



Tracing a love for the sea

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HONG KONG HAS a proud post-war maritime history and it is a pity that many of its residents know so little of it.

But that ignorance is easily rectified with a trip to a Hong Kong Maritime Museum key exhibition of the year, *Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: Hong Kong Since 1945*.

Hosted in the biggest of its 15 galleries, the exhibition offers insights into how important marine activities have been in the city's development since the end of World War II up to the present day.

Said the museum's director Joost Schokkenbrock: "We have been relying on the maritime community for many daily needs – as more than 90 percent of what we wear, what we drink and what we eat is transported by sea."

Such is the breadth of maritime history that not all of it can be captured in the exhibition. But the curators have made a game effort in selecting what they deem as important and dividing them into five parts.

The exhibits are divided into 25 categories – everything about the fragments from the daily lives of people, economic development to military activity – starting from the end of the war up to the future.

They include a collection of made-in-Hong Kong industrial products from the 1950s, a World War II bomb found on Hong Kong Island, models of ships and medals of Olympics swimmer Siobhan Haughey.

"The exhibition is a prime example of how we enhance awareness of important maritime history through a blend of art and technology," Schokkenbrock said.



So apart from some of the historical relics shown, the museum also commissioned a local filmmaker, Heiward Mak, to make a series of five short movies that tell a story of love and family across generations.

Alongside the maritime development in the city, when there has been changes of roles in our waters, the movie series also presents differences in the vision of love and marriage, and how they influence the decision-making in between making a living and living during changing times.

The exhibition also includes other interactive elements such as a motion-sensing game based on the Shikumisen finance system, a projection wall about green shipping and a

virtual reality experience where visitors can set themselves into a war zone, locating the bombs in the area.

"Throughout the past 77 years, Hong Kong people have shown the extraordinary can-do spirit, resilience, pragmatism, and confidence," said Schokkenbrock.

"We hope that this message will be inspirational, especially for the younger audiences, the younger generations."

Hong Kong's Maritime Miracle: Hong Kong Since 1945 will continue to tell maritime history until October 30. During this period, adult tickets will be sold on a buy-one-get-one-free basis.

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