

Director-General Wang stated that to expand the visibility of Taiwan's academic research results overseas and overcome spatial and distance limitations, the National Central Library has been promoting the "Taiwan Academic Digital Resource Center" as a fully online service since 2023. The University of Helsinki, their partner in this collaboration, is a hub for Asian and Sinology research in the Nordic region. The university's Faculty of Arts offers Asian Studies programs, with research and teaching areas covering Taiwan Studies, Sinology, and contemporary China themes. In the past, scholars from the university have participated in planning the 2021 international academic conference "Gendering Transformations: Feminist Knowledge Production and Trans/national Activist Engagement" through the library's partner, the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Recently, the university is also planning to organize its first conference focused on Taiwan.

After signing this cooperation agreement, it is believed that it will not only help inject more Taiwanese research digital resources into the University of Helsinki but also enhance the visibility of Taiwanese scholars' research in international studies through research. In the future, it will further deepen cultural and academic exchanges between both parties.



*The design of the University of Helsinki Library is full of modern flair*



*A corner of the University of Helsinki Library*

## Events

### ■ **The National Central Library Given a Set of *Lion Art*'s Publications and Its Founder Hsien-wen Li's Artwork to Archive: Passing on the Torch of Art Education in Taiwan**

On the morning of May 30, 2024, the National Central Library held the opening ceremony for the exhibition "Reexamining Taiwan Art History and Saluting Art in Taiwan: The Donation of Lion Art ( 雄獅美術 ) and Hsien-wen Li's Artwork." Lion Art Founder Hsien-wen Li donated a complete set of *Lion Art*'s 307 monthly issues, as well as over 400 books published by Lion Book Company and 20 of Mr. Li's portraits of artists in Taiwan. In putting on this exhibition, NCL let attendees see the development and the publications of what was originally the Lion Art Monthly Agency, then later became the Lion Book Company. Included were many innovative and unique first-hand historical materials valuable to the history of art in Taiwan. The exhibition ran from May 30 to August 15.

During Director-General Han-Ching Wang's remarks, she stated that *Lion Art Monthly* and the books it published gave her a lot of beautifully colorful memories. She also stated that the complete set of publications Lion Art donated, as well as the screen prints and art reference room collection, will be archived in the southern branch of the National Central Library, which is scheduled to be completed in 2026. Mr. Li's original paintings and descriptions will be archived in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment. They will also be digitized and added

to NCL's Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts database. This will not only make them accessible no matter where one is on the globe, but also extend their influence worldwide. Because of this, the National Central Library and Lion Art firmly believe that "Art in Taiwan has only begun! It has not ended."



*Lion Art Founder Hsien-wen Li donates his artwork and calligraphy to the National Central Library*

During his remarks, Mr. Li stated that in August 2023 Lion Art posted a short 138-character article on its Facebook page that garnered a surprising number of responses: "No regrets. Lion Art has contributed what it can to the development of art in Taiwan." During this process, the Lion Book Company was blessed to receive public interest and support. Former NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng was also one of the first to express interest in the company and in archiving its publications. She wanted the torch of art education in Taiwan to be passed on through the National Central Library's archival of these materials. Mr. Li also discussed the difficulties he faced in running *Lion Art Monthly* and the Lion Book Company. However, with the support of many authors, he was able to compose an indelible chapter in the history of art in Taiwan. He spent around five years painting the portraits of older artists, during which he felt continuously buoyed up by their encouragement. He once opined that he was a simpleton, running a business that wasn't making any money. However, the artist San-lang Yang once told him, "If this society is going to progress, then we need more of this kind of simpleton to make it happen!" Mr. Li choked up at one point in his speech, which moved those present by his sincere earnestness.



*Cutting the ribbon at the start of the exhibition*



*An exhibition attendee thumbing through a rare copy of Volume 4 on display*

## ■ NCL Donates Taiwan Corner Books to the Cape Town Campus of the National Library of South Africa

In an effort to promote exchange between libraries in Taiwan and South Africa, on June 21, 2024 the National Central Library donated a Taiwan Corner display and 80 books to the Cape Town Branch of the National Library of South Africa. Mr. Marcus L. Maphile, who is in charge of library operations, received the donation. Mr. Maphile was also invited to speak that day on "The National Library of South Africa: Mandate, Operations, Management, and Key Projects."

National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang stated South Africa is a country with three capitals. Of these, Cape Town is the legal capital of the country with parliament and many government offices located there. It is often called the "Mother City" and is the birthplace of