

10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY
10 號贊善里畫廊
HONG KONG

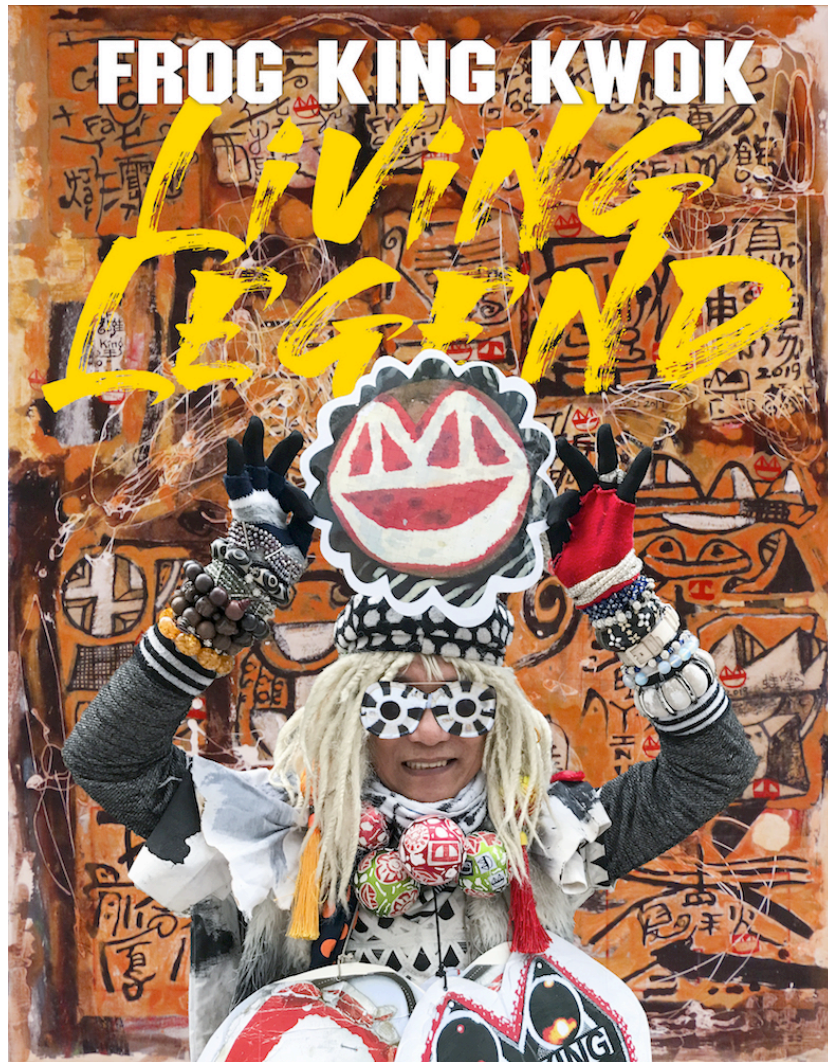


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ATTENTION ART EDITORS
For Immediate Release

FROG KING KWOK, THE LIVING LEGEND
SOLO EXHIBITION AT 10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY HONG KONG

Exhibition starts from 28 October 2019



Members of the press are invited to the following:

November 5th, 2019 (Tuesday) - 12:30 pm
Seated Press Lunch and Conference

November 7th, 2019 (Thursday) - 6-8pm
VIP Reception and Private View and Performance: Smoke of Change
(Performance at 7pm)

November 8th, 2019 (Friday) - 6-8pm
Public Opening and Reception

(October 2019, Hong Kong) - 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is proud to present "Frog King Kwok, The Living Legend," an epic and explosive new solo exhibition by Hong Kong artist Frog King Kwok (a.k.a. Kwok Mang-ho, b. 1947). The exhibition "**Frog King Kwok, The Living Legend**" personifies the force that Frog King has embodied for 50 years as an internationally recognized and recognizable Hong Kong artist. The exhibition of new works will incorporate his many diverse and multifarious forms of art from painting, installation and sculpture and with a new performance entitled "Smoke of Change" created specifically for the exhibition.

FROG KING'S EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Originally trained in ink painting and calligraphy in the studio of seminal New Ink Painting master Lui Shou Kwan, Frog King was encouraged by his teacher to take flight with his energetic and performative style and break from tradition. Frog King is one of the earliest Chinese contemporary artists to explore the use of ink painting as a conceptual tool, incorporating it as both action and material into multiple-media installations, performances, happenings and assembled environments incorporating discards and everyday objects. Through his practice Frog King drifts between Chinese and Western cultures by combining Chinese calligraphy with Latin writing which, he terms "sandwich font" or by bold splashes of paint used with both a performative and taoist intention. He finishes his works by embossing a multitude of red ink Chinese chops that he has created himself. Kwok Mang-ho moved to the East Village in New York in the 1980s where the Frog King persona burst forth. He says, "During the 80s in New York, the artists Keith Haring, Basquiat (same), Warhol and others all had big identities so I decided to become Frog King". He opened the Kwok gallery as an experimental incubator for himself and other artists and worked also making original fashions, objects and jewelry. No doubt inspiring him for his future costuming and encoutrments.

THE FROG KING GARMENTS

The Frog King Kwok full regalia is a multilayered embellished art work in itself. With his various wigs and layerings of clothes that he paints and burns, his dozens of bracelets and rings adorn his arms and hands. His imperial regalia includes his sceptre made from a toilet plunger and an ink brush, his crown which he meticulously creates to each occasion made from burnt gourds, flashing lights and ink brushes and other found objects and his royal mantle, a pair of trousers draped over his shoulders with burn holes embellishing them like the black on white of ermine as a heraldic tincture. His dress is never finished without his handmade signature Froggy Sunglasses that are paramount to his process of engaging with the audience.

THE FROG KING HAPPENINGS

Frog King Kwok is an artist of engagement. Everyone is part of his performance. This key aspect to his work is what defines the Frog King most. When the audience sees Frog King, they approach it as if they are viewing, perhaps someone somewhat mad, who is there to perform for them and then suddenly, the walls come crashing down as Frog King will transform a room of conservative business people or shy students into a Froggy-Sunglasses clad, drum beating, noisemaker-shaking crowd of people who are all giggling with glee and playing with him. He breaks all barriers to teach us all that the Froggy concept is about fun and to live by his ever-positive motto "Art is life, and Life is Frog" and that means joy. Frog Bun Lum is the term he uses to call these spontaneous happenings of engaging with people throughout his everyday. When he is not in full

costume, he will always have a few Froggy Sunglasses handy to share a moment of laughter with any passerby as he takes a photograph of them. His hundreds of thousands of photos that he has taken over the years, all printed, all organized in books as a diary and archive of his life's art practice that include photos of David Bowie, Nam June Paik and other celebrities wearing the Froggy Sunglasses.

Katie de Tilly, Director of 10 Chancery Lane Gallery says, "There is so much depth in the practice and concepts of Frog King's art that it is futile to summarize the artist in a few sentences. His absolute devotion to create all the time, everywhere and anywhere is awe-inspiring as is his engagement with everyone. We haven't even scratched the surface of all that Frog King is but it is certain that he is indeed a living legend."

ABOUT FROG KING

The eclectic and vibrant Frog King is an indomitable artist and is one of the most important figures in the history of contemporary art in Hong Kong. He was a pioneer to experiment in performance and conceptual practices in Hong Kong as early as the 1970s.

Oscar Ho, former Director, Hong Kong Arts Centre wrote, "During the late 60s and 70s, he worked on a broad spectrum of artistic experimentation, ranging from photo collage, installation, happening environment arts, conceptual art, to ready-made objects, which were foreign to many of the local audience. At a time when the art scene was dominated by the Modern Water and Ink movement, Kwok was a lonely and forceful voice sounding out another possibility."

Frog King has won several awards, including the Hong Kong Arts Development Council Emeritus Fellowship in 1998. He started the "Frog King Kwok Museum" project in 2001 in Cattle Depot. In 2011, Frog King was selected as Hong Kong's artist for the 54th Venice Biennale. In November 2019, Frog King Kwok will have a major installation at the relaunch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

ABOUT 10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY

10 Chancery Lane Gallery, established in 2001, is a driving force in contemporary arts' culture in Hong Kong and is one of Asia's leading contemporary art galleries. Working from a broad range of artists of culturally diverse backgrounds the gallery is particularly interested in emerging movements in Contemporary Art from the Asia-Pacific. Asia has seen a blossoming of its art over the last decade and 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is committed to play a major role in documenting the development of art within the Asia-Pacific region by holding more survey exhibitions by country or theme of both emerging and mid-career artists and publishing books that bring together the individual historical contexts with the arts development of the region. 10 Chancery Lane Gallery works with curators from the region to offer a diverse program and discourse. The gallery has 8 exhibitions a year and exhibits at international art fairs including: Art Basel Hong Kong and Miami, The Armory Show in New York, Frieze Masters in London among others.

For press enquiries and to arrange interviews, please contact Harriet Wong at harriet@10chancerylanegallery.com or +852 2810 0065.