

Art | Basel

Hong Kong

PRESS RELEASE

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Art Basel concludes a resonant 2023 edition in Hong Kong amid reports of vigorous sales and strong attendance, attesting to the continued reinvigoration of Hong Kong's cultural scene and its pivotal role as the gateway to the Asian art market

- **Art Basel Hong Kong 2023 closed on Saturday, March 25, 2023, following a week of strong sales to collectors from Asia and beyond and discoveries of new artistic talents**
- **The largest edition since 2019, the fair attracted an international attendance of 86,000 across the five show days**
- **Visitors also had the opportunity to experience Hong Kong's vibrant cultural scene and dynamic programming across its cultural institutions – including the recently opened M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum**
- **In addition to 177 booth presentations by participating galleries, the show welcomed back all its special sectors, including Encounters – dedicated to monumental installations – as well as Kabinett, Film and Conversations**
- **Art Basel, whose Global Lead Partner is UBS, took 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**

Art Basel concluded the 2023 edition of its Hong Kong show, which was marked by brisk sales throughout the week and across all levels of the market, and a celebration of its ten-year anniversary in the city and its ever-flourishing arts scene. **Staged across two floors of the HKCEC for the first time since 2019, the show brought together 177 galleries from across the world – a significant increase from 130 galleries in 2022 – and saw the return of all special sectors, including Encounters, Film, Kabinett, and Conversations.** 42 galleries rejoined the fair following a hiatus during the pandemic, while 22 galleries made their debut at the fair. For the first time, Encounters extended beyond the show floor, showcasing a large-scale inflatable sculpture of King Tut by Awol Erizku in Hong Kong's Pacific Place. The work was presented by Ben Brown Fine Arts and supported by Swire Properties, Official Partner of off-site Encounters.

Leading private collectors from 70 countries and territories attended the fair and explored the city's diverse cultural offerings, as did **museum directors, curators, and patrons** from over 100 international museums and institutions, including: Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; M+, Hong Kong; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art Australia; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul; Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai; Serpentine Galleries, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York; Tate, London; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and The Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

Deepening its commitment to showcase the breadth of exceptional art from across Asia and the Asia Pacific, the fair featured **over two-thirds of participating galleries with exhibition spaces in the region**, including 33 galleries having exhibition spaces in Hong Kong. Galleries from mainland China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan continued to have a

strong presence at the show, while galleries from India and Southeast Asia also presented compelling booths that attracted fair visitors.

Beyond the HKCEC, Hong Kong residents and international visitors enjoyed **Pipilotti Rist's site-specific moving image work 'Hand Me Your Trust'** projected on the façade of M+, commissioned by M+ and supported by Art Basel and UBS. The façade was set within the undulating architectures of Hong Kong's world-famous skyline along Victoria Harbour and incorporated Rist's typically vivid color palettes and freeform camera work, echoing the dynamic shifts of scale of Hong Kong's urban landscape.

Additional public programming included the **Film program at the Hong Kong Arts Centre**, featuring 29 video works curated by multimedia artist and producer Li Zhenhua, as well as special screenings curated by Videotage and Ghost 2565, two important non-profit video art organizations in Asia. **Conversations**, curated by author and editor Stephanie Bailey, featured **15 roundtable discussions and more than 85 speakers** on topics such as art and mental health, solidarity beyond feminism, art after Sinofuturism, Cantopop and performance, and many more. Both Film and Conversations were free to the public.

'This was our first show since Hong Kong lifted all pandemic measures, and the excitement and energy in the halls – and across the city – were extraordinary,' says **Angelle Siyang-Le, Director, Art Basel Hong Kong**. 'We are truly grateful for the commitment of our galleries and the art community here in Hong Kong, which has wholeheartedly pulled out all the stops to offer visitors a vibrant cultural program, morning to night and all week long. More than ever before, our show reinforces its pivotal role in the region, uniquely bridging the arts scenes across Asia and beyond.'

'This week marked Hong Kong's grand reopening after three years of pandemic-related challenges, with our show reaffirming its position as the apex cultural moment in the region,' says **Noah Horowitz, CEO, Art Basel**. 'Collectors from Hong Kong, mainland China, across Asia, and further afield came out in force, and it is truly exciting to witness the extraordinary growth and vitality of the local art scene, bolstered by a new generation of collectors and the opening of world-class institutions. Once again, Hong Kong demonstrated its uncontested position as the leading art market hub in Asia and its critical importance within the global trade.'

Galleries across all regions commented on their return to or debut at the fair:

'The mood in Hong Kong is ebullient, and you can feel everywhere the energy that's flowing with the easing of COVID restrictions. The first day of the fair was a vivid reminder that there is simply no substitute for being together in person with Asia's community of wonderfully informed, sophisticated collectors, curators, and patrons. We are delighted that we have placed truly exceptional works on the opening day of Art Basel Hong Kong with highly respected public and private collections in the region.'

Marc Payot, President, Hauser & Wirth (Hong Kong, Ciutadella de Menorca, Gstaad, St. Moritz, Zurich, London, Somerset, Los Angeles, New York)

'We took part in the fair for the first time and are thrilled to say we sold out our booth at the end of the first day. We have placed our exhibiting artist in some incredible foundations and private collections. There was a palpable energy in the air, and people are really glad to be back. We were also pleased to finally have met people in person with whom prior to the fair we'd only communicated with digitally. We've met new contacts from Hong Kong and mainland China but also from Korea, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, and Bangladesh. We've also connected with several people in London who we'd never actually met.'

Grace Schofield, Co-Director, Union Pacific (London)

‘There was an energetic air of excitement in Hong Kong this week: Art Basel Hong Kong was rewardingly busy, and we were delighted to see our clients here after a three-year break. It was also a celebration of exceptional museum and gallery activity in the city. M+ is a revelation: an outstanding new museum that raises the bar in terms of architecture and curatorial rigor. This has exponentially expanded the impact of this week both locally and internationally.’

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

‘This is the first time I saw all of my A-list clients back in Hong Kong at the same time, together with important institutional visitors and members of the general public. We met many new Chinese collectors from the Greater Bay Area and beyond, expanding our networks and welcoming friends back to Hong Kong. Collectors have become more cultivated and discerning in what they buy, which is reflected in the robust sales that we generated throughout the week. Overall, it’s been a thrilling week, and the excitement is palpable across the whole city.’

Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, CEO and Co-founder, Ora-Ora (Hong Kong)

‘Pi Artworks has been part of Art Basel Hong Kong since its inaugural edition. Having experienced its growth in the past ten years, it is no surprise that coming out of COVID, this edition has been so vibrant. We have placed our works with new collections in Korea, and we caught up with our existing audience and met a whole new younger generation of collectors and art patrons. It has been so fulfilling to come back to Hong Kong.’

Jade Y. Turanli, Founder and Director, Pi Artworks (Istanbul, London)

‘Art Basel Hong Kong has returned full steam. Catching up with old friends and meeting new faces has truly added to the buzz and excitement at the fair this week. It was great to see positive interest and engagement with the three Malaysian artists showcased at our booth.’

Richard Koh, Founder, Richard Koh Fine Art (Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok)

‘We were delighted to celebrate the revival of the Hong Kong art scene with Art Basel coming back to its full force. The participation and enthusiasm across nations and generations in the fair venue and throughout the city were unparalleled. We received fantastic interest in our presentation, which demonstrates LGDR’s extensive expertise across genre and geography. We are excited to have placed exceptional works with individual collectors and institutions, including the incredible “S.2122” by Beeple, which now sits in the permanent collection of Deji Art Museum in Nanjing, China.’

Rebecca Wei, Co-founder and Chairman, LGDR & Wei, LGDR (New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong)

‘Having experienced the past few years a surreal scene in Hong Kong, we are glad that the city’s art scene is filled up with energy and good vibes again. The week was a tremendous success for the gallery with strong sales for our artists showcased in our booth being acquired by several institutions and private collectors. We were happy to reconnect with our collectors from mainland China, Southeast Asia, US and Europe. Undoubtedly, Hong Kong continues to be the key meeting point for the international art world, and Art Basel Hong Kong has played a very important role in it.’

Vivian Har, Executive Director Hong Kong, Tang Contemporary Art (Beijing, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul)

For the full list of statements from galleries, please click [here](#).

Cultural Partners

Art Basel continued to offer specifically designed booths to a network of Hong Kong’s non-profit institutions, including 1a Space; Asia Art Archive; Asian Cultural Council; 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 also extended the support to local universities, including HKU University Museum & Art Gallery; Academy of Visual Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University; and the Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum.

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.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Basel, June 15–18, 2023

Paris+ par Art Basel, October 19–22, 2023

Miami Beach, December 7–9, 2023

Hong Kong, March, 2024

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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.

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