

FAIR PLAY

April, 2016

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*A look at the upcoming
Art Basel Hong Kong
2016. by NADYA WANG*

Art Basel Hong Kong is upon us once more, and in its fourth year, from 24 to 26 March 2016, the fair, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) will present 239 galleries who have made the cut. They represent countries from all over the world, with approximately half hailing from Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Together, they will showcase modern and contemporary artworks from over 3000 artists. Here is a preview of what to look forward to at Art Basel Hong Kong 2016.

THE BASICS

The art fair will continue to be divided into four big sectors: Galleries, Insights, Discoveries and Encounters. The main Galleries sector will house 187 galleries. Insights is a space for curated projects, while Discoveries is a platform for emerging talent, with works created specifically for the fair. With Encounters, artists are given the opportunity to create and display large-scale sculptures and installations, which will be scattered throughout the two exhibition halls.

There will also be a dedicated sector for Film. Organised together with the Hong Kong Arts Centre, it will include documentary and feature-length films for the first time, and is curated by Li Zhenhua, a curator, multimedia artist and producer based in Beijing and Zurich.



This page, clockwise from top left: *INDANGER* (detailed view), 2014, Xu Zhenbang. Image courtesy Pékin Fine Arts.; *Untitled*, 2015, Isa Genzken. Image courtesy David Zwirner, New York/London; Art Basel Hong Kong 2015 General Impression; *0 - Viewpoint 0-13*, 2016, Stella Zhang. Image courtesy Galerie du Monde.

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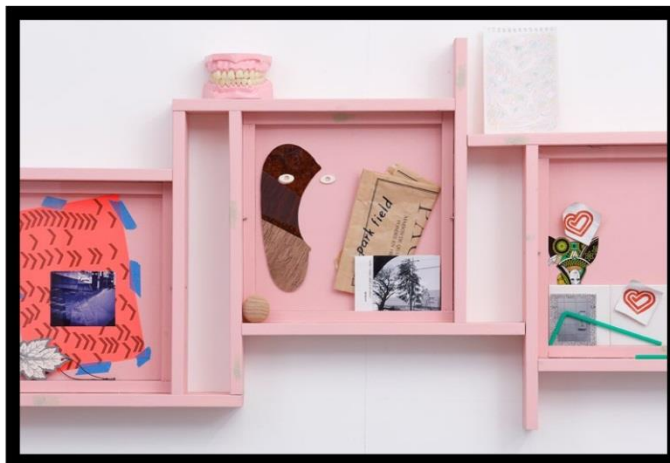
The popular Conversations and Salon programmes will feature talks and panel discussions with artists and industry experts that give fair-goers insight into the art world.

A large majority of participating galleries are returning to the fair, with only 28 newcomers. Several galleries are taking part in different sectors of the fair. For instance, Yeo Workshop from Singapore, which will be at the fair for the first time, will present Indonesian artist Maryanto in Discoveries and Vietnamese artist Quynh Dong in Film. Pékin Fine Arts will feature Chinese artists Zhang Dali and Xu Zhenbang in the Insights sector, while also presenting Arik Levy in Encounters. Hong Kong-based Edouard Malingue Gallery, will be at the main Galleries sector with its artists Wang Wei, Ko Sin Tung, Yuan Yuan, Jeremy Everett and Wong Ping, and will also present a work in Encounters from the Indonesian art collective Tromarama.

LARGE-SCALE WORKS

Encounters is curated by Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director of the Sydney contemporary art institution Artspace, for the second year running. The curation for this year is focused on the idea of the encounter. The sector offers 16 works, reduced from the 20 in the previous year, to allow more space for artworks.

Both regional and international artists are represented in this sector. They are Brook Andrew,



This page, above: *Recipe Drawing* (detailed view), 2016, Yusuke Saito. Image courtesy the artist and Gallery Side 2.

Charles Avery, Hans Berg and Nathalie Djurberg, Roberto Chabet, Chen Zhen, Isa Genzken, Kyungah Ham, Arik Levy, Peter Liversidge, Richard Maloy, Tintin Wulia, Tromarama, Keiji Uematsu, Lawrence Weiner, Pae White and Zhang Ding.

Of note is Tromarama's multimedia work 'Private Riots' (2014), presented by Edouard Malingue Gallery. It is a commentary on the cultural landscape in Asia as shaped by its socio-political developments, made through floor-to-ceiling protest banners on a circular platform, coupled with a flash sequence video.

Osage Gallery is also presenting Southeast Asian artists: the late Filipino artist Roberto Chabet and

Indonesian artist Tintin Wulia. Chabet's 'Cargo and Decay' (1998/2010) is a plywood installation that sees cargo as a representation of European and American wealth in the South Pacific once upon a time, and is a commentary on the shifting geopolitical powers as the world changed in the 20th century.

Tintin Wulia's 'Five Tonnes of Homes and Other Understories' and the film 'Proposal for a Film: Within the Leaves, A Sight of the Forest' document the cardboard recycling network in Central, Hong Kong. Interacting with Filipino domestic workers on their weekly day off over the past year, the artist drew on the cardboard 'walls' that they

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erected to spend time with each other. She traced these cardboard pieces' journey as a space for camaraderie and comfort to being mechanically compressed into bales at the recycling point, as a representation of the lived human experience in the fast-track global economy.

Seoul-based Kukje Gallery will present another female artist. Kyungah Ham's new work 'Chandeliers for Five Cities' (2016) is an installation of five large embroidered 'paintings' of tilted glittering chandeliers. These are created by North Korean craftswomen, whom the artist, who lives in Seoul, communicates with through printed designs sent by middlemen.

Galleries are also taking the opportunity to introduce established artists to the region. David Zwirner Gallery, which has spaces in London and New York, will be presenting German artist Isa Genzken. The 'Schauspieler' (Actors) series, which was first seen at her 2013 retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, is an installation of clothed mannequins grouped in a manner suggestive of narratives that are determined by the viewer's imagination.

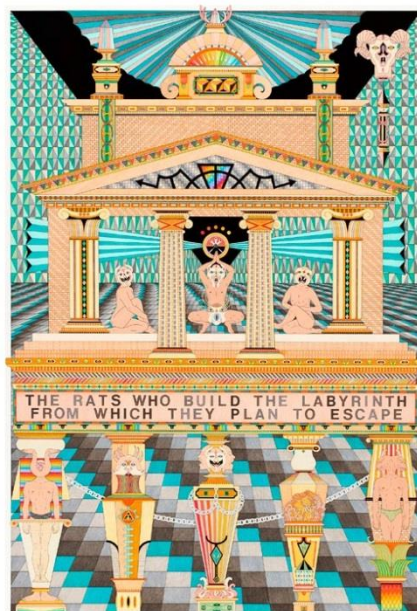
The gallery's senior partner Angela Choon says, "Genzken is one of the most respected and influential artists working today, yet there have been few extensive presentations of her work in Asia. Since Encounters is a central part of Art Basel Hong Kong's programme, this platform allows for both great visibility and accessibility, which the gallery is excited about. We look forward to being in direct dialogue with fair visitors about this important body of work."

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Within the Insights sector, 28 galleries will present curatorial projects, with half of the galleries presenting modern works – the most yet – and the other half with contemporary works in both



This page, top to bottom: General Impression of Art Basel in Hong Kong 2015; *The Rats who build the Labyrinth from which they plan to escape*, 2015, Jess Johnson. Image courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney.



solo and duo presentations.

Galerie du Monde will present a continuation of Stella Zhang's '0-Viewpoint' series, in a group of black sculptural fabric paintings that refer to female genitalia, and express the artist's negative feelings and experiences being a woman and working as a female artist in a largely patriarchal society. In the middle of these wall-mounted works will be an installation of three-dimensional objects relating to the body in a similarly dark palette.

And in a duo presentation, Beijing-based Pékin Fine Arts is showing the works of Chinese artists Zhang Dali and Xu Zhenbang. Director Meg Maggio notes the similarities in their works' focus on the street, which no longer refers only to the physical space, but also urban pop culture in general, including imageries on the worldwide web. "Both artists' main preoccupation is with how everyday people in China interact with a

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new contemporary visual aesthetic found in China's rapidly transforming cities," says Maggio.

EMERGING TALENT

For those looking to weave in the next big name in contemporary art, Discoveries is a good place to start. In all, there will be 24 galleries presenting fresh work from young artists from all over the world, the strongest showcase yet at the fair.

Several artists in this sector are working in multiple mediums to weave a coherent narrative within their presentations. With Tokyo-based Gallery Side 2, Japanese emerging artist Yusuke Saito will show new sculptures and collage works, made with mass-produced objects such as tiles and toy figurines, together with a wall installation under two projects, 'Pro-Sagami', a documentation of daily life in suburban Sagami-hara and 'Sculpture is Going', a collection of cement sculptures of plastic food containers.

Australian artist Jess Johnson, presented by Darren Knight Gallery from Sydney is similarly presenting works in different mediums, with new works

on paper and a video work, as well as an artist-designed wallpaper and geometric floor coverings. Director Darren Knight says, "Jess' complex drawn landscapes describe a highly personalised and evolving version of alternate realities that reveal the artist's fascination with the intersections between language, popular culture and technology. A personal lexicon of symbols is accompanied by fragments of text that are employed as building blocks upon which the artist assembles her compositions."

Indonesian artist Maryanto will also present a multi-medium – and interactive – exhibition with Yeo Workshop. Director Audrey Yeo notes, "The work is a culmination of his practice and research thus far into artistic technique and in content for socio-political environmental issues. Initially, the viewer is attracted and seduced by the resplendence of techniques and textures in his paintings and installations. However, as the viewer gradually participates through the uncovering of the art objects and adventuring into the narrative of the plot of mining, pollution and politics. We hope to create a project at 'Discoveries' that is affective, memorable and meaningful."



This page, top to bottom: *Square No. 1*, 2015, Zhang Dali; *Shall Be Released* (detailed view), 2015, Richard Mosse.

ARTIST PRIZE

In line with its support of emerging artists, Art Basel will continue its partnership with BMW through the sophomore edition of BMW Art Journey, which gives emerging artists the opportunity to design a journey of creative discovery to a destination of their choice, with the travel experience culminating in a new work or a new series of works.

Hong Kong-based artist Samson Young, the inaugural winner, will present his project 'For Whom the Bell Tolls: A Journey Into the Sonic History of Conflict' at the fair. At the same time, the shortlist for this year's BMW Art Journey will be made known.

PUBLIC INSTALLATION

Japanese artist Tatsuo Miyajima, known for his light works featuring the use of LED counters, has created a new installation, 'Time Waterfall', co-commissioned by Art Basel and the International Commerce Centre (ICC). This is on display nightly from 21 to 26 March across the 108-storey, 490-metre high façade of the ICC on the Kowloon harbourfront, the tallest building in Hong Kong. The numbers 1 to 9 in different sizes will continually stream down, in an expression of the perpetual cycle of life.

The work can be viewed from the HKCEC, and also from other vantage points, including Tamar Park, Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, and on the terrace of the IFC Mall that faces ICC. 📍

For more information, please visit www.artbasel.com/hong-kong

