



THE TEMPLE HOUSE
CHENGDU

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REINVENTING HERITAGE THROUGH ART

The Temple House launches year-long cultural series 'House of Heritage', starting with a solo exhibition by pioneering filmmaker and artist Ju Anqi



(Chengdu, February 2021) - The Temple House launches a new art and culture series titled 'House of Heritage' in collaboration with friend of the House Ms. Frances Li, Global COO of The I.M. Pei Foundation and a renowned figure in art and cultural management and philanthropy.

House of Heritage founded by Ms. Frances Li with the overall mission to curate culture, share public knowledge, and connect creators with the public in an open dialogue on heritage and the possibilities for its reinvention. Taking the form of documentaries, exhibitions, lectures and workshops the series hopes to share knowledge and encourage discovery, and in this way nurture a kinder approach to social progress. This vision to protect heritage through innovation and connection is one that is deeply engrained at The Temple House, where contemporary architecture complements and highlights the House's original Qing dynasty courtyards.



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The new series will give artists a curated space to reimagine narratives, images, ideas and themes from the past and relate it to a modern-day audience, inviting new exchanges of dialogues. The Temple House has already arranged a lineup of creators for 2021 beginning with Ju Anqi, one of the most widely recognised members of China's "New Generation" experimental filmmakers and contemporary visual artist. It continues with artist and coder Cao Yuxi, whose monumental installations explore technologies such as AI and data mapping to address aspects of modern life, and finally furniture designer and collector Chen Renyi, known for his work creating a new language for contemporary Chinese design that draws from traditional calligraphy and philosophy.



"Let's See Some Grass Tonight" installation at The Temple House

Ju Anqi's current show at The Temple House, entitled "Let's See Some Grass Tonight", is the artist's first of the year as well as his first collaboration with a hotel. A filmmaker



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who has often used the style of documentary film to tell fictional stories, he continues to subvert rules and expectations in his work as a contemporary artist.

“Let’s See Some Grass Tonight” is an exploration of Ju’s long fascination with grass - a frequent subject in traditional Chinese painting and a symbol for vitality - and features a site-specific installation at The Temple House formed by 300 LED panels mounted on the House’s open brick wall, as well as a his trademark monochromatic “Grass Style” paintings.

To Ju, grass is strong and resilient, as opposed to flowers which are fragile and temporary. Ju feels that this resilience is particularly meaningful in the current times as we deal with COVID-19. The name of the exhibition “Let’s See Some Grass Tonight” itself is a direct invitation from artist to viewer to participate in something together. The artist’s intention is one of intimacy and sincerity that is particularly resonant in a moment of uncertainty and physical distancing.



"Let's See Some Grass Tonight" displayed at The Temple House lobby

Ju reinvents the classical symbol of grass in his highly contemporary work, while also referencing Caoshu (literally ‘grass script’), the style of calligraphy recognised for its disregard of rules. In his “Grass Style” paintings which grace The Temple House’s lobby, the subject matter is abstracted into triangular forms that could suggest the Chinese maobi brush or razor-sharp blades. Simple yet inscrutable, these works occupy a vital position in the domain of Asian monochromatic painting.



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"Let's See Some Grass Tonight" displayed at The Temple House lobby

In his new LED installation also titled "Let's See Some Grass Tonight", the artist's first public art installation in a hotel, Ju covers an open brick wall of The Temple House with flashing LED panels. The juxtaposition of the work's modern form against its setting among the Qing architectural features of the House poses questions of what 'heritage' means to the viewer. The work presents an interesting counterpoint to Ju's earlier piece in this medium "Right Right Right Right Right", exhibited at the opening show of the A4 Art Museum in Chengdu in 2017.



Ju Anqi, 'Right Right Right Right Right', installation (LED light box, photo from CCTV image), 2017.

Photo: acknowledgement to Luhu-A4 Art Museum



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About Frances Li

Ms. Frances Li is an international expert on cultural and art assets management, charitable foundation and art museum planning, as well as an investor in creative and technological industries.

About Artist Ju Anqi

Ju Anqi is one of China's highest profile new generation film directors, as well as a contemporary artist. He is an important figure in global contemporary film circles. Along with Jia Zhangke, Wang Xiaoshuai, Lou Ye and others, he has been dubbed by the media as "one of the seven kings of independent film." Ju Anqi's work has been included in more than forty international film festivals, and has been exhibited at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, among many other internationally renowned arts organizations.



Photo by Maleonn

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About The Temple House

The Temple House is one of four Houses in The House Collective and is located in the heart of Chengdu within the Sino-Ocean Taikoo Li, a bustling open plan shopping area. The 100-room House and its 42 serviced residences form an integral part of the city government's conservation project to preserve the surrounding heritage buildings next to the thousand-year-old Daci Temple. Elegant bamboo trees frame the House's entrance, which is set in a beautifully restored hundred-year-old Chinese courtyard built in the Qing Dynasty. Mi Xun houses the award-winning spa, which includes a pool and fitness centre, as well as the teahouse serving vegan Sichuan cuisine. The Temple House also offers a dynamic collection of outlets including The Temple Café - the all-day dining restaurant, Tivano - an authentic Italian restaurant, and Jing Bar - a lively bar featuring live DJs.

About The House Collective

The House Collective by Swire Hotels is a group of refined, highly individual properties that defy comparison. Each uniquely imagined, The Opposite House in Beijing, The Upper House in Hong Kong, The Temple House in Chengdu and The Middle House in Shanghai were designed for seasoned travellers who seek a different, intimate and personalised experience in luxury travel. Each House is a sophisticated, singular piece of design, created by talented architects and designers, that reflect the unique qualities of their surroundings.

About Swire Hotels

Swire Hotels creates and manages distinctive hotels in Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and the United States under two brands, The House Collective and EAST, providing unscripted and authentic experiences for travellers who seek originality, style and personalised service.

The House Collective, a group of Houses each uniquely imagined and inspired by their locations, began



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with the opening of The



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Opposite House in Beijing in 2008, followed by The Upper House in Hong Kong, The Temple House in Chengdu and the latest addition, The Middle House in Shanghai, which opened in 2018. EAST are lifestyle hotels located in Hong Kong, Beijing and Miami with an emphasis on working playfully and playing productively. Located in key commercial districts, EAST brings these cities' buzzing dynamism right to our guests.

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