

NCL actively works to promote library resource integration and service expansion and this collaboration on joint use library cards will serve as an important starting point, aiming to provide even more members of the public with convenient cross-regional access to library resources in order to further promote the free movement of knowledge and reading.

Not only does this collaboration represent a significant step toward the integration of southern public library services, it also establishes a stable foundation upon which to create a more complete network of library information services. Looking into the future, NCL will continue to work closely with libraries throughout Taiwan, together writing a new chapter in smart reading and realizing the greatest possible value for knowledge resources by making them accessible to all.

### ■ **NCL Organizes “The Feeling of the Heart: A Pictorial Exhibition” in Collaboration with the Guatemalan Embassy and the Central American Trade Office in Taiwan**

From September 16th to 18th, 2025, “The Feeling of the Heart: A Pictorial Exhibition” was held at NCL in collaboration with the Guatemalan Embassy and Central American Trade Office in Taiwan, displaying 10 figurative paintings by contemporary Guatemalan artist Daniel García Dubón. Not only does the exhibit display beautiful works of art, it is also a cross-border dialogue of emotions and deep cultural meaning.

#### **A Colorful Cultural Gaze**

Daniel García Dubón is a well-known Guatemalan visual artist who has been making art for over 25 years. He developed a strong interest in drawing from the age of 6, after which he received formal training and private tutorage with the encouragement of his family, developing strong technical skills and a unique personal style over the years. His work often presents perspectives of daily life and ethnic culture, transmitting emotions and memories that cannot be expressed through language.

In the introduction to his work, Daniel García Dubón states, “I paint to express those emotions that are difficult to transmit through language. I hope my work can be preserved to inspire future generations of artists, guiding people to make sharper observations of the world we live in.”



*Artist Daniel García Dubón introducing his paintings*

#### **Melding Emotions, History, and Symbols through Art**

This exhibit includes ten paintings which stylistically straddle the borders of realism and surrealism. Their distinct layering of colors and heavy yet flowing strokes create intense visual and emotional tension. The paintings cover subjects ranging from history, mythology, spiritual symbols, and conditions of life, melding together images of Guatemalan culture and Mayan traditions, reflecting diverse and deep cultural influences.

In the painting, “The Dance of the Conquest,” the artist uses vibrant colors and a detailed mask to depict a traditional theatrical ritual originating from Mayan culture which reenacts historical scenes of the arrival of Spanish conquistadors and the conversion of Mayan leaders to Christianity, reflecting conversions of identity and tenacity in the face of cultural attack.

“Moors and Christians II” uses a Spanish Christian mask and images of three hearts to represent three eras in Guatemala’s history. The piece expresses historical evolution from the pre-Hispanic, Colonial, and Republican periods. The piece’s complicated motifs and bright colors not only reflect traditional aesthetics, they also depict the complicated nature and tenacity of cultural memory.

“Ixpeq” takes its name from the Kaqchikel Maya word for “frog,” a symbol of the earth, the rain, and regeneration. The painting weaves together images of the heart and nature, depicting the pulse of life that beats between culture and spirituality and demonstrating the natural cycles and cultural continuations of the Maya world view.

The piece “Lethargy” displays more private and introspective emotions. The artist uses the image of a heart to portray the weariness and stagnation people feel under the weight of time and reality. Its strokes and colors produce the heaviness of internal struggle,

longing for awakening.

The other pieces in the exhibit are a continuation of this narrative and visual language, along the three main axes of human emotion, cultural memory, and natural spirit. Each piece will stop viewers in their tracks to take a closer look while contemplating the self and its connection to others.

### A Cross-cultural Dialogue of Art

The Feeling of the Heart: A Pictorial Exhibition not only provides members of the public with an opportunity to enjoy art, it also deepens cultural exchange between Taiwan and Central America. With this Exhibition, NCL continues to play an important role as a platform for the promotion of international art resources. Through these paintings woven together with strokes and color upon canvass, viewers will feel how art transcends languages and regions to express deeply powerful emotions, history, and culture.



*A group photo (From left) of Ambassador Luis Raúl Estévez López of the Republic of Guatemala, artist Daniel García Dubón, NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang, and Central America Trade Office Director Violeta S. H. Hsu at the exhibition*



*A group photo (From left) of Ambassador Luis Raúl Estévez López of the Republic of Guatemala, artist Daniel García Dubón, NCL Director-General Han-Ching Wang, and Violeta S. H. Hsu of the Central America Trade Office in the NCL lobby*

### ■ Cross-cultural Dialog: National Central Library and Prix des Incorruptibles Hold In-depth Discussion

On the afternoon of September 19, 2025, two

representatives from Prix des Incorruptibles (PdI) in France—Ms. Karine Boyer, Head of PdI, and Mr. Arthur Habib Rubinstein, Head of Institutional and Academic Development—visited the National Central Library (NCL). They were accompanied by Ms. En-Chieh Sun from the Cultural Department of the French Office in Taipei. During their visit, they held an in-depth discussion with colleagues from NCL's Business Development Division, Knowledge Services Division, Collection Division, Southern Branch Project Office, ISBN Center, and International Cooperation Division. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Director-General Chih-Tsung Weng, representing Director-General Han-Ching Wang, who extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests from France.



*Deputy Director-General Weng conducted the discussion*

Deputy Director-General Weng remarked that hosting representatives from Prix des Incorruptibles was a rare and valuable opportunity for the National Central Library to engage in meaningful exchange. Through this visit, NCL gained deeper insight into the association's remarkable experience and achievements in promoting reading—particularly in encouraging children and young adults to develop a love for literature. This exchange provided important inspiration and guidance for NCL's own reading promotion initiatives.

The National Central Library has long been dedicated to promoting reading among all citizens, firmly believing that reading is a key pathway to enhancing cultural literacy and fostering lifelong learning. The annual Taiwan Reading Festival, held every December, has become a nationwide celebration of reading, drawing participation from foreign representative offices in Taiwan. Notably, since 2020, the National Central Library has been honored with the American Library Association (ALA) International Innovative Library Award, a recognition that not only affirms Taiwan's achievements in promoting reading but also attests to the island's thriving and ever-growing reading culture.