

# Art | Basel

## Hong Kong

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### PRESS RELEASE

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**At Art Basel Hong Kong, excellent gallery presentations provided a uniquely global overview of the artworld, attracting collectors from across the globe**

- **Art Basel Hong Kong closed today, amid reports of strong sales across all regions and all levels of the market.**
- **21 galleries participated in the fair for the first time, with nine premier galleries from the United States and Europe joining the main sector of the show for the first time.**
- **Strengthening Asia's position in the fair, five galleries from the Asia-Pacific region graduated into the main sector of the show.**
- **The fair, whose Lead Partner is UBS, had a record attendance of 88,000.**

The highly anticipated seventh edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong closed on Sunday, March 31, 2019, having brought together collectors from over 70 countries and territories, notably from Hong Kong, Mainland China, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States, resulting in strong sales for galleries from all market sectors. During the five show days, private collectors as well as representatives from over 130 leading international museums and institutions attended the show, including: Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; M+, Hong Kong; National Gallery of Zimbabwe; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea; Pérez Art Museum Miami; Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai; Royal Academy of Arts, London; Serpentine Galleries, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate, London; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and Vancouver Art Gallery. With numerous events taking place throughout the city, the Art Basel week once again directed an international spotlight onto Hong Kong's ever-more vibrant art scene, including Tai Kwun, the new center for heritage and arts, designed by Herzog & de Meuron.

The 2019 edition featured 242 premier galleries from 35 countries and territories, with 21 galleries participating in the show for the first time – among them nine galleries in the main sector that have been highly influential in defining the art scenes in Europe and the United States, including: Galerie Greta Meert from Belgium; Galerie Bärbel Grässlin and Galerie Max Hetzler from Germany; Luhning Augustine, Matthew Marks Gallery, Paula Cooper Gallery, Regen Projects, and Andrew Kreps Gallery from the United States; and Richard Nagy Ltd. from the United Kingdom.

Eight galleries from Asia joined the fair for the first time, including Watanuki Ltd. / Toki-no-Wasuremono from Tokyo; Beyond Gallery from Taipei; Empty Gallery from Hong Kong; Hunsand Space, Pifo Gallery, and Tabula Rasa Gallery from Beijing; Richard Koh Fine Art with spaces in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, and Singapore; and Nova Contemporary from Bangkok. The graduation of five galleries from the Asia-Pacific region into the main sector reinforced the fair's commitment to the strengthening of the region's art scene. These galleries included Beijing Art Now Gallery from Beijing, Galerie du Monde from Hong Kong, Gow Langsford Gallery from Auckland, ROH Projects from Jakarta, and Tang Contemporary Art with spaces in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Bangkok. Many observers commented on the outstanding quality of art on display and the ambitious presentations by galleries from the East and the West alike.

Adeline Ooi, Director Asia, Art Basel, commented: 'Art Basel Hong Kong is a truly global platform in Asia for galleries and their artists. The show creates a bridge between Asia and the West, as evident in the impressive line-up of galleries from Europe and the United States. Moreover, I was struck by the focused engagement of our Asian galleries, who through their programs offered compelling insights into the region's rich histories. With presentations by influential figures from across many local art scenes, this show provides a unique opportunity for many discoveries.'

Galleries who participated in the show spoke highly of their experiences and participation:

'Art Basel Hong Kong continues to be a key fair for galleries from all over the world. What was striking this year was the strong presence of museum directors, curators, and collectors from places like Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, and Korea. The fair, whilst operating in Hong Kong, is also providing an opportunity for visitors to make valuable visits to other cities in the region prior to or after the fair. It feels like the connecting of a region rather than a single fair in a single city. At the same time, the city of Hong Kong seems to be ever-expanding in its own cultural presence. The growth of museums and foundations presenting excellent exhibitions alongside the fair is providing a rich experience for visitors coming to Hong Kong, and the expanding local gallery scene in the Aberdeen district is an indication of robust and authentic activity.'

**Sadie Coles, Owner, Sadie Coles HQ, London**

'We have had an amazing response to Phi Phi Oanh's Vietnamese lacquer paintings. It was our first time presenting her work in Hong Kong, and we are so pleased that they resonated so well with such a diverse crowd. All but one of the works were sold to collectors new to us.'

**Stephanie Fong, Founder and Director, Fost Gallery, Singapore**

'The fair this year was fantastic and surpassed past years. It is the most important art event in Asia, even more significant than biennales. Art Basel Hong Kong is not only a platform for commercial activities but also academic discourse. We have established relationships with new collectors, even a few who are first-time collectors. This year, we presented Chiang Yomei's works at the fair for the first time – the response was tremendous, and all the works sold.'

**Tina Keng, Founder, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei, Beijing**

'We built new relationships with important institutions in the region, including from Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Taiwan and Japan. We also deepened existing ties with institutions that we have been working with for some years and are proud to know that many of the works sold will be remaining in Asia, expanding important collections. New private collectors have approached us, and we are keen to sustain and develop our relationships with them. It has been surprising to see the variety and enthusiasm of Asian collectors.'

**José Kuri, Co-Founder, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, New York**

'This has been another important year for us at the fair – every year we look forward to Art Basel activating our already deeply engaged artistic community here in Hong Kong. The market here continues to thrive, and the city's increasingly globalized landscape allows us to promote cross-cultural exchange in very meaningful ways. It was wonderful to see such a strong response to the artists in our booth from Hong Kong-based and regionally based collectors as well as visitors from around the world.'

**Pearl Lam, Owner, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore**

'We have had a very positive fair week, with strong sales and interest in many of our artists, both Asian and Western. We have seen a change in direction of the art market recently, increasingly being pulled eastward. A number of American collectors we know opted to take the long flight to Hong Kong this year, many for the first time, prioritizing Hong Kong over

other western fairs. We met lots of new collectors and sold significant pieces to local institutions.'

**Alex Logsdail, International Director, Lisson Gallery, London, New York, Shanghai**

'I have been amazed by how intently people look at the works by Egon Schiele in our booth, and how they discuss the works for a considerable amount of time. This is not something I have seen before at art fairs in Europe or the United States. It's so refreshing to see people who are excited to have the opportunity to see something special. There are also many young people who are so intent on wanting to learn, which is really great. It's a revelation.'

**Richard Nagy, Owner, Richard Nagy Ltd., London**

'We had a very successful first-time participation at Art Basel, where we presented works by Burmese artist Moe Satt, and are delighted by the wonderful response from institutions and collectors. We are a young gallery, and Art Basel is a great platform for us to introduce Southeast Asian artists to an international audience.'

**Sutima Sucharitakul, Founder and Director, Nova Contemporary, Bangkok**

'We have been participating in Art Basel Hong Kong since the very first iteration, and we have been so pleased with how the fair has grown and evolved, in terms of the quality and diversity of collectors. This year we placed works by John Armleder, DeWain Valentine, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Tom Wesselmann, Ha Chong-Hyun, Günther Forg, George Condo, and more, in predominantly Asian collections – with more than 80% of the buyers coming from China – which is particularly important for us, as we have just announced that we will be opening a new space in Shanghai later this year.'

**Almine Rech, Owner, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Paris, London, New York**

'This year's edition has been among the most successful we have taken part in. It has been bolstered by the presence of our gallery here for over a year: this has helped us to reinforce our relationships with clients and audiences in the region. We received a phenomenal response to the stunning works presented by our featured artist Carol Bove, who has also been with us in Hong Kong. In addition, the Neo Rauch exhibition at our gallery space has proved hugely successful, part of which can be attributed to his earlier appearance as our featured artist at Art Basel in Hong Kong 2015.'

**David Zwirner, Founder, David Zwirner, London, New York, Hong Kong**

For further quotes, please click [here](#).

### **Galleries**

The main sector of the show featured 196 of the world's leading galleries presenting the highest quality of painting, sculpture, drawings, installation, photography, video, and digital works. For the full gallery list for Galleries, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/galleries](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/galleries).

### **Insights**

The unique sector featured 21 presentations, each spotlighting one or two artists from Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Highlights included **Ei-Q** at Watanuki Ltd. / Toki-no-Wasuremono, **Li Shan** at Don Gallery, **Tishan Hsu** at Empty Gallery, **Keiichi Tahara** at Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, and **Zarina** at Gallery Espace. For the full gallery list for Insights, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/insights](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/insights).

### **Discoveries**

Focused on solo exhibitions by emerging artists, Discoveries this year featured 25 galleries. Three artists in the sector – **Lu Yang** at Soci t , **Shen Xin** at Madeln Gallery, and **Clarissa Tossin** at Commonwealth and Council – were shortlisted during the fair for the eighth BMW Art Journey, with the winner being announced in early summer 2019. For the full gallery list for Discoveries, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/discoveries](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/discoveries).

### **Kabinett**

Kabinett, which allows galleries to present curated exhibitions in separately delineated spaces within their booths, consisted of 21 conceptual presentations by established and emerging artists, with a particular focus on Asian artists. Highlights included **Pacita Abad** at Silverlens, **Wang Pan-Youn** at Tina Keng Gallery, and **Yoo Youngkuk** at Kukje Gallery. For more information please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/kabinett](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/kabinett).

### **Encounters**

The 2019 edition of Encounters presented 12 institutional-scale installations, with eight works premiering at the show in Hong Kong. Under the title 'Still We Rise', curator **Alexie Glass-Kantor**, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney, brought together artists from different backgrounds and generations. Supported by MGM Resorts Art & Culture, the works were installed along the four meridians that run through the two exhibition halls of the show. Highlights included **Lee Bul's** 'Willing To Be Vulnerable – Metalized Balloon', a ten-meter-long replica of a Zeppelin based on the footage of the 1937 Hindenburg disaster, presented by Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Lehmann Maupin and PKM Gallery; **Chiharu Shiota's** 'Where Are We Going?' presented by Templon, an ephemeral, site-specific work depicting 63 boats that figuratively sail across the space, touching on notions of migration and movement; **Jose Dávila's** 'Homage to the Square', referencing Josef Albers' theories on color with kinetic mobiles that refract color and light; and **Zhao Zhao's** 'In Extremis' that addresses wider human rights issues, presented by Tang Contemporary Art. For further information, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters).

### **Film**

For its sixth edition, multi-media artist and film producer **Li Zhenhua** brought together 27 film and video works inspired by the current sociopolitical climate. Highlights included a series of films that focus on accomplished Chinese artist **Liu Xiaodong**; 'Spring Fever' by **Lou Ye**; and the Short Film Program 'Missing Police', comprised of three short films by Beijing-based artist and director **Ju Anqi**, each portraying the 1960s, 1980s and the present in China. For further information, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/film](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/film).

### **Conversations**

Free to the public and programmed by writer and editor **Stephanie Bailey**, this year's Conversations program featured 22 panels, bringing together leading artists, gallerists, collectors, art historians, curators, museum directors, and critics from all over the globe. All Conversations panels will be available on Art Basel's YouTube channel and on the show's website. For the full Conversations program, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/conversations](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/conversations).

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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### **About Art Basel**

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, 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. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through a number of new initiatives such as Art Basel Cities, working with partner cities on bespoke cultural programs. For further information, please visit [artbasel.com](http://artbasel.com).

## **Partners**

**UBS, Global Lead Partner** of Art Basel, has supported the organization for 25 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows, and as co-publisher of the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. UBS has a long record of engagement in contemporary art with the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections with more than 30,000 works created by artists from more than 75 countries, at its core. The firm actively enables audiences to participate in contemporary art through its partnerships with leading cultural organizations around the world. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit [ubs.com/art](http://ubs.com/art).

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** include MGM Resorts International, one of the world's leading entertainment companies with a longstanding commitment to presenting and supporting art in public spaces, and Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW, who has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, and La Prairie.

**Local Partners** in Hong Kong are Christian Dior, Swire Properties, HTC Vive, Quintessentially, The Murray Hong Kong, The Peninsula Hotels, and Swiss International Air Lines. Art Basel's global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information about partnerships, please visit [artbasel.com/partners](http://artbasel.com/partners).

## **Upcoming Art Basel shows**

Basel, June 13-16, 2019

Miami Beach, December 5-8, 2019

Hong Kong, March 19-21, 2020

## **Media information online**

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from [artbasel.com/press](http://artbasel.com/press). Journalists can subscribe to our media mailings to receive information on Art Basel.

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