
PRESS RELEASE
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Leelee Chan selected for next BMW Art Journey

Art Basel and BMW are delighted to present Leelee Chan as the next BMW Art Journey winner. An international jury conducted its selection process unanimously and online. Leelee Chan was selected from a shortlist of three proposals by artists who are represented by galleries originally accepted into this year's Art Basel in Hong Kong. Leelee Chan is represented by Capsule Shanghai gallery.

Leelee Chan's BMW Art Journey 'Tokens From Time' intends to trace material culture from the past, present and future. The artist will visit artisan families that practice ancient craftsmanship techniques using copper, silver and marble, among other materials, some of which play a role in the artist's own sculptural practice. Along her journey, Chan will engage in dialogues with scientists and experts to understand how natural materials may be substituted by synthetic materials in the future.

Investigating ancient materials and their future substitutes from the emerging fields of nanotechnology and biotechnology, Leelee Chan's BMW Art Journey project gives expression to the evolving relationship between people and materials, and touches on contemporary debates surrounding ecological and cultural sustainability. Spanning from the hand-crafted to the industrial to the post-industrial, the artist's investigation of materials ultimately asks the question, "What does it mean to be a sculptor today?" In search of an answer, Leelee Chan plans to visit destinations in Europe, Japan and the Americas. Her final travel itinerary will be determined in observance of current travel and health regulations tied to the Covid-19 pandemic.

'I am beyond excited to be selected for the BMW Art Journey. Material objects have always been at the core of my practice. The journey will allow me to dig much deeper by discovering new processes, by encountering the people who work with them in their everyday lives, and, thereby, to make them meaningful for me as a sculptor working in this current uncertain moment', says Leelee Chan.

The international jury consisted of **Claire Hsu**, Director, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong; **Matthias Mühling**, Director, Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich; **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**, President, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; **Philip Tinari**, Director, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and **Samson Young**, artist and winner of the first BMW Art Journey.

'Leelee Chan's journey spans across time and space to consider the stories of materials, including metal, stone and crystals, and explore how they have shaped our human experience,' noted the Jury in its statement. 'From ancient crystal caves in Mexico to marble workshops in Italy to high-tech synthetic quartz factories in Japan, the artist plans to investigate materials with the help of experts and craft practitioners, both as a source of raw material and as an inspiration for reflection. We were impressed by how Leelee Chan engages with materials that are charged with needs, values and ideas, to ask what it means to be a sculptor working today and tomorrow.'

In addition to Leelee Chan, the shortlisted artists for the BMW Art Journey 2020 were: **Jes Fan** (represented by Empty Gallery, Hong Kong) and the artist duo **Amy Lien & Enzo Camacho** (represented by 47 Canal, New York).

BMW has supported Art Basel's shows in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong for many years. For further information and press material about the BMW Art Journey artists and their projects, please visit the new press section: www.bmw-art-journey.com/press

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Leelee Chan

Leelee Chan (b. 1984) lives and works in Hong Kong. She received her MFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 2009 and her BFA from the School of Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. Chan's sculptures reflect her experience with the extreme urbanization in Hong Kong and are almost always comprised of dumpster detritus household ephemera, and mundane objects from her daily life not generally considered memorable or worth preserving. Derived from an impulse to interrogate these objects' status and value, Chan imaginatively explores their transformative potential and reconfigures each item according to its unique qualities. Chan's solo exhibition includes Capsule Shanghai, Shanghai. She has exhibited in recent group shows at Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong, and UCCA Dune, Qinhuangdao.

About BMW Art Journey

Launched in 2015, the BMW Art Journey is a collaboration between Art Basel and BMW, created to recognize and support emerging artists worldwide. Since 2020, the circle of eligible artists has been broadened. It includes emerging and mid-career artists originally participating at Art Basel in Hong Kong represented not only by galleries in the Discoveries sector, but also by galleries that were founded no more than ten years ago. As this year's Art Basel show in Hong Kong had to be cancelled due to the outbreak and spread of Covid-19, the jury conducted its selection process online. Artists and their galleries were invited to submit digital applications, including a short video by the artists explaining their work and process. A judging panel comprised of internationally renowned experts meet first to select a shortlist three artists, who are then invited to submit proposals for a journey aimed to further develop their ideas and artistic work. The jury reconvenes to choose a winner from the three proposals.

Past winners of the BMW Art Journey include sound and performance artist **Samson Young** (presented by a.m. Space, Hong Kong at Art Basel's Hong Kong show in 2015), who represented Hong Kong at the 2017 Venice Biennale; German video artists **Henning Fehr and Philipp Rühr** (presented by Galerie Max Mayer, Dusseldorf at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2015); British artist **Abigail Reynolds** (presented by Rokeby, London at Art Basel's show in Hong Kong in 2016) as well as **Max Hooper Schneider** (presented by High Art, Paris at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2016), **Astha Butail** (presented by GALLERY SKE, New Delhi, Bangalore at Art Basel's Hong Kong show in 2017); **Jamal Cyrus** (presented by Inman Gallery, Houston at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2017); **Zac Langdon-Pole** (presented by Michael Lett, Auckland at Art Basel's show in Hong Kong in 2018), and **Lu Yang** (represented by the gallery Société, Berlin at Art Basel in Hong Kong 2019).

About BMW Group Cultural Engagement

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter

specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London, the company also partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business. Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview

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 new digital platforms and a number of new initiatives such as The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report and The BMW Art Journey.

Partners

UBS, Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for more than 27 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. UBS provides its clients with insight into the art market, collecting and legacy planning through its Art Collectors Circle and the UBS Art Advisory Unit. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** include Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW, who has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, La Prairie, and On. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 3-6, 2020

Hong Kong, March 25-27, 2021

Basel, June 17-20, 2021

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