

Art | Basel

Hong Kong

PRESS RELEASE
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Art Basel announces return of ambitious, full-scale program for its Hong Kong show with 177 galleries from 32 countries and territories – its largest in the city since 2019 – including the sector for monumental works and a new site-specific commission by Pipilotti Rist

- Encounters, the curated sector dedicated to large-scale works, will return to the show for the first time since 2019 with 14 expansive presentations
- Conversations will feature more than 85 speakers across the fair's four days, offering a platform for dynamic dialogue among international artists, gallerists, curators, critics, collectors, and more, free and open to the public
- With free public admission, the Film program will feature 29 video works, including 'MEMORIA' by Apichatpong Weerasethakul, as well as special screenings curated by Hong Kong-based Videotage and Ghost 2565, Bangkok's triennial video and performance art series
- 15 galleries will participate in Kabinett, the sector for thematic solo presentations within galleries' main booths, with a strong Asia focus
- 'Hand Me Your Trust', a new, site-specific moving image work by Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist, will take over the M+ Facade, commissioned by M+ and supported by Art Basel and UBS
- Art Basel, whose Global Lead Partner is UBS, will take place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from March 23 to March 25, 2023, with preview days on March 21 and 22

Marking its largest show since 2019, the 2023 edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong will welcome **177 galleries from 32 countries and territories across Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Africa**, plus the return of all the fair's special sectors, including **Encounters, Kabinett, Conversations, and Film**. Over two-thirds of participating galleries have exhibition spaces in the region – with 33 galleries having exhibition spaces in Hong Kong – reinforcing Art Basel's commitment to showcasing exceptional art from its host city and across Asia and the Asia Pacific.

Encounters

Curated for the sixth time by **Alexie Glass-Kantor** – Executive Director of Artspace, Sydney and the curator for the Australian pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale – Encounters will feature 14 large-scale installations under the theme '**This present, moment**':

'For the first time, the Encounters sector will present work not only inside the fair but in one of the public hearts of Hong Kong, with a monumental installation at Pacific Place. After an extended period apart, the opportunity to activate Encounters in a truly civic space, accessible to all the Hong Kong community, feels especially important. Every project in this year's sector considers in some way how we can hold space – how we might be present – individually and collectively in the singularity and precarity of this moment,' says Glass-Kantor.

Highlights from Encounters include:

- **Trevor Yeung's** 'Mr. Cuddles Under the Eave' (2021), in which the artist continues his practice of personifying botanic ecology and inanimate objects to articulate the complexities of human emotion and relationships. Presented by Blindspot Gallery.
- 'Trolley Party' (2023), a site-specific work by **Jaffa Lam** consisting of 14 meters of patchwork made from recycled and found everyday fabrics and emerging from six chairs made of industrial trollies. Inspired by Lam's childhood memory of women workers, the installation invites visitors to enter its serene interior. Presented by Axel Vervoordt Gallery with Zilberman Gallery.
- Masked mannequin sculptures in 'Solitude of Silences' (2017-2019) by **Gimhongsok**, portraying laborers who compose the majority of modern urban populations and represent an uncertainty over the value of labor. Presented by Kukje Gallery.
- The marble installation 'The Wine Dark Sea' (2022-2023) by Ukrainian artist **Stanislava Pinchuk**, on migrant journeys and conceptions of hospitality. Presented by Yavuz Gallery.
- **Carlos Aires's** 'Like Tears in the Rain' (2023), a sculptural installation made with scrupulously shredded decommissioned Euro banknotes: a topography of money, in the form of a bizarre landscape. Presented by Sabrina Amrani.
- **Inga Svala Thórsdóttir** and **Wu Shanzhuan's** 'Constellation Forest' (2018), which invites visitors to stroll and dwell on the show floor within a 'grove' of arched wooden forms resembling the vaults of a church. Presented by Hanart TZ Gallery.
- **For the first time, Encounters will present a project offsite beyond the fair, with a premiere monumental installation by Los Angeles-based conceptual artist Awol Erizku in Hong Kong's Pacific Place.** Presented by Ben Brown Fine Arts and supported by Swire Properties, Official Partner of off-site Encounters.

For the full list of artists and galleries presenting in Encounters, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/encounters

Conversations

Taking place at the HKCEC from March 22–25, Conversations – curated by Stephanie Bailey, writer, editor, and Art Basel Content Advisor and Editor, Asia – creates a platform for dynamic dialogues between members of the international artworld, who offer their unique perspectives on producing, collecting and exhibiting art. Highlights from the program include:

- The future of the biennale with **Hoor Al Qasimi, Binna Choi, Shubigi Rao, ruangrupa, and Adeena Mey.**
- Synergies between public and private patronage with **Nadia and Rajeeb Samdani and Michael Govan.**
- Navigating multipolarity from an institutional perspective with **Philip Tinari, Mami Kataoka, Nikita Yingqian Cai, Aaron Cezar, Aya Al-Bakree and Christopher K. Ho.**
- Reflections on solidarity beyond feminism with curators **Mia Yu and Azar Mahmoudian** and artists **Jaffa Lam, Kresiah Mukwazhi, and Kawita Vatanajyankur.**
- Representing contemporary art from Africa in Hong Kong with gallerists **Baylon Sandri and Dolly Kola-Balogun** and artists **Wallen Mapondera and Victor Ehikhamenor.**
- Exploring Cantopop's influence in the work of **Sin Wai Kin, Ming Wong, and Rainbow Chan.**

Three talks will take place ahead of the fair, including:

- A group session on humor and critique with meme-makers **Jerry Gogosian**, **Freeze Magazine**, and **The White Pub**
- A report on the futures of crypto economies hosted in collaboration with Art Dubai's Global Art Forum, moderated by **Shumon Basar**.
- A talk in collaboration with the School of Modern Languages, University of Hong Kong exploring the influence of architecture in the work of **Stanley Wong**.

Conversations is free for all. Further details will be announced closer to the fair.

Film

Curated by multi-media artist and film producer **Li Zhenhua**, the Film program will feature eight screenings and 29 video works by artists from across the globe, including **Mónica de Miranda**, **Angela Su**, **Tromarama**, and **Shen Xin**, among others. **Videotage** and **Ghost 2565** – two important non-profit organizations that focus on video art in the region – will each curate a screening.

The Film program will launch with a special screening of 'MEMORIA' by Palme-D'or-winning director **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** at Theatre II, HKCEC on March 22. Set in Colombia, 'MEMORIA' is Weerasethakul's first feature made outside Thailand. Starring Academy Award winner Tilda Swinton, the special screening spotlights Weerasethakul's achievements in his filmmaking career.

As part of the short film screenings, Ghost 2565 will present Weerasethakul's contemporary art practice in the form of a short film on March 25 at Louis Koo Cinema, Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Additional short film program highlights include:

- 'Runaway Girls' by **Inci Eviner**, which explores the dreams and fears of girls who have either chosen to run away or were forced to leave their communities, living on the edge of society. Presented by Dirimart.
- '45th Parallel,' a recent work by **Lawrence Abu Hamdan** that investigates the history and mythology of the Haskell Free Library and Opera House. Presented by mor charpentier.

The short film program is held at the Louis Koo Cinema of the Hong Kong Arts Centre.

The Film program is free to the public. Further details will be announced closer to the fair.

Kabinett

15 galleries will participate in Kabinett, the sector for thematic solo presentations within galleries' main booths, with a strong focus on Asia.

Highlights from this year's sector include:

- A body of work illustrating research conducted between the mid-1950s to mid-1960s by Art Informel master **Hans Hartung**. Presented by Mazzoleni.
- Works on paper by celebrated Indonesian artist **Agus Suwage**, entitled 'Siraman Duniawi,' that investigate multifarious notions of identity from the perspective of ancient Hindu-Buddhist culture. Presented by ROH Projects.
- The late Hong Kong ink artist **Wesley Tongson**'s spiritual journey and artistic path featuring the artist's splash ink and monumental landscape paintings created with his hands, fingers, and nails, where he poured his bold and raw emotions directly on the paper – a form of liberation for Tongson. Presented by Galerie du Monde.

- **Hu Qingyan's** 'World of Silence,' a series of marble works that continue the theme of 'emptiness' that the artist has been exploring in recent years. Presented by Galerie Urs Meile.
- A survey of works by **Rasheed Araeen** that spans from the artist's early portraiture drawings to the minimalistic sculptures for which he is widely known. Presented by Rossi & Rossi.
- A selection of works by **Martin Margiela**, similar to those in his touring museum show now at the LOTTE Museum of Art in Seoul, including a torso sculpture and film dust painting. Presented by Zeno X Gallery.

For the full list of artists and galleries presenting in Kabinett, please visit artbasel.com/hongkong/kabinett

'Hand Me Your Trust' by Pipilotti Rist

Commissioned by M+ and supported by Art Basel and UBS, 'Hand Me Your Trust' is a brand-new site-specific moving image work by **Pipilotti Rist** for the M+ Facade. The facade is set within the undulating architectures of Hong Kong's world-famous skyline along Victoria Harbour. Presented in the hustle and bustle of a city with millions of inhabitants, the work incorporates Rist's typically vivid color palettes and freeform camera work, echoing the dynamic shifts of scale of Hong Kong's urban landscape.

Rist approaches the concept of the hand from a variety of scales, mirroring the dynamics of the city itself from an intimate human scale, to one that is the size of a building. As the hands weave and chart a path around various objects at varying velocities, Rist takes on not only Hong Kong's design and architecture heritage, but also the individual hands that sculpted, placed, and forged these ubiquitous forms into being. For Rist, her work looks at hands not only as working and creating, but also ornamentally: our hands can be beautiful extensions of our emotions, to communicate with other living beings without words. The work will be shown on M+ Facade daily from 7 to 9pm from March 18 to May 21 and every Saturday and Sunday from 7 to 9pm from 22 May to 17 June 2023.

Cultural Partners

Art Basel continues to offer specifically designed and constructed booths to a network of Hong Kong's non-profit institutions, including 1a Space; Asia Art Archive; Asian Cultural Council; Asia Society; Hong Kong Arts Centre; Hong Kong Art Gallery Association; CHAT – Centre of Heritage, Art and Textile; HK Open Printshop; and Para Site. This year, Art Basel will extend the support to local universities, including HKU University Museum & Art Gallery, Academy of Visual Arts, HKBU, and Art Museum of CUHK.

Museum Shows and Institutions

During Art Basel Hong Kong 2023, visitors will have the opportunity to explore the rich and vibrant programming and exhibitions presented by the city's leading museums and cultural institutions. Institutions and programming include:

- **1a space**
'Bon Voyage'
- **Asia Art Archive**
'The Collective School'
- **Asia Society Hong Kong Center**
'Fire'
- **CHAT (Center of Heritage, Arts and Textile)**
'Clouds, Power and Ornament – Roving Central Asia'

'Patternways: Visualizing Hong Kong in Transition'
'Welcome to the Spinning Factory!'

- **M+**
'Yayoi Kusama: 1945 to Now'
'Beeple: HUMAN ONE'
'Hong Kong: Here and Beyond'
'M+ Sigg Collection: From Revolution to Globalisation'
'Individuals, Networks, Expressions'
'Things, Spaces, Interactions'
'The Dream of the Museum'
- **Hong Kong Arts Centre**
'FILL IN THE BLANK'
'Strelnikov's Glasses and Other Stories by The Society of the Spectacles'
- **Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre**
'Museum of Hands'
- **Hong Kong Museum of Art**
'Angel Hui Hoi-kiu Make a Wish: A Site-Specific Art Installation'
'By the People: Creative Chinese Characters'
'Freezing Water: Being Between Here and There'
'In-Between'
'The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Joan Miró – The Poetry of Everyday Life'
'Zheng Chongbin A 10,000-Year View: A Site-specific Art Installation'
- **Oil Street Art Space**
'Choi Sai-ho – Hush-Rush'
'Lu Yang – DOKU Hong Kong Experience Center'
'Nadim Abbas – Ventriloquists' Stone'
'Joyful Tress (Arbores Laetae)'
- **Tai Kwun Contemporary Art**
'Myth Makers – Spectrosynthesis III'
- **Videotage**
'Foundation – a Web3 Media Art Festival'

NOTES TO EDITORS

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, Hong Kong, and Paris. 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 Intersections: The Art Basel Podcast. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Partners

UBS & Contemporary Art

Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, UBS has a long history of supporting contemporary art and artists. The firm has one of the world's most important corporate art collections and seeks to advance the international conversation about the art market through its global lead partnership with Art Basel, and as co-publisher of the 'Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report'. UBS also supports some of the world's most important arts institutions, events and fairs. UBS provides its clients with insight into the art market, collecting, and legacy planning through its UBS Collectors Circle and UBS Art Advisory. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel's **Associate Partner** is Audemars Piguet, whose contemporary art commissioning program, 'Audemars Piguet Contemporary', works with artists to support and develop an unrealized artwork which explores a new direction in their practice. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW, La Prairie, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, and On.

Art Basel's show in Hong Kong is also supported by Hong Kong Tourism Board, The Macallan, The Peninsula, Quintessentially, Rosewood Hong Kong, Shangri-La Group, and Swire Properties. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information about partnerships, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Important Dates for Media

Preview (by invitation only)

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 12noon to 8pm
Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 12noon to 5pm
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 12noon to 2pm
Friday, March 24, 2023, 12noon to 2pm
Saturday, March 25, 2023, 11am to 12noon

Vernissage

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 5pm to 9pm

Public Days

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 2pm to 8pm
Friday, March 24, 2023, 2pm to 8pm
Saturday, March 25, 2023, 12noon to 6pm

Press accreditation:

Online registration for press accreditation for the Hong Kong show is now open. For further information, please visit artbasel.com/accreditation.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Hong Kong, March 23-25, 2023
Basel, June 15-18, 2023
Paris+ par Art Basel, October 19-22, 2023
Miami Beach, December 7-9, 2023

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, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel or follow [@artbasel](https://instagram.com/artbasel) on Instagram, Twitter, Weibo, and WeChat.

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