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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeds College of Art celebrate launch of their Confucius Classroom with Chinese New Year celebrations

The year of the monkey brings new ventures for Leeds College of Art as they announce the launch of their Confucius Classroom in partnership with [The Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds](#) ('Confucius Institute'), and they are hosting an exclusive evening of celebrations on 24th February 2016.

The Confucius Classroom concept promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture. The College is aiming to build on the success of last year's pilot project, a competition for BA (Hons) Fashion students to design and produce a traditional Chinese Qipao dress with a modern twist. The students with the winning designs travelled to China to participate in the Confucius Institute's summer school, enjoying activities such as historical excursions, calligraphy, painting and wine tasting with other students from all over the world.

The invite only evening will offer an exciting celebration of all things Chinese, with traditional Chinese performances; from Kungfu and Jujitsu, Diabolo swinging, Lion Dance to face changing opera performances; accompanied by complimentary Chinese canapés and drinks served throughout the evening.

Hinrich Voss, Director, The Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds said:

"The new Confucius Classroom at the Leeds College of Art offers exciting opportunities to link local expertise in design and fashion with China's culture and heritage. Yorkshire's textile tradition and the recent efforts to revitalise this provide a fantastic context within which this collaboration can flourish. The teaching and outreach activities we have run so far point towards the potential of the Confucius Classroom."

Jenny Oxley, Head of Internationalisation at Leeds College of Art said:

"We are so pleased to have been confirmed as a Confucius Classroom and to be celebrating the launch with some amazing Chinese food and cultural performances! Being a Confucius Classroom will help us to support our students as they learn about Chinese language and culture, allowing us to share ideas and resources to create interesting projects which will promote intercultural understanding and global competencies.

This kind of exciting opportunity is invaluable to our students as the creatives of the future who will be building their careers in an increasingly globalised society."

Press Invite

Press are invited from 6.00pm on **Wednesday 24th February 2016** for an evening with drinks, canapés and traditional Chinese entertainment at Leeds College of Art, Blenheim Walk. Please RSVP to: emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk or 0113 202 8044.

Editor's Notes

For more information & images contact: Emma Morris, PR & Communications Officer, 0113 202 8044 or emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk.

The celebrations will take place on 24th February at **Leeds College of Art, Blenheim Walk, Leeds, LS2 9AQ**

Full agenda for the evening:-

18:00 - Registration and drinks reception

18:30 - Welcome performances

19:00 - Presentations and unveiling of the plaque

19:30 - Performances

20:00 - Networking and nibbles

Performances will include: Face changing opera, Diabolo swinging, Kungfu and Jujitsu and Lion Dance.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

The Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds