

Letters to the Editor (SCMP 25 June 2005)

Truly International Ink

With reference to the article “Asian arts hub” (June 21) I agree that Hong Kong has the potential to be the cultural leader in this part of the world.

A few points regarding an “international museum”: most people would agree that a museum is deemed to be world class because of its excellent permanent collection with enhancements through outstanding exhibitions. I believe the proposed Ink Museum in West Kowloon can meet these standards. It would be truly unique; no other exists elsewhere.

Because of this, it will attract the best ink paintings internationally and provide appreciation of a totally Asian art form, which has already gained recognition worldwide. The Ink Society was founded last year to promote ink painting as a living art form with over two thousand years of history. During that time and through experimentation, artists have managed to break the barrier between traditionalism and modernism and bring ink paintings into the contemporary art arena.

Of course, such a museum deserves top-quality management and governance enjoyed by other world-class museums. I believe the Hong Kong government and other interested parties can play a decisive role in understanding that with good governance and management a museum can be a successful business venture and also provide enjoyment and education to the viewing public. More important, such a museum will enable Hong Kong to be truly the Asia’s “World City”.