

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Welcome Remarks for the Art and Design Public Lecture Series 2022-23

9 September 2022 Lee Ping Yuen Chamber, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all for the First Art and Design Public Lecture of the new academic year! Ever since the founding of the Department of Art and Design 2 years ago, the public lecture series have been launched as one of the signature events of the School of Humanities and Social Science.

Today we are most honoured to have invited one of the leading architects, not just in Hong Kong and the region, but internationally, whose most recent project the HK Palace Museum, opened just 2 months ago, had stolen the global attention and become talk of the moment in town – Mr Rocco Yim.

Rocco made his fame quite early on by winning one of the three first prizes for the international competition of the new Opera House in Paris in 1983. Indeed, Mr Yim has projects all over Hong Kong: they are all significant landmarks or recognizable icons of the city, including the Government Headquarters in Admiralty, the IFC I & II, the Citibank Tower in Central, the Peninsula Hotel extension, the Four Season Hotel, and the Central Police Station Heritage Project, just to name a few; but his influence extended beyond Hong Kong to other cities, being the designer of the Guangdong Museum in Guangzhou and the Yunnan Museum in Kunming.

Architecture has been regarded as the mother of all arts – it is also in this spirit that our Department of Art and Design was set up to integrate the pedagogical approach and teaching methodology in architecture in the comprehensive curriculum of art and design, aspiring to educate a new generation of artists and designers well versed with history and theory, adept in applications and technology, sensitive with the environment and sustainability, and well aware and cognizant of professional ethics and civic morality.

As the best accomplished local architect, Rocco will share with us his latest visions and ideas in architectural design and his lecture today titled “Museum and Beyond” would be most relevant and inspiring to us in our endeavours to shape and deliver a most unique programme for our students.