

Press Release

“SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival” Lights Up Macau

Honouring Chinese Heritage and Fostering Artistic Exchange Across Borders

(Macau, 30 September 2025) SJM Resorts, S.A. (“SJM”) and Macau Artist Society proudly present the “SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival” to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and China’s National Day, and to promote Macau’s designation as a “Culture City of East Asia.” Now in its fourth year, this vibrant exhibition will illuminate the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau (“Grand Lisboa Palace”) and Hong Kung Temple Square until 23 November.

The Festival, supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government and the Macao Government Tourism Office, is officially listed as part of the programme of the “Culture City of East Asia 2025 – Macao, China.” Four artists from Culture Cities of East Asia have crafted unique lanterns reflecting their heritages: brush-making master Lyu Weiguo from Huzhou, China; Macau cross-media artist Leong Kit Man; contemporary calligrapher Ayumi Muramatsu from Kamakura, Japan; and graffiti artist DHAL from Anseong, Korea.

The kick-off ceremony took place at the Atrium of Grand Lisboa Palace. Distinguished guests included Ms. Leong Wai Man, Director of Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government; Ms. Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of Macao Government Tourism Office; Mr. Xu Dongjie, Chief of the Division of the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR; Ms. Daisy Ho, Managing Director of SJM; and Mr. Lok Hei, President of the Macau Artist Society. Joined by exhibiting artists and art community representatives, they activated the spectacular lantern installations, showcasing the charm of traditional lantern craftsmanship and Macau’s vibrant role in cultural exchange.

The event also showcased a captivating live performance blending Japanese artist Ayumi Muramatsu’s calligraphy with local artist Uly’s dynamic percussion, creating a memorable visual and rhythmic experience that was met with enthusiastic applause. Macao tourism mascot, “Mak Mak” and SJM’s mascot, “Sam the Rooster” added a festive note, sending seasonal blessings to the community. SJM also presented Huzhou calligraphy brushes, made by brush-making master Lyu Weiguo, to the event’s supporting units—the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government and the Macao Government Tourism Office—celebrating Macau’s important role in fostering exchanges among the Culture Cities of East Asia.

Ms. Daisy Ho, Managing Director of SJM, remarked, “SJM has always regarded cultural heritage and tourism development as intertwined missions. We are honoured to collaborate with Macau Artist Society on this meaningful exhibition for the fourth consecutive year, which highlights Macau as a cultural tourism destination rooted in tradition, alive with spirit, and connected to the global stage. This year’s lantern exhibition, expressed through the medium of light, pays tribute to the shared traditions of China, Japan, and Korea, while also celebrating the distinctive artistic voices of each culture. It underscores the power of art as a

universal language—one that brings together our community and visitors alike in a shared spirit of reunion and hope.”

Mr. Lok Hei, President of the Macau Artist Society, added, “Over the past three years, with SJM’s trust and continuous support, the Macau Artist Society has continued organising the beloved lantern festival, cherished by both residents and visitors. This platform has provided local artists with invaluable exhibition experience, promoting the charm of Macau’s art and culture in international exchanges. This year’s lantern creations not only highlight the unique cultural heritage of East Asia but also embody the innovative fusion of traditional lantern craft techniques with contemporary artistic innovation.”

The “SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival” symbolises joy and hope across borders through radiant artistry:

- ***Brush and Moonlit Peaks* – Lyu Weiguo (Huzhou, China) – Hong Kung Temple Square:** A poetic installation features twin golden peaks cradling a full moon, seamlessly merging the traditional brush-making with the picturesque landscape and rich cultural heritage of Huzhou. The exhibit is enhanced by an interactive calligraphy desk, inviting visitors to write with brushes crafted by a renowned master.
- ***Fish of Fortune* – Leong Kit Man (Macau, China) - Grand Lisboa Palace:** A koi leaps amid lotus-shaped waves, its scales adorned with the pattern of red and yellow autumn leaves from the artist’s own painting, “Autumn Scenery.” This echoes the colours and ambiance of the Mid-Autumn Festival, evoking abundance and renewal.
- ***The Grateful Crane 2025* – Ayumi Muramatsu (Kamakura, Japan) - Grand Lisboa Palace:** An installation inspired by the Japanese folktale, Crane’s Return of a Favour, blending calligraphy, origami and ukiyo-e to portray an elegant white crane mid-flight, symbolising devotion and hope.
- ***The Tiger’s Auspicious Message* – DHAL (Anseong, Korea) - Grand Lisboa Palace:** Inspired by Korean folk painting “Tiger and Magpie,” the tiger was reimagined through graffiti artistry, blending vibrant colours and totemic symbolism, while magpies alongside symbolise blessings and guardian.

This year’s exhibition goes beyond static displays to offer enriching hands-on experiences for residents and visitors, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the enchanting beauty of lanterns helping to preserve and promote this cultural heritage.

Artists from Macau, Japan and Korea demonstrated their craft in Atrium Performance Zone at Grand Lisboa Palace, offering an intimate glimpse into the creation of cross-cultural artistry. The art workshops guided participants through hands-on experience of Huzhou brush-making and graffiti-style lantern painting. A sharing session with over a hundred of local university students and art practitioners further ignited creative ideas and cross-cultural understandings, inspiring the next generation of artists.

More festivities include the Mid-Autumn Festival Pop-up Event, which will be held at Hong Kung Temple Square and Kam Pek Market on 5 October from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The public can enjoy complimentary lantern-making workshops and riddle booths. They are also welcome to collect stamps by checking in at the lantern art installation in Hong Kung Temple Square to redeem exciting prizes, and to celebrate the festival with the appearance of “Sam the Rooster.”

SJM will continue to curate cultural tourism events that promote the inheritance of Chinese culture while sharing its unique charm and contemporary relevance with the global community. Through cross-regional and cross-disciplinary exchange, SJM embraces a “tradition + innovation” approach to revitalise heritage and deliver richer, more meaningful cultural experiences for both local residents and international visitors.

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Officiating guests at the kick off ceremony of the “SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival.”



Exhibiting artists joined a group photo with the guests of honour.



Japanese calligrapher Ayumi Muramatsu performs live with Macau percussionist Uly.



SJM presented Huzhou calligraphy brushes to the event's supporting units—the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government and the Macao Government Tourism Office.



Brush and Moonlit Peaks by Huzhou master Lyu Weiguo, on display at Hong Kung Temple Square.



Fish of Fortune by Macau artist Leong Kit Man, portraying a koi leaping amidst lotus-shaped waves.



The Grateful Crane 2025 by Ayumi Muramatsu from Kamakura, Japan presenting poetic Japanese art installation of both strength and softness.



The Tiger's Auspicious Message by DHAL from Anseong, Korea blending folk painting colors and totemic art.