Cultural Leaders
Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2019
Introduction

This year at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian, a select group of Cultural Leaders will lend their unique voices to broaden the dialogue and reflect on the complexity of some of the world’s most pressing issues. As innovators and pioneers in their respective fields, these artists will share their vision and values to shape a new era of globalization by taking part in multiple sessions and interactive experiences as part of the official programme.
Jesse Appell, People’s Republic of China/USA

Jesse Appell is a Beijing-based Xiangsheng performer and standup comedian, committed to using the power of humor as a means to bridge cultural divides between China and the Western world. 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.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

The Creativity Lab
1 July, 09.15 – 10.00
Betazone

Promoting Responsible Leadership
1 July, 12.15 – 13.30
Studio

The Art of Influence
1 July, 17.00 – 18.00
Salon

Andrea Bandelli, Ireland

Andrea Bandelli is the Executive Director of Science Gallery International. He has led and managed international projects linked with science, art, democracy and civic participation, and widely writes on public engagement with science. Bandelli is also a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM, particularly on LGBTI inclusion. He is a member of the World Economic Forum’s Expert Network.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

The Curious Mind
1 July, 15.45 – 16.15
Hub D

In Science We Trust?
2 July, 12.30 – 13.00
Hub D

Xu Bing, People’s Republic of China

Xu Bing is an artist, achieving international recognition for his mastery in printmaking. Focusing on the transmission of knowledge through language and cross-communication, his current work explores the impact of modern technology on the environment and human psyche. A past recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, Xu’s work has been exhibited in prestigious venues worldwide, including the International Venice Biennale. He currently teaches at Cornell University and at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

No More Obscurity
1 July, 14.00 – 14.45
Betazone
Daphne Cheng, People's Republic of China

Daphne Cheng is one of the most recognized vegan chefs in the world, pioneering a plant-based haute cuisine. Her sustainable dishes offer a food alternative that benefits both people and the planet, while maintaining a balanced diet. Cheng also founded the Superhuman venture, building a platform advocating for a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Climate Change: The Next Financial Crisis?
2 July, 09.00 – 10.00
Studio

Future Frontiers of Food: A Plant-Based Diet
2 July, 14.45 – 15.15
Hub D

Hao Jingfang, People's Republic of China

Hao Jingfang is a Chinese science fiction writer and the first woman to receive the Hugo Award for Best Novelette for Folding Beijing. She also works as a macroeconomics researcher at the China Development Research Foundation, focusing on the role of artificial intelligence for policy-makers, and runs a start-up in the field of education in China. Hao is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Promoting Responsible Leadership
1 July, 12.15 – 13.30
Studio

Nadya Hutagalung, Indonesia/Singapore

Nadya Hutagalung is a United Nations Environment Goodwill Ambassador, TV host and media personality, and voted one of Singapore’s Top 20 most influential people by CNN. As an environmental advocate, Nadya built one of Singapore’s first eco-homes, founded a sustainable jewellery line and created Let Elephants Be Elephants, an ivory reduction campaign documenting for National Geographic the illegal trade and its effects.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

The Art of Influence
1 July, 17.00 – 18.00
Salon

Eco-Activism Goes Global
2 July, 15.00 – 15.30
Betazone

Our Planet
2 July, 16.00 – 17.30
Betazone
Chen Qiufan, People’s Republic of China

Chen Qiufan is one of China’s leading science fiction writers. His stories draw upon themes ranging from neuroscience to Chinese folklore and technology. He has won the Nebula Award and Milky Way Award for Science Fiction. His latest novel Waste Tide (2019) addresses electronic waste issues in China and has been translated into several languages.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Future Shocks: Emotional Disruption
1 July, 16.15 – 16.45
Hub C

Daan Roosegaarde, Netherlands

Daan Roosegaarde is an award-winning installation artist who explores the relationship between people, technology and space. Inspired by nature, he works with other designers and engineers to contribute to a more sustainable future. His latest project focuses on space waste and solutions to build a resilient and sustainable space economy. Roosegaarde is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

China’s Environmentalism and the World
1 July, 09.15 – 09.45
Hub C

Sustaining the Space Economy
2 July, 09.00 – 10.00
Betazone

Keith Scholey, United Kingdom

Keith Scholey is a wildlife photographer and film producer who has been making award-winning films for over 30 years. He co-founded Silverback Films, specializing in the production of wildlife films for both television and cinema. Most recently, Scholey collaborated with Sir David Attenborough to produce the natural history series “Our Planet”, which world-premiered at the Annual Meeting 2019 in Davos, and launched on Netflix this year.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Director’s Cut: Our Planet
2 July, 16.00 – 16.45
Betazone
Wu Tong, People’s Republic of China

Wu Tong is a Grammy-award winning musician, vocalist and composer. Together with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, he is a founding member of the Silk Road Ensemble, and founding vocalist of Lunhui (Again), which merged Western and Asian traditions. 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.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Closing Performance
3 July, 15.10 – 15.25
Studio

Qiu Zhijie, People’s Republic of China

Qiu Zhijie is a contemporary artist, writer and a pioneer of conceptual photography and video. The central quest of his art is how creative work can intervene in daily life and achieve a new union between art, life, technology and social practice. His project Mappa Mundi illustrates this by proposing an alternative representation and understanding of existing systems in relation to each other. As a result, he has also collaborated with art institutions and companies to design system maps and with technology companies on artificial intelligence for arts and technology.

Speaking roles in the official programme:

Mapping the World
1 July, 10.45 – 11.15
Betazone

Also joining for the concurrent Young Global Leaders Annual Summit:

- Neha Kirpal, Founder, India Art Fair, India
- Lee Jinha, Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer, Spatial Systems Inc., USA
- Mokena Makeka, Creative Director and Managing Director, Makeka Design Lab, South Africa
- Shoukei Matsumoto, Author and Buddhist Monk, Komyoji Temple, Japan
- Magnus Renfrew, Founder and Managing Director, ARTHQ/Group, Hong Kong SAR, China
- Susannah Rodgers, Director, Spirit of 2012 and Paralympic Swimmer, United Kingdom
- Nicole Schwab, Director, International Relations, Last Wild Places, National Geographic Society, USA
- Philip Tinari, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, People’s Republic of China
Exhibition: The Human Element

Throughout history, understanding and mimicking nature has been a fundamental element in solving complex human problems. With advances in artificial intelligence, technology is now learning how to interpret and mimic human behaviour in sophisticated ways. This exhibition explores questions of trust and unintended consequences in today’s new techno-society. It was created in collaboration with innovators, artists and scientists working at the frontier of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
Digital Mimic
Losing control of your digital persona

The art of deception is one of nature’s most widely used tools for survival. In the human context, digitalization has enabled new forms of deception at a societal level. What happens when it becomes easy for anyone to make convincing fake videos, spreading online what seems like undeniable proof of things that were never said or never happened? How will people know truth from falsehood, and what protections are there against the misuse of our own likeness?

In collaboration with Hao Li, Associate Professor of Computer Science, University of Southern California and CEO & Co-Founder of Pinscreen Inc.

Hospital of the Future
When your surgeon is a robot

One in 10 surgeries are performed with the assistance of a robot, and this percentage is expected to more than double in the next five years. Today’s surgical robots are controlled by human surgeons but, with the pace at which AI’s deployment in healthcare is advancing, a future with self-controlled surgical robots is coming. Discover the state of the art and explore the challenges and opportunities presented by a future in which your surgeon could be a robot.

In collaboration with Intuitive Surgical Inc.

Biometric Mirror
Reflecting the limitations of AI

Artificial intelligence models can analyze people’s faces and recognize demographic and psychometric information, ranging from gender and attractiveness to responsibility and “strangeness”. What are the unintended consequences when computers, algorithms and artificial intelligence make assumptions and decisions about an individual’s personality? What happens when the wrong conclusions are drawn?

In collaboration with Niels Wouters, Research Fellow, Interaction Design Lab, University of Melbourne and Science Gallery Melbourne
Closing Performance

Grammy-award winning musician Wu Tong has long been one of China’s most versatile musical figures. By both preserving China’s traditional heritage and modernizing it from within, he has traversed musical boundaries and become a leader in artistic innovation and collaboration. He is a master of the traditional Chinese wind instrument “Sheng”, which has a 3,000-year history in China dating back to the Shang dynasty. In this closing performance of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2019, Wu leads an immersive experience, fusing the sounds of traditional Chinese instruments with electronic music and visual effects.