

# Arts and Culture Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2016

Tianjin, People's Republic of China 26-28 June



# Cultural Leaders



**Jesse Appell**  
Comedian, Beijing

Jesse Appell is an American entrepreneur and intercultural comedian based in Beijing who uses comedy as a means to bridge cultural divides between China and the West. His website LaughBeijing serves as a platform for his unique combination of Chinese and Western comedic styles as well as the proliferation of comedy as a means of intercultural communication. Appell will be conducting workshops on finding the human connection through comedy and being confident in public speaking.



**Leila Araghian**  
Architect, Tehran

Leila Araghian is an Iranian architect and the co-founder of Diba Tensile Architecture. She was only 26 years old when she designed the *Pol-e-Tabiat*, or Nature Bridge, in Tehran, which was recognized as a global success and has become known as “the third symbol of Tehran”. In Tianjin, Araghian will share her visionary insights on bringing the human aspect back into the design of our urban environments.



**Melissa Chiu**  
Museum Director, Washington DC

Melissa Chiu is a museum director, curator and author, and the Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington DC. She is also on the founding advisory committee for the USC American Academy in China and has participated in the advisory committees for the Gwangju and Shanghai Biennales. She is a strong advocate for the greater role of technology in contemporary art.



**Xiaoqian (Daisy) Guo**  
Designer, Beijing

Daisy Guo is the co-founder of Tezign.com, an online platform connecting creative professionals and clients with design demand. Prior to this, she was part of the curating team for the Chinese pavilion at the 2012 Venice Biennale and curated exhibitions around the world. As a young creative with a background in design, Guo has gained deep insight into today's creative economy. She is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.



**Deng Guoyuan**  
Artist, Tianjin

Deng Guoyuan is an artist as well as the President of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. Trained as an oil painter, he began creating sculptures and installations that pay respect to traditions in Chinese art and incorporate elements of Western aesthetics. In Tianjin, his nature-inspired installation *Noah's Garden* will be featured as part of the Works in Progress exhibition, conveying notions of utopia and hope in our technology-driven society.



**Kazi Istela Imam**  
Graphic Designer, Dhaka

Kazi Istela is a freelance graphic designer who has worked on a variety of different campaigns including educating people on various issues related to the illegal and unethical use of wildlife. Her illustrated series of superhero characters fighting deep-rooted ills in the social fabric of Bangladesh was her first initiative to use art as a tool to navigate the chaos and disorder of the everyday world. She is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum.



**Toshiyuki Inoko**  
Digital Artist, Tokyo

Toshiyuki Inoko is the founder of Tokyo-based teamLab, a collective, interdisciplinary creative group that brings together professionals from various fields of practice in the digital society. These “ultra-technologists” aim to achieve a balance between art, science, technology and creativity. In Tianjin, Inoko will share his visionary approach to digital interaction.



**Yasuaki Kakehi**  
Media Artist, Tokyo

Yasuaki Kakehi is a media artist and visiting professor at the Fluid Interfaces group of MIT Media Lab, where his research crosses over the boundaries between engineering, art and design. He develops interactive media that extend the human body, tools and communication by multiplying the five senses, affecting the properties of physical materials, and incorporating digital information. He is a Young Scientist of the World Economic Forum.



**Sarah Kenderdine**  
Artist and Professor, Sydney

Sarah Kenderdine is a pioneer in interactive and immersive digital experiences of cultural heritage. She collaborated with the Forum in China last year to present *Pure Land: Inside the Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang*, which took participants into an immersive digital representation of the famous caves. In Tianjin, Kenderdine will share insights on latest developments in digital interaction and exhibit her IShoU app, an interactive tool that offers a new way to reflect on one's experiences, for the Works in Progress exhibition.



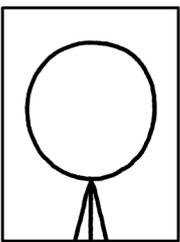
**Jeremy Lin**  
Basketball Player, Charlotte

Jeremy Lin is a professional basketball player for the Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Lin is one of only a few Asian Americans in NBA history and the first American of Chinese descent to play in the league. As a passionate advocate for the empowerment of children and youth through his Jeremy Lin Foundation, he will be sharing insights on the opportunity for sports leaders to be role models for the younger generation.



**Wang Min**  
Dean, School of Design, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing

Professor Wang Min is Dean of the School of Design at China's Central Academy of Fine Arts and Professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Design. He was the Design Director for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Committee responsible for the design of the look of the games. Wang Min's designs uniquely blend Chinese and Western aesthetics and cultures.



**Randall Munroe**  
Webcomic Artist, Boston

Randall Munroe is a cartoonist, author, ex-NASA roboticist and the creator of the webcomic *xkcd*. He maintains a popular *What If?* blog, where he answers questions that are usually absurd in nature and related to math or physics, sent in by fans of his comics. In Tianjin, Munroe will share his knowledge of how to develop visual solutions to complex problems.



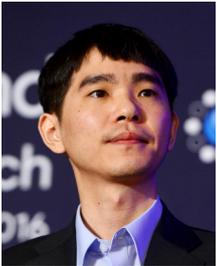
**Tomomi Nishimoto**  
Conductor, Tokyo

Tomomi Nishimoto is the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the IlluminArt Philharmonic Orchestra, concurrently serving as the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Royal Chamber Orchestra, Music Partner with the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and as Visiting Professor at Osaka College of Music. She has been involved in experimental musical activities, such as bringing together traditional aspects of Japanese culture and opera, as well as holding restoration performances of long-lost *Min'yō* tunes. She is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



**Daan Roosegaarde**  
Artist, Rotterdam

Daan Roosegaarde is a creative thinker and maker of social designs that explore the relationship between people, technology and space. Inspired by nature's gifts, he works with a team of designers and engineers in his studio towards a better future. In Tianjin, Roosegaarde will explore alternative visions of a sustainable environmental future. He is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



**Lee Sedol**  
Grandmaster, Seoul

Lee Sedol is recognized as one the most creative and outstanding Go players in the history of the game. In March 2016, as “mankind’s representative”, he played a historic five-game match against an artificial intelligence program called AlphaGo, marking an important milestone in the development of artificial intelligence. While the machine came out victorious, winning four out of five games, Lee Sedol’s one win is so far the only loss AlphaGo has ever recorded.



**Curtis Taylor**  
Filmmaker, Perth

Curtis Taylor is a filmmaker, screen artist and young indigenous Martu leader from the Western Australian Desert. Growing up in the remote Martu desert communities and in the city, Taylor gained both traditional Martu knowledge and a Western education. In Tianjin, Taylor will be exhibiting the virtual reality film, *Collisions*, which explores the dynamics between indigenous Martu wisdom and modern Western technology.



**Wu Tong**  
Musician, Beijing

Born to a musical family in Beijing, Wu Tong is a founding member of the *Silk Road Ensemble* and founding vocalist of *Lunhui (Again)*, which merged Western and Asian traditions and was the first rock band ever to appear on Chinese television. He is one of the country's most versatile musical figures, offering a broad musical sensibility from traditional tunes to new compositions and free improvisation. Wu will lead a musical workshop and perform the closing concert at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin.



**Lynette Wallworth**  
Artist and Filmmaker, Sydney

Lynette Wallworth uses interactive technologies to create immersive installations. Her work has been presented widely, including at the Lincoln Center, Sundance Film Festival and World Economic Forum. In Tianjin, Wallworth will present her virtual reality film, *Collisions*, an exploration of indigenous life and ancestral wisdom for caring for our planet and future generations, as part of the Works in Progress exhibition. *Collisions* launched in Davos as an initiative of the World Economic Forum.



**Caroline Watson**  
Theatre Workshop Director, Paris

Caroline Watson is Founder and Director of *Hua Dan*, one of China's first and leading social enterprises that uses the power of participation in drama-based workshops to unfold individual and community potential. Watson pioneered the importance of participation in the arts and creative education in China and globally, and empowered the leadership of female migrants from the countryside to lead and manage the organization. She is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



**Li Xufei**  
Artist, Tianjin

Li Xufei developed a passion for drawing in childhood. After nearly two decades of learning and practice, Li combines traditional painting with his own understanding of nature. A quiet life and natural scenery find full expression in Li's painting collections. He teaches at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts and serves as the deputy secretary-general of the Chinese painting board with the Tianjin Artists Association. He has published a series of his masterpieces and received awards from home and abroad.



**Zhang Yuxuan**  
Martial Arts Master, Beijing

Master Zhang Yuxuan has been the Head Instructor of the Beijing Milun School of Traditional Kungfu since 2004, where he teaches students from around the world. He has an impressive mastery of internal martial arts and won first place demonstrating Tai Chi at the prestigious International Martial Arts Open in Beijing in 2005 and 2006. He is the final disciple of Master Zhang Shengli, who is an internationally recognized martial arts champion and the founder of numerous martial arts practices. In Tianjin, Zhang will lead the experiences of the philosophy and practice of Tai Chi.

# Exhibition: Works in Progress

What makes technology transformational?

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Progress has not followed a straight ascending line, but a spiral with rhythms of progress and retrogression, of evolution and dissolution.

”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“

Technology is not an exogenous force over which we have no control. We are not constrained by the binary choice between ‘accept and live with it’ and ‘reject and live without it’. Instead, take dramatic technological change as an invitation to reflect about who we are and how we see the world.

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Klaus Schwab



The technological advances of the Fourth Industrial Revolution are creating a context unlike anything humankind has experienced. As we endeavour to foresee the challenges that await us, humans projects both dreams and nightmares of the future onto its technologies. But technology alone does not determine what the future will look like. The Works in Progress exhibition seeks to confront us with the notion that our knowledge, technologies and imaginings of the future are a constant work in progress, built by human endeavour, and shaped and guided by human choice.

*Works in Progress* is produced by the World Economic Forum in partnership with artists, scientists, technologists and universities. The exhibition comprises five installations, each posing fundamental questions to participants.

### **How much would you trust a robot?**

If robots could outperform humans one day, would we choose to let them? In this installation, participants explore cutting-edge research and industrial robots that are piloting planes, forming memories, collaborating with humans and building social rapport. While these robots suggest a future where machine capabilities approach our own, they remain works in progress, ready to be adapted to meet the needs of humanity.

### **Are robots evolving?**

When you think of robots, do you see something like yourself with arms and a face? In this installation, participants meet robo-snakes and robo-bees, machines unveiling new visions of the robot future. Like their biological originals, these machines could play a vital role in the ecosystem humankind is crafting for itself, or be cast as the subjects of our worst nightmares. But these technologies are indifferent to how they are used. The choice is left to us.



## What do you know about your brain?

Is the brain just a complex computer, its code waiting to be cracked? The Brain Hub is dedicated to neurobiology, neuro-technology, brain health and neuro-ethics. In The Brain Hub, participants can test a brain-computer interface to move an object with their mind, learn how to monitor their brain's health and decline through the Davos Brain Challenge, and hear from experts on some of the personal and societal implications of our rapidly advancing, yet still incomplete knowledge of the brain.

## Can we plan for the unintended consequences of our actions?

As we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution, what can we learn from the moments that have defined human achievement and limitations in previous industrial revolutions? Participants can experience Collisions, a 15-minute virtual-reality film by artist Lynette Wallworth that was co-produced by the World Economic Forum, to discover what happens when Western science collides with traditional wisdom.

## How can nature inform technological progress?

Humankind's technological achievements are, in some ways, no match for the staggering diversity, function and resilience of nature. Yet, in the Anthropocene, nature is also fragile in the face of human technology. Noah's Garden is a large-scale, immersive garden installation by Deng Guoyuan, Artist and Dean of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, which invites participants to look at the fragility and resilience of nature and think about the role we play in maintaining what we value.



# Programme Highlights

- **Visionary Art BetaZone Series:** Digital World, Cleaning Up Earth, Interactive Architecture
- **Creator Series** featuring in-depth conversations with the artists of *Collisions* and *Noah's Garden* as part of the Works In Progress exhibition
- Cultural leaders will engage in interactive sessions such as **Meeting China's Millennials, The Future of Cities** and **Education for a New Age**
- Workshops including **Connecting through Comedy** and a **Musical Workshop on the Many Faces of Opportunity**
- **Closing Performance** featuring renowned Chinese musician Wu Tong



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IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD

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The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

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