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## Spring Workshop's Last Year to Focus on Dissolving the Schism Between Art and Music

This January Spring Workshop begins the final year of its five-year initiative. During this final year, Spring will continue its dynamic engagement with the local and international art scene and support for its vibrant partner organizations. Then at the end of 2017, Spring will take a planned hiatus from its activities.

Mimi Brown says, "I founded Spring in 2012 as a five-year initiative with the intention of reflecting and supporting the art landscape in Hong Kong. As anticipated, that landscape has changed dramatically, which necessitates a rethinking of what role a non-profit like Spring can play."

"Since I come from a background in music, I am excited in our final year to be focusing on breaking music out of its usual confines, as the schism between art and music has been something that intrigues and frustrates many of us in the cultural sector. Music and visual art are cousins, and I have always looked on our activities at Spring first as a musician who sets out rhythm, timbre and harmony, just as a visual artist might put forward form, texture and color. The happenings and encounters here are the elements of the composition that is Spring."

Spring's last year will include, among other things, a focus on dissolving the artificial divide between art and music. With this in mind, we have been working over two research residencies since last summer with American composer and artist Ari Benjamin Meyers on the creation of *Kunsthalle for Music* (KFM), co-founded with our international long-term partner Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam. *An exposition, not at exhibition*, the experimental presentation that opens on March 11 at Spring Workshop will unpack key themes around the politics and dynamics of performers and audiences with crucial contributions by members of the Hong Kong art and music community. Spring's Art Basel presentation with Meyers lays the groundwork for the project's further iterations in Witte de With in May 2017 and January 2018.

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Concurrently, Ari Benjamin Meyers' *Duet*, a composition for two strangers, will be on view at Spring and performed throughout the year, underscoring Spring's goal in 2017 of bringing music out of its traditional spaces.

In support of the excellent work of the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, Spring has extended a year-long residency to the non-profit organization during which Spring will host not only participants in the HKNME's Modern Academy, but also rehearsals and day-to-day operations of the organization itself. The HKNME will also be featured in *An Exposition, Not An Exposition*.

Continuing its mission of collaboration with our art community, Spring will provide ongoing support to Hong Kong's pivotal art institutions such as Asia Art Archive, Para Site and M+/Design Trust by hosting their programs, visiting artists and guests.

Spring is also delighted to announce that although Christina Li has completed her contract as Director of Spring, she will continue working with Spring as Curator-at-Large, both for the March show of Meyers and for large-scale group show to take place in late 2017 at another venue in Hong Kong to be announced this summer. Her numerous noteworthy projects at Spring have included the international group show *Days push off into nights* (2015), Wu Tsang's film commission and same-titled exhibition *Duilian* (2016), Hong Kong artist Wong Wai Yin's mid-career solo *Without trying* (2016), as well as the publication project (co-founded with Heman Chong, and the second forthcoming digital issue co-edited with Malak Helmy) *Stationary* ([www.stationarystories.com](http://www.stationarystories.com)).

Christina Li says: "It has been an incredible privilege to work with Spring in the past four years in various capacities to bring to life provocative, one-of-a-kind projects with local and international artists, writers and curators which continuously question the way in which art could relate to and create meaning for our everyday life. It is only because of the enthusiasm of our dedicated colleagues at Spring, the generosity of spirit and thought of our collaborators, the art community and most crucially Mimi, the founder, that Spring could become what it is: a unique place where people, ideas and artistic processes could come into fruitful exchange. I am honoured to be part of this collective journey. My experience and conversations I have begun during my time at Spring have and will without a doubt go on to influence and inform my curatorial work in the future."

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Brown says: “Thanks to brilliant partners, interesting guests and an excellent team, these four years of hosting people and projects at Spring have been an adventure beyond anything I could have imagined, and I look forward to our final year while we reflect on Spring’s metamorphosis into possible future incarnations. Most of all, I hope people will feel that Spring has touched their lives somehow.”

### Media Enquiries

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Mimi Brown (Founder of Spring Workshop) and Christina Li (Curator-at-Large of Spring Workshop) are available for interviews by request. Please contact us for more information.

### ABOUT SPRING WORKSHOP

Spring Workshop is a cultural initiative that brings people together to experiment with the way we relate to art. Committed to an international cross-disciplinary program of artist and curatorial residencies, exhibitions, music, film and talks, Spring serves as a platform and laboratory for exchange between the vibrant artists, organizations and audiences that define Hong Kong’s rich cultural landscape and the emerging and established artists, organizations and audiences around the world that seek to engage in far-reaching dialogue. Since opening its space in Wong Chuk Hang in 2011, Spring has welcomed over 12,000 audience members to its 131 programs and events featuring 199 artists, residents and collaborators. In 2016, Spring Workshop received the Prudential Eye Award for Best Asian Contemporary Art Organization.

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