
PRESS RELEASE

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Art Basel's second edition in Hong Kong closes with strong sales and exceptional public programming

Art Basel's second edition in Hong Kong closed today with galleries reporting strong sales across all five days. A premier line-up of 245 galleries with exhibition spaces in 39 countries and territories across the world participated in Art Basel's second edition in Hong Kong, the first with UBS as Lead Partner. With over 50 percent of galleries having exhibition spaces in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, Art Basel underlined its deep commitment to the region. The show was attended by over 65,000 visitors.

The show's success proves that the art scenes across Asia are dynamic enough to sustain and support a truly global and world-class art fair, despite a dates conflict that prevented some major Western collectors and galleries from attending this year. The quality of artworks brought to the show and the high level of presentation excited new and returning collectors from across Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, including: Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mainland China, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates. Asia's strong collectors turnout was complemented by collectors travelling from as far away as Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Directors, curators, trustees and patrons from leading museums and institutions came to the show, including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Asia Society, New York; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Louvre, Paris; MoMA PS1, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney; OCAT, Shenzhen, Beijing; The Royal Academy, London; Tate Modern, London; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing. Artists from across the world attended the show, including: Nadim Abbas, Miquel Barceló, Wim Delvoye, Gu Wenda, Lee Kit, Lee Wen, Liu Kuo-Sung, Ahmed Mater, Mariko Mori, Oscar Murillo, Takashi Murakami, Carsten Nicolai, The Propeller Group, Tobias Rehberger, Fabienne Verdier, Zhang Wei, Su Xiaobai, Sun Xun and Zeng Fanzhi.

The show was accompanied by a strong public program, including the Asian debut of Art Basel's popular Film sector – a three-day program of 49 films by 41 artists, represented by 31 galleries participating in the fair. Screened at the agnès b. CINEMA at the Hong Kong Arts Centre, the program was curated by Li Zhenhua, the Beijing- and Zurich-based curator, multi-media artist and producer. Highlights included works by international artists such as Sookoon Ang, Takashi Ishida, John Latham, Dinh Q. Lê, Roman Signer, Nina Yuen and Hong Kong artists, Kwan Sheung Chi and Christopher Doyle.

The public opening of the show was marked with a special audio-visual installation 'α (alpha) pulse' by the internationally renowned German artist Carsten Nicolai. Commissioned by Art Basel, the artwork generated light patterns pulsating across the entire façade of Hong Kong's iconic 490-meter high International Commerce Centre (ICC), the 7th-highest building in the world. Like a lighthouse, the tower sent its pulses into the city, visible to hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong residents and visitors, while

an accompanying mobile phone application allowed audiences across the city to participate in one of the largest artworks to be presented in Hong Kong.

Throughout the city, Hong Kong's galleries and cultural organizations hosted over 150 cultural events to coincide with Art Basel, including the openings of two new internationally prominent galleries in the Entertainment Building – Pace Gallery and Axel Vervoordt.

The experience of galleries proved highly positive:

"We sold over 50 percent of our works at the booth on the first day. As always, we continue our relationships with our existing collectors and build new networks at the show. We met lots of new collectors from Asia, Europe and the United States. Art Basel in Hong Kong is the best fair we have been to so far."

Shelly Wu, Director, Tina Keng Gallery (Beijing, Taipei)

"It is always exciting to be in Hong Kong and the energy at this year's fair was remarkable. We greatly enjoyed meeting with collectors and museum curators from the region, and had a very positive response to the gallery's program, with particular interest in painters Yayoi Kusama, Oscar Murillo, Marlene Dumas, Luc Tuymans, Neo Rauch, and Michaël Borremans, and of course the work of Jeff Koons and Donald Judd. Notable connections included collectors from Taipei, Australia, Beijing, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, and New Zealand."

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

"We have had a very good week at Art Basel in Hong Kong. We have made significant sales, a majority of which have been to Asian museums, very significant European private collectors and some public foundations. This was our first participation and the response at the fair really exceeded our expectations. We have met new collectors and have begun some exciting conversations with them."

Prateek Raja, Director, Experimenter (Kolkata)

"We are thrilled with the results of the second edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong. There were many more collectors from the region in attendance this year, reflecting nearly every country across Asia, and the quality of the fairgoing experience continues to improve."

Nick Simunovic, Director, Gagosian Gallery (New York, Hong Kong, Paris, London, Rome, Geneva, Beverly Hills)

"Art Basel in Hong Kong continues to provide a platform for us to meet genuinely new clients. You can't say that about every fair we do. The fair has remained true to its vast region too, it hasn't become homogenised, so it is a place for us to learn about Asian artists as well as meet new international clients from all over."

Sadie Coles, Owner/Director, Sadie Coles HQ (London)

"I always view Art Basel in Hong Kong as the art show for the whole of Asia. If you'd like to go to a single Asian art show, this is the one to visit. We meet new people at the show every year and our presence also helps us form better relationships with our existing clients."

Lv Jing Jing, Manager, Beijing Commune (Beijing)

"We have had fantastic responses. Those people who knew Gutai have been happy to see what we brought to the show, and it has been fantastic to introduce people to the work for the first time. We have definitely been meeting new people. We had strong sales to collectors from China, Japan and Southeast Asia."

Lisa Panzera, Director, Fergus McCaffrey (New York)

"I have been delighted to see many collectors from China, especially the younger generation. The show itself looks again substantially better this year, showing works from across Asia. I am looking forward to next year. The date change to March is a very important move for the show, and for the potential of the Asian art market itself. I am looking forward to seeing more European and American collectors here."

Urs Meile, Founder, Galerie Urs Meile (Lucerne and Beijing)

"Art Basel in Hong Kong has consolidated its position as the leading fair in Asia and a key fixture in the international art calendar, strengthening our relationships with collectors from Mainland China and wider Asia. We placed major works in expanding collections and ambitious private museums."

Neil Wenman, Senior Director, Hauser & Wirth (Zurich, London, New York)

"The show has been great for us in terms of sales to Middle Eastern collectors and to European residents of Hong Kong, interest from the media, and introducing the gallery and our artists to the Far East, where there is less exposure for Arab art."

Adnan Z. Manjal, Business Developer, Athr Gallery (Jeddah)

"We are extremely happy with how the show has gone. We have met and made sales to new clients including great connections to visitors from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. The show is as active and at the same level of quality as any European or American fair."

Nicolas Nahab, Sales Director, Marian Goodman Gallery (Paris, New York)

"Art Basel in Hong Kong provides an important platform for the local art scene. Exhibiting Hong Kong artist Morgan Wong in Encounters for the first time brought new clients to our booth, where we had good sales of both leading Chinese and Western artists to collectors from across the world. The quality of attendance was fantastic with key collectors visiting our stand. We're very much looking forward to next year's show in March."

Pearl Lam, Founder, Pearl Lam Galleries (Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore)

"During this, our first year exhibiting in Hong Kong, we met collectors from Europe, Asia, Australia, the Americas – really a diverse range. The experience has been wonderful for introductions, and we definitely want to participate again next year."

Kevin Scholl, Director, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects (Culver City)

"We sold very well at the fair this week and met many new clients, with significant interest from Western collectors in Hong Kong and collectors from Mainland China. The presentations by galleries were confident and diverse across the board."

Jessie Xie, Associate Curator, Shanghai Gallery of Art

"Art Basel in Hong Kong has been a driving force in developing an appetite for international contemporary art and new tastes which transcend national boundaries in the region and this is becoming more manifest each year we participate in the fair."

Glenn Scott Wright, Director, Victoria Miro (London)

"For us, this was the best edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong so far. We met many new collectors at the fair last year, and this year we have been able to deepen those relationships further. This year, we sold works to collectors from Hong Kong, Malaysia, France and the United Kingdom. There seems to be an increasing interest in post-war Italian art from collectors in Asia."

Francesca Piccolboni, Director, Tornabuoni Art (Paris)

"This year, we sold the photographic works of Araki for the first time to young Beijing collectors. It is the first time we have seen so many collectors from Beijing at the fair."

Takayuki Ishii, Director, Taka Ishii Gallery (Kyoto, Tokyo)

"The stamp of approval from Art Basel is undoubtedly a powerful thing and I have sold the work of my young artist Jake Walker well this week, to both new and existing clients."

Melissa Loughnan, Director, Utopian Slumps (Melbourne)

Galleries, the main sector of the show, presented 171 of the world's most established Modern and contemporary art galleries, selected on the strength of their overall gallery program. Returning galleries were joined by 20 new exhibitors including: Anna Schwartz Gallery, Applicat-Prazan, Brame & Lorenceau, Galleria Franco Noero, Galerie Hubert Winter, Galerie Nikolaus Ruzicka, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, gdm, Gerhardsen Gerner, Grieder Contemporary, Hammer Galleries, Mazzoleni Galleria D'Arte, Meessen De Clercq, Meyer Riegger, Michael Hoppen Gallery, Michael Lett, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, and Zach Feuer Gallery.

The **Insights** sector was dedicated to curatorial projects by 47 galleries with spaces in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, providing an in-depth overview on art from across the region. A number of leading Modern art galleries from Asia featured, including Galerie du Monde who presented a solo show of Liu Kuo-Sung, and Gallery Yamaki Fine Art who presented a solo show of Tatsuo Kawaguchi, one of the most influential Japanese post-war conceptual artists.

The **Discoveries** sector presented a particularly strong showcase of younger artists from across the world with solo- and two-person exhibitions. This year, the sector featured 27 galleries. The 25,000 USD Discoveries Prize was awarded to Nadia Kaabi-Linke, presented by Experimenter from Kolkata, and whose work was praised by the jury for its 'strength in aesthetics and content and confidence of artistic language'. The artist was chosen by an expert panel of judges: Cosmin Costinas, Outset Curator of Contemporary Art and Executive Director of Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong; Juliana Engberg, Artistic Director of the 2014 Biennale of Sydney and Artistic Director of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Sydney; and Elaine Ng, Editor and Publisher of ArtAsiaPacific Magazine.

17 artworks were presented in **Encounters**, curated by Yuko Hasegawa, Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, and dedicated to showing large-scale sculptural installations and performances by artists including Miyanaga Aiko, Rebecca Baumann, Marta Chilindron, Gu Wenda, Lee Wen, Michael Lin, Tobias Rehberger, Shen Shaomin, Kishio Suga, Sun Xun, Atelier Van Lieshout, Wang Jianwei, Morgan Wong, Xu Qu, Yang Xinguang, Yeesoonyung and Yu Cheng-Ta.

Conversations and **Salon**, Art Basel's talks program, attracted more than 1,800 visitors and presented renowned cultural figures from Asia and across the international art world. This year the Premiere Artist Talk featured legendary Chinese artist Liu Kuo-Sung in conversation with Lesley Ma, Curator of Ink Art, M+, Hong Kong. The program also included a talk on 'Cross Cultural Collecting' featuring Shareen Khatter, Takeo Obayashi, Gene Sherman and Lu Xun, exploring whether an Eastern and Western way of collecting exists in today's world. The debate examined where collectors' responsibilities lie when it comes to promoting cross-cultural exchange and arts education. The afternoon Salon program featured artist talks, panel discussions and lectures with artists, curators, museum directors and researchers and included 'Made in Hong Kong: On Collecting Milk Pudding and Table Cloths' with Nadim Abbas, Lee Kit, William Lim and Christoph Noe.

Videos of all Conversations and Salon panels will be available to watch online at artbasel.com/hongkong/talks.

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 globe, each show's singular exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas and new inspiration.

Selection Committee in Hong Kong

The Selection Committee for Art Basel's show in Hong Kong is comprised of renowned international gallerists: Emi Eu, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore; Shireen Gandhi, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai; Suzie Kim, Kukje Gallery, Seoul; Maho Kubota, Scai The Bathhouse, Tokyo; David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong; Urs Meile, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne; Massimo De Carlo, Massimo De Carlo, Milan and London; Zhang Wei, Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou and Beijing. The experts for the Discoveries sector are Atsuko Ninagawa, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo, and Finola Jones, mother's tankstation, Dublin. The expert for Modern Art is Mathias Rastorfer, Galerie Gmurzynska, Zurich.

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 the show's inception in 2002, and for Hong Kong beginning in 2014. UBS has a rich history of supporting cultural and artistic endeavors 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 Davidoff, Audemars Piguet and Absolut as Associate Partners. The Conversations series is supported by Absolut.

Ruinart, Freeports and Swire Properties are the show's Lounge Hosts, with BMW supporting as Official Automotive Partner, AXA ART as Official Insurance Partner, Swiss International Air Lines as the Official Carrier and Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong as Official Hotel Partner. Quintessentially Lifestyle is the Official Concierge Partner. The Financial Times and Modern Media Group are the show's Media Partners. For further information on Art Basel's partners, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Art Basel's dates 2015

From 2015 onwards Art Basel in Hong Kong will take place in March. The new timing will be significantly more convenient for participating galleries, collectors, curators, and the artworld in general, enabling an even broader international audience to attend the leading fair in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2015 show dates for Art Basel in Hong Kong are:

Preview (by invitation): Friday evening, March 13, and all day Saturday, March 14, 2015
Public Show Dates: Sunday, March 15 to Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Further details on the opening times will be released in due course.

Media information online

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

For the latest updates on Art Basel, visit artbasel.com or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/artbasel](https://www.facebook.com/artbasel), follow us on Instagram and Twitter @artbasel, #ABHK2014.

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