

Focus on traditional and contemporary Chinese art

Hong Kong's galleries are rising to the occasion by bringing in a wide range of media in addition to paintings and sculptures. The old guard of art in Hong Kong is the Hollywood Road Chinese antiques shops that established a reputation as a reliable source for authentic Asian treasures. Among them now are contemporary galleries showing local, Asian and Western art.

Among the 233 premier galleries from 37 countries and territories that comprise Art Basel Hong Kong at the Convention and Exhibition Centre from Sunday to Tuesday, art lovers and collectors are encouraged to seek out the 20 Hong Kong galleries represented for a glimpse of the lively local art scene.

People can see the works of selected artists from these curators and gallery owners, and they can visit the local galleries to see special exhibitions around town. Galleries not participating in Art Basel are also hosting exhibitions and special events.

There are two main types of art galleries in Hong Kong. There are galleries owned and operated by local Chinese and expats, and other galleries that are branches of international names from New York, London, Paris and China. Where Hong Kong galleries once specialised in modern and contemporary Chinese art, many are now creating exhibitions of Western art and artists as well as supporting artists from around Asia.

Well-known Hong Kong galleries include 10 Chancery Lane, multicultural experimental art; Alisan, Chinese ink; Blindspot, photography; Gallery EXIT, Chinese and Asian; Gandhara Art, Pakistani art; Grotto Fine Art, showing Hong Kong artists only; Hanart TZ, one of the oldest and finest supporters of Hong Kong and Chinese art; Anna Ning Fine Art, specialising in modern or 20th



century Chinese art; Galerie Ora-Ora, Asian contemporary art; Osage, vast mixed media, performance and installations, mostly Asian; and Pearl Lam Galleries from Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore, providing experimental, non-commercial and fine art spaces.

In addition to the Art Basel Hong Kong booth, the Pearl Lam Galleries and Hongkong Land are presenting a public exhibition of Zhu Jinshi's monumental 12-metre installation, *Boat*, comprising bamboo, cotton and 8,000 sheets of xuan (rice) paper in The Rotunda of Exchange Square. Wide enough for two people to walk through, this long, round, fluttering creation embraces the viewer and provides a new environment inside the structure.

Gallery EXIT will present Lui Chun Kwong's solo exhibition, "Commas after Period: LUI Chun Kwong Yi Liu Painting Factory", at Art Basel Hong Kong. The exhibition will illustrate his strong personality over the past two decades in terms of his art practice and his influence as a venerated artist. He is also a mentor and a teacher of rising local artists and a key figure in the development of contemporary art in Hong Kong. The Chinese University art professor taught many of the artists living and working in Fo Tan.

Grotto Fine Art is presenting five Hong Kong artists, Hung Fai,

Wai Pongyu, Koon Wai-bong, Chui Pui-chee and Wong Yee-ki in the group exhibition, "Beyond Representation: Hong Kong's New Ink Movement". Each artist's interpretation of ink through representational and expressive intention challenges the role and definition of Chinese ink art in the 21st century. The aesthetics of ink is embedded in Chinese history and the medium is the bedrock of all pictorial art forms, from printmaking through calligraphy to painting.

Ink art has been the manifestation of scholarly pursuit throughout Chinese history. In modern times, it has even assumed an indigenously political, cultural and national identity.

The outposts of the international galleries mostly bring in art from Europe or the United States, but they also often have Chinese and Asian artists among the artists they support. Galleries such as Gagosian, White Cube, Pace, Galerie Perrotin, Edouard Malingue, Lehmann Maupin, Simon Lee, de Sarthe and Ben Brown bring their panache and international artists to town regularly, in addition to hosting booths at Art Basel HK.

The Lehmann Maupin Gallery is showing Alex Prager's debut exhibition in Hong Kong. Continuing her exploration of the psychological experiences of crowds and individuals within them, Prager will exhibit five new, large-scale photographs and video work.

Celebrated for her meticulously constructed, theatrical and richly cinematic images, the Los Angeles-based artist is inspired by diverse influences, from popular culture to street photography and the cinematic history of Hollywood. The artist is interested in the ways in which audiences perceive and experience the pervasive cultural power of Hollywood films.



Pearl Lam Galleries and Hongkong Land present Zhu Jinshi's installation, *Boat*.



Osage Gallery presents 'Zhao Zhao: Wood Block' - mixed media (salvaged industrial wood and metal) installations