

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 International Symposium on Chinese Export Art Concluded Successfully Symposium Brings Together Global Scholars and Museum Professionals To Explore Chinese Export Art, Cultural Exchange and Global Connections

Hong Kong, October 14, 2026 – The “2026 International Symposium on Chinese Export Art,” co-organised by the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) and the Department of Chinese and History at the City University of Hong Kong, concluded successfully on October 13. Sponsored by the Susan Chen Foundation, the two-day event attracted more than 300 participants from universities, museums, cultural institutions and independent research organisations across 12 countries and regions, reflecting growing international interest in the study of Chinese export art.

Inspired by Hong Kong's unique role as a cultural bridge between East and West, the symposium convened over 40 internationally renowned and emerging scholars, museum leaders, curators, researchers and cultural practitioners to exchange ideas and share their latest research on Chinese export art. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions and networking sessions, participants explored the global significance of Chinese export art and its role in shaping artistic, commercial and cultural exchanges across Asia and beyond.

The symposium commenced with an opening ceremony featuring welcome remarks by Mr Richard KENDALL, Director & Chief Executive, Hong Kong Maritime Museum; Prof. CHING May Bo, Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Chinese and History, City University and Mrs Eugenie HARDY, General Manager of the Susan Chen Foundation.

Mr Richard KENDALL, Director & Chief Executive, Hong Kong Maritime Museum said, “I believe that the combination of history, exchange, material culture and global connection makes our museum a particularly fitting setting for a symposium on Chinese export art. It is a great pleasure to host you here in Hong Kong. We received 133 paper proposals and have welcomed more than 160 registered delegates. Those figures are impressive, but what matters most is what they represent: a vibrant, international and increasingly interdisciplinary field of study.”

Prof. CHING May Bo, Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Chinese and History, City University said, “In this age of digital technologies, it is even more important for researchers to have the chance to look at real objects and to engage our brains through physical and sometimes mental and emotional interactions with things. This is why we treasure the collaboration between tertiary institutions and museums. We are delighted to have the chance to work with institutions like the Hong Kong Maritime Museum which attaches great importance to the study of objects.”

Mrs Eugenie HARDY, General Manager of the Susan Chen Foundation said, “We are delighted that, alongside leading scholars and professionals, the symposium provides a platform for new researchers—giving them the opportunity not only to present their research, but also to exchange ideas with established experts and become members of a wider scholar community.”

香港海事博物館有限公司 HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM LIMITED

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Two Distinguished Keynote Speeches

The programme featured two distinguished keynote speeches. Professor ZHAO Feng, Qiushi Distinguished Professor, Zhejiang University and Professor at the School of Art and Archaeology, presented "In Search of Chinese Rooms: Reconstructing the Knowledge System through Export Art", exploring how Chinese export art can contribute to a broader understanding of the people's ways of life at that time and China's cultural history. Professor ZHAO Feng said, "In 'Chinese rooms' in Europe, we have the precious Chinese wallpapers, expression of fashion in that period. What we can see in the 'Chinese rooms' across Europe acts as a microcosm of China and a carrier for Chinese knowledge. Through Chinese export art, we can understand not only the artistic styles, but also the people, their ways of life."

The second keynote speaker, Ms Karina CORRIGAN, Deputy Chief Curator and The H.A. Crosby Forbes Curator of Asian Export Art, Peabody Essex Museum, delivered "An Enduring Legacy and a Path Forward: Dr. H. A. Crosby Forbes and the Invention of Asian Export Art History", examining the evolution of Asian export art studies over the past decades and the enduring relevance of Chinese export art in understanding global trade and cultural exchange. Ms Karina CORRIGAN said, "I think [these export art items are] very much reflective of the extraordinary goods that are participating in the world's first global network, from China, from Japan, from India to the other side of the world. So these cross-cultural art items are a lens toward Asia..."

A Series of Thematic Panel

The symposium highlighted a series of thematic panel covering topics that included European and Chinese artistic dialogue, global markets and consumption, object adaptation, emerging researchers, regional trade networks, natural history and architecture, and visual culture. Across these discussions, scholars examined Chinese export art as a powerful force in global cultural exchange. The panels explored how porcelain, paintings and other decorative arts circulated across continents, were reinterpreted by different societies, and connected people, ideas, technologies and aesthetics through maritime trade networks. Together, the discussions demonstrated the enduring importance of Chinese export art in understanding the interconnected history of the early modern world.

About "Chinese Export Art" Short Course 2026

Building on the success of the symposium, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum will organise the "Chinese Export Art" Short Course 2026 from 14 to 17 October 2026. Designed for students, early-career scholars and individuals interested in Chinese export art, the programme will include visits to major museums, archives and cultural institutions in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangzhou, offering participants valuable opportunities to engage directly with important collections and deepen their understanding of this fascinating field of study.

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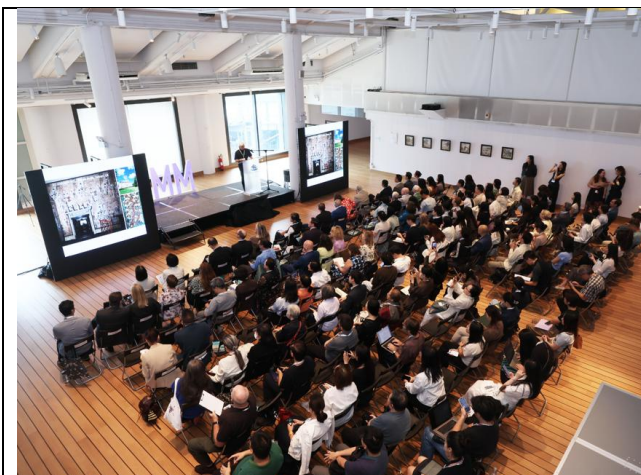
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Press images are available for download [here](#).



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Inspired by Hong Kong's unique role as a cultural bridge between East and West, the symposium convened over 40 internationally renowned and emerging scholars, museum leaders, curators, researchers and cultural practitioners to exchange ideas and share their latest research on Chinese export art.

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The Award for Distinguished Contribution to Chinese Export Art was presented to Mr Anthony HARDY, BBS, Emeritus Chairman of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, at the opening ceremony in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field.



Distinguished guests and museum representatives officiated at the opening ceremony, marking the commencement of the symposium.

(From left to right):

- Jeremy MICHELL, Deputy Director (Curatorial & Education), HKMM
- ZHAO Feng, Qushi Distinguished Professor, Zhejiang University and Professor at the School of Art and Archaeology
- Karina CORRIGAN, Deputy Chief Curator and The H.A. Crosby Forbes Curator of Asian Export Art, Peabody Essex Museum
- Anthony HARDY BBS, Emeritus Chairman, HKMM
- CHING May Bo, Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Chinese and History, City University
- Richard KENDALL, Director & Chief Executive, HKMM
- Duncan PESCOD, GBS, JP, Deputy Chairman of the Board, HKMM Ltd
- Eugenie HARDY, General Manager of the Susan Chen Foundation
- Lianming WANG, Associate Professor (Art and Architecture of Late Imperial China), Department of Chinese and History, City University of Hong Kong
- Zefeng YOU, Deputy Director (Commercial & Development), HKMM

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) is an independent, non-profit registered charity founded by members of the Hong Kong shipping industry, supported by the business community, individuals and the Hong Kong SAR Government. As a cultural institution, we are dedicated to showcasing and preserving the maritime heritage and contemporary marine environment of Hong Kong and the South China Sea. Rooted in China, but looking to the world, we aim to inspire people's appreciation of their relationship with the sea. By connecting East and West, maritime cultural heritage and sustainable ocean development, we delve into the profound ties between people and the sea. Through our rich exhibitions and educational programs, we hope to cultivate public passion and respect for maritime culture and promote the sustainable development of the marine environment.

For more information, visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

Ticketing information

Adults: HK\$30 Seniors (aged 60 or above), full-time students (with valid ID), children (under 18) and people with disabilities (accompanied by a carer): HK\$15

*Discounts are available for group visits of 10 or more.

For the latest update on ticketing, opening hours and social distancing information, please visit www.hkmaritimemuseum.org

Venue

Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Pier 8

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hongkongmaritimemuseum) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hongkongmaritimemuseum) (@hongkongmaritimemuseum) for the latest updates on the exhibition.

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