

1-8 MARCH 2026



Hong Kong International  
Literary Festival  
香港國際文學節

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

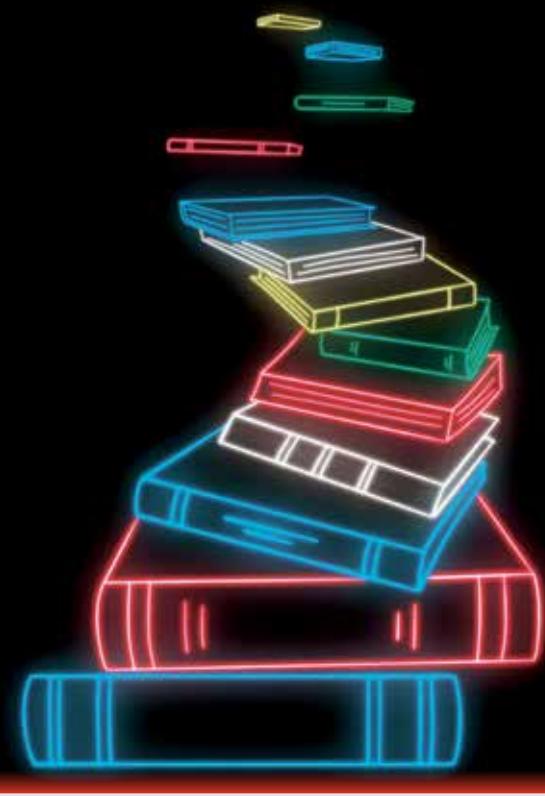
As we celebrate 25 years of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, we honour the power of stories to inspire connection across generations, borders, and languages. Our 2026 theme, *Inspiring Generations*, reflects literature's role in shaping conversations that move us—across time, place, and experience.

This year's programme brings together an exceptional range of voices in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and translation. Through intimate readings, cross-cultural dialogue, collaborative workshops, and city-centered tours, we invite audiences into meaningful exchange—across perspectives, across languages, and rooted in the vibrant character of Hong Kong.

More than a stage for ideas, the Festival is a space for listening, reflecting, and sharing the joy of words. Its boutique nature offers a rare closeness between authors and audiences, allowing every event to carry heart, depth, and discovery.

Thank you for travelling with us through these 25 years—and into the stories still to come.

Bonny & Jess  
Co-chairs



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Hong Kong and all Festival Goers,

"Inspiring Generations" is a statement year for us at the HKILF. For twenty-five years, our community — writers, storytellers, poets, illustrators, creators, and those who devour words with curiosity — along with our volunteers, advisors, board members, supporters, and donors, have united to celebrate the importance of literature.

Some days, bringing all these people together feels futile. It is like climbing a great mountain: wondering if it will work, if the funds will arrive, chasing deadlines, having to say "no" more often than "yes." Doubt creeps in: *are we really making a difference? Do people still care about literacy education?*

I am grateful to my parents and family members who valued stories, investing time to read with me as a child and gifting me books for as long as I can remember—a tradition that continues to this day. When I worked in schools, our literacy programmes taught students to read and write, but they also encouraged families to enjoy reading together; it was often shocking how many did not do this until prompted.

I know my own love of books grew slowly as I watched with young eyes: the volumes collecting on our shelves, the special editions that came out only during festive holidays, the dinner conversations about a recent read. Without realizing it, I was deeply impacted by being surrounded by book lovers and newspaper readers. I watched them sit quietly and read. I had role models. I saw people I admired write poems and handwritten notes—not with the intent to publish, but simply because it was a joyful, heartfelt form of expression.

I have inherited my love of books, just as I have inherited my role as Festival Director, from those before me. Leading the HKILF and the Young Readers Festival are tremendous tasks; we never know if the community will abandon us for modern devices or if the funding will disappear. Each year is uncertain, but we have made it here by the skin of our teeth and a whole lot of love for the power of words. So, this year, my heart feels full knowing that a generation of Hong Kongers do care, and have kept our festival alive and beating with stories and conversations for a quarter of a century.

Please help books be seen. Tell stories to each other. Invite your friends and family to celebrate the gift that we have all created together.

## **Inspiring Generations: 25 Years of the HKILF**

With immense gratitude,  
Laura Manning  
Executive Director

# ABOUT HKILF 2026

## Inspiring Generations: 25 Years of the HKILF

For a quarter century, the Hong Kong International Literary Festival has supported literacy and language communication through its much-loved school programming and eclectic public events open to all ages. Inspiring Generations: 25 Years of the HKILF is a celebration of the culture and spirit of our diverse international home, our achievements to date, and the people and community that support us.

### Event Highlights:

- Workshops on illustration, creative writing, comics, and more.
- Talks and conversations featuring intimate discussions or panel conversations.
- Walks with speakers knowledgeable in history, art, local culture and photography.
- Food events like breakfasts, lunches, cocktails, and more!



Do you have books at home that your kids have outgrown?  
Are you looking for children's books at great prices?

### WELCOME TO REBOOKED!

**REBOOKED IS HONG KONG'S BIGGEST SECONDHAND  
BOOKSTORE FOR KIDS. YOU CAN PURCHASE PRELOVED  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS OR DONATE YOUR OWN.**

[WWW.REBOOKED-HK.COM](http://WWW.REBOOKED-HK.COM)



# MODERATORS & INTERPRETERS

We are grateful for our moderators and interpreters for their exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to fostering engaging conversations and insightful discussions.

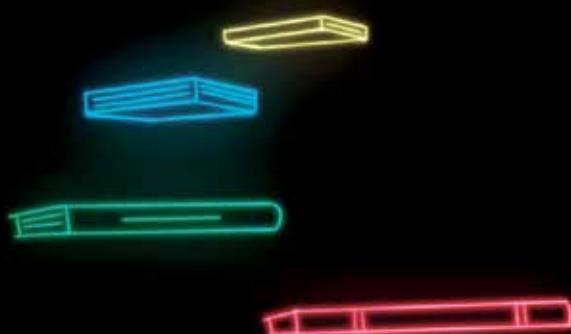
## MODERATORS

Niharika Aggarwal  
Daniela Alam  
Nicole Alpert  
Tiffany Ap  
Rebecca Brosnan  
Raquel Carvalho  
Dorothy Chan  
Jessica Chan  
Jess Cheng  
Gloria Chung  
Daniel Elamistan  
Slavica Habjanovic  
Henrik Hoeg  
Dr Antony Huen  
Genevieve James  
Tingi Ko  
Karen Koh  
Eashwar Krishnan  
Jason Lee  
Zabrina Lo

Daniella Lopez  
Jo Lusby  
Cruzanne Macalligan  
Donna Mah  
Laura Mannerling  
Emilia Mason  
Ann Morgan  
Margarita Oganyan  
Chris Pererra  
Betty Richardson  
Jordan Rivet  
Dr. Huiwen Shi  
Imogen Short  
Pete Spurrier  
Julian Stargardt  
Maureen Tai  
Daniel Tam-Claiborne  
Tiffany Tivasuradej  
Boyi Wu

## INTERPRETERS

Kelly Cheung  
Soomin Park



# EVENT CALENDAR

Date	14 Feb (Sat)	27 Feb (Fri)	1 Mar (Sun)				
Venue	Ho Tak Kee	Various Locations	Fringe Underground	Eaton Hotel	Wyndham Social	Africa Center	Others
8:30 am							
9:00 am							
9:30 am							
10:00 am							
10:30 am	Valentine's Day Zao Fan with Michael Zee		Migrant Writer's Workshop	三行詩探索工作坊			
11:00 am					Wild Crossings: How Humans Impact Animal Habitats		Hong Kong Photography Walking Tour
11:30 am							
12:00 noon			Mythology, Fairy Tales & Fantasy				African Drum Storytelling
12:30 pm							
1:00 pm							
1:30 pm			Beyond the Headlines: Writing Southeast Asia	虛榮廣場	Creating Characters		Building Belonging Across Communities
2:00 pm							
2:30 pm							
3:00 pm							
3:30 pm			Drawing the Literary World				Chungking & Mirador Mansions Tour
4:00 pm				Stamford Hospital: A Look at Motherhood	The Science and Soul of Strength: A Conversation with Bonnie Tsui & Arshay Cooper		
4:30 pm							
5:00 pm							Where a Book Begins
5:30 pm							
6:00 pm							
6:30 pm							
7:00 pm							
7:30 pm							
8:00 pm							
8:30 pm							
9:00 pm							
9:30pm							
10:00 pm							

2 Mar (Mon)	3 Mar (Tue)		4 Mar (Wed)			Date
Others	Central Library	Others	Central Library	Aftermath	Others	Venue
						8:30 am
						9:00 am
						9:30 am
						10:00 am
						10:30 am
						11:00 am
						11:30 am
						12:00 noon
						12:30 pm
Workshop with Thammika Songkaoe: Voice-First						1:00 pm
						1:30 pm
						2:00 pm
						2:30 pm
						3:00 pm
						3:30 pm
						4:00 pm
						4:30 pm
						5:00 pm
						5:30 pm
Making Magic for Children						6:00 pm
						6:30 pm
						7:00 pm
						7:30 pm
						8:00 pm
Peel Street Poetry 20 Year Anthology Launch	On Muscle: The Stuff that Moves Us and Why It Matters	IWD: Women, Words & Wine	I Deliver Parcels in Beijing			8:30 pm
						9:00 pm
						9:30pm
						10:00 pm
				Poetry x Jazz	Imprint 24: Women's Voices	

# EVENT CALENDAR

Date	5 Mar (Thu)			6 Mar (Fri)	
Venue	Central Library	HKU Black Box	Others	Fringe Dairy	Others
8:30 am					
9:00 am					
9:30 am					
10:00 am					
10:30 am			Manufactured Truths: Who Controls the Story?	Writing a Memoir	
11:00 am					
11:30 am					
12:00 noon					
12:30 pm				Literary Lunch: Empire, Espionage and Scandal	Lunch Talk with Miles Franklin Literary Winner - Siang Lu
1:00 pm					
1:30 pm					
2:00 pm					
2:30 pm					
3:00 pm					
3:30 pm			The Art of Creative Curation	Incomprehension Workshop	
4:00 pm					
4:30 pm					Black Box Writers' Series: Emma Pei Yin
5:00 pm					
5:30 pm		Introducing Voices: Hong Kong Literary Review Debuts at the HKILF			
6:00 pm				Forms in Motion: Cross-Cultural Poetics with Joshua Ip & James Shea	
6:30 pm					
7:00 pm			How Hong Kong's Visual Storytelling Shapes Creativity	Letterpress History in Hong Kong	
7:30 pm	Amitav Ghosh: Ghost-Eye				
8:00 pm					
8:30 pm					
9:00 pm					
9:30pm					Nightcaps & Narratives
10:00 pm					

7 Mar (Sat)			8 Mar (Sun)		27 Mar (Fri)	Date
Fringe Underground	Fringe Dairy	Others	Fringe Underground	Fringe Dairy	HKU Black Box	Venue
						8:30 am
						9:00 am
						9:30 am
						10:00 am
						10:30 am
						11:00 am
						11:30 am
						12:00 noon
						12:30 pm
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						8:00 pm
						8:30 pm
						9:00 pm
						9:30pm
						10:00 pm

Black Box Writers' Series:  
Displaced Nostalgia  
by Sheung-King and  
JeeMin Kim



HKD \$168

★ Breakfast Talk

## VALENTINE'S DAY ZAO FAN WITH MICHAEL ZEE

**Michael Zee** | (Moderator: Gloria Chung)

14 February (Sat)

10:00am - 11:30am

Ho Tak Kee

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a delicious journey through the streets of China at a special breakfast event with Michael Zee, creator of *Symmetry Breakfast* and winner of the 2025 Fortnum & Mason Cookery Book Award. Drawing from his second book, Michael guides us through China's vibrant breakfast culture, where dawn brings sizzling griddles, steaming baskets, and generations-old recipes made fresh to order. From dan dan mian and jian bing to xiaolongbao and golden youtiao, discover dishes designed for speed, comfort, and pleasure.



Free

★ Performance

## EUROPEAN LITERATURE NIGHT

27 February (Fri)

6:00pm - 10:40pm

Central / Sheung Wan

European Literature Night (ELN), a literary initiative launched in Prague in 2006, will return to Hong Kong this February for its third edition, following the success of the previous two years. This year's event will form part of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, presenting an exceptional line-up representing 11 European countries. ELN aims to showcase contemporary European literature through public readings in distinctive, non-traditional venues. Over the course of five hours, prominent Hong Kong personalities will present 10-minute excerpts from works by European authors at 10 different locations. Readings will occur simultaneously at 30-minute intervals, enabling audiences to design their own literary route using a dedicated map.

The event is organized by the EUNIC Hong Kong Cluster, comprising the Consulate General of Czechia in Hong Kong, the Goethe-Institut, Alliance Française, and the Italian Cultural Institute, in collaboration with Czech Centres, the EU Office in Hong Kong, and other Consulates General and cultural institutions. Local partners include the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, Bookazine HK, Zolima CityMag, and the venue partners.



Free

Workshop

## MIGRANT WRITER'S WORKSHOP

*Marga Ortigas*

1 March (Sun)

9:30am - 11:00am

Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

This writers' circle offers a welcoming space for migrant writers to gather, reflect, and write together. Hosted by author Marga Ortigas, the session invites participants to explore how movement, memory, and belonging shape their stories, at their own pace. Through light writing prompts, quiet reflection, and shared conversation, the circle encourages attentive listening and mutual support rather than critique. Writers at all stages are welcome, whether they arrive with a piece of work or simply curiosity. The focus is on presence, connection, and finding comfort in the act of storytelling — creating a small, supportive community where voices shaped by many places can be heard and held.

This event is presented in partnership with *Migrant Writers of Hong Kong*.



HKD \$158

Workshop

## 三行詩探索工作坊

*趙曉彤*

1 March (Sun)

9:30am - 11:00am

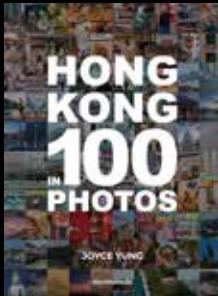
Eaton Hotel - 1/F Kino and Lounge

加入我們的三行詩工作坊，在星期日早晨，漫步於平日熙攘的彌敦道，尋找詩意的靈感，並在專業指導下完成自己的詩作。三行詩，簡潔而有力，以精煉的語言表達豐富的情感與瞬間之美。作家趙曉彤將帶領參加者深入了解極短篇詩作的魅力，並探索優美的三行詩。透過即興寫作練習，參加者將體驗到詩的精髓。最後，大家將有機會展示與討論自己的創作，無論你是資深詩人還是好奇的初學者皆歡迎參加！

\*本活動將以廣東話進行。

\*10歲以下兒童請由家長陪同參加。





HKD \$298

Walk

# HONG KONG PHOTOGRAPHY WALKING TOUR

*Joyce Yung*

1 March (Sun)

10:00am - 11:30am

Wyndham Social - G/F Social Hall (Meeting Point)

Join us for an engaging photography walking tour in the vibrant Tai Kwun area of Central Hong Kong! This tour starts at Wyndham Social and ends at Bookazine Social for a short discussion and book buying opportunity. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to enhance your smartphone photography skills, this workshop is designed for everyone who wants to capture the spirit of the city.

## What to Expect:

- Explore Iconic locations: We'll stroll along Hollywood Road, stopping at some of the most Instagram-worthy hotspots. Get ready to capture the unique blend of modern art and historical architecture that defines this area.
- Learn the Art of Composition: Discover essential composition techniques to elevate your photography. We'll cover framing, angles, and the rule of thirds, helping you take your shots from ordinary to extraordinary.
- Master Storytelling Through Images: Photography is more than just taking pictures—it's about telling a story. Learn how to convey emotions and narratives through your photos, making them resonate with your audience.
- Maximize Your Smartphone Camera: Your smartphone is a powerful tool! We'll explore tips and tricks to make the most of its features, including lighting adjustments, shooting modes, and editing apps, ensuring you capture stunning images every time.

This session is conducted bilingually in Cantonese and English.

Children under 15 must be accompanied by a guardian.





## WILD CROSSINGS: HOW HUMANS IMPACT ANIMAL HABITATS

**Rachel Ip**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 10:30am - 11:30am

📍 Wyndham Social - G/F Social Hall

In this talk, the audience will explore why animals migrate and the impact humans have on different habitats. Rachel will reveal how wildlife crossings are used to help animals cross man-made roads and railways all over the world: from canopy rope bridges for Hainan gibbons in China, to tiny tunnels for toads in South Africa. Rachel will share her notebooks and talk about how she researches and writes non-fiction, followed by a Q&A session.

For participants aged 5-12 years.

This event is 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.



## AFRICAN DRUM STORYTELLING

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 11:00am - 12:15pm

📍 Africa Center

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.

This event is presented in partnership with Africa Centre, donations are warmly appreciated.



## MYTHOLOGY, FAIRY TALES & FANTASY

**Sue Lynn Tan | (Moderator: Jordan Rivet)**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

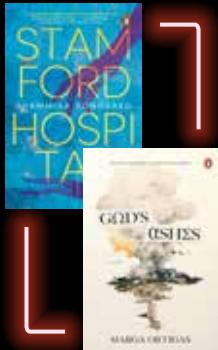
⌚ 11:30am - 12:30pm

📍 Eaton Hotel - 1/F Kino and Lounge

Join Sue Lynn Tan for an intimate discussion of how her books explore beloved myths and fairytales, bringing the legends of her culture to a wider audience. Sue Lynn Tan is the internationally bestselling author of *Daughter of the Moon Goddess* and the Celestial Kingdom books, *Never Ever After*, and *Immortal*. She writes stories of mythology, fantasy and romance, for adults and older teenagers. Her books have been translated into eighteen languages, have won the American Library Association Alex Award, been nominated for Goodreads Choice Awards, in addition to being NYT, USA Today and Sunday Times bestsellers.

HKD \$228

★ Talk



HKD \$298

Panel

## BEYOND THE HEADLINES: WRITING SOUTHEAST ASIA

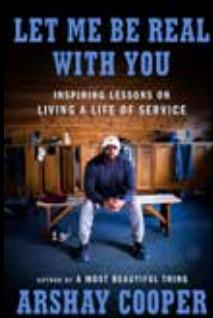
*Thammika Songkaoe | Marga Ortigas | (Moderator: Daniella Lopez)*

1 March (Sun)

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

From bustling cities to quieter margins, Southeast Asia offers stories shaped by movement, memory, and uneven visibility. This moderated panel brings together Thai writer Thammika Songkaoe, whose fiction probes class, intimacy, and displacement and Filipino author Marga Ortigas, whose work examines diaspora, language, and cultural inheritance. Together, the authors introduce their books and reflect on how place informs storytelling. They consider how geography and history shape voice and form, what it means to write from regions often overlooked, and how representation and readership are negotiated on global literary stages.



Free

Talk

## BUILDING BELONGING ACROSS COMMUNITIES

*Arshay Cooper*

1 March (Sun)

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Africa Centre

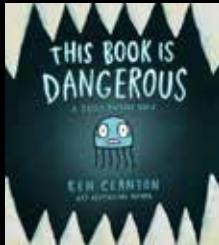
In this special conversation at The Africa Centre, Arshay Cooper — rower, author, and social changemaker — shares how courage, unity, and resilience can transform lives and neighborhoods.

Arshay's journey began in one of Chicago's most underserved communities, where he used the unlikely sport of rowing to confront racial barriers, build trust, and ignite a movement that redefined what was possible for young people of color. His story, captured in the book and documentary *A Most Beautiful Thing*, reminds us that transformation begins when those who feel invisible discover their collective strength.

Though Hong Kong's challenges differ, many here also navigate the realities of invisibility — from migrant workers to local minorities seeking belonging in an ever-changing city. This event invites reflection on how community, empathy, and collaboration can make us all visible.

Join us for an afternoon of insight and dialogue that bridges continents, stories, and shared humanity.

This event is presented in partnership with Africa Centre, donations are warmly appreciated.



HKD \$228

★ Family Workshop

## CREATING CHARACTERS

**Ben Clanton**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 1:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Wyndham Social - G/F Social Hall

Explore ways of creating and getting to know a character, starting with a draw along and moving into a character drawing game. Then interview your characters and discover things like where they live, who their friends and family are and what sort of problems they might have. Suitable for ages 8+. Children should be accompanied by a parent.

This event is 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.



HKD \$148

★ Talk

## 虛榮廣場

**蒲荔子**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

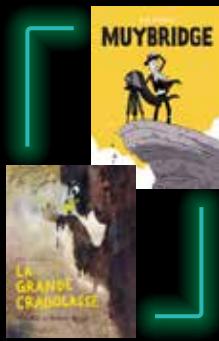
⌚ 1:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Eaton Hotel - 1/F Kino and Lounge

蒲荔子 (筆名李傻傻) 作為中國「八十後」作家的代表之一，將與大家探討其於2024年出版的作品《虛榮廣場》，該小說聚焦於青春與成長的深刻主題。在活動中，蒲荔子會分享他的創作過程，並了解他的其他代表作如《紅X》、《李傻傻三年》和《被當作鬼的人》等。蒲荔子現任廣州市作家協會副會長，曾於2005年登上美國《時代》雜誌全球版，被譽為「代筆作家」和「青年沈從文」。

\*本活動以普通話進行。

This event is presented with the support of the International Department of China Writers Association



HKD \$268

★ Workshop

## DRAWING THE LITERARY WORLD

**Beatrice Alemagna | Guy Delisle** | (Moderator: Niharika Aggarwal)

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 3:00pm - 4:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

Join acclaimed artists Guy Delisle and Beatrice Alemagna for a special double-bill event celebrating illustration as storytelling. In this 90-minute program, each artist takes the stage in turn, beginning with a live drawing demonstration that reveals their creative process in real time, followed by a short onstage conversation introducing their work and influences. Delisle, internationally known for his graphic memoirs and travel narratives, explores how observation and place shape story. Alemagna, one of Europe's most celebrated illustrators, shares her distinctive visual language rooted in emotion, imagination, and lived experience. Together, these two consecutive sessions offer rare insight into contemporary illustration across cultures.

This event is presented in partnership with Francophonie Festival, and with support of the Italian Cultural Institute in Hong Kong.



## CHUNGKING & MIRADOR MANSIONS TOUR

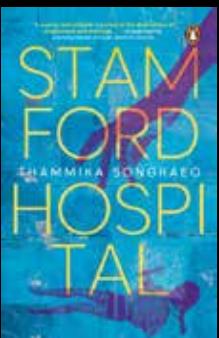
⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 3:00pm - 4:30pm

📍 Africa Center

In this unique tour you'll delve into the historical significance of African-owned and led businesses in Hong Kong Mirador and Chungking Mansions. You'll chat with African entrepreneurs who own and operate these businesses to discover the stories behind these vibrant hubs, learning about their migration journeys, and gaining an understanding of the challenges they face. Foodies will also get to indulge in diverse culinary offerings, visiting food businesses and enjoying drinks and snacks while learning about the food culture, culinary traditions, and the ways in which these businesses maintain authenticity even as they adapt their dishes in a new city.

This event is presented in partnership with Africa Centre, donations are warmly appreciated.



💲 HKD \$228

★ Talk

## STAMFORD HOSPITAL: A LOOK AT MOTHERHOOD

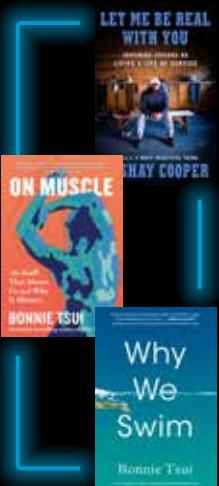
**Thammika Songkao | (Moderator: Tingi Ko)**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 3:30pm - 4:30pm

📍 Wyndham Social - G/F Social Hall

In celebration of International Women's Day, Stamford Hospital welcomes debut Thai author Thammika Songkao for an intimate literary conversation exploring women's voices, care, and resilience. Drawing from her novel, Thammika reflects on writing female interior lives, the emotional labour women carry, and how storytelling can illuminate overlooked forms of strength in families, communities, and healthcare settings. The discussion connects literature with empathy, wellbeing, and the power of listening, inviting audiences to consider how stories shape understanding and compassion in both personal and professional life.



💲 HKD \$348

★ Conversation

## THE SCIENCE AND SOUL OF STRENGTH: A CONVERSATION WITH BONNIE TSUI & ARSHAY COOPER

**Arshay Cooper | Bonnie Tsui | (Moderator: Cruzanne Macalligan)**

⌚ 1 March (Sun)

⌚ 3:30pm - 4:45pm

📍 Wyndham Social - 27/F Gallery

Join celebrated author and athlete Arshay Cooper — known for *A Most Beautiful Thing* and his newest book *Let Me Be Real: Inspiring Stories of Hope, Grit, and Redemption* for a dynamic conversation with writer Bonnie Tsui, author of *On Muscle* and *Why We Swim*. Cooper brings powerful stories of rowing as a pathway to resilience, brotherhood, and social change, while Tsui explores the science of muscle and the timeless human pull toward water. Together, they dive into how movement, especially on and in the water, shapes identity, fosters belonging, and strengthens both body and spirit. Perfect for sports lovers and readers fascinated by how physicality, water, and narrative combine to move us forward.

This event is 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.

# Jump into science

## 探索科學

23 March – 12 April 2026

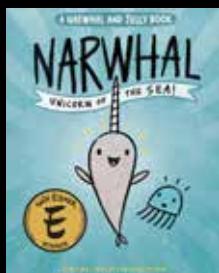


90+  
events

CROUCHER科學周  
**SCIENCE WEEK**

croucher

教育局  
Education Bureau



### WHERE A BOOK BEGINS

*Ben Clanton*

1 March (Sun)

4:00pm - 6:00pm

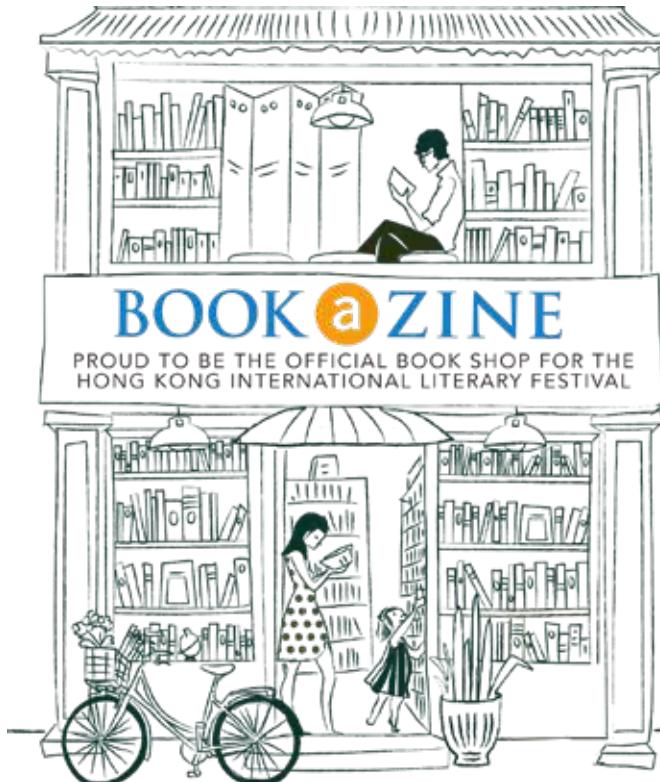
JW Marriott - Function Room

Let's explore the creative process with Ben! We'll start with a blank page and take a look at how we can fill it. Together we'll create a character and start to get to know them. Ben will share how two of his characters, Narwhal and Jelly, came to be and read from a forthcoming book. This presentation is all about fun, exploration, and creative solutions!

This event is 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.

HKD \$228 (price includes admission for 1 adult and 1 child)

Family Talk



## OUR LOCATIONS

**LANDMARK PRINCE'S**  
Shop 221-226, 2/F  
Prince's Building,  
10 Chater Road, Central  
TEL: +852 2522 1785

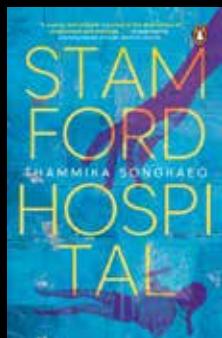
**LYNDHURST TERRACE**  
G/F, Oriental Crystal  
Commercial Building,  
46 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central  
TEL: +852 2970 3999

**BOOKAZINE TAI KWUN**  
Shops 03-07, G/F, Parade  
Ground, Tai Kwun,  
10 Hollywood Road, Central  
TEL: +852 2522 3008

**IFC MALL**  
Shop 3092C,  
Podium Level 3, ifc Mall,  
8 Finance Street, Central  
TEL: +852 2813 2770

**REPULSE BAY**  
Shop G114, G/F  
The Repulse Bay Arcade,  
109 Repulse Bay Road  
TEL: +852 2566 9308

**FESTIVAL WALK**  
UG-46, Level UG  
80 Tat Chee Avenue,  
Kowloon Tong  
TEL: +852 2808 1901



## WORKSHOP WITH THAMMIKA SONGKAE: VOICE-FIRST

*Thammika Songkao*

⌚ 2 March (Mon)

⌚ 4:00pm - 5:30pm

📍 Bookazine Social

In Voice-First, novelist Thammika Songkao (*Stamford Hospital*) argues that voice is more important than plot in captivating stories. An interactive lecture with reading, writing, and editing exercises, this session focuses on how voice emerges through stance, rhythm, and compression. Participants will work through exercises designed to isolate and stress-test voice, identifying when their writing sounds most alive—and how to make decisions that keep it that way. Designed for fiction and narrative nonfiction writers, this session equips participants with clear, usable tools to write with greater authority and to protect a voice that cannot be mistaken for anyone else.

HKD \$298

★ Workshop

## MAKING MAGIC FOR CHILDREN

**Wesley King | Erica Lyons | Rashmi Sirdeshpande | (Moderator: Daniela Alam)**

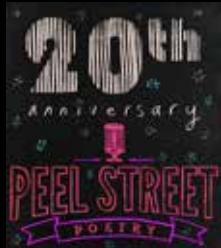
⌚ 2 March (Mon)

⌚ 6:30pm - 8:00pm

📍 The Executive Centre - Two Chinachem Central

What does it take to create children's books that resonate in today's global, fast-changing landscape? Join bestselling author Wesley King, award-winning writer Rashmi Sirdeshpande, and Hong Kong-based author Erica Lyons for an industry-focused conversation on contemporary children's publishing. Spanning picture books, middle-grade fiction, and nonfiction, the panel examines how creators balance literary ambition with accessibility, address complex themes with sensitivity, and build stories that travel across cultures. Lyons brings insights from historical fiction and culturally grounded storytelling, while King and Sirdeshpande share perspectives on audience engagement, voice, and market realities. Together, they offer a behind-the-scenes look at creative process, editorial collaboration, and the evolving expectations of young readers making this session particularly relevant for publishers, educators, librarians, and arts professionals working in children's literature today.

This event is presented with the support of Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao and in partnership with Croucher Science Week, a free festival exploring science and the world around us. Visit [coucherscienceweek.hk](http://coucherscienceweek.hk) to find out more.



HKD \$228

★ Panel

## PEEL STREET POETRY 20 YEAR ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

⌚ 2 March (Mon)

⌚ 8:00pm - 10:00pm

📍 Social Room

In November of 2025 Peel Street Poetry turned 20 years old! To honor and celebrate this incredible milestone we've put together an anthology of poetry from those 20 years, featuring some of the best poems that have ever graced our stage. We are absurdly excited to share this anthology with all of you and cannot wait to launch it at the HKILF 2026. Expect incredible readings from the book and opportunities to meet and chat with many of Hong Kong's best and brightest wordsmiths.

This event is presented in collaboration with Peel Street Poetry.

⌚ Free

★ Book Launch



HKD \$248

★ Cocktail Conversation

## IWD: WOMEN, WORDS & WINE

**Marga Ortigas | Stephanie Sy | (Moderator: Daniella Lopez)**

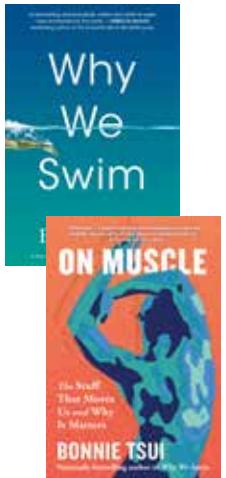
3 March (Tue)

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Call me Al

Celebrate International Women's Day at Women, Words & Wine, a relaxed, social evening for readers, writers and authors. Hosted at Call Me Al, the female-owned neighbourhood wine bar, attendees are invited to enjoy happy hour drinks while meeting international authors Marga Ortigas and Stephanie Sy, and connecting with members of Hong Kong's vibrant literary community.

Marga, a journalist and novelist, writes about identity, belonging, and the intersections of global experience. Stephanie creates imaginative stories for young readers that celebrate courage, kindness, and emotional growth. The evening is designed for easy conversation and connection, with no formal programme—aspiring writers and authors are warmly invited to share their own work and raise a glass to women's voices everywhere.



3 March (Tue)

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Central Library

HKD \$248

Talk

## ON MUSCLE: THE STUFF THAT MOVES US AND WHY IT MATTERS

**Bonnie Tsui | (Moderator: Jess Cheng)**

Join bestselling author and journalist Bonnie Tsui for a thought-provoking conversation on the body, movement, and what it means to be human. Drawing from her acclaimed books *Why We Swim* and *On Muscle*, Tsui explores our deep relationship with physical movement—from the pull of water to the power of muscle. *Why We Swim*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice and TIME Must-Read, journeys through extraordinary swimming cultures and personal stories across the globe. In *On Muscle*, Tsui turns inward, examining how muscle shapes strength, beauty, resilience, and identity. Blending science, culture, and lyrical storytelling, this event invites audiences to reconsider the physical body not just as biology, but as meaning, memory, and possibility.

This event is 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.



📅 4 March (Wed)

⌚ 12:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Soho House - Blue Room

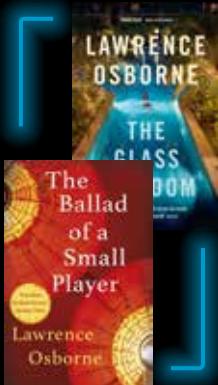
💵 HKD \$698

★ Lunch Talk

## LUNCH: WTF: WOMAN TURNING FIFTY

**Marga Ortigas** | (Moderator: Tiffany Tivasuradej)

Join author Marga for a lively reading and lunch discussion about dynamic meditations on adulthood, mortality, and ageing as told by an unprepared Gen-Xer. *WTF: Woman Turning F\*fty* is a collection of savagely personal 'postcards'—or eclectic experiential essays—from a former journalist on the margins of middle age.



💵 HKD \$398

★ Coffee Talk

## ACROSS BORDERS, BELIEF AND EXILE WITH LAWRENCE OSBORNE

**Lawrence Osborne** | (Moderator: Raquel Carvalho)

📅 4 March (Wed)

⌚ 3:00pm - 4:00pm

📍 Soho House - Blue Room

Lawrence Osborne is one of today's most incisive writers on displacement, faith, and the uneasy encounters between East and West. Best known for *The Forgiven*, *Beautiful Animals*, and *The Ballad of a Small Player* (recently adapted into a Netflix film set in Hong Kong), Osborne's fiction and essays explore the moral fault lines of privilege, risk and belonging in an increasingly fragmented world. Drawing on years living across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, he examines what it means culturally, spiritually, and emotionally to be an outsider. In this conversation, Osborne reflects on writing place as character, the lingering afterlives of empire, and Hong Kong as rendered in *On Java Road*, a novel attuned to chance, intimacy, and exile.





HKD \$400

★ Drinks

## IMPRINT 24: WOMEN'S VOICES

### WiPS

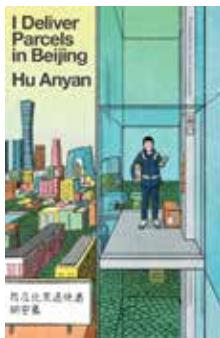
4 March (Wed)

7:00pm - 10:00pm (registration starts at 6:30pm)

Lower Albert Road, Central

Step into an evening where words take centre stage. Women in Publishing Hong Kong proudly presents the launch of *Imprint 24*, the latest issue of its acclaimed annual anthology. This collection celebrates the creativity of a diverse, multinational group of women writers who call Hong Kong home – or once did. The night will feature live readings from the anthology and other entertainment, weaving together poetry, prose and performance in a vibrant literary showcase. Join us in the heart of Central at a historic venue to celebrate local talent, discover emerging voices, and connect with Hong Kong's dynamic literary community. Your ticket includes two complimentary drinks, delicious refreshments and a copy of *Imprint 24*.

This event is presented in collaboration with Hong Kong Women in Publishing Society.



## I DELIVER PARCELS IN BEIJING

**Hu Anyan (胡安焉)** | (Moderator: Dorothy Chan) |  
(Interpreter: Kelly Cheung)

4 March (Wed)

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Central Library

HKD \$198

★ Talk

*I Deliver Parcels in Beijing* is an honest and startling first-person portrait of Hu Anyan's struggle against the dehumanizing nature of our contemporary global work system and his discovery of the power of sharing a story and insights into consumption culture from within Mainland China. Sold in 20+ countries and A Book of the Year in the Economist and the Financial Times



★ Free

★ Open Mic / Performance

## POETRY X JAZZ

**OutLoud HK** | (Co-organizers: D.J. Hamilton & Amanda Chan)

📅 4 March (Wed)

⌚ 8:00pm - 10:00pm

📍 Aftermath

OutLoud HK brings you an interesting fusion of musicality and verse. What will you find at these blurred crossroads? This evening will be hosted by D.J. Hamilton and Amanda Chan, and will feature several poets as well as some musical guests. There will also be an open mic section, should you want to bring your own poetry to explore the theme.

This event is presented in collaboration with OutLoud Hong Kong.



HKD \$398

★ Breakfast Conversation

## MANUFACTURED TRUTHS: WHO CONTROLS THE STORY?

**Hernán Diaz** | **Liam Pieper** | (Moderator: Rebecca Brosnan)

📅 5 March (Thu)

⌚ 10:00am - 11:30am

📍 The Executive Centre - Two Pacific Place

From global finance to private family mythologies, stories shape power and belief. In *Trust*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Hernan Diaz exposes how wealth constructs, edits, and conceals truth through narrative. In *The Toymaker*, Liam Pieper examines how memory, nostalgia, and silence shape a family story that resists clarity or closure.

In this moderated conversation, the authors explore how truth is authored across public and intimate worlds, and how individuals navigate systems that reward illusion: financial, emotional, and cultural. Set against Hong Kong's long engagement with capital, inheritance, and unspoken histories, this event asks a vital question: who gets to tell the story, and at what cost?

This event is presented with the support of Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.





⌚ Free

★ Book Launch

## INTRODUCING VOICES: HONG KONG LITERARY REVIEW DEBUTS AT THE HKILF

**Xu Xi** | (Moderator: *Maria Chaudhuri*)

⌚ 5 March (Thu)

⌚ 5:00pm - 7:00pm

📍 HKU Black Box

Be there for the launch of *Hong Kong Literary Review*, a premier new journal of bold, original writing from Hong Kong and beyond. The inaugural issue, *Voices*, spotlights a generation reimagining the art of storytelling in an AI-transformed era. Editor-in-Chief *Maria Chaudhuri* opens the evening, and renowned author *Xu Xi* delivers a dynamic talk on why literary journals matter—for writers, readers, and the collective consciousness. A Q&A and reception follow. Presented by the HKU School of English, in collaboration with The Guild and the English Society, as part of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2026.

This event is presented in collaboration with HKU School of English.



⌚ HKD \$398

★ Coffee Conservation

## THE ART OF CREATIVE CURATION

**Myrna Ayad** | **Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor** | **Sin Sin Man** |

(Moderator: *Zabrina Lo*)

⌚ 5 March (Thu)

⌚ 3:00pm - 5:00pm

📍 Museum Café 8

What does it mean to create and to build creative ecosystems across cultures today? This conversation brings together novelist and cultural leader *Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor*, whose work extends beyond the page to shaping Kenya's literary and film landscapes through festivals and cultural platforms; *Myrna Ayad*, an acclaimed writer and editor documenting artistic lives across the Arab world; and *Sin Sin Man*, founder of *Sin Sin Atelier*, whose curatorial practice champions Indonesian artists and craftspeople within Hong Kong's contemporary art scene.

Together, they explore creativity in a global context: from nurturing local voices and cultural infrastructure to translating ideas across borders, audiences, and mediums in order to ask how art can remain rooted while speaking to the world.

This event is presented in partnership with Emirates Literature Foundation.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University, and Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.



HKD \$228

Cocktail Panel

## HOW HONG KONG'S VISUAL STORYTELLING SHAPES CREATIVITY

**Kevin Mak | Lynn Yau | Derek Ting | Alicia Sing |**

(Moderator: Slavica Habjanovic)

5 March (Thu)

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Thirsty Shaker

Hong Kong is a city that reads with its eyes first through neon glow, restless streets, and a skyline that never stops rewriting itself. In this vivid cross-disciplinary conversation, Zolima CityMag's neon specialists explore the cultural memory embedded in Hong Kong's disappearing signs; filmmaker and writer Derek Ting reflects on how cinema and storytelling capture the city's transnational energy, ambition, and contradictions; and Alicia Sing, author of *Iconic Hikes Hong Kong*, shares how walking, mapping, and close observation offer new ways of seeing the city's landscapes and histories. Joined by Lynn Yau, Head of AFTEC and author with HKU Press, the panel examines why visual culture, movement, and creative education are essential to how Hong Kong imagines itself and to nurturing the next generation of engaged, visually literate citizens and storytellers.

This event is presented with the support of Zolima.



5 March (Thu)

HKD \$248

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Talk

Central Library

## AMITAV GHOSH: GHOST-EYE

**Amitav Ghosh | (Moderator: Jo Lusby)**

Amitav Ghosh, one of the world's most influential literary voices, joins the festival for a major conversation centred on his latest work, *Ghost-Eye*. Drawing on a body of work that spans fiction, history, and climate writing, Ghosh reflects on how *Ghost-Eye* brings together vision, memory, and moral reckoning to confront the forces shaping our contemporary world. From the Booker-shortlisted *Sea of Poppies* to landmark non-fiction including *The Great Derangement* and *The Nutmeg's Curse*, his writing has transformed how literature engages with empire, ecology, and global history. Translated into more than thirty languages, Ghosh is the first English-language recipient of India's Jnanpith Award and the 2024 Erasmus Prize laureate. This event offers a rare opportunity to hear a master writer reflect on a career-defining work.

This event is presented with the support of India by the Bay.



HKD \$228

★ Breakfast Panel

## INDUSTRY BREAKFAST: THE BLUEPRINT OF A FESTIVAL

**Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor | Carmel Rosato | (Moderator: Laura Mannerling)**

6 March (Fri)

8:30am - 10:30am

Wyndham Social - G/F Social Hall

Join us for an insightful morning designed for the arts, film and publishing sectors. This relaxed gathering offers a rare "behind-the-curtain" look at how major literary events are built from the ground up. Led by HKILF Executive Director Laura Mannerling, our panel of seasoned organizers and advisors will dive into the mechanics of the literary world from curating standout lineups and the "dos and don'ts" of getting invited, to navigating the logistical and financial realities of planning large-scale events amidst unpredictable funding. Grab a coffee and a croissant to explore the trends and strategies shaping the future of our industry.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University, and Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.



HKD \$338

★ Workshop

## WORKSHOP: WRITING A MEMOIR

**Liam Pieper**

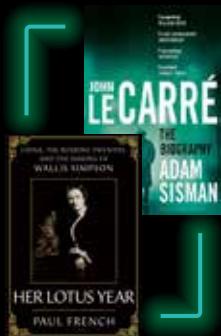
6 March (Fri)

10:00am - 11:30am

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

What makes a life story compelling on the page? In this practical and insightful workshop, award-winning writer Liam Pieper guides participants through the craft of memoir, exploring how to shape lived experience into sharp, resonant narrative. Drawing on his work across fiction, nonfiction, and biography, Pieper examines voice, structure, ethics, and the fine line between honesty and exposure. Through discussion and targeted exercises, writers will learn how to move beyond anecdote, sharpen perspective, and find the story beneath the memory. This session is ideal for all ages of emerging and experienced writers seeking clarity, confidence, and craft in personal writing.

This event is presented with the support of Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.



HKD \$398

★ Lunch Talk

## LITERARY LUNCH: EMPIRE, ESPIONAGE AND SCANDAL

**Adam Sisman | Paul French | (Moderator: Julian Stargardt)**

6 March (Fri)

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

Join acclaimed biographers Adam Sisman and Paul French for a lunchtime discussion exploring the art of uncovering hidden lives. Sisman delves into the worlds of espionage master John le Carré and historian Asa Briggs, figures defined by secrecy and intellect, while reflecting on truth, loyalty, and legacy in biography. French, author of *Her Lotus Year*, reveals the untold story of Wallis, Duchess of Windsor's transformative year in China, challenging long-held myths about her controversial life. Together, they illuminate how personal histories, from spycraft to scandal, are pieced together to shape our understanding of character, history, and the human condition.



HKD \$428

Lunch Talk

## LUNCH TALK WITH MILES FRANKLIN LITERARY WINNER - SIANG LU

**Siang Lu** | (Moderator: Karen Koh)

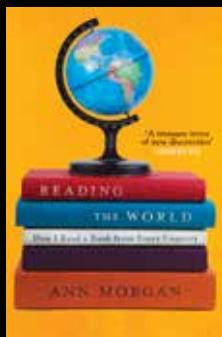
6 March (Fri)

12:00noon - 2:00pm

Museum Café 8

Winner of the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award, *Ghost Cities* draws inspiration from China's vast, uninhabited megacities to weave a dazzling set of interconnected narratives. At its heart is Xiang, a young man abruptly fired from his job at Sydney's Chinese Consulate when it's discovered he speaks no Chinese and has been secretly relying on Google Translate. Exiled to a ghost city, his fate begins to mirror, and collide with, other surreal storylines: an ancient Emperor creating a thousand doubles of himself; a lustful mountain gaining sentience; a chess-playing automaton guarding a deadly truth; and a world where every book is destroyed, only to be painstakingly recreated in the name of love, art, and obsession.

This event is presented with the support of Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.



HKD \$328

Workshop

## INCOMPREHENSION WORKSHOP

**Ann Morgan**

6 March (Fri)

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

Launched at the Cheltenham Literature Festival, this is a 90-minute interactive session centred on exploring how focusing on the things we can't explain in a text might enrich and broaden our understanding of reading, culture and ourselves. The main body of the workshop is built around turning the English literature comprehension exercise on its head. Instead of giving answers, participants are invited to explore what questions, problems or reactions examples of writing from unfamiliar traditions provoke or pose.

The featured extracts usually come from translated works drawn from a wide range of literatures underrepresented in anglophone publishing. The selection is designed to complement the interests and expertise of each audience, with sessions so far including publishing students, literature teachers, translators, writers, librarians, academics and general booklovers.

As we work through the material, we explore the roles (both good and bad) that assumption and bias play in reading, the idea of embracing discomfort and the opportunities that paying attention to the gaps in our understanding opens up.

This event is 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.



## LETTERPRESS HISTORY IN HONG KONG

**Sau-mui, Yung (翁秀梅) | (Moderator: Wong Yi)**

⌚ 6 March (Fri)

⌚ 7:00pm - 8:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

當代印藝項目總監翁秀梅，專注於香港版畫圖像藝術和印藝的研究多年。她的著作《香港字二百年：從世一、大白象至世界文化遺產之路》深刻揭示了「香港字」的豐厚歷史，從十九世紀的優雅鉛活字到現今的文化遺產。翁秀梅將分享其背後的歷程，探索這項傳奇印藝如何縱橫中西文化，並影響華人媒體的發展。無論你對設計、文化、印刷或歷史懷有興趣，歡迎參加講座，共同細聽「香港字」的傳奇故事。

HKD \$148

★ Talk

Yung Sau-mui, Programme Director of Print Art Contemporary, has focused on the research of Hong Kong printing art for many years. Her book, *香港字二百年：從世一、大白象至世界文化遺產之路* (*Two Centuries of Hong Kong Type: From Best in the World to World Cultural Heritage*), profoundly reveals the rich history of "Hong Kong type," from the elegant movable type of the 19th century to its current status as a cultural heritage. Yung will share the journey behind it, exploring how this legendary printing art has transcended East and West and influenced the development of Chinese media.

This event is conducted bilingually in Cantonese and English.



## FORMS IN MOTION: CROSS-CULTURAL POETICS WITH JOSHUA IP & JAMES SHEA

**James Shea | Joshua Ip | (Moderator: Dr. Huiwen Shi)**

⌚ 6 March (Fri)

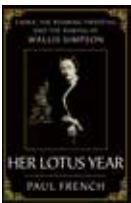
⌚ 5:30pm - 6:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

Joshua Ip and James Shea share a fascination with how form shapes thought, each engaging poetic structures not as constraints but as engines for invention. Both prize musicality—the rhythms, repetitions, and tonal shifts that make a poem feel alive—and they approach language with a translator's sensitivity, attuned to how meaning moves across cultures and contexts. Their cross-cultural influences further connect them, giving their poems a sense of mobility and openness, as if their work is in conversation with multiple literary traditions at once.

HKD \$168

★ Conversation



## NIGHTCAPS & NARRATIVES

**Emma Pei Yin | Paul French | Anthony Tao | Xu Xi | Hernán Díaz | (Moderator: Jason Li)**

Nightcaps and Narratives invites audiences into an intimate evening of reflection, memory, and storytelling about place; an event celebrating the festival's 25 years of inspiring generations of readers, writers, and storytellers.

The evening opens with Pulitzer Prize – winning novelist Hernan Diaz, whose exploration of truth, time, and storytelling sets the perfect foundation for a night devoted to place, belonging, and the ways stories travel across time.

The conversation then turns to four writers who illuminate the emotional and cultural landscapes of Greater China. Paul French brings forgotten corners of Shanghai's past into vivid relief. Emma Pei Yin offers a contemporary, incisive lens on identity, womanhood, and the shifting rhythms of modern Chinese life. Xu Xi, one of Hong Kong's most distinctive literary voices, reflects on hybridity, displacement, and the evolving meaning of "home." Anthony Tao adds a lyrical and clear-eyed view of the tensions and tenderness that shape the mainland today.

Through short readings and insights from their books, these writers explore the cities, languages, and memories that continue to anchor their work based on Mainland China and set in Hong Kong. Settle in with a nightcap for an evening designed to linger in a quiet, thoughtful, and resonant space, honoring a quarter-century of stories that connect us across generations. Drinks and canapes included.

**Dress code: No sports shoes, slippers, short trousers and t-shirts.**

**Please be reminded that the venue has 3 flights of stairs.**

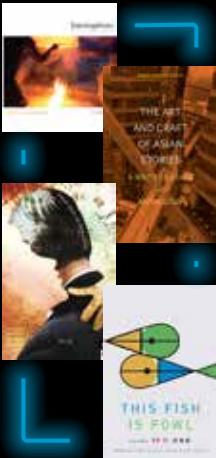
**6 March (Fri)**

**8:30pm - 10:30pm**

**China Club**

**HK\$ 2,888**

**Special Event**



HKD \$298

★ Workshop

## WORKSHOP: WRITING BETWEEN LANGUAGES

**Xu Xi**

7 March (Sat)

9:30am - 11:00am

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

This creative writing workshop is led by Hong Kong-born, Indonesian-Chinese-American author Xu Xi, designed for writers whose first language isn't English. Xu Xi, a celebrated English-language novelist and essayist raised in a multilingual environment, explores how bilingual and multilingual writers can harness their unique linguistic experiences to craft expressive, authentic English prose.

The workshop emphasizes embracing one's cultural and linguistic background rather than viewing it as a limitation, encouraging participants to play across linguistic borders and discover how their native languages can enrich voice, imagery, and narrative perspective. By foregrounding creative expression over perfection, Xu Xi supports writers to navigate identity, voice, and fluency while writing confidently in English and finding strength in "between-language" writing practices. This workshop is for aspiring and active adult writers.



HKD \$348

★ Walk

## COLOURFUL HONG KONG: STREET ART WALK

**Alexandra Unrein**

7 March (Sat)

10:00am - 12:00noon

Fringe Club (Meeting Point)

Discover the hidden narratives behind the vibrant murals of Central and Sheung Wan on this immersive street art tour. Walk beyond the paint and colors to uncover the stories, inspirations, and creative processes of the artists who transform these bustling streets into a living gallery. Led by Alexandra Unrein, author and photographer of *Colourful Hong Kong – Street Art Stories*, participants gain insider knowledge from over 15 years of research and personal interviews with local street artists. This tour offers a unique lens on Hong Kong's urban culture, revealing how concrete walls become canvases for expression, resilience, and community. Explore, listen, and leave with a deeper appreciation for the city's hidden artistic heartbeat. Please note that this is a 100-min walking tour through the hilly parts of Central and Sheung Wan.

Recommended to wear comfortable shoes.

Not suitable for children aged under 10.



## BEYOND THE REAL: WRITING POWER, HISTORY, AND THE UNSEEN

*Gabriela Babnik Ouattara | Susan Barker | Siang Lu |*

(Moderator: Nicole Alpert)

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 11:00am - 12:15pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

When realism falls short, writers often turn to the uncanny, the surreal, and the speculative. In this wide-ranging conversation, Susan Barker, Gabriela Babnik Ouattara, and Siang Lu explore how bending reality can reveal deeper truths about power, history, and agency. Drawing on work that spans cyclical time, dreamlike intimacy, and speculative futures, the authors discuss why non-realist techniques are especially potent for writing women's inner lives, postcolonial encounters, and social inequality. Together, they ask what stories can emerge when narrative refuses to stay within the limits of the real.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University and Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.



## THE ART OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

*Jacqueline Leung | Nicholas Stephens | Dong Li | (Moderator: Ann Morgan)*

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 11:00am - 12:15pm

📍 Goethe - Institut Hong Kong

Join acclaimed translators Dong Li, Nicholas Stephens, and Jacqueline Leung as they explore the craft of bringing literature across languages and cultures. Dong Li shares his experience translating contemporary Chinese poetry into English, while Nicholas Stephens discusses rendering Austrian literature—Stefan Zweig, Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmannsthal—into accessible English. Jacqueline Leung reflects on translating modern Chinese novels. The panel delves into challenges of voice, nuance, and cultural context, offering aspiring translators practical insights and inspiration. Whether navigating poetry, fiction, or drama, this session illuminates how translators bridge worlds, making local stories resonate for global readers.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.



## COMIC WRITING WORKSHOP

*Adan Jimenez | Felicia Low-Jimenez*

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 11:30am - 1:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

Led by Felicia Low-Jimenez, writer of *Tiger Girls*, and Adan Jimenez, comics editor and writer of the upcoming *Xocolatl*, this workshop will focus on writing for comics. We will explore the basics of the comics medium and visual storytelling, including dialogue, paneling, and layouts. Participants should come with a story in mind that they can adapt into a short comic script that they can then expand on.

This workshop is for adults aged above 16.



HKD \$298

★ Conservation

## BEYOND HALLYU: THE GLOBAL RISE OF KOREAN LITERATURE

*Soyoung Park | HoYeon, Kim | (Moderator: Tiffany Ap) |  
(Interpreter: Soomin Park)*

7 March (Sat)

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

Korean literature has surged onto the world stage, captivating readers with its emotional precision, bold experimentation, and unflinching social insight. In this intimate conversation, acclaimed authors Soyoung and Ho Yeon Kim explore how Korean storytelling has evolved and why it resonates so powerfully across borders today. They discuss the global momentum created by translated fiction, the role of women writers reshaping the canon, and how contemporary Korean narratives bridge tradition with the anxieties and aspirations of modern life. Through their own creative journeys, they reflect on craft, identity, and the opportunities and challenges that come with sudden international attention. A thoughtful, timely look at the next wave of voices defining Korean literature worldwide.

\*This event is conducted bilingually in Korean and English.



HKD \$198

★ Talk

## 不舍晝夜

*王十月 | (Moderator: Daniel Tam-Claiborne)*

7 March (Sat)

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

王十月曾榮獲魯迅文學獎和百花文學獎，其小說在國家文學活動中多次獲得認可，並被翻譯成多種外語。他積極參與新媒體文學推廣活動。本次講座將聚焦其最新力作《不舍晝夜》(2024)，講述普通人在廣東城市中奮鬥求存的故事。

\* 本次活動以普通話進行。

This event is presented with the support of the International Department of China Writers Association



HKD \$298

★ Walk

## 活字中環: 香港印刷歷史文化導賞

*(Tour guide: Boyi Wu)*

7 March (Sat)

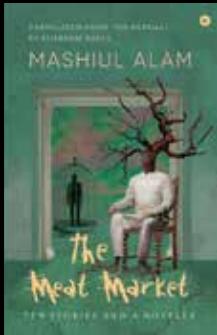
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Fringe Club (Meeting Point)

「那裡十二間舖，起碼有八間是印刷舖。」——光華印務任師傅憶述昔日永利街。然而印刷舖的身影並不止於此，曾經的中環街頭巷尾，幾乎都能聽見印刷機的運轉聲。如今城市重建，一幢幢新樓宇拔地而起。曾經以老店林立、新舊交融聞名的中上環，還剩下多少舊日痕跡？這次城市文化導賞將由印刷業角度出發，從 1840 年代開始細說中環。我們將追溯中文鉛活字的誕生和發展，並一同尋找區內碩果僅存的印業痕跡，探索印刷師傅當年的行走路線，重構印刷舖成行成市的景象。

\* 本次活動以廣東話進行。

This event is presented in collaboration with Print Art Contemporary.



HKD \$198

Talk

## SOUTH ASIAN FICTION FROM THE MARGINS

**Mashfiul Alam** | (Moderator: Daniel Elamistan)

7 March (Sat)

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

Mashfiul Alam is one of Bangladesh's most distinctive contemporary voices: a novelist, journalist, and master of the short story whose work blends sharp social insight with imaginative daring. Across twelve novels and novellas and eight short-story collections, Alam moves between realism, satire, and the surreal, illuminating the inequalities, dreams, and contradictions of modern South Asian life. His celebrated story "Milk," winner of the 2019 Himal South Asian Short Story Prize, introduced global readers to his unsettling vision; more recently, *The Meat Market and Other Stories* has showcased his range in English translation. Writing at the crossroads of the political and the personal, Alam gives voice to the marginalized while revealing the absurd, tender truths beneath everyday struggle and moral complexity.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.



HKD \$298

Panel

## FAME, FICTION, AND THE AGE OF ONLINE JUDGMENT

**Liam Pieper** | **Liann Zhang** | **Siang Lu** | (Moderator: Betty Richardson)

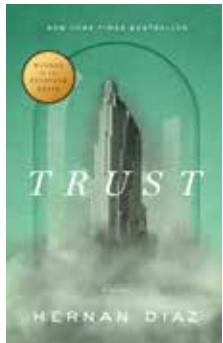
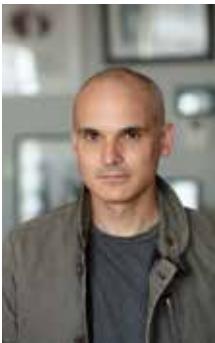
7 March (Sat)

3:00pm - 4:15pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

In a world where every misstep becomes a headline and every opinion can spark a storm, how do writers make sense of celebrity and cancel culture? In this provocative conversation, Liann Zhang (*Julie Chan Is Dead*) dissects the pressures placed on women in the public eye and the narratives that shape or distort their reputations. Liam Pieper (*Appreciation*) brings a satirical lens to the machinery of fame, exploring how adoration can turn into backlash overnight. Siang Lu (*Ghost Cities*) examines digital obsession, influencer culture, and the surreal landscapes where online perception becomes more real than life itself. Together, they unpack how fiction can illuminate the spectacle, scrutiny, and fragility of being seen in our hyper-connected age.

This event is presented with the support of Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong, Air Canada and Consulate General of Canada to Hong Kong and Macao.



## TRUST

**Hernán Díaz | (Moderator: Eashwar Krishnan)**

Hernan Díaz, the acclaimed author of award-winning *Trust*, has redefined the modern novel with his dazzling exploration of money, truth, and power. Set in the glittering yet deceptive world of 1920s New York finance, *Trust* unfolds through four interlocking narratives that challenge readers to question who controls a story and who benefits from it. Praised for its intellect and emotional depth, the novel earned Díaz the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the 2022 Kirkus Prize, and a Booker Prize longlisting. Díaz's work is a masterclass in storytelling, weaving intrigue, wealth, and identity into an unforgettable literary experience.

📅 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 3:45pm - 5:00pm (book signing starts at 3:00pm)

📍 Asia Society - Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall

HKD \$428

★ Talk



## INVENTING WORLDS: FANTASY ACROSS CULTURES

**Soyoung Park | Catarina Lilliehöök | Nolett Chiu |**

*(Moderator: Henrik Hoeg)*

📅 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 4:30pm - 5:45pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

Fantasy is often seen as escape, but for many writers, it is a way of making sense of power, fear, and possibility. In this panel, Soyoung Park, Catarina Lilliehöök, and Nolett Chiu discuss how they build imaginative worlds that reflect real emotional and social stakes. Drawing on influences ranging from Korean speculative fiction and folklore to epic and myth-inspired fantasy, the authors explore how culture shapes world-building, why young protagonists matter, and how fantasy can offer tools for resistance, resilience, and hope. From invented realms to complex moral choices, this conversation invites readers into the craft behind stories that entertain while asking urgent questions about agency, courage, and belonging, in imagined worlds, and in our own.





## INSIDE THE MACHINE: HOW STORIES GET SIGNED, SHAPED, SOLD

**Felicia Low-Jimenez | Myrna Ayad | Brendan Fredericks |  
Emma Pei Yin | (Moderator: Donna Mah)**

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 5:00pm - 6:15pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

From first spark to final shelf, this conversation takes audiences inside the engine room of today's publishing industry. Editor and writer Emma Pei Yin shares how manuscripts are shaped, refined, and made submission-ready. Internationally respected cultural critic and curator Myrna Ayad brings a deep perspective on storytelling and the global arts ecosystem, drawing on her work amplifying voices across contemporary art, culture, and publishing. As publisher and co-founder of Difference Engine, a comics publisher based in Singapore, Felicia Low-Jimenez offers insights into the comics publishing world, and as co-creator of *Tiger Girls*, speaks to narrative craft and audience engagement. Joining them is Brendan Fredericks, one of Australia's most respected publicists and literary agents. Together, they unpack the pathways, pressures, and power dynamics behind getting books into readers' hands.

This event is presented in partnership with Emirates Airline Festival of Literature and Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong.



## THE SECOND CHANCE CONVENIENCE STORE

**HoYeon, Kim | (Moderator: Chris Perera) |  
(Interpreter: Soomin Park)**

In this million-copy international bestseller from Korea, the owner of a corner store takes in an unhoused man who does a good deed, a kind soul whose presence will transform the whole neighborhood—a heartwarming tale of community and redemption reminiscent of the bestselling novels of Matt Haig and Gabrielle Zevin. *The Second Chance Convenience Store* is a moving and joyful story of a woman fighting for her community and a man who has lost everything except the will to try again.

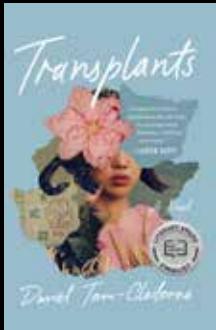
⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ HKD \$378

⌚ 5:30pm - 7:30pm

★ Talk

📍 Asia Society - Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall



## TRANSPLANTS WITH DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE

*Daniel Tam-Claiborne* | (Moderator: Jessica Chan)

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 6:30pm - 7:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

*Transplants* is a harrowing and poignant novel about two young women in pursuit of kinship and self-discovery in a world that refuses to make space for them. On a rural Chinese university campus, Lin, a socially isolated student, and Liz, a Chinese American teacher grieving her mother's death, form an unlikely friendship amid suspicion, privilege, and prejudice. After a shocking betrayal leads them to swap lives across continents, both women are forced to confront migration, identity, and belonging as global tensions rise. Daniel Tam-Claiborne is the author of *What Never Leaves*, and his writing has appeared in Catapult, Literary Hub, The Rumpus, HuffPost, and elsewhere.

💲 HKD \$228

★ Talk



💲 HKD \$148

★ Performance

## TOP NOTCH

*Hong Kong Stories* | (Moderator: Niharika Aggarwal)

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 8:00pm - 9:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

Hong Kong Stories presents Top Notch, a show of true, first person stories told live on stage. These stories are returning to the stage from our ever popular storytelling live shows, selected from favourites told throughout the past 12 months. Join us for stories that will make you laugh, cry and most importantly, connect through our shared experiences. Hong Kong Stories is a not for profit, registered society in Hong Kong, dedicated to the art of storytelling. We believe that everyone has a story to tell.

This event is presented in collaboration with Hong Kong Stories.



## 21: COMING OF AGE

*HK Writers Circle*

⌚ 7 March (Sat)

⌚ 8:00pm - 9:30pm

📍 Asia Society - Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall

HK Writers Circle launches the 21st edition of its annual anthology: *Coming of Age*. This anthology features the awkward moments, embarrassing encounters, and innocence-ending revelations that define the term. With more than thirty contributors, this collection brings together short stories, poems and memoirs from Hong Kong and the wider diaspora of HK writers. In this book launch, we will invite contributors to share their writing journey and, more importantly, what "Coming of Age" means to them. Public members are all welcome to join and connect with us on this great evening.

This event is presented in collaboration with HK Writers Circle.



HKD \$298

Workshop

## INSPIRING GENERATIONS POETRY WORKSHOP

**Elizabeth Chung Yi-Lei**

⌚ 8 March (Sun) ⏰ 10:30am - 12:30pm ⚜ Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

This interactive poetry workshop guides participants through reading, writing, and performing poetry. We begin by exploring a small but diverse range of poems, opening our minds to different styles, voices, and techniques participants can draw from. The session then focuses primarily on guided writing exercises and drafting time, allowing space to develop new work or refine existing poems. In the final section, we turn to performance, experimenting with how to read poetry aloud and engage an audience. Participants may share work-in-progress for supportive feedback in small groups or with the room, though sharing is always optional, in a welcoming environment.



HKD \$198

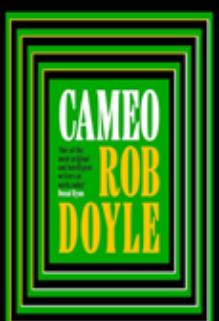
Conversation

## REAL HUMANS, REAL STORIES

**Mark O'Neill | Susan Blumberg-Kason | (Moderator: Pete Spurrier)**

⌚ 8 March (Sun) ⏰ 11:00am - 12:00noon ⚜ Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

This event brings together two acclaimed non-fiction authors who uncover the human stories behind Asia's modern history. Mark O'Neill draws on his research into European communities in Hong Kong, revealing the teachers, traders, and visionaries who helped forge the city's diverse identity. Susan Blumberg-Kason, in *Bernardine's Shanghai Salon*, tells the remarkable story of Bernardine Szold Fritz, a Jewish salon host who built bridges between Chinese artists and expatriates in 1930s Shanghai. Together, O'Neill and Blumberg-Kason explore migration, creativity, and cultural resilience across the cities that have long connected East and West.



HKD \$248

Talk

## CAMEO: TRANSGRESSION, SHAME, AND THE RISK OF BEING HONEST

**Rob Doyle | (Moderator: Emilia Mason)**

⌚ 8 March (Sun) ⏰ 12:30pm - 1:30pm ⚜ Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

What happens when private impulses collide with public judgment? In this probing conversation, acclaimed Irish writer Rob Doyle explores fiction that tests the limits of selfhood, notoriety, and moral scrutiny. Known for his fearless examinations of desire, shame, and transgression, Doyle creates characters who cross social boundaries and confront the consequences of being seen. Drawing on novels including *Here Are the Young Men* and *Threshold*, he reflects on writing as risk, the allure of provocation, and the fragile line between authenticity and performance. This event considers why literature remains uniquely equipped to confront discomfort, complexity, and the darker truths of contemporary life.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University and Consulate General of Ireland, Hong Kong.



## READING ACROSS GENERATIONS AND CULTURES

*Ann Morgan | Jennie Orchard*

⌚ 8 March (Sun)

⌚ 1:30pm - 2:30pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

What connects a reader in London, Lagos, or Lahore—and how do the stories we share shape the readers and writers of tomorrow? Join Ann Morgan, author of *Reading the World*, and Jennie Orchard, editor of *The Gifts of Reading for the Next Generation*, for a lively and thought-provoking conversation about the transformative power of books. Together, they'll explore why we read, what we choose to read, and how stories open doors across generations, languages, and cultures.

This event brings two passionate literary advocates into dialogue about the value of curiosity, empathy, and cultural exchange through reading. Both authors will share short readings from their work, reflecting on the joy and responsibility of connecting with voices beyond our own borders.

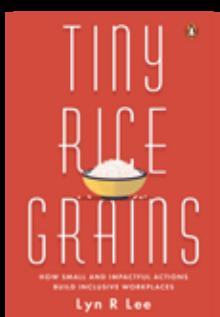
As part of the session, audience members are invited to join in a participatory moment: write down the title of a book that changed how you see the world and hang it on our "literary tree"—a growing celebration of stories that have shaped us. Come to be inspired, discover new perspectives, and celebrate the enduring gift of reading in a global age.

This event is 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.



HKD \$228

★ Conversation



HKD \$198

★ Talk

## TINY RICE GRAINS

*Lyn R. Lee | (Moderator: Genevieve James)*

⌚ 8 March (Sun)

⌚ 2:00pm - 3:00pm

📍 Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

Given the business case studies that diverse and inclusive organizations thrive and drive better performance, the question begs to be asked: why are so many organizations still struggling to implement and embed DEI in the workplace?

The book explores this question and tackles how DEI strategies are often approached as standalone initiatives rather than being woven into the fabric of the organization. Too many people are still afraid to have brave conversations and confront uncomfortable truths in the realms of DEI.



HKD \$198

★ Panel

# WRITING THE BODY: EXAMINING WOMEN'S INTERIOR STORIES

**Ysabelle Cheung | Kaitlin Chan | Karen Cheung**

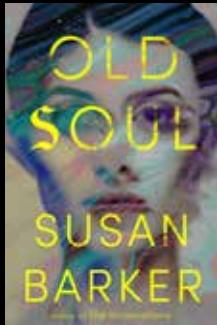
8 March (Sun)

3:00pm - 4:15pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Dairy

This intimate conversation brings together three Hong Kong-based authors—Ysabelle Cheung, Kaitlin Chan, and Karen Cheung to explore their creative practices and storytelling approaches. Focusing on character interiority, the discussion examines how inner lives are shaped, revealed, and challenged on the page. The authors also reflect on how the female body appears in their work: as site, symbol, and lived experience. Through close attention to voice, perspective, and embodiment, this talk offers insight into how contemporary fiction engages with identity, intimacy, and the complexities of writing women's stories in and from Hong Kong.





HKD \$168

★ Talk

## OLD SOUL: A HAUNTING THRILLER

**Susan Barker** | (Moderator: Margarita Oganyan)

8 March (Sun)

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Fringe Club - Fringe Underground

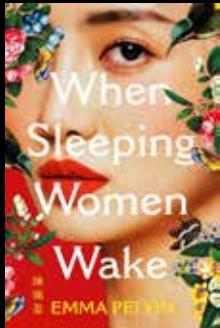
In *Old Soul*, Susan Barker explores memory, obsession, and the unsettling persistence of the past in a world shaped by movement and desire. Blending psychological intensity with speculative unease, the novel travels across borders and time, tracing characters haunted by histories they cannot escape. In this author talk, Barker discusses the ideas behind *Old Soul*, her approach to atmosphere, voice, and form, and how questions of inheritance, identity, and survival thread through her work. She reflects on writing global settings, cultivating tension, and allowing ambiguity to do its work on the page. This conversation invites readers into a dark, hypnotic vision of contemporary life, where the past is never finished, and the future feels quietly unstable — and profoundly human stories.

This event is presented with the support of the International Writers' Workshop at Hong Kong Baptist University.

## Proverse Hong Kong

Since 2002, PROVERSE HONG KONG, based in Hong Kong and publishing worldwide, has drawn on the combined skills and experience of GILLIAN and VERNER BICKLEY. We are proud to encourage and support excellence in writing and proud of the books we have published. We are happy to see forming and reforming a community of local and international writers and supporters, stimulated by our two annual international competitions and our two annual literary events in Hong Kong. We invite you to visit our distributor's page, [cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk](http://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk), our own website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com), and the [@ProversePublishing](https://www.youtube.com/@ProversePublishing) YouTube channel.





## BLACK BOX WRITERS' SERIES: EMMA PEI YIN

**Emma Pei Yin** | (Moderator: Dr. Antony Huen)

⌚ 6 March (Fri)

⌚ 4:00pm-5:30pm

📍 HKU - Black Box

In this talk, Emma Pei Yin, an Australian-Chinese writer and editor, discusses her debut novel, *When Sleeping Women Wake*, a work of historical fiction that follows the lives of three women in Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation.

The Black Box Writers' Series celebrates creative voices and craft, with a focus on writers and works with local connections. Featured guests present their latest work and discuss their creative practice with the moderator and audience.

This event is presented in collaboration with the School of English and the HKU Guild, University of Hong Kong.



💲 Free

★ Performance

## BLACK BOX WRITERS' SERIES: DISPLACED NOSTALGIA BY SHEUNG-KING AND JEEMIN KIM

**Sheung-King | JeeMin Kim** | (Curator: Dr. Antony Huen)

⌚ 27 March (Fri)

⌚ 10:00am-5:00pm

📍 HKU - Black Box

In these durational performances, which can last up to 7 hours, no phones or watches are permitted. The two performers do not speak to each other. What we usually think of as time is a social construct—linear and accelerated. In these performances, however, time is only approximated; only JeeMin's experience of time matters.

With each sensation of an hour passing, JeeMin begins her labour, which then prompts Sheung-King to write. There are two overhead projectors: Sheung-King leaves a prompt on one, and the audience responds using the other. Each performance comes with a booklet that archives the writings from previous performances, which audiences can take home.

The Black Box Writers' Series celebrates creative voices and craft, with a focus on writers and works with local connections. This special session takes that spirit in a new direction.

This event is organized by the School of English and the HKU Guild, University of Hong Kong.

Seats reserved for HKILF at 3:30pm - 5:30pm.

# SPEAKERS

## MASHIUL ALAM

Mashiul Alam is a Bangladeshi fiction writer and translator. His notable works include *Second Night with Tanushree* and *The Meat Market: Ten Stories and a Novella*. He translated Dostoyevsky's *Notes from Underground* from Russian into Bengali. Translations of his short stories appeared in *Words Without Borders*, *Asymptote*, *Aleph* (Pakistan), and more. His work earned multiple accolades, including the PEN/Heim Translation Grants in 2020 (translated by Shabnam Nadiya), the Himal Southasian Short Story Competition Award (2019) and the IFIC Bank Literature Award (2020). An IWP Fall 2022 Residency participant, he is also a Civitella Ranieri Fellow (2025).



## BEATRICE ALEMAGNA

Beatrice Alemagna is an author and illustrator from Bologna who has published over 40 titles with leading publishers. She has received numerous international awards, including the Golden Medal of the Society of Illustrators in 2017 and 2024, while her books were selected by the New York Times and the New York City Library as one of the "10 Best Illustrated Children's Books" for the years 2017 and 2019.

## MYRNA AYAD

For over two decades, Myrna Ayad has authored, edited, and contributed to several books, magazines and dailies on visual art and culture from the Arab world and Iran. A frequent panellist, jurist, and moderator, her role as an independent cultural strategist allows her to work on projects within the luxury sector, government entities, private companies, and non-profit organisations. She is the founder and author of *Noor's Heroes*, a series of illustrated children's books focused on Arab greats.



## GABRIELA BABNIK OUATTARA

Gabriela Babnik Ouattara is a writer, critic, and translator whose work spans fiction, essays, and radio plays. In 2013, she received the European Union Prize for Literature for her novel, *Sušna Doba* (Dry Season), translated into fifteen languages. Her latest novel, *Nostalgia for the Future*, is her eighth, and all her novels have been nominated for Novel of the Year in Slovenia. She holds a Master of Arts in postcolonial studies, lived for several years in Africa, and founded Hirondelle Press, which connects Europe and Africa through creative writing.



## SUSAN BARKER

Susan Barker is the author of four books. Her third novel, *The Incarnations* (2015), was a New York Times Editors' Choice and Notable Book, a Kirkus Reviews' Top Ten Book of the Year, was shortlisted for the Kirkus Prize for Fiction, winner of a Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize and a Waterstones Bookclub pick. An excerpt from *Old Soul* (2025) won a Northern Writers' Award for Fiction in 2020, as well as funding from Arts Council England and The Society of Authors. Susan currently lives in Manchester, where she is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University.

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## SUSAN BLUMBERG-KASON

Susan Blumberg-Kason is the author of *Bernardine's Shanghai Salon: The Story of the Doyenne of Old China*, a 2023 Zibby Awards finalist for Best Book for the History Lover. She is also the author of *Good Chinese Wife: A Love Affair with China Gone Wrong* and the 2024 Zibby Awards winner, *When Friends Come From Afar: The Remarkable Story of Bernie Wong and Chicago's Chinese American Service League*. She is the co-editor of *Hong Kong Noir* and a regular contributor to the Asian Review of Books, *Cha: An Asian Literary Review* and *World Literature Today*. Her work has also appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and *PopMatters*.



## KAITLIN CHAN

Kaitlin Chan is a cartoonist and gallery director in Hong Kong. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Economist*, *Catapult*, *Astra Magazine*, *Oprah Daily*, *The Margins*, *The Offing*, *Popula*, and elsewhere. In 2021, she was shortlisted for the Cartoonist Studio Prize in Webcomics. She self-published her first graphic novel, *Eric's Sister*, a 2024 finalist for the Cartoonist Studio Prize. She is working on a second book about desire, womanhood and feeling abject.

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## MARIA CHAUDHURI

Maria Chaudhuri is an acclaimed author whose debut memoir, *Beloved Strangers* (Bloomsbury, 2014), has been hailed by *Vogue* as one of the "Top Ten Books to Look Out For" and named by *Reader's Digest* among the "17 Memoirs Everyone Should Read." In 2025, it won the *Memor Magazine Prize* in the *Culture* category. Her second book, *Nobo Opens a Door* (2023), invites young readers into worlds of cross-cultural discovery and imagination. Based in Hong Kong, she teaches Creative Writing in the MFA and MACC programs at Hong Kong University and is currently at work on her third book.



# SPEAKERS



## KAREN CHEUNG

Karen Cheung is a writer from Hong Kong. She is the author of *The Impossible City: A Hong Kong Memoir*, which was longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Nonfiction and named one of the best books of the year by Washington Post and The Economist. She's written for the New York Times, Foreign Policy, Los Angeles Review of Books, and elsewhere. She was previously a senior reporter at Hong Kong Free Press and Associate Editor at Asia Art Archive. She teaches creative writing at Hong Kong Baptist University and Chinese University of Hong Kong.

## YSABELLE CHEUNG

Ysabelle Cheung is a writer and art critic based in Hong Kong. Her fiction writing has appeared in *Granta*, *Catapult*, *Slate*, and *The Rumpus*. Her short story *Please, Get Out and Dance*, was nominated for the 2022 Pushcart Prize. She was awarded the 2023 Diverse Writers Grant by Speculative Literature Foundation, the 2023 Aspen Words fellowship, and the 2021 Nebula Awards SFWA conference scholarship. She is an alumni of Tin House Workshop and was in residence at the Jan Michalski Foundation in 2024. Her essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Artforum*, and more.



## CHIO HIO TONG

Hio Tong is a writer from Hong Kong who has published six works, including "安," "閒" and "—". Her writings have appeared in local publications. She is also involved in literary and writing education and has served as a judge for various local literary awards, including the Youth Literature Award, the Urban Literature Award, and the University Literature Award.

趙曉彤，香港作家，已出版《安》、《閒》、《—》等六本著作，作品散見本地書刊。同時從事文學及寫作教學工作，曾任青年文學獎、城市文學獎、大學文學獎等本地文學獎評審。

## NOLETTA CHIU

Noletta Chiu graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production, making the Dean's List, from Southern Illinois University. She has entered the licensing industry for over 30 years. She is currently the Executive Director of Medialink Group Limited. In her current role, she provides strategic advice and manages licensing for well-known brands, such as The Little Prince, Sesame Street, Garfield, Popeye, and Emoji, along with popular Japanese brands like Jujutsu Kaisen and Gundam. Ms. Noletta Chiu founded the Little Prince Foundation in Hong Kong in 2023, where she serves as Chairman.



## ELIZABETH CHUNG YI-LEI

Elizabeth "Lilli" Chung Yi-Lei is a PhD Candidate at Chinese University of Hong Kong, researching Hong Kong literature, focusing on the relationship between community and contemporary literature. Both a critic and creative writer, her works have been published digitally and physically, in *Where Else* and *The Signal House Edition* amongst others, and is the primary editor of the upcoming anniversary anthology for Peel Street Poetry. She is a co-organiser of the Hong Kong poetry groups Peel Street Poetry and OutLoudHK 隨言香港, and a co-founder of the new literary group Flow State 留言, which welcomes performances of any literature and aims to highlight original English and Cantonese writings from the city.



## BEN CLANTON

Ben Clanton is the bestselling author of the *Narwhal And Jelly* series. His other series include *Tater Tales and Ploof* (co-created with Andy Chou Musser). He also collaborated on the books *Papilio* (created with Andy Chou Musser and Corey Tabor) and *Aquamanatee* (artwork by Cassandra Federman). Ben makes books on a houseboat in Seattle, Washington.

## ARSHAY COOPER

Arshay Cooper is a rower, bestselling and award-winning author, a motivational speaker, and the protagonist of the film, *A Most Beautiful Thing*, based on his first book of the same name that won the 2020 Nautilus Award. The film won the 2021 Gracie Award, was nominated by the Critics' Choice Association for Best Sports Documentary, and was named one of the best films of 2020 by Esquire. Arshay's second book, *Let Me Be Real With You*, was released in October 2025 and has already earned the #1 spot on the USA Today Best-selling Booklist.



## GUY DELISLE

Guy Delisle is a Canadian scriptwriter, illustrator and colorist. His flagship work, *Chroniques de Jérusalem* (Jerusalem Chronicles), was published in 2011 and tells the story of a year spent living in Israel. This album won him the Fauve d'Or for Best Album at the Angoulême Festival in 2012 and sold 180,000 copies, contributing to his international success. His latest book, *Pour une fraction de seconde : La vie mouvementée d'Eadweard Muybridge* was published in October 2024. His work has been translated into 13 languages, making him a recognized figure in contemporary comics.

# SPEAKERS

## HERNÁN DÍAZ

Hernan Diaz is the Pulitzer Prize-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *Trust*. Translated into more than thirty languages, *Trust* also received the Kirkus Prize, was longlisted for the Booker Prize, and was named one of the 10 Best Books of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *Time*, and *The New Yorker*, and it was one of Barack Obama's favorite books of the year. *Trust* is currently being developed as a limited series for HBO. Diaz's previous novel, *In the Distance*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He has received the John Updike Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award, and a fellowship from the New York Public Library's Cullman Center.



## ROB DOYLE

Rob Doyle is the Dublin-born author of several internationally acclaimed books: *Threshold*, *Autobiography*, *This Is the Ritual*, and *Here Are the Young Men*, which has been adapted for film starring Anya Taylor-Joy. His work has been translated into several languages and nominated for various prizes. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Observer*, *New Statesman*, *Dublin Review* and many other publications. His new novel, *Cameo*, is published by W&N.

## BRENDAN FREDERICKS

BFredericksPR Literary Agency represents 2025 Miles Franklin Award-winning author Siang Lu and bestselling author Chris Flynn. Established in 2015, BFredericksPR freelances for a diverse list of major and independent Australian publishers and their marquee authors and is the publicity agency for premier industry events. The agency's director, Brendan Fredericks, has worked in the book industry nearing twenty-five years, starting out as a bookseller and events manager with Angus & Robertson. As in-house publicist and publicity manager with prestigious publishers Hachette and Bloomsbury he promoted and toured luminaries such as Elizabeth Gilbert, Germaine Greer, Robyn Davidson, and Richard Ford. Brendan lives in Sydney, Australia.



## PAUL FRENCH

Paul French had worked in Shanghai for many years. His award-winning book *Midnight in Peking* was 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* writing, '...in Mr French the city has its champion storyteller.' Both *Midnight* and *City of Devils* are currently in development for film. His most recent books is *Her Lotus Year: China, the Roaring Twenties and the Making of Wallis Simpson*, described by the *New York Times* as '...beautifully told through meticulous historical research and examination of contemporary literature and film — gives the reader a vivid picture of what China must have been like for an American expat in the 1920s.'



## AMITAV GHOSH

Amitav Ghosh is an Indian author. He has received many honorary degrees and fellowships and has won multiple awards, including India's highest literary honour, the Jnanpith Award, in 2018. In 2024, he was awarded the Erasmus Prize and in 2025 he was awarded the Pak Kyongni Prize by South Korea's Toji Foundation. His works have been translated into more than thirty languages, and has served on the Jury of the Locarno and Venice film festivals.

## HU ANYAN (胡安焉)

胡安焉，1979年生，2009年開始寫作，作品散見於網絡及一些期刊，2023年出版打工自傳《我在北京送快遞》，2024年出版散文集《我比世界晚熟》《生活在低處》，現居成都。

Hu Anyan was born in 1979. He began writing in 2009. His works have appeared online and in some periodicals. In 2023, he published his autobiography of working as a migrant worker, *I Deliver Parcels in Beijing*. In 2024, he published his collection of essays, *我比世界晚熟* and *生活在低處*. He currently lives in Chengdu.



## JOSHUA IP

Dr Joshua Ip is a Singaporean poet, editor, and literary organiser. He won the Singapore Literature Prize for his debut, sonnets from the singlish (Math Paper Press, 2012), placed in three different categories of the Golden Point Award, and received Singapore's Young Artist Award in 2017. His latest book, *Ownself Say Ownself* (Landmark Books, 2024) gathers new and selected poems from his six-ish collections of rude poetry. He has edited eleven literary anthologies, including the A Luxury and SingPoWriMo series. He is the Executive Director of Sing Lit Station, an overactive literary charity that runs initiatives including SingPoWriMo, and poetry.sg.



## RACHEL IP

Rachel Ip is an award-winning picture book author whose stories are often inspired by the wild world around us. She's always loved languages and literature and studied French, German, and linguistics at Cambridge University. She writes a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books for young readers. Rachel was born in the UK. She has lived in France and Belgium, and has spent the last 18 years here in Hong Kong, where she lives with her family.

# SPEAKERS



## ADAN JIMENEZ

Adan Jimenez is a writer, translator, and prose, comics, and localization editor. He is best known as one half of AJ Low, the writing team behind the *Sherlock Sam* series of children's mystery books. He is the proud child of Mexican immigrant parents and became an immigrant himself when he moved to Singapore. He loves comics, LEGO, books, games (analog and video), science fiction, and food. He plays a lot of video games in his free time.

## KIM HO-YEON (金浩然)

Kim Ho-Yeon is a South Korean storyteller whose work spans novels, screenplays, and comics. His novel, *The Second Chance Convenience Store* (不便利的便利店), sold over 1.7 million copies in Korea, and has been published in 45 countries. It was named Book of the Year by major Korean bookstores and chosen as a "One Book One City" title in 38 regions. It remained a bestseller in Taiwan for three years and ranked 3rd in the 2024 Honya Taisho Award in Japan. His latest novel, *My Don Quixote* (尋找唐吉訶德), won the 2024 Booksellers' Award.



## WESLEY KING

Wesley King has received over twenty literary awards and seen his books published worldwide, optioned for film and television, and translated into numerous languages. King is best known for his collaboration with Kobe Bryant on the #1 New York Times Bestselling *Wizenard Series*, as well as the Edgar Award-winning *OCDaniel*, which was also a Bank Street Best Book of the Year. His most recent novel, *Benny on the Case*, was a JLG Gold Selection. He resides in Newfoundland, Canada.



## BONO LEE (李照興)

Bono Lee is a Hong Kong writer and critic. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, majoring in cultural studies. He is a member of the Hong Kong Film Critics Society, focusing on the study of Hong Kong film discourse and popular culture. He has served as reporter, chief editor and creative director in different media institutions in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. His selected works include: *香港101* (2000) *香港後摩登* (2002) *王家衛的映畫世界* (2004), *潮爆中國* (2008), *等到下一代:香港流行文化與身分認同史備忘* (2025). In 2008, "潮爆中國" won the Hong Kong Book Award.

## LYN R. LEE

Lyn R. Lee, best-selling and public speaker, is an award winning influential figure in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) space. She was the first Asian woman to be appointed as Shell's Global Chief DEI Officer from 2018 to 2024. Her experience and insights have been featured in Bloomberg, Channel News Asia, and The Straits Times. In 2024, she was also inducted into the Robb Report Thought Leaders community. Other prestigious DEI awards received under Lyn's leadership and vision include Cannes Corporate Media and TV awards and Best Use of AI to Improve DEI and Belonging Programmes.



## JACQUELINE LEUNG

Jacqueline Leung is a translator, editor, and writer from Hong Kong. Her translation of Hon Lai Chu's novel *Mending Bodies* (2025) is a winner of PEN Presents by the English PEN. Her work has appeared in HEAT, Wasafiri, Gulf Coast, Nashville Review, SAND Journal, the Asian Review of Books, Asymptote, Cha, Books from Taiwan, and elsewhere. She is a translation editor at The Offing, a mentor for Hong Kong prose at the American Literary Translation Association's Emerging Translator Mentorship Program, and an Asian Cultural Council literature fellow.

## DONG LI

Dong Li is a multilingual author who translates from Chinese, English, French, and German. He has translated books by Victoria Chang, Forrest Gander, SONG Lin, Anne Weber, Eliot Weinberger, C.D. Wright, YE Hui, ZANG Di, ZHU Zhu and more. His debut poetry collection, *The Orange Tree* (2023), was the inaugural winner of the Phoenix Emerging Poet Book Prize and a finalist for the Poetry Society of America's Four Quartets Prize.



## CATARINA LILLIEHÖÖK

Catarina Lilliehöök is a Swedish author. After her debut book, *Blonde Hair, Blue Eyes Looking at China*, written in Chinese, which brought her attention in China, followed by *Mei Wenf – Om Livet i Dagens Kina*, a big seller in Sweden, she has now published her first book of fiction. After living in China and Hong Kong for over two decades, she wanted to blend her Nordic background with Asia in her fantasy novel, *The Spirit Dragon's Keeper*. This is the first book in the fantasy series, *The Polar Saga*.

# SPEAKERS

## FELICIA LOW-JIMENEZ

Felicia Low-Jimenez is one half of the writing team behind the best-selling *Sherlock Sam* series of children's books and the writer of the young adult fantasy comic, *Tiger Girls*. She is also the publisher at Difference Engine, an independent comics publisher based in Singapore. She holds an MA in Literary Theory and Asian Studies, with a focus on anime and manga, and has worked in bookselling and publishing. She believes that stories have the power to change the world.



## SIANG LU

Siang Lu is the Miles Franklin-winning author of *Ghost Cities* and ABIA-winning author of *The Whitewash*. He is the co-creator of The Beige Index and the creator of *#sillybookstagram*. *Ghost Cities* was shortlisted for eight additional awards, including the ALS Gold Medal, The Voss Literary Prize and The Age Book of the Year. In 2026, *Ghost Cities* will be published with Simon & Schuster's Summit UK and US imprints, and in 24 territories in translation. Siang is based in Brisbane, Australia, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## ERICA LYONS

Erica Lyons is a Jewish Hong Kong-based children's book author with a preference for historical fiction, lesser-known histories, and folktales. Her 2022 debut picture book, *Alone Together on Dan Street*, was a National Jewish Book Awards Finalist. Other titles include: *Mixed-Up Mooncakes*, *On a Chariot of Fire*, and *Saliman and the Memory Stone*. *Lily's Hong Kong Honey Cake*, her most recent title, perfectly blends her role as chair of the Hong Kong Jewish Historical Society and her love of kidlit.



## ANN MORGAN

Ann Morgan is an author based in Folkestone, UK. In 2012, she read a book from every country in a year, recording her quest at [ayearofreadingtheworld.com](http://ayearofreadingtheworld.com). This led to her non-fiction book *Reading the World*. Ann continues to blog, write and speak about international literature. Her debut novel was the international bestseller *Beside Myself*. Her second is *Crossing Over*. Her next non-fiction book, *Relearning to Read: Adventures in Not-Knowing*, was published in October 2025.



## MARK O'NEILL

Mark O'Neill was born in London, England and educated at Marlborough College and New College, Oxford. He worked in Washington, DC, Manchester and Belfast before coming to Hong Kong in 1978. He has lived in Asia ever since. He worked as a journalist for 30 years here, in Taiwan, India, the PRC and Japan, for Reuters, SCMP and many other publications. Since 2006, he has been writing books on Chinese, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau history and society. He has completed 20 so far in English. Eight have been translated into traditional Chinese and three into simplified Chinese. He speaks French, Mandarin and Cantonese.

## JENNIE ORCHARD

Jennie Orchard has been involved with the world of books and publishing for more than four decades, initially in London, later in Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong. Since 2002, she has been actively involved in the non-profit sector, with a particular focus on Room to Read, and more recently, U-GO, both founded by John Wood. Jennie has curated two anthologies, *The Gifts of Reading* (2020) and *The Gifts of Reading for the Next Generation* (2025), inspired by Robert Macfarlane, with essays by authors including William Boyd, Colum McCann, Ann Morgan, Michael Morpurgo, and Madeleine Thien.



## MARGA ORTIGAS

Marga Ortigas travelled the world as a journalist for three decades, with a career spanning five continents and two of the largest global news networks. After getting her start in the Philippines, she joined CNN in London, working across Europe, Iraq, and Gaza. She then returned to Asia with Al Jazeera, setting up its bureau in Manila and covering the wider Pacific region. As senior correspondent, Marga reported from the frontlines of armed conflict, geopolitical challenges, and climate change, receiving an award for Humanitarian Reporting from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

## LAWRENCE OSBORNE

Lawrence Osborne is the author of eight novels, a collection of short stories, and three works of non-fiction. Two of his novels, *The Forgiven* and *The Ballad of a Small Player*, have been turned into major Hollywood films. He was, for some years, a journalist with The New York Times and is now the co-founder of the film production company, Java Road, based in London, Tokyo and Bangkok, where he currently resides.



# SPEAKERS



## YVONNE ADHIAMBO OWUOR

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, born in Nairobi, Kenya, is an acclaimed novelist and writer exploring African histories, multipolar futures, nature, myth and the human condition experience. She holds degrees from Kenyatta University, the University of Reading, and the University of Queensland. Her Caine Prize-winning novella, *The Weight of Whispers* (2003), and novels *Dust* (2014) and *The Dragonfly Sea* (2019) have received international acclaim. Yvonne works with Kenyan conservation organisations to develop nature stories. She is a co-founder of the Macondo Literature Festival. She is finalising work on her fourth novel, *Nocturne*.

## SOYOUNG PARK

Soyoung Park is a New York Times bestselling author from Korea. Her debut novel, *Snowglobe*, is being published in 13 languages worldwide. With a background in media studies, she has long been fascinated by how the media shapes our values, which inspired *Snowglobe* and its vision of where we might be headed in the digital age. She listens to K-pop or plays her favorite American sitcoms in the background while writing.



## EMMA PEI YIN

Emma Pei Yin is an Australian-Chinese writer and editor. Her debut novel, *When Sleeping Women Wake*, has been published globally, translated into multiple languages and was longlisted for the ARA Historical Novel Prize (2025). She is also the founder of yinfluence editorial, an agency that works with PoC, queer and neurodivergent writers, connecting them with editors and mentors who understand the stakes of telling stories from the margins. She has been featured in The South China Morning Post, The Australian, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar and The Canberra Times.

## LIAM PIEPER

Liam Pieper is an Australian Book Industry Award-winning ghostwriter of global bestsellers as well as more modest successes with his name on the cover. He was recipient of the 2014 M Literary Award, winner of the 2015 Geoff Dean Short Story Prize and the 2016 Christina Stead Fiction Award, the inaugural creative resident of the UNESCO City of Literature of Prague, and the 2018 National Library of Australia Creative Arts Fellow for Australian Writing. *The Feel-Good Hit of the Year*, his memoir, was shortlisted for the National Biography Award and the Ned Kelly Best True Crime award.



## LIZI PU

Pu Lizi is a Chinese writer from Longhui, Hunan Province. A member of the Chinese Writers Association, he is recognized as one of the representative writers of the post-1980s generation. He graduated from the Chinese Department of Northwest University in 2004 and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Guangzhou Writers Association. His notable works include the novel Red X, the novella collection Li Shasha: Three Years, and the essay collection The Man Mistaken for a Ghost.



## CARMEL ROSATO

Carmel Rosato is Director of International Projects, with more than a decade of experience as a communications consultant and programming adviser to the Emirates Literature Foundation and the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. She leads international collaborations and strategic initiatives, and directs and manages flagship projects including First Chapter, while also administering the Global Association of Literary Festivals. Her background spans senior in-house and agency communications roles, with a wide portfolio of high-profile companies across multiple sectors, including the Hong Kong Tourist Association in the UK.

## JAMES SHEA

James Shea is the author of *Last Day of My Face*, selected by Brenda Shaughnessy for the 2024 Iowa Poetry Prize. His previous collections include *The Lost Novel* and *Star in the Eye*. He is the translator of *Applause for a Cloud*, a collection of contemporary Japanese poetry by Sayumi Kamakura.



## SIN SIN MAN

Sin Sin Man is a visionary artist dedicated to creating works that enhance daily life. Her philosophy centers on five essentials: clothing, food, shelter, transportation, and the natural elements—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. Known for elegant silhouettes and unique details, she opened her Hong Kong atelier in 1998, fostering creativity and wearable art. In 2003, she founded Sin Sin Fine Art, collaborating with over 40 artists and curating 100+ exhibitions, celebrating global artistry.

# SPEAKERS

## ALICIA SING

Alicia Sing is a multidisciplinary creative producer whose work spans independent films, global television productions, and brand storytelling across Hong Kong and London. An avid hiker since high school, Alicia created *Iconic Hikes Hong Kong* to celebrate the city's trails, which are often overlooked in comparison to Hong Kong's skyline. The coffee table book immerses readers in each hike through narrative descriptions and concise summaries, paired with vintage-style posters that give each trail a distinct identity. Through this approach, Alicia highlights the cultural and visual richness of Hong Kong's natural landscape.



## RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is an award-winning neurodivergent children's author who loves taking big ideas and making them accessible and exciting for young readers. She writes a mix of picture books, poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Her books have been published around the world and featured in a number of national and international newspapers.

## ADAM SISMAN

Adam Sisman is the author of *Boswell's Presumptuous Task*, winner of the US National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, and the biographer of John Le Carré, A. J. P. Taylor, Hugh Trevor-Roper, and Asa Briggs. Among his other works is *The Professor and the Parson: A Story of Desire, Deceit and Defrocking*. He has also edited and co-edited three volumes of letters. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Honorary Professor at the University of St Andrews.



## THAMMIKA SONGKAOE

Thammika Songkaoe is a transnational novelist, essayist, and filmmaker of Thai origin whose work probes the quiet tensions of identity, motherhood, and belonging. Described by Elle Singapore as "dissecting motherhood, marriage, and the cost of selfhood with razor-sharp precision," her debut novel, *Stamford Hospital*, was named by Prestige as one of the 10 must-reads for International Women's Day 2025, alongside works by Margaret Atwood and Simone de Beauvoir. A lifelong global nomad since 1992, Songkaoe brings a third-culture lens to her storytelling.



## NICHOLAS STEPHENS

Nicholas Stephens lives in Hong Kong and translates novels and plays from German into English. His publications include *Chess Story* by Stefan Zweig, *Dream Story* by Arthur Schnitzler and *Godless Youth* by Ödön von Horváth, all available on Amazon Kindle. In 2024, he authored *The Repulse Bay Murders*, a Hong Kong murder mystery novel under the nom de plume of Mai-Po Marszch. His articles on the Hong Kong art scene and the growing profile of Asian artists in Europe have been featured in several publications including The Nikkei, The South China Morning Post and Sotheby's online.

## 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. She has several more forthcoming picture books.



## DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE

Daniel Tam-Claiborne is the author of the debut novel *Transplants*, a finalist for the 2023 PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, and the short story collection, *What Never Leaves*. His writing has appeared in Michigan Quarterly Review, HuffPost, Catapult, Literary Hub, and more. A 2022 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellow, he has also received fellowships and residencies from the U.S. Fulbright Program, Poets & Writers, Bread Loaf, Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Swatch Art Peace Hotel, and others. Daniel holds degrees from Oberlin College, Yale University, and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.

## SUE LYNN TAN

Sue Lynn Tan is the New York Times, USA Today, and #1 Sunday Times bestselling author of *Daughter of the Moon Goddess and the Celestial Kingdom* books, *Immortal*, and *Never Ever After*. She writes stories of mythology, fantasy and romance, for adults and older teenagers. Her books are being translated into eighteen languages, have been nominated for Goodreads Choice Awards, and won the American Library Association Alex Award and the Hong Kong Golden Dragon Book Award.



# SPEAKERS



## ANTHONY TAO

Anthony Tao is the author of the full-length poetry collection *We Met in Beijing*. He was born in Beijing, grew up in Kansas, and graduated with a journalism degree from Northwestern University. He returned to Beijing in 2008 to cover the Olympics for ESPN The Magazine, and then stayed. He has worked an assortment of editing and writing jobs, captained and coached Ultimate Frisbee teams, coordinated the Bookworm International Literary Festival, owned a hutong bar, and hosted events for the Spittoon Literary Arts Collective. His poetry has appeared in Rattle, NPR, Meridian, and more. He is a founding member, with Liane Halton, of Poetry x Music Band.

## DEREK TING



Named "Hong Kong's New Action Vanguard" by Prestige Magazine, Derek Ting wrote, produced, directed, and starred in the Hollywood movie, *Agent Recon*, where he is credited for bringing legendary action icon, Chuck Norris, back to the big screen. The movie topped Hulu and Disney's charts and was released on HBO Max across Asia, Paramount+ across Europe. As a graduate from Cornell University, he formerly worked as a CNN Producer and as a manager in Google.



## BONNIE TSUI

Bonnie Tsui is an award-winning journalist and the bestselling author of *Why We Swim* and the new book, *On Muscle: The Stuff That Moves Us and Why It Matters*, which was named as one of NPR's "Books We Love" for 2025, an Amazon Editors' Pick for Best Nonfiction, and a Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year. Her books have been translated into 13 languages, and her work has been recognized and supported by Harvard University, the National Press Foundation, and the Best American Essays series.

## ALEXANDRA UNREIN



Alexandra Unrein, also known as "streetartorama", is a street art photographer, tour guide and author, who first set foot in Hong Kong over 15 years ago. Since then, she has immersed herself in the vibrant world of street art, conducting personal interviews and capturing the essence of the city through her lens. In 2018, she initiated tours for the city's street art festival, HKwalls, and ever since has been curating and running numerous street art tours every year. Her debut, *Colourful Hong Kong - Street Art Stories*, is a highlight of her observations and insights which she is excited to share.

## WANG SHIYUE

Member of the National Committee of the Chinese Writers Association, Vice Chairman of the Guangdong Writers Association, and Editor-in-Chief of *Works* magazine. A recipient of the Lu Xun Literary Prize and the Hundred Flowers Literary Award, his novels have been recognized in national literary initiatives and translated into several foreign languages. He actively engages in promoting literature through new media.



## XU XI



Xu Xi is an Indonesian-Chinese-American from Hong Kong. She has published sixteen books—five novels, nine prose collections, one memoir, one co-authored textbook—and also edited four anthologies of English Hong Kong literature. She held the Jenks Chair in Contemporary Letters at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, was writer-in-residence at Arizona State University, City University of Hong Kong, University of Iowa, and directed two international MFA's. Earlier, she held management positions at The Asian Wall Street Journal, Federal Express, Pinkerton's. A diehard transnational, she now lives between New York and the rest of the world.

## LYNN YAU

Lynn Yau is a founder and CEO of AFTEC, an award-winning charity pioneering Arts for Change education. As a Harvard Project Zero alumna, she holds a Masters in Education from Hong Kong University. Under her leadership, AFTEC has received numerous accolades, including the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Arts Education Awards. As a Clore Leadership Scholar, Lynn is a frequent speaker and published author, most recently of *Evolving Creative Mindsets: Thinking Through the Arts*. With numerous proofs of concept through impact studies, she drives AFTEC's mission to transform learning through innovative creative learning programmes.



## JOYCE YUNG



Joyce Yung is a professional photographer and producer based in Hong Kong. She graduated from Cornell University and worked in the financial industry before picking up her camera full time. She specializes in portraiture and natural lifestyle photography. She was featured as one of the Top 100 Photographers From Around the World 2016, by Shutterstock.

# SPEAKERS

## **YUNG SAU-MUI (翁秀梅)**

Yung Sau-mui's primary research interest is the development of Hong Kong Print Art, particularly the development of lithography and Chinese movable type in modern China. In 2019, she started researching the Ming type point 4, cast by the Hong Kong London Missionary Society Printing Press (Ying Wa College) in the mid-19th century. The type was referred to as "Hong Kong type" by contemporaries in historical publications.



## **LIANN ZHANG**

Liann Zhang is a second-generation Chinese Canadian. After a short stint as a skincare content creator, she graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in psychology and criminology. Her first novel, *Julie Chan Is Dead*, was an instant international bestseller.

## **MICHAEL ZEE**

Michael Zee is the creator of the viral Instagram account @symmetrybreakfast. Over the last ten years, he has nurtured over 600,000 followers and published cookbooks and travel guides that have become international bestsellers. His new book *ZaoFan: Breakfast of China* won the Fortnum & Mason Award for Best Cook Book in 2025.





**FINANCIAL  
TIMES**

AFGHANISTAN ALBANIA ALGERIA ANDORRA ANGOLA ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
ARGENTINA ARMENIA AUSTRALIA AUSTRIA AZERBAIJAN BAHAMAS BAHRAIN  
BANGLADESH BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BELARUS BELGIUM BELIZE BENIN  
BHUTAN BURKINA FASO BURUNDI CAMBODIA CAMEROON  
BRUNEI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHAD CHILE  
CANADA CAPE VERDE CHINA COLOMBIA COMOROS COSTA RICA CROATIA CUBA CYPRUS  
CZECH REPUBLIC DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO DENMARK  
DJIBOUTI DOMINICA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ECUADOR EGYPT  
EL SALVADOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA ERITREA ESTONIA ESWATINI  
ETHIOPIA FIJI FINLAND FRANCE GABON GAMBIA GEORGIA GERMANY  
GHANA GREECE GRENADA GUATEMALA GUINEA GUINEA-BISSAU  
GUYANA HAITI HONDURAS HUNGARY ICELAND INDIA INDONESIA  
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JORDAN KAZAKHSTAN KENYA KIRIBATI LAOS  
LATVIA LEBANON LESOTHO LIECHTENSTEIN  
LITHUANIA LUXEMBOURG MADAGASCAR MALAWI MALAYSIA MALDIVES  
MALI MALTA MARSHALL ISLANDS MARITIMES MAURITIUS MEXICO  
MICRONESIA MEXICO  
MOROCCO MOZAMBIQUE MYANMAR NAMIBIA NAURU NEPAL  
NETHERLANDS NEW ZEALAND NICARAGUA NIGER NIGERIA NORTH KOREA  
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\*Every country recognised by the UN. Source: FT data

## SUPPORT US

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 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!



## TICKETS

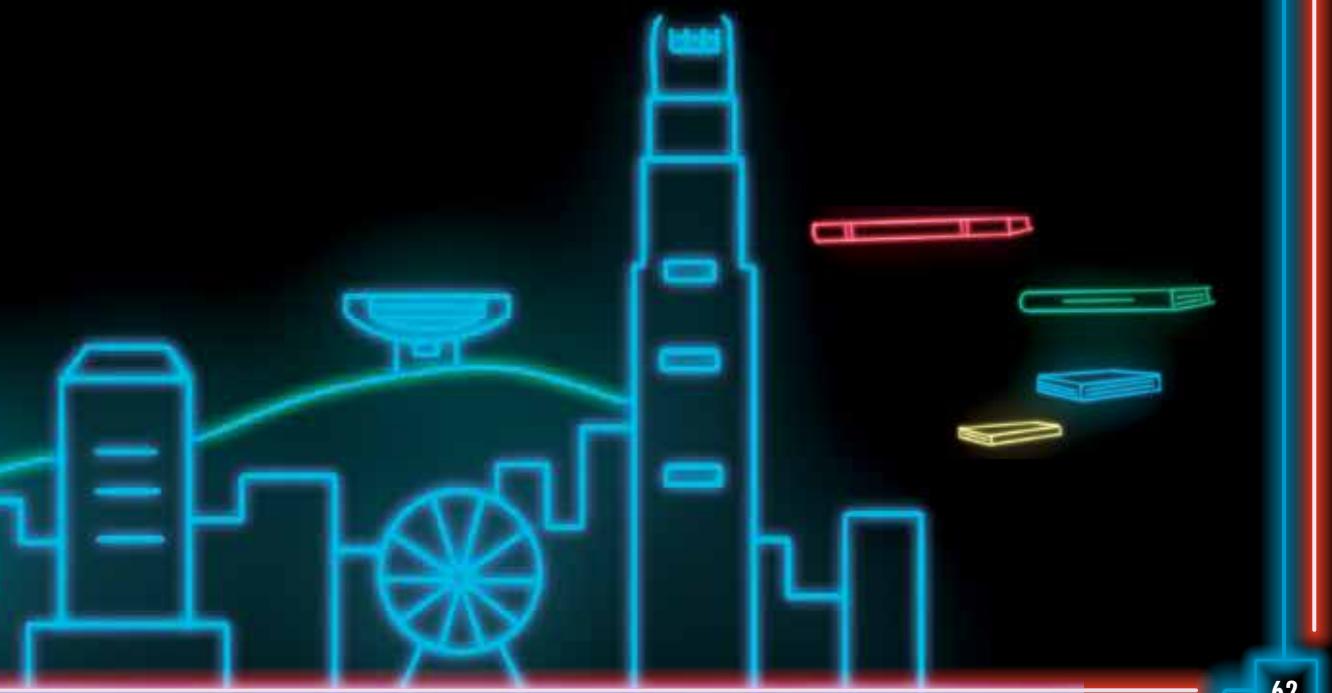
Please scan the QR Code, or visit Eventbrite for ticket bookings.

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.

If the Black Rainstorm Warning or the Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 8 or above is in force 3 hours before the start time of an event, the event will be cancelled and participants will receive a refund. If the Red or Yellow Rainstorm Warning or the Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 3 is in effect, the event will be held as scheduled.

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.



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We express our heartfelt appreciation to our generous donors and supporters for their steadfast commitment. Your contributions play a crucial role in advancing literacy in Hong Kong and ensuring the success of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival.

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# VENUES

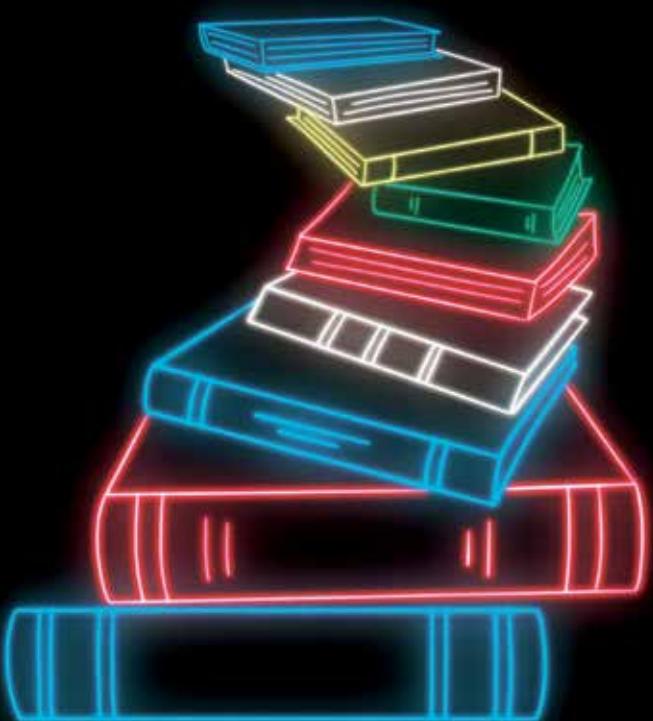
- 01** Africa Center Hong Kong  
*8/F, Breakthrough Centre, 191 Woosung Street, Jordan*
- 02** Aftermath  
*LG, Sunny Building, 57-59 Wyndham Street, Central*
- 03** Asia Society Hong Kong Center  
*9 Justice Drive, Admiralty*  
Hong Kong Jockey Club Hall
- 04** Call Me Al  
*123 Queens Road West, Sheung Wan*
- 05** China Club  
*13-14/F, Old Bank of China Building, Bank Street, Central*
- 06** Eaton Hotel  
*380 Nathan Road, Kowloon*  
1/F Kino and Lounge
- 07** Fringe Club  
*2 Lower Albert Road, Central*  
Anita Chan Lai-ling Gallery, Fringe Underground, Fringe Dairy & The Jockey Club Studio Theatre
- 08** Goethe-Institut Hongkong  
*14/F HK Arts Centre, 2, Harbour Road, Wanchai*  
Library
- 09** Ho Tak Kee  
*Welley Building, 97 Wellington Street, Central*
- 10** Hong Kong Central Library  
*66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay*
- 11** JW Marriott Hotel  
*88 Queensway, Admiralty*  
Function Room
- 12** Museum Cafe 8  
*Rooftop Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier 8, Central*
- 13** Social Room  
*3/F, Won Hing Building, 74-78 Stanley Street, Central*
- 14** Soho House  
*33 Des Voeux Road, Central*  
Blue Room
- 15** Tango Argentinian Steakhouse  
*2/F, Grand Progress Building, 15-16 Lan Kwai Fong, Central*
- 16** The Executive Centre -  
Three Garden Road  
*43-44/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central*
- 17** The Executive Centre -  
Two Chinachem Central  
*7/F, 10-12 & 19, Two Chinachem Central, 26 Des Voeux Road, Central*
- 18** The Executive Centre -  
Two Pacific Place  
*35/F, Two Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty*
- 19** The University of Hong Kong  
*Centennial Campus, Pofulam Road*  
Black Box Studio
- 20** Thirsty Shaker  
*3/F, Hilltop Plaza, 49 Hollywood Road, Central*
- 21** Wyndham Social  
*33 Wyndham Street, Central*  
G/F Social Hall & 27/F Gallery

## ABOUT HKILF

The Hong Kong International Literary Festival 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 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 twenty-five 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, Bernardine Evaristo, Michael Morpurgo, Asako Yuzuki, Emily St. John Mandel, and Dan Santat among many others.

HKILF is a registered charity non-profit organisation championing stories, words and language in Hong Kong. Registered Charity: # 91/6081



# OUR TEAM

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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*)

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

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