

Shenzhen

深圳
SHEN ZHEN



Located on the eastern bank of the Pearl River in Guangdong province just across from Hong Kong, Shenzhen was a fishing village when China began its Reform and Opening policy in the late 1970s. As one of the original special economic zones (SEZs) created in 1980, it quickly became China's archetypal low-margin high-volume manufacturing base, then served as a pioneer for the country's subsequent reform by moving up the value chain as the decades passed. Where Shenzhen differs from many other Chinese cities is the sheer scope of its growth: what was a small, anonymous settlement barely known even within the province just 40 years ago is now a city of 17.7 million people (2022).



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¥ THE LOCAL ECONOMY

With a GDP of CNY ¥3.24 trillion (£350.13 billion) in 2022, Shenzhen has both the third-busiest container port and the fourth-busiest airport in China. Although starting out as a centre of cheap manufacturing, Shenzhen has long since moved on from that growth model and is now a leader in the technology, financial services, logistics and cultural sectors – together referred to as the city's four pillar industries. Indeed, on the technology side, Shenzhen is one of the China's most important R&D and manufacturing bases for companies including Apple and Huawei – emblematic of how the city is able to attract large-scale investment from the biggest international and Chinese companies.



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LOCAL CULTURE AND ARTS

Shenzhen is a city largely known for its contemporary culture rather than its links to great dynasties and palaces from centuries past. For example, there is now the Shenzhen Discovery Route, guiding locals and visitors alike to a wide selection of galleries, museums and creative parks. Elsewhere, Shekou district is renowned for its chic restaurants and fashionable stores, while in 2021, ten large-scale cultural projects worth CNY ¥16.8 billion (£1.8 billion) were announced alongside the construction of over 20 new cultural districts throughout the city. In December 2017, Design Society opened in Shekou district. The V&A partnered with China Merchants Shekou Holdings to open this new cultural hub dedicated to design, featuring the V&A's first international gallery alongside several other exhibitions and cultural spaces. The collaboration is the latest and most ambitious initiative to result from the V&A's long-standing relationship with China.

C Future Lab

C Future City, 9283 Binhe Boulevard, Futian District, Shenzhen

Founded by Centralcon Holdings as an innovative and future-looking platform, C Future Lab brings together talented groups from across the globe with a focus on the fields of science, technology, the arts, design, nature and creativity. Seeking to explore the ways in which ideology and technology can combine to enhance and elevate both human material fulfilment and spiritual pursuits, C Future Lab is a project that empowers the process of modernised urban development and living through creating an inspiring and sustainable urban environment.

C Future Lab’s areas of focus are:

- multi-disciplinary research and practices covering the creative industries, technology and arts, sustainability, fashion, youth culture and international educational collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

An Experiment of Future City: C Future Lab Opening & Stockholm Design Lab Exhibition

October 2020 – April 2021

This exhibition created a 2,000m² experimental urban space that explored a blueprint for human development and featured contributions from Stockholm Design Lab (SDL), Ross Lovegrove, teamLab, MOTSE, QUAD and Patrick Blanc.

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| YEAR OF OPENING | 2020 | TICKET PRICE | £11–25 |
| BUSINESS MODEL | Privately-run | LEADERSHIP | Hua Lü |
| EXHIBITION SPACE | 2,000m² | | |
| ACCESSIBILITY | Accessible ramp ✓ Lift and stairs ✓ | Wheelchair accessible toilet ✓ | |
| AVERAGE VISITOR NUMBER PER MONTH | 3,500 | WECHAT FOLLOWERS | 20,000 |



Design Society

1187 Wanghai Road, Nanshan, Shenzhen

Design Society, founded by China Merchants Shekou (CMSK) and with the V&A as its founding partner, is an innovative cultural platform. It has established an impressive network of partners, supporters and contributors across China and globally within academia, business, government and education, and has set up collaborations with a range of major museums, residential programmes and archival institutions. Combining the growth of this network with advice from industry experts allows Design Society to bring together the overlapping creative practices of society and commerce – a key part of the museum’s overall vision.

Design Society’s membership programme offers exclusive opportunities in industry and career acceleration, making it a leading artistic resource both locally and on an international scale. Its mission is to encourage audiences to make, create and connect with design.

Design Society’s areas of focus are:

- visual arts
 - sustainability
- technology
 - digitisation.

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| YEAR OF OPENING | 2017 | TICKET PRICE | £8–15 |
| BUSINESS MODEL | Non-profit | LEADERSHIP | Rong Zhao |
| EXHIBITION SPACE | Main Gallery: 1,260m² Park View Gallery: 324m² V&A Gallery: 820m² Shenzhen UCCN Gallery: 1,400m² | | |
| ACCESSIBILITY | Accessible ramp ✓ Lift and stairs ✓ Wheelchair accessible toilet ✓ | | |



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| AVERAGE VISITOR NUMBER PER MONTH | 233,000 | WEIBO FOLLOWERS | 44,000 |
| | | WECHAT FOLLOWERS | 380,000 |

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

Design Society curated an online design forum, *Values of Design*, for 2020 Shenzhen Design Week.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Eternal Spiral III

12 August – 17 November 2023

Hosted by Design Society and Gallery All at SeaWorld Culture and Art Center, Shenzhen, this exhibition showcased more than 200 works of James Jean spanning a creative period of more than 20 years for the first time in southern China. It featured a diverse range of art forms, including large-scale paintings, sculptures, animations, prints, sketches, colour studies and a collection of rare sketchbooks from Jean’s early years as an artist.

Along with many extraordinary works, a number of classic series of James Jean’s creation – *Inferno III*, *Adrift IV*, *Braid III*, *Angels*, *Nervosa IV*, *Lacing* and *Sunflower* – were also exhibited in China for the first time.

Everyone is an Artist: Joseph Beuys

2 February – 30 June 2023

This exhibition brought together more than 200 of the artist’s works, comprehensively reviewing his creative career, which was at the time of great artistic relevance and at the same time extremely controversial. The exhibition was Beuys’s first large-scale solo exhibition in southern China.

Viktor&Rolf: MetaFashion!

29 April – 8 October 2022

The Dutch duo’s first exhibition in Asia featured around 80 iconic haute couture and ready-to-wear collections by Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren, as well as photographic works by Arthur Elgort, Greg Kadel and Ellen von Unwerth and 24 sets of miniature fashion dolls wearing iconic looks from the brand.

Values of Design: China in the Making in Collaboration with V&A

19 January 2020 – 19 January 2025

This was the first exhibition in China to explore the growing field of Chinese design and also the first to attempt to understand how changing and evolving values are helping to shape what we design, produce and consume. Initiated and curated by Design Society and in collaboration with the V&A, the exhibition continued the success of the institutions’ long-term partnership. It was the follow-up exhibition to *Values of Design*, the inaugural exhibition produced by the V&A in collaboration with Design Society in 2017.

OCT Contemporary Art Terminal Shenzhen

Enping Road, Overseas Chinese Town, Nanshan District, Shenzhen

OCT Contemporary Art Terminal Shenzhen (OCAT) has at its core the values of independence, professionalism and public service. Its goal is to promote domestic and global contemporary art community cross-platform exchanges through exhibitions, research projects, academic forums, public education, publications and international art residencies. OCAT aspires to be an important representative and channel of communication for Chinese independent art in various global contemporary art communities.

OCAT's areas of focus are:

- internationally acclaimed visual artists and those who are active and keen on artistic creation with residency experience
- the research and display of contemporary visual art, while also extending activities into other fields including experimental theatre and film, music, design and architecture
- historical research in relation to both Chinese modern and contemporary art.



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| AVERAGE VISITOR | 2,000 | WEIBO FOLLOWERS | 22,000 |
| NUMBER PER MONTH | | WECHAT FOLLOWERS | 25,000 |

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

On the occasion of the OCAT Museum Group’s 10th anniversary in 2022, OCAT Shenzhen initiated two online forums: *Contemporary Art Museums Practising as ‘Museum Groups’* and *The Practices of Public Art in Contemporary Art Museums*, inviting museum directors across China to share and discuss artistic practices among museums, with artists and academics sharing observations and insights on public art to support the development of art ecology in China.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

CURRENT: Contemporary Art from Scotland Phase Four

22 May – 22 August 2021

This exhibition featured artists Corin Sworn and Nashashibi/Skaer and was delivered in collaboration with Cooper Gallery, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design and the University of Dundee.

Follow Me: New Narratives in Contemporary Photography, China – Switzerland

21 April – 4 June 2018

In collaboration with Prehelvetia and with Peter Pfrunder as one of the curators, this exhibition presented Swiss artists David Favrod, Anne Golaz, Romain Mader, Virginie Rebetez and Salvatore Vitale.

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| YEAR OF OPENING | 2005 | TICKET PRICE | Free |
| BUSINESS MODEL | Non-profit | LEADERSHIP | Yiling Fang Mingjun Lu |
| EXHIBITION SPACE | Exhibition Hall A: 1,120m ² Exhibition Hall B: 280m ² New exhibition hall: 2,000m ² | | |
| ACCESSIBILITY | Accessible ramp ✓ Lift and stairs ✓ | Wheelchair accessible toilet ✓ | |

Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art & Urban Planning

184 Fuzhong Road, Futian Central District, Shenzhen

Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art and Urban Planning (MOCAUP) sits in the centre of Futian district and aims to facilitate communication about, and the inheritance and development of, the contemporary art and urban culture of Shenzhen. The museum actively develops the culture and art of the present day, taking a diverse and cross-disciplinary approach to maintain a global vision of enabling engagement with art in the city. MOCAUP espouses an innovative model of ‘Art+’ in order to cultivate an open and global platform with a focus on contemporary cultural and art exchanges, therefore enabling the public to better explore the possibilities of art. MOCAUP’s collective vision includes acting as a bridge enabling a dialogue between domestic and international contemporary art, and it is committed to bringing international exhibitions to China while also displaying China’s evolution of contemporary art to the world and providing a window into Shenzhen’s past, present and future in urban development.

MOCAUP’s areas of focus are:

- works of and research into distinguished national and global contemporary artists
- works and research that emphasise the intersection of technology and art
- important works and research that focus on culture and art in the Greater Bay Area
- works of and research into urban planning, architecture and design nationally and globally.



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| AVERAGE VISITOR NUMBER PER MONTH | 155,000 | WECHAT FOLLOWERS | 300,000 |
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ONLINE ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

The museum ran its Children’s Mirror Image Creation Contest in conjunction with its *Anish Kapoor* exhibition, which received 673 submissions of work from children across China. The winners had the opportunity to showcase their work at the museum.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Transcendence and Ren Jian: Christopher Le Brun & Su Xinpeng

5 August – 19 September 2021

This exhibition was the first for both artists in Shenzhen and featured more than 40 prints, oil paintings and videos created over the course of the artists’ careers. It aimed to initiate a conversation around the exchange of contemporary art between China and the West.

Topologies of the Real: Techne Shenzhen 2023

1 May – 23 July 2021

This exhibition featured over 100 works by international artists spanning from the late 19th century to the present, including early experiments with film, photography, video, computer and telepresence art, as well as works by modern art pioneers and contemporary artists from many international museums and art foundations, including the Centre Pompidou, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Anish Kapoor

2 April – 22 June 2021

This was the first large-scale solo exhibition by an internationally celebrated artist that Shenzhen hosted in the aftermath of the global pandemic and also the first solo exhibition of Anish Kapoor staged in southern China. The exhibition brought Kapoor’s iconic works spanning the past forty years to the city, including large-scale installations, sculptures and architectural models, as well as the art museum debut of a collection of his paintings.

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| YEAR OF OPENING | 2017 | TICKET PRICE | Free for standard exhibitions (£11–25 for special exhibitions) |
| BUSINESS MODEL | State-owned | LEADERSHIP | Weixin Yan |
| EXHIBITION SPACE | Integrated Hall: 1,768m ² A1 Exhibition Hall: 713m ² B1 Exhibition Hall: 467m ² A3 Exhibition Hall: 1,850m ² Cloud Centre Hall: 800+420m ² | | |
| ACCESSIBILITY | Accessible ramp ✓ Wheelchair accessible toilet ✓ Lift and stairs ✓ | | |