

“Hong Kong Pop 60+” Exhibition

Audio Tour Script

Vinyl record of *Just a Little • Spoonful of Sugar* by The Lotus **1967**

Hong Kong's popular culture is diverse. In the 1960s, there were traditional Cantonese opera, Mandarin films and Cantonese films, along with European pop music and films. Pop music from Western singers and bands such as Elvis Presley, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones was constantly introduced – resulting in a flourishing “band-forming” era, when many young Hong Kongers formed bands and sang Western pop songs. They included Sam Hui, who formed The Lotus together with Danny So, David Cheung, Albert Li and Wallace Chow, and helped propel European and American pop music in Hong Kong to a new peak. The trend of forming bands also led to a change in fashion style. As can be seen on the record cover, the members of The Lotus imitated the popular Beatles’ appearance and fashion style.

The bustling, rapidly evolving popular culture of Hong Kong in the 1960s was in marked contrast to the years following the Second World War, when Hong Kong was far from prosperity, and there was a shortage of resources. Then, fashion styles for men and women followed those of former decades, with simple Chinese trouser suits.

In the 1960s, Hong Kong’s population soared, with about 30% being young people aged 15 to 35, who were willing and even eager to adopt Western culture. This led to young men wearing slim-cut suits with small collars, and skinny bell-bottomed trousers; they combed their hair in “aircraft” or “coconut shell” style, and performed songs accompanied by guitars, which symbolised the prevailing trends.

In the 1970s, the development of popular culture in Hong Kong led to the maturing of films and TV dramas with local features, in turn influencing local fashion. Today, film and TV stars still play a leading role in fashion.