

# Art | Basel

## Hong Kong

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PRESS RELEASE  
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**Encounters: Presenting 12 ambitious projects by leading artists from across the globe**

The 2019 edition of Encounters will consist of 12 institutional-scale installations, with eight works premiering at this year's show in Hong Kong. Under the title 'Still We Rise', curator Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney, brings together work by Tony Albert, Joël Andrianomearisoa, Jose Dávila, Latifa Echakhch, Elmgreen & Dragset, Gerasimos Floratos, Mit Jai Inn, Lee Bul, Pinaree Sanpitak, Chiharu Shiota, Simon Starling and Zhao Zhao. Supported by MGM Resorts Art & Culture, the works will once again be installed along the four meridians that run through the two exhibition halls of the show. Art Basel, whose Lead Partner is UBS, takes place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from Friday, March 29 to Sunday, March 31, 2019.

This year's edition focuses on current issues of disorientation and uncertainty by looking back at the past and speculating about the future. The sector will bring together artists from different backgrounds and generations who are reconfiguring prosaic materials in an attempt to represent the complexity of today's world. **Alexie Glass-Kantor**, the sector's curator, commented: 'Referencing the poem "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou, this year's Encounters is both a call to action and a proposition to re-energize, re-incarnate, re-innovate and rise – in the extreme: to find hope even in hopelessness. The large-scale works presented create environments for visitors to explore and discover, and to contemplate ways of dealing with today's challenges.'

Referencing science fiction, modernist forms and dystopian narratives, the first meridian opens with **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, the installation continues Lee Bul's investigation into the impossibility of utopian ideas. **Jose Dávila's** 'Homage to The Square' is part of an ongoing series that reflects on the legacy and influence of Josef Albers' theories on the perception and interaction of color through a mathematically determined format of squares. Presented by Sean Kelly, the installation consists of kinetic mobile sculptures that gently move and refract color as visitors move through them. Kukje Gallery, Massimo De Carlo and Perrotin will jointly premiere a new work by **Elmgreen & Dragset**, which reflects on the hyper-reality of cities such as Hong Kong. Having inverted the architecture of the city by installing it upside down, 'City in the Sky' asks visitors to consider their own ideal future cities.

The 2019 edition also features work by a number of artists, well known in their own contexts but less familiar to wider audiences, who are transforming everyday materials into tacitly and often highly charged propositions, including 'Planes (Electric)' by Thai artist **Mit Jai Inn**, presented by Silverlens and TKG+; 'In Extremis' by Chinese artist **Zhao Zhao**, presented by Tang Contemporary Art; and 'Native Home' by Australian artist **Tony Albert**, presented by Sullivan+Strumpf.

Full list of artists presented in Encounters:

**Tony Albert**, Sullivan+Strumpf

**Joël Andrianomearisoa**, Sabrina Amrani

**Jose Dávila**, Sean Kelly

**Latifa Echakhch**, kamel mennour

**Elmgreen & Dragset**, Kukje Gallery, Massimo De Carlo and Perrotin

**Gerasimos Floratos**, Pilar Corrias

**Mit Jai Inn**, Silverlens and TKG+

**Lee Bul**, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Lehmann Maupin and PKM Gallery

**Pinaree Sanpitak**, STPI

**Chiharu Shiota**, Templon

**Simon Starling**, neugerriemschneider

**Zhao Zhao**, Tang Contemporary Art

For further information, please visit [artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters](http://artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters)

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### **About Alexie Glass-Kantor**

Alexie Glass-Kantor is a curator, author and Executive Director of Artspace, a contemporary art institution in Sydney. Developing curatorial engagement in the Asia-Pacific region and internationally throughout her career, she has initiated collaborative curatorial projects with organizations including: Art Sonje Center, South Korea; Protocinema, Turkey; Kunsthalle Tbilisi, Georgia; Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh; Performa15 and Printed Matter Inc., New York; Institute of Contemporary Arts and Chisenhale Gallery, London; 12th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia; Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; 13th SITE Santa Fe Biennial, New Mexico; Gertrude Contemporary and Melbourne International Arts Festival with MONA, Hobart.

### **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).

### **Selection Committee in Hong Kong**

Massimo De Carlo, Massimo De Carlo, Milan, London and Hong Kong

Emi Eu, STPI, Singapore

David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong and Seoul

Urs Meile, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne and Beijing

Atsuko Ninagawa, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo

Bo Young Song, Kukje Gallery, Seoul and Busan

Zhang Wei, Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou and Beijing

The experts for the Discoveries and Insights sectors  
Vanessa Carlos, Carlos/Ishikawa, London  
Patrick Lee, One and J. Gallery, Seoul  
Simon Wang, Antenna Space, Shanghai

### **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).

MGM Resorts Art & Culture supports the Encounters sector. Each art installation, collection and partnership that MGM Resorts Art & Culture has realized over the years carefully considers the artist, the environment and the overall experience. For further information, please visit [mgmresorts.com/artandculture](http://mgmresorts.com/artandculture).

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).

### **Preview (by invitation only)**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2pm to 8pm

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 1pm to 5pm

Friday, March 29, 2019, 12noon to 1pm

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 12noon to 1pm

### **Vernissage**

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 5pm to 9pm

### **Public Days**

Friday, March 29, 2019, 1pm to 8pm

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 1pm to 8pm

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 11am to 6pm

### **Press accreditation:**

Online registration for press accreditation will open end of January. Please visit [artbasel.com/accreditation](http://artbasel.com/accreditation).

### **Upcoming Art Basel shows**

Hong Kong, March 29-31, 2019

Basel, June 13-16, 2019

Miami Beach, December 5-8, 2019

**Media information online**

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from [artbasel.com/press](http://artbasel.com/press).  
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