

IN FOCUS | *Opinion*

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# Why We Need Art

Artists, experts, gallery owners and collectors naturally have a profound love for art and many reasons why it's so important to their lives. Here's what some of the most prominent names in the region have to say.



Ernest Chiang

**ERNEST CHIANG**  
ARTIST AND FOUNDER, THE STALLERY

I need art in my life because it's always kept me alive mentally and physically, and it still continues to do so. It literally saved my life when I was younger and had problems with addiction that nearly killed me. I realised after my brief stints in rehab that art is the only thing that gives me any real purpose and satisfaction in life. It's the only way that enables me to see the world through an interesting lens: every other way basically bores me to death. If I didn't express myself through art I'd become so emotionally chaotic, congested and ultimately mentally painful that I'd rather implode and become existentially destructive than to be alive. It's the visceral feeling that I have throughout my mind and body when I create and see my works and amazing works by other artists I admire that ultimately gives me satisfaction. Nothing else can compare; not even money or sex.



Tammy Nguyen

**TAMMY NGUYEN**  
ARTIST

Art that compels me offers me an internal salvation. This feeling can range from trivial humour to visceral rage. The artwork's subject can also range from something seemingly unimportant to glaringly urgent. Whatever the case, if it moves me then this feeling of salvation is the artwork helping me resist loneliness.



Pearl Lam

**PEARL LAM**  
OWNER, PEARL LAM GALLERY

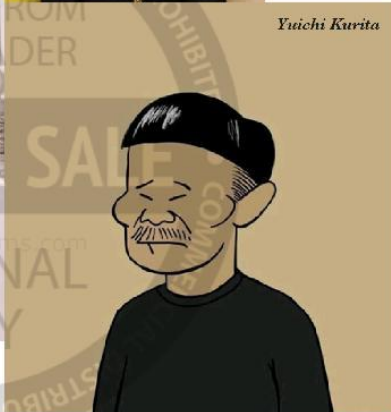
Art is like my drug. Art has expanded my horizon in every way, from academically to my social circle. After all, art is about culture, which reflects our contemporary thinking and attitudes. It's a soft power that's able to bridge divisions and bring people together.



Nancy Lee

**NANCY LEE**  
CHAIRMAN, FRIENDS OF THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART

Art is one of the highest expression of the human spirit, and fills our souls with wonder, beauty and contemplation about our place in the world. Life would be poorer without art.



Yuichi Kurita

**YUICHI KURITA**  
ART COLLECTOR AND OWNER, T&Y PROJECTS

For me, art is indispensable in creating a space that suits the situation – for example, at the workplace or home, depending on the purpose.