will delve into the rich culinary heritage of Cantonese cuisine, sharing recipes and stories that celebrate authentic flavours and hidden gems from Hong Kong's food culture. Jennifer Wong will explore the unique stories behind Chinese restaurants in regional Australia, offering a glimpse into the lives of the families who run them and their role in Australia's cultural and culinary history. This talk is a celebration of food, family, and the diverse ways in which cuisine connects communities across continents.



- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 11:30am - 12:30pm
- 📍 Soho House Studio, 2F
- 💰 HKD \$228
- ★ Talk
- 🗨️ English



Australian Consulate-General  
Hong Kong

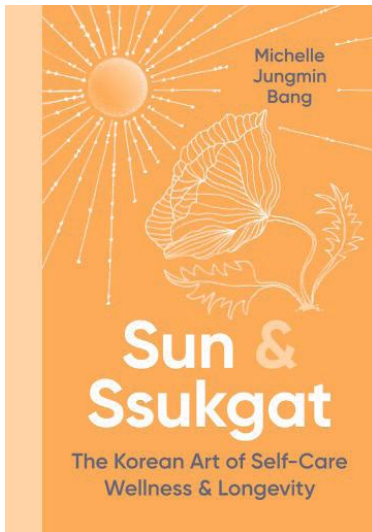
Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.



## Michelle Jungmin Bang



Michelle Jungmin Bang is an award-winning Korean American eco-entrepreneur, Chivas Venture Social Impact Fellow, and Harvard Business School graduate born into a family of doctors. She is a preventative care expert, speaker, and the author of *Sun & Ssukgat: The Korean Art of Self-Care, Wellness & Longevity*. She is known for translating research into strategies that promote a radical shift in healthcare that embraces self-care or preventative care, which blends new science and old wisdom. Michelle is passionate about driving social impact and serves as a board director and founding member of various mission-driven organizations, most recently GrowNYC, an environmental non-profit focused on food access, agriculture, and green spaces. She lives with her family in Hong Kong and New York City and has been invited to speak at organizations, including Google.



## SUN & SSUKGAT - THE KOREAN ART OF SELF-CARE, WELLNESS & LONGEVITY

Explore how ancient Korean wellness traditions can transform modern living in this engaging conversation with Michelle Jungmin Bang—HBS graduate, eco-entrepreneur, and debut author of *Sun & Ssukgat*. Drawing from her personal journey and extensive research, Michelle reveals timeless practices for longevity, from healing foods to preventative self-care, and demonstrates how they align with today's needs for sustainability and balance. Learn how Michelle reimaged these traditions to heal herself and inspire others, and hear her insights on navigating the challenges of writing her first book while staying true to her mission of impactful living. This event is perfect for professionals seeking wellness in the fast-paced modern world.

[\(Moderator: Voon Siang Lee\)](#)

- 8 March (Sat)
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- Soho House Studio, 2F
- HKD \$248
- Performance
- English



**Harvard  
Business  
School**  
Association of  
Hong Kong

Presented with the support of The Harvard Business School Association of Hong Kong (HBSAHK).

## Connie Wang



Connie Wang is a journalist and writer based in Los Angeles. She was born in Jinan, China, raised in Minnesota, and went to school at UC Berkeley. She was the former executive editor at Refinery29, and the host of fashion and travel docuseries Style Out There. Her debut book, *Oh My Mother! A Memoir in Nine Adventures* is with Viking Books.



## OH MY MOTHER: THE IMMIGRANT MOTHER / DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP

This IWD we celebrate mother / daughter relationships with Connie Wang's debut novel, *Oh My Mother*. In this adventure tale, real life journalist Connie Wang takes readers on a globetrotting mother-daughter journey filled with humour, heart, and self-discovery. Through a series of adventures—from attending a Magic Mike show in Vegas to exploring Amsterdam on edibles—Wang and her charismatic mother, Qing Li, confront their complex relationship as an immigrant family in the United States. Along the way, they grapple with belonging, defiance, and the bond between them. With a perfect blend of laughter and tenderness, Wang reveals how embracing the feeling of not belonging can lead to a profound sense of freedom. ([Moderator: Treena Nairne](#))

- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- 📍 Soho House - Yellow Room
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Talk
- 💬 English

identity | love | relationships



## Chin Huat Ong



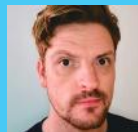
He is a freelance writer, fashion stylist, and TV host. He has contributed to publications like *Harper's Bazaar* and *Elle*, and hosted *Hong Kong High Life* on ATV Hong Kong and *Driven* on TheStarTV.com. His debut novel is *Harmony Heights*.

## Madeleine Gray



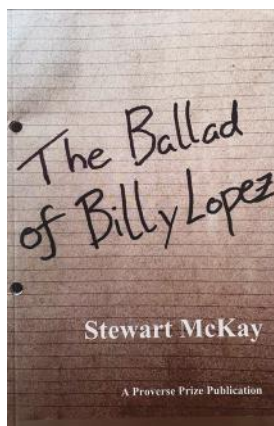
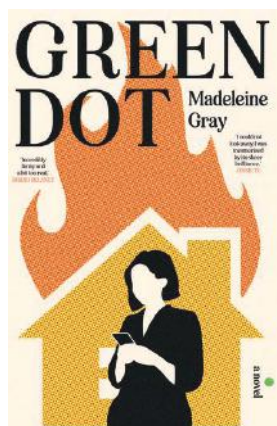
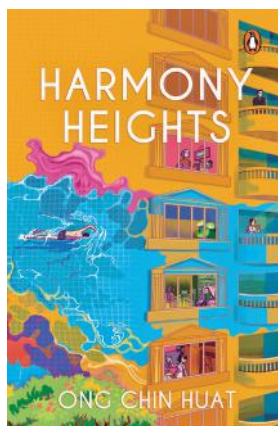
Madeleine Gray is a writer and critic from Sydney. Her debut novel, *Green Dot*, has been published in over twelve territories, and won Madeleine the Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year at the 2024 ABIA's.

## Stewart McKay



Stewart McKay is an active member of the Hong Kong Writers Circle. He has edited *HK24* (2017) and *Lost in Transition* (2023). His debut novel, *The Ballad of Billy Lopez*, was a 2023 Proverse Prize finalist.

# QUEER NARRATIVES IN LITERATURE



- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 2:30pm - 3:45pm
- 📍 Soho House Studio, 2F
- 💰 HKD \$148
- ★ Panel
- 🗨️ English

This panel explores how character development can be more inclusive to celebrate the voices and stories that define LGBTQIA+ experiences in literature. It brings together 3 authors to explore how queer narratives challenge stereotypes, foster understanding and create space for diverse identities. Whether you're a writer, reader or ally, join us in celebrating stories that honor authenticity, amplify marginalized voices, and transform the literary landscape. ([Moderator: Benita Chick](#))



Australian Consulate-General  
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ENCOMPASS HK

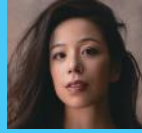
Presented with the support of the Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong and Encompass HK.



## Matthew Wong Foreman Aube Rey Lescure



Matthew was born and raised in Hong Kong, holds a B.A. in history and philosophy from Hong Kong University. His debut novel, *Sunset at Lion Rock*, won the 2023 International Proverse Prize. The book will be released in the US in 2026.



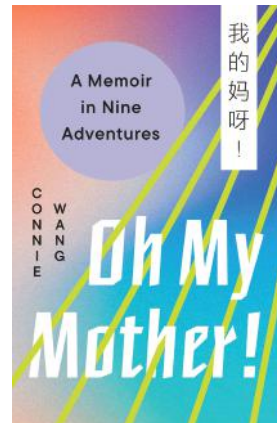
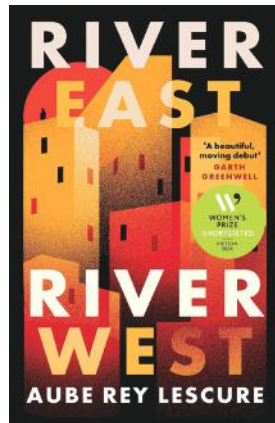
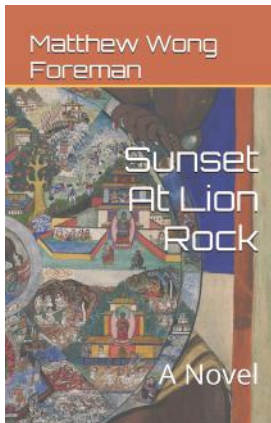
Aube is a French-Chinese-American writer. A Yale graduate, she co-authored two books on Chinese politics and economics. Her debut novel, *River East, River West*, has been shortlisted for multiple prestigious awards. Her work appears in *Granta*, *LitHub*, and more.

## Connie Wang



Connie Wang, a journalist and writer based in Los Angeles, was born in Jinan, China, and raised in Minnesota. Former executive editor at *Refinery29*, she hosted *Style Out There*. Her debut memoir, *Oh My Mother!: A Memoir in Nine Adventures*, is published by Viking Books.

# ROOTS AND REFLECTIONS: EXPLORING IDENTITY AND FAMILY THROUGH LITERATURE



- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 3:00pm - 4:15pm
- 📍 Soho House - Yellow Room
- 💰 HKD \$198
- ★ Panel
- 💬 English

This panel will explore the profound connection between storytelling, identity, and family. Three authors with diverse backgrounds will explore heritage, belonging, and personal growth in literature. Through panel discussions, readings, and workshops, participants will uncover the ways literature captures the complexities of family dynamics, cultural roots, and self-discovery. From memoirs to fiction, the event highlights stories that resonate across generations and cultures. Whether you're a writer, reader, or seeker of connection, join us to reflect on the ties that bind us and the stories that define who we are.

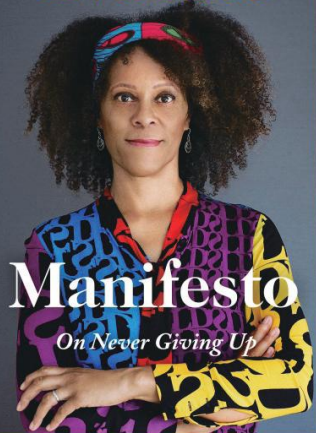
(Moderator: Anasuya Sanyal)

## Bernardine Evaristo



Bernardine Evaristo's Booker Prize-winning novel, *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019) is an international bestseller. Her novel *Mr Loverman* (2013) became a hit BBC television drama in 2024. The author of ten books, her works have been translated into over 40 languages. She has received over 80 awards, honours and nominations, including the two British Book Awards. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Brunel University London, an Honorary Fellow of St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, and President of the Royal Society of Literature.

### Bernardine Evaristo



## MANIFESTO: ON NEVER GIVING UP

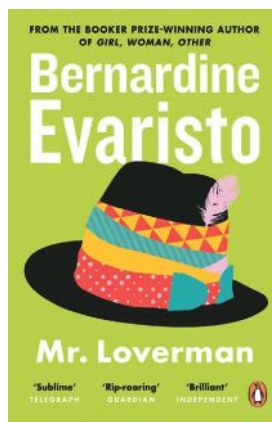
From Booker Prize-winning author Bernardine Evaristo comes *Manifesto: On Never Giving Up*, a powerful and intimate memoir of creativity, resilience, and self-discovery. Charting her journey from a mixed-race childhood in South London to literary acclaim, Evaristo delves into the struggles and triumphs that shaped her voice and vision. With wit, honesty, and unflinching courage, she shares her insights on defying barriers, embracing identity, and pursuing one's dreams against all odds.

Both a personal reflection and a call to action, *Manifesto* is an inspiring celebration of perseverance and the transformative power of art. ([Moderator: Angela McKay](#))

- 📅 8 March (Sat)
- 🕒 4:00pm - 5:00pm
- 📍 Soho House Studio, 2F
- 💰 HKD \$398
- ★ Marquee
- 🗣️ English

**FT** FINANCIAL  
TIMES

In collaboration with the Financial Times

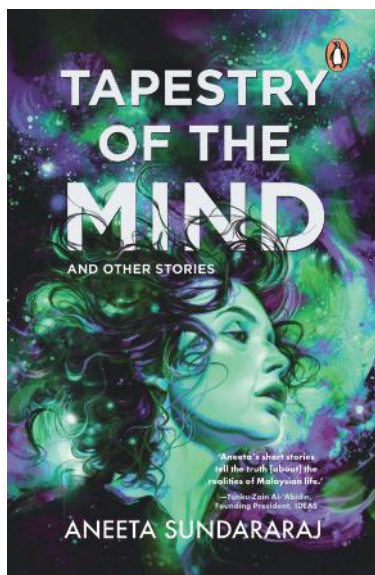


## Aneeta Sundararaj



Aneeta Sundararaj is the recipient of the Trisha Ashley Award in 2022 and the 2022 H.E. Bates Short Story Prize. She's also been longlisted for the Bristol Short Story Prize in 2023 and nominated for the Pushcart Prize 2024. The stories for these awards and nominations are included in Aneeta's latest collection of short stories, *Tapestry of the Mind and Other Stories*. A versatile writer, Aneeta's work appears in many magazines, ezines, journals and the national newspaper. Her bestselling novel, *The Age of Smiling Secrets* was shortlisted for the Anugerah Buku 2020 organised by the National Library of Malaysia.

# TAPESTRY OF THE MIND AND OTHER STORIES: EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE HUMAN PSYCHE



*Tapestry of the Mind and Other Stories* is a powerful collection of seventeen short stories by Aneeta Sundararaj, exploring the complexities of the human psyche. Set in Malaysia, particularly in her hometown of Alor Setar, these stories tackle a wide array of themes ranging from cultural identity and spiritual struggles to love, loss, and societal issues. From classical Indian dancers to children encountering spirits, and from environmental disasters to the stigma of homosexuality, Sundararaj's diverse characters navigate profound challenges with humor, tenderness, and insight. Winner of multiple literary awards, this collection reveals uncomfortable truths with brutal honesty, offering a compelling reflection on life's complexities.

(Moderator: J. Daniel Elam)

📅 8 March (Saturday)

🕒 5:00pm - 6:00pm

📍 Soho House - Yellow Room

💰 HKD \$198

★ Talk

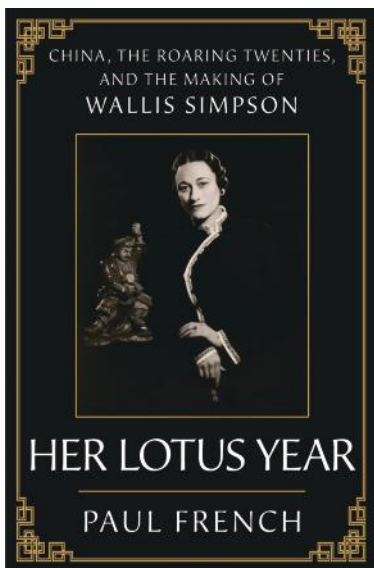
🗣️ English



## Paul French



Paul French worked in Shanghai for many years. His award-winning book *Midnight in Peking* was selected as a New York Times Bestseller and BBC Radio 4 - Book of the Week. *City of Devils: A Shanghai Noir* received much praise with The Economist. Both are currently in development for films. His most recent book, *Her Lotus Year: China, the Roaring Twenties and the Making of Wallis Simpson*, was described by the New York Times as '...beautifully told through meticulous historical research and examination of contemporary literature and film'.



## THE SHANGHAI SOCIALITE: WALLIS WARFIELD SPENCER

*Her Lotus Year* explores the transformative year of Wallis Warfield Spencer, later the Duchess of Windsor, spent in China, a pivotal period that shaped her life and style. From her humble beginnings in Baltimore to marrying the man who would abdicate the British throne for her, Wallis's time in China was more than just a cultural awakening. While the British establishment painted her as a morally dubious figure influenced by foreign agents, historian French uncovers a different story—one of courage and potential espionage, where Wallis may have secretly acted as a courier for the US government amidst China's civil war. This untold chapter reveals a woman of resilience and hidden complexity. ([Moderator: Michelle Garnaut](#))

📅 8 March (Sat)

🕒 5:30pm - 6:30pm

📍 Soho House Studio, 2F

💰 HKD \$298

★ Talk

🗨 English



## Enid Tsui



Enid Tsui has been a journalist in arts since the late 2000s. Currently based in Hong Kong, she is the Arts Editor of the South China Morning Post, where she writes and commissions stories about the art market, events and cultural policies. She has an MA in art history. Her book *Art in Hong Kong: Portrait of a City in Flux* was published in January 2025 by Lund Humphries. As part of the "Hot Topics in the Art World" series, it provides historical context for Hong Kong's contemporary art scene and presents a fact-based account of how things have changed in recent years.

# Art in Hong Kong

Portrait of a City in Flux

Enid Tsui

Hot Topics in the Art World

## HONG KONG'S FUTURE AS A GLOBAL ART CENTRE

In this talk, we'll celebrate art and literature with journalist and author Enid Tsui's new book, which provides a comprehensive look at the city's evolving art scene and offers a nuanced perspective on Hong Kong's future as a global art centre.

The talk will begin at 11am with Enid's examination of how recent political changes, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a wave of talent loss have impacted Hong Kong's artistic identity. The talk will be followed by a book-buying and signing opportunity.

Guests are encouraged to arrive on the 6th floor between 10:30am and 11am for the opportunity to preview Christie's Art Month Opening Preview Sale as an exclusive perk of purchasing a ticket. ([Moderator: Kyle Chung](#))

📅 24 March (Monday)

🕒 10:30am - 12noon

📍 Christie's

💰 HKD \$348

★ Book Launch

🗣️ English

culture | history | design

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# SUPPORT US

## Why Should You Support HKILF?

With your generosity our registered charity non-profit organisation provides programming for the general public, emergent writers, marginalised communities, students, and other literacy advocates (through access to top quality literary figures from around the world). We champion the stories, words, and languages that are found in a literary rich society through complimentary ticketing, discounted pricing and invitations to exclusive literary events.



We are grateful for the ongoing commitments of our core contributors including the Hong Kong Government Agency SCOLAR, private individuals, corporations, and various consulates and arts organisations. We appeal for your generous support to ensure we can deliver an exciting and impactful festival. All donations are tax deductible.

Scan the QR Code to make a donation!

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We sincerely thank our generous donors and supporters for their unwavering commitment, as your contributions are vital for promoting literacy in Hong Kong and ensuring the success of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival.

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# TICKETS



Please scan the QR Code, or visit Eventbrite for ticket bookings.

This year, your ticket comes with a special perk! Gain exclusive access to The LitFest Guide to Hong Kong, expertly curated by the team at Zolima CityMag. Whether you're visiting Hong Kong for the first time or rediscovering it as a local, this guide features a few areas and highlights some of the city's must-see spots and hidden gems you simply cannot miss. Zolima CityMag is an award winning digital culture magazine founded in 2015. It aims to take its readers on a journey of discovery across Hong Kong.

<https://zolimacitymag.com>

Seating for all events is on a first-come, first-served basis. We kindly ask that you arrive on time, as late arrivals can be disruptive to both speakers and fellow attendees.

The Hong Kong International Literary Festival Limited maintains the right to photograph and record video during all events. These images and recordings may be shared on our website. Audience members are not permitted to take photos or videos during the events.

All details in this brochure are accurate as of printing. Any updates or changes will be communicated through our social media platforms, or on Eventbrite.



[festival.org.hk](http://festival.org.hk)



[litfest\\_hk](https://www.instagram.com/litfest_hk)



[HKILF](https://www.facebook.com/HKILF)



[Hong Kong International Literary Festival](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hong-kong-international-literary-festival)



+852 2877 9770



302B, Kai Tak Commercial Building, 66-72 Stanley Street, Central, Hong Kong



# VENUES

## 1) Fringe Club

2 Lower Albert Road, Central

Anita Chan Lai-ling Gallery, Fringe Underground, Fringe Dairy  
& The Jockey Club Studio Theatre

## 2) Soho House

33 Des Voeux Road, Central

Soho House Studio, Yellow Room & Blue Room

## 3) Hong Kong Central Library

66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay

## 4) Asia Society Hong Kong Center

9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

Miller Theater

## 5) Wyndham Social

33 Wyndham Street, Central

## 6) Bookazine Social

Shops 03-07, G/F, Parade Ground, Tai Kwun,  
10 Hollywood Road, Central

## 7) The University of Hong Kong

Centennial Campus, Pokfulam Road

Black Box Studio

## 8) The Executive Centre - Three Garden Road

43-44/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central

## 9) The Executive Centre - AIA Central

15/F, AIA Central,

1 Connaught Road Central, Central

## 10) Christie's

6/F, The Henderson, 2 Murray Road, Central

## 11) Africa Center Hong Kong

8/F, Breakthrough Centre,

191 Woosung Street, Jordan

## 12) WOHK - Women's Lounge

Old Bailey Street, Central

## 13) Thirsty Shaker

3/F, Hilltop Plaza, 49 Hollywood Road, Central

## 14) Social Room

3/F, Won Hing Building,

74-78 Stanley Street, Central

## 15) Cafe 8

Rooftop Hong Kong Maritime Museum,  
Central Pier 8, Central

## 16) Tango Argentinian Steakhouse

2/F, Grand Progress Building,

15-16 Lan Kwai Fong, Central

## 17) Aftermath

LG, Sunny Building,

57-59 Wyndham Street, Central

## 18) Iyengar Yoga Centre

19/F, The Pemberton, 22-26 Bonham Strand,  
Sheung Wan



# ABOUT HKILF

The Hong Kong International Literary Festival (HKILF) inspires the joy of reading by bringing the world's writers and stories to Hong Kong's diverse communities. A dynamic year-round programme and an annual festival offer dialogue, entertainment and perspective, while the Young Readers Festival (YRF) motivates students to engage with all aspects of the written word, improving communication skills, while nurturing the art of writing and storytelling.

The annual festival features established and emerging writers from around the world, alongside local literary talents, in a programme that includes panel discussions, book talks, readings, workshops, walks, school programmes, performances, and more.

HKILF is an acknowledged landmark in the city's cultural landscape and has brought a distinguished roster of guests to Hong Kong for over twenty years. Past speakers include Margaret Atwood, Amy Tan, Shehan Karunatilaka, Irvine Welsh, Kevin Kwan, Jonathan Kaufman, Cheryl Strayed, David Sedaris, Jason Reynolds, Pico Iyer, Ian Rankin, Yann Martel, Julia Donaldson, Neil Gaiman, Michael Morpurgo and Emily St. John Mandel, among many others.

We are a registered charitable non-profit organisation dedicated to bringing the best in the literary arts to Hong Kong.

INTO THE FUTURE



# OUR TEAM

## STAFF:

Laura Mannering (Executive Director)

Wency Li (Festival Manager)

Clair Wang (Events & Communications Manager)

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Daniella Lopez (Consultant - Programming)

Deepa Nainani (Consultant - Hospitality)

Neerja Sujanani (Consultant - Event Production)

Hollie Arnulphy (Volunteer - PR Coordinator)

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Illustration: Andreas Von Buddenbrock

