

Art | Basel

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PRESS RELEASE

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A break-through edition for Art Basel's Hong Kong show due to new March dates

The first edition of Art Basel's show in Hong Kong to take place in March attracted leading galleries, private collectors and arts institutions from across the world, many attending the show for the first time. Art Basel's third Hong Kong show closed today, Tuesday, March 17, 2015, with galleries from the East and West reporting very strong sales throughout the show and across all levels of the market. Several years in the making, the move to March has further confirmed Art Basel's position as the leading international art fair in Asia and marked a strong debut for Art Basel's new Director Asia, Adeline Ooi.

Art Basel's show in Hong Kong, whose Lead Partner is UBS, presented 233 galleries with exhibition spaces in 37 countries and territories. Underlining its commitment to the region, half of the participating galleries once again had exhibition spaces in Asia and Asia-Pacific. With the new March dates, the line-up of galleries proved to be the strongest to date for the Hong Kong show, with 29 galleries exhibiting at Art Basel in Hong Kong for the first time, including 20 galleries from Europe and the United States. Across its sectors, the show provided a unique in-depth overview of the art scenes within Asia, presenting Asia's diversity, and showing both historical material as well as cutting-edge works by leading and emerging artists from across the region.

The show was attended by nearly 60,000 visitors (slightly less than in the previous year when the show was open to the public for one day longer). The fair was marked by the first-time attendance of major collectors as well as museum directors and curators from international arts institutions. Directors, curators, trustees and patrons from leading museums and institutions came to the show, including 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; CAFA Museum, Beijing; Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung; Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; M Woods Museum, Beijing; Min Sheng Museum, Shanghai; Modern Art Oxford, Oxford; M+, Hong Kong; MoMA, New York; MoMA PS1, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei; Museum of Contemporary Art and Design Manila; National Art Gallery, Singapore; OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen; Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai; Serpentine Gallery, London; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tan Guobin Art Museum, Hunan; Tate, London; The Australia Arts Council for the Arts, Sydney; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; The Royal Academy, London; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and Yuz Art Museum, Shanghai.

Galleries participating in the show spoke highly of their experience:

'I was invigorated by seeing so many new young collectors from this region interested in our program, and most especially our figurative painters. This fair is the fair in Asia, and the presence of artist Neo Rauch here with the gallery was incredibly well received and energizing for us all. Sales exceeded our expectations.'

David Zwirner, Owner, David Zwirner Gallery (New York, London)

‘This year we have met new collectors and noted that they are much more discerning.’
Hsinke Lee, Director, Long March Space (Beijing)

‘We are very happy to see that collectors are now more informed and are purchasing works much faster. On the first day of sales we had a number of collectors, both old and new, with our known clients often introducing others to our gallery. Of note, we are pleased to present at the show Zao Wou-ki's triptych '24.11.80' from 1980, which received a record offer price of 30 million USD from an international collector.’
Tina Keng, Founder, Tina Keng Gallery (Taipei)

‘We have seen a change in collector demographics in this third edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong. There is a growing number of European collectors who have shown an exceptional interest in contemporary ink art, a genre which we have presented in a group show at the booth. We are pleased to see the expansion of interest in contemporary ink art from Hong Kong to connoisseurs across the globe, and we have had very strong sales this week.’
Henry Au-Yeung, Director, Grotto Fine Art Limited (Hong Kong)

‘Another excellent year! Art Basel continues to further establish itself as the most important fair for contemporary art in Asia. We've had an outstanding fair this week with record sales achieved in the first 48 hours. Opening in March has proved a success.’
Neil Wenman, Senior Director, Hauser & Wirth (Zurich, London, New York, Los Angeles)

‘Art Basel provides a unique opportunity in Hong Kong each year for collectors and art lovers to appreciate up close the best works from around the world in one place, the effect is one of enlightenment and diversification of the art market and it has had a very positive impact on the art scenes across the region.’
Leng Lin, Asia Partner, President of Pace Beijing and Pace Hong Kong, Pace (Hong Kong, Beijing, New York, London)

‘For our first year exhibiting at Art Basel in Hong Kong, we knew that we wanted to do something ambitious that would engage with the city and become a part of the fabric of Hong Kong. We were therefore delighted to partner with K11 Art Foundation to present Felix Gonzalez-Torres' iconic billboard piece 'Untitled', 1995 in our booth, at the K11 Art Mall, and in tram shelters and transportation hubs throughout the city. The reception has been quite strong and we've especially loved seeing visitors make the connection to the works here after seeing them installed around the city. It is wonderful to be able to make such an impact with Gonzalez-Torres' work at this year's show.’
Andrea Cashman, Director, Andrea Rosen Gallery (New York)

‘This is the first year we have exhibited in the Galleries sector and it has been a great success! We have had a lot of visitors across a very diverse spectrum and sold half the works by the end of the first day. I have found the quality of collectors to be particularly high; they are motivated and well prepared.’
Leo Xu, Founder and Director, Leo Xu Project (Shanghai)

‘With Art Basel in Hong Kong's arrival and M+ building its presence here, the development of Hong Kong's art scene has been phenomenal over the last few years – finally we are seeing a maturity and depth that I have been waiting for my whole life!’
Pearl Lam, Founder, Pearl Lam Galleries (Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai)

‘This year we have sold to collectors from all over Asia – Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong – as well as from Europe and the United States. We find that collectors here are not bound by geography – contemporary art in Asia is very free in this respect – and it has been wonderful to exhibit in a platform that allows for conversations that are not bound by

traditional East / West paradigms.'

Daniel Roesler, Director, Galeria Nara Roesler (São Paulo)

'As newcomers to Art Basel's Hong Kong show, we have been hugely impressed by the dynamism here, and by the engagement of curators and collectors – many from a young generation. The cultural richness of the region is manifest and its potential undeniable.'

Thomas Dane and Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon, Partners, Thomas Dane Gallery (London)

'Over the last three years Art Basel's Hong Kong show has gone from strength to strength, with the quality of the art, and of the collectors' attending, improving each year and proving that Hong Kong truly is the art hub of Asia. I am very happy about the date change to March.'

Pascal de Sarthe, Director, de Sarthe Gallery (Hong Kong)

'I have been exhibiting at Art Basel in Hong Kong since 2013 and this year the quality has improved once again. I feel that there is a greater confidence and optimism about the galleries exhibiting, certainly for us it has been the best year yet for sales.'

Roslyn Oxley, Director and Founder, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery (Sydney)

'After participating in Art Basel in Hong Kong for the first show, we've found that this year visitors have returned even more educated about art and willing to give it increased attention. We've enjoyed the opportunity to present our artists to the international audience that attends the fair and connect with several new clients from the Asian region.'

Simone Battisti, Director, Gladstone Gallery (New York, Brussels)

'It is always great to be in Hong Kong and it seems that moving the date to March has played a huge role in bringing collectors and museums to the show, not only from China and Hong Kong but also the United States and Europe. This says so much about how global the impact of Art Basel in Hong Kong is.'

Chan-kyu Woo, Director, Hakgojae Gallery (Seoul, Shanghai)

'This is our fourth year in Hong Kong and there was undeniable new momentum at the fair this year with sales in the seven figures to clients in the United States, Mainland China, the United Kingdom and Europe in general.'

Glenn Scott Wright, Co-Director, Victoria Miro (London)

'This is our fifth year of exhibiting in Asia – and third at Art Basel in Hong Kong. From the beginning we recognized the potential that the show offered, however we are seeing the show improve year on year in a very consistent manner. The show offers a key connection to collectors across Asia and in particular Mainland China.'

Pierre Ravelle-Chapuis, Director, Van de Weghe Fine Art (New York)

'Art Basel is the best art fair globally. At every Art Basel show we have attended we have met new collectors and we are excited to have seen many collectors from Hong Kong, Mainland China, across Asia, Europe and the United States at Art Basel in Hong Kong this year, in particular the many young collectors we have met who have shown great interest in the works we presented. We sold out 90 percent of the booth in the first two days.'

David Lin, Director, Lin & Lin Gallery (Taipei, Beijing)

'We are very pleased about this year's edition of Art Basel. The quality continues to grow and we have both returning collectors and conversations with new prospective buyers. Sales overall have been strong and the interest from foundations and museums is noteworthy.'

Justine Birbil, Director, Michael Werner (New York, London, Berlin)

'We have had sales and serious interest in Pierre Soulages, Kazuo Shiraga, Zao Wou-Ki, and Yayoi Kusama. One of the standout works was Soulages' 'Peinture 195 x 155 cm, 7 février 1957', which has appealed strongly to collectors from Asia and Australia. We have met many new collectors from Hong Kong and its vicinity, including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia.'

Lock Kresler, Senior Director Europe, Dominique Lévy Gallery (New York, London)

'We've been doing this fair since the beginning and each year find an increasingly sophisticated and informed audience. Sean Scully's retrospective currently touring China has been a huge success and the response to his works that we're showing here has been phenomenal: there has been a high level of recognition and interest at the fair which has been fantastic.'

Timothy Taylor, Managing Director, Timothy Taylor Gallery (London)

Galleries, the main sector of the show, featured 179 Modern and contemporary art galleries, presenting the highest quality of painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, photography, video and editioned works. Leading international galleries showed at Art Basel's show in Hong Kong for the first time, including Air de Paris (Paris), Galerie Gisela Capitain (Cologne, Berlin), Thomas Dane Gallery (London), Herald St (London), kamel mennour (Paris), Mai 36 Galerie (Zurich), Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art (New York), Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder (Vienna), Andrea Rosen Gallery (New York), and Esther Schipper (Berlin), among others. Exhibitors who returned to the show after a brief hiatus included Gladstone Gallery (New York, Brussels), Goodman Gallery (Johannesburg, Cape Town), Dominique Lévy Gallery (New York, London), and Sprüth Magers Berlin London (Berlin, London, Los Angeles). A number of galleries who had been showing in Discoveries or Insights in the past years graduated into the main sector of the show where they gave strong presentations of their galleries' programs. These include The Drawing Room (Manila, Singapore), Sullivan+Strumpf (Sydney), and Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong), who previously exhibited within Insights, and Aike-Dellarco (Shanghai), Carl Freedman Gallery (London), Karma International (Zurich), mother's tankstation (Dublin), Take Ninagawa (Tokyo) and Leo Xu Projects (Shanghai), who graduated from Discoveries. For the full list of galleries, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/galleries.

The **Insights** sector again proved to be a highlight of the show, dedicated to curatorial projects by 34 galleries with spaces in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, and featured solo shows, exceptional historical material, and strong thematic group exhibitions. Sited at the heart of both floor levels, Insights provided a detailed overview of art from across the region with artists from Australia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, India, Japan, Mainland China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Palestine, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Highlights from the Insights sector included a record number of strong solo shows: Artinformal (Mandaluyong City) presenting **Nilo Ilarde**; Misa Shin Gallery (Tokyo) showing **Tadashi Kawamata**; a focus by Rossi & Rossi (London, Hong Kong) on **Leang Seckon**, one of the foremost members of the emerging Cambodian contemporary art scene; Galerie Ora-Ora's (Hong Kong) showing of works by contemporary Ink protégé **Zhang Yanzi**, creating an unprecedented four-dimensional experience; art-historical projects by Australian indigenous artist **Yhonnie Scarce** at dianne tanzer gallery + projects (Melbourne) and by Malaysian artist **Anurendra Jegadeva** at Wei-Ling Gallery (Kuala Lumpur, Penang); a performance by **Nezaket Ekici** at Pi Artworks (Istanbul, London); an exhibition of Thai artist **Yuree Kensaku** by 100 Tonson Gallery (Bangkok), looking at the recent political situation in Thailand; and a selection of black and white photographs by Japanese artist **Noritoshi Hirakawa** at 55 (Shanghai). For the full list of galleries and artist, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/insights.

The **Discoveries** sector presented a particularly strong showcase of emerging artists from around the world with solo and two-person exhibitions by 20 galleries, seven of which were new to the show. For the full list of galleries and artist, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/discoveries.

This year, Art Basel and BMW presented the first iteration of the **BMW Art Journey**, a joint initiative to recognize and support emerging artists worldwide. Like a mobile studio, the BMW Art Journey will take artists almost anywhere in the world to develop new ideas and envision new creative projects. During the show, an international jury selected the shortlist of three artists showing in Discoveries: **Mika Tajima** with Eleven Rivington (New York), **Trevor Yeung** with Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong) and **Samson Young** with am space (Hong Kong). The winner of the BMW Art Journey will be announced in early summer 2015. For further information, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

In addition to Trevor Yeung and Samson Young in Discoveries, the show featured further homegrown talents across all sectors including **Au Hoi Lam**, **Chow Chun Fai**, **Frog King**, **Hung Fai**, **Koon Wai Pong**, **Lee Kit**, **Leung Mee Ping**, **Wai Pongyu**, **Chui Pui-chee**, **Sara Tse** and more.

Curated for the first time by **Alexie Glass-Kantor**, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney, this year's edition of **Encounters** transformed the exhibition halls, creating a completely new visitor experience. Encounters presented 20 artworks by artists from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Dedicated to presenting large-scale sculptural installations that transcended the traditional art fair booth, the sector premiered new work by **David Claerbout**, **Dzine (Carlos Rolon)**, **Taeyoon Kim**, **Zai Kuning**, **Yang Maoyuan**, **Dane Mitchell**, **Eko Nugroho**, **João Vasco Paiva**, **Shooshie Sulaiman**, **Gao Weigang** and **Zhao Zhao** alongside previously exhibited pieces by **Mikala Dwyer**, **Cao Fei**, **Siobhán Hapaska**, **Wang Keping**, **Hew Locke**, **Tallur L.N.**, **Xu Longsen**, **Sterling Ruby** and **Lee Ufan**. For the full list of galleries and artist, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters.

The **Film** sector, which debuted in Hong Kong last year, presented 38 works by 36 artists, exploring seven diverse themes curated by Beijing and Zurich-based multi-media artist and producer **Li Zhenhua**, and was attended by over 300 guests over four days. Highlights of the program included seminal works from the 1960s and 70s by **Marina Abramović** and **Michael Craig-Martin**, alongside important video work by **Yu Cheng-ta**, **Cheng Ran** and **Yan Xing**, and many others. New works by **Chen Tianzhuo**, **Lu Yang** and **Song Kun** were premiered within the sector. The Art Basel film program was shown at the agnès b. CINEMA at the Hong Kong Arts Centre, offered free to the public. For the full list of galleries and artist, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/film.

Conversations and **Salon**, Art Basel's talks program, attracted over 1,200 visitors over three days and presented renowned cultural figures from Asia and across the international art world. This year, the Premiere Artist Talk, featured Chinese artist **Cao Fei** in conversation with **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Co-Director of Serpentine Gallery, London. A collectors' panel consisting of **Alan Lau**, Member of Tate's Asia Pacific Acquisition Committee, Hong Kong; **Anurag Khanna**, Director, Carbon Edge Industries, who was named Forbes Young Collector 2014, from Gandhidham, India; and **Phillip Keir**, Co-Founder of the Keir Foundation and Chairman of the Biennale of Sydney, shared insights into trans-pacific collecting. The program also included a panel discussion entitled 'Moving Without Moving: How Global Institutions Travel', with **Joselina Cruz**, Director/Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila, Philippines; **Ute Meta Bauer**, Founding Director of Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; **Doryun Chong**, Chief Curator, M+, Hong Kong and **Philip Tinari**, Director,

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, who discussed the opportunities and challenges of attracting local audiences with an international program. The afternoon Salon program – a platform for shorter, often more informal presentations – featured talks and panel discussions with artists, curators, museum directors, professors and researchers. Videos of all Conversations and Salon panels will be available to watch online at artbasel.com/hongkong/talks.

This year, Art Basel and the International Commerce Centre (ICC) worked with renowned international Chinese artist **Cao Fei** to present a major new work during the show. 'Same Old, Brand New', which references video games from the 1980, was shown across the entire façade of Hong Kong's iconic 490 meter high ICC on the Kowloon harbor front every night throughout the show. The work will continue to be displayed until the end of April. The show was accompanied by the ICC Light and Music Show smartphone app which allowed audiences to enjoy the music while watching from the shores of Victoria Harbor.

In addition, Art Basel worked closely with key cultural organizations across the city on an associated program of events onsite and throughout the city. Highlights included 'Mobile M+: Moving Images' at Broadway Cinematheque, Midtown POP and Cattle Depot Artist Village; 'Life is only one: Yoshitomo Nara' at Asia Society Hong Kong Center; 'In Stasis – Sarah Lai' and 'A Hundred Years of Shame: Songs of Resistance and Scenarios for Chinese Nations' at Para/Site; 'Stationary' at Spring Workshop, 'Inside China – L'Intérieur du Geant', 'The Tell-Tale Heart' and 'Felix Gonzalez-Torres Billboard Project' at K11 Art Foundation.

With Art Basel moving into March, the Hong Kong Tourism Board named March Hong Kong's 'art month'. Throughout the month, a wide range of arts and cultural events are taking place within the city including art fairs, arts festival, public arts and exhibitions presented by galleries and museums.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Basel

Art Basel stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary works, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. In addition to ambitious stands featuring leading galleries from around the world, each show's singular exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas and new inspirations.

Partners

UBS is Art Basel's global Lead Partner, supporting all three shows in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. The firm has been the Lead Partner of the Basel show for the past 20 years and of Art Basel in Miami Beach since its inception in 2002. In 2013, UBS extended its partnership to a global level, also becoming the Lead Partner for Art Basel's show in Hong Kong. UBS has a rich history of supporting cultural and artistic endeavours across the world, with a focus on promotion, collection and educational activities in the world of contemporary art. The Art Basel show in Hong Kong is supported by the Davidoff Art Initiative, Audemars Piguet and Netjets as Associate Partners.

Ruinart and Le Freeport are the show's Lounge Hosts, with BMW supporting as Official Automotive Partner, AXA Art as Official Insurance Partner, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong as Official Hotel Partner and Quintessentially Lifestyle as Official Concierge Partner. The

Financial Times is the show's Media Partner. For further information on Art Basel's partners, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Basel, June 18 - 21, 2015

Miami Beach, December 3 – 6, 2015

Hong Kong, March 24 – 26, 2016

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