

Art|Basel Hong Kong

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT ART BASEL IN HONG KONG

Convention Center and Exhibition Space

Art Basel takes place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), Hong Kong SAR, China

34,782m² square meters of show space host the Galleries, Insights, Discoveries, Encounters and Film, Conversations and Magazines sectors.

Visitor figures

In 2013 the show attracted an attendance of over 60,000 over five days.

In 2014 the show attracted an attendance of 65,000 over five days.

In 2015 the show attracted an attendance of over 60,000 over five days (slightly less than in the previous year when the show was open to the public for one day longer)

In 2016 the show attracted an attendance of over 70,000 over five days.

In 2017 the show attracted an attendance of nearly 80,000 over five days.

In 2018 the show attracted an attendance of 80,000 over five days.

In 2019 the show attracted an attendance of 88,000 over five days.

Historic landmarks

2011

Art Basel announces that MCH Swiss Exhibition (Basel) Ltd. Has signed a purchase agreement with Asian Art Fairs Ltd, the owners of ART HK, and as of July 1, 2011, took a majority ownership stake in Asian Art Fairs Ltd.

2013

A premier roster of galleries launched Art Basel's first edition in Hong Kong, with 245 leading galleries from 35 countries and territories, bringing together the strongest ever combination of high-quality works from East and West. With over 50 percent of galleries having exhibition spaces in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, Art Basel underlined its deep commitment to the region.

2014

Art Basel's second edition in Hong Kong, the first with UBS as Lead Partner, presented a premier line-up of 245 galleries with exhibition spaces in 39 countries and territories across the world. The show was accompanied by a strong public program, including the Asian debut of Art Basel's popular Film sector – a three-day program of 49 films by 41 artists, represented by 31 galleries participating in the fair. The public opening of the show was marked with a special audio-visual installation 'α (alpha) pulse' by the internationally renowned German artist Carsten Nicolai. Commissioned by Art Basel, the artwork generated light patterns pulsating across the entire façade of Hong Kong's iconic 490-meter high International Commerce Centre (ICC).

2015

The 2015 show was the first to take place in March presenting 233 galleries with exhibition spaces in 37 countries and territories and attracting collectors from across the world. 20 leading galleries and many collectors from Europe and the United States attended the show for the first time.

Curated for the first time by Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney, the 2015 edition of Encounters presented 20 large-scale sculptural installations.

Art Basel and BMW presented the first iteration of the BMW Art Journey, a joint initiative to recognize and support emerging artists worldwide. Three artists showing in Discoveries were shortlisted: Mika Tajima with Eleven Rivington (New York), Trevor Yeung with Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong) and Samson Young with am space (Hong Kong).

In 2015, Art Basel and the International Commerce Centre (ICC) worked with renowned Chinese artist Cao Fei to present the work. 'Same Old, Brand New', which referenced video games from the 1980.

2016

Art Basel's fourth edition in Hong Kong presented 239 galleries with exhibition spaces in 35 countries and territories. 28 galleries exhibited at Art Basel in Hong Kong this year for the first time. Internationally acclaimed Japanese artist Tatsuo Miyajima collaborated with Art Basel and Hong Kong's iconic 490 meter high International Commerce Centre (ICC) to present 'Time Waterfall'.

During the show Art Basel and BMW announced the second shortlist selected from the Discoveries sector: Abigail Reynolds with Rokeby (London), Newsha Tavakoljan with Thomas Erben Gallery (New York) and Alvin Zafra with Artinformal (Mandaluyong City).

2017

The 2017 show featured 242 galleries from 34 countries. 29 galleries took part for the first time. Kabinett, a new addition to the show, featured 19 precisely curated exhibitions, ranging from thematic group presentations to solo shows.

During the show, Art Basel and UBS released the first Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report, which analyses today's international art market. Written by cultural economist Dr Clare McAndrew, Founder of Arts Economics, it covers macro-economic trends within the industry, spanning the dealer and auction markets, as well as online sales.

2018

The sixth edition of Art Basel's show in Hong Kong featured 248 premier galleries from 32 countries and territories, with 28 galleries participating in the show for the first time.

Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney, once again curated Encounters this year comprising, 12 large-scale installations by both emerging and established artists.

Together with Art Basel, BMW announced the new shortlist for the BMW Art Journey: Ali Kazim (Jhaveri Contemporary), Zac Langdon-Pole (Michael Lett) and Gala Porras-Kim (Commonwealth and Council)

2019

The 2019 edition featured 242 premier galleries from 35 countries and territories. 21 galleries participated in the show for the first time, with nine premier galleries from the United States and Europe joining the main sector of the show for the first time, while the graduation of five galleries from the Asia-Pacific region into the main sector demonstrated the strengthening of Asia's position in the fair.

Together with Art Basel, BMW announced the new shortlist for the BMW Art Journey: Lu Yang (Société), Shen Xin (Madeln Gallery), and Clarissa Tossin (Commonwealth and Council)

2020

Following the severe outbreak of the novel coronavirus, Art Basel and MCH made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 edition of Art Basel Hong Kong. The next edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong will take place from March 25-27, 2021.

Art Basel launched the Online Viewing Rooms, the new digital initiative will run in parallel to the shows – rather than replacing the physical experience of an art fair – and will allow gallerists to showcase additional curated exhibitions of works not presented at the fair. For its first iteration, however, the concept has been adapted to allow exhibitors to present works intended for the cancelled Art Basel Hong Kong 2020. All galleries that were accepted to the 2020 Hong Kong show were invited to participate at no cost for the first edition.

The inaugural edition of Art Basel's Online Viewing Rooms featured presentations by 235 galleries and more than 2,000 works. Over the course of seven days, the first iteration attracted more than 250,000 visitors from around the globe, allowing galleries to meet and engage with new collectors during this challenging time, as well as reconnecting with existing clients via the platform.

As of April 2020

Art | Basel

Hong Kong

ART BASEL'S SHOW SECTORS IN HONG KONG

Galleries

The Galleries sector presents around 180 of the world's leading Modern and contemporary art galleries – displaying paintings, sculptures, drawings, installations, photographs, film, video and digital artworks from the 20th and 21st centuries from Asia and the West. Galleries applying for this sector must be at least three years old, and are selected on the basis of their overall program.

Insights

Insights presents projects developed specifically for the Hong Kong show. Exhibiting galleries must be based in Asia or the Asia-Pacific region - from Turkey to New Zealand, including the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent - exclusively present works by artists of Asian origin at the fair. Solo shows, exceptional art-historical material, and thematic exhibitions of two or more artists are selected on the strength of the proposed project.

Discoveries

Discoveries gives a global platform to emerging contemporary artists from all over the world and showcases work by the next generation of talent at an early stage in their career. Galleries present an exhibition of work by either one or two artists from their gallery program, preferably new and created specifically for the show.

Kabinett

Kabinett sector galleries are chosen from the Galleries sector to present curated exhibitions in a separately delineated space within their booths. The curatorial concepts for Kabinett are diverse, including thematic group exhibitions, art-historical showcases and solo shows, presented by exhibitors from Asia, Europe and the United States.

Encounters

Dedicated to presenting large-scale sculpture and installation works by leading artists from around the world, Encounters provides visitors with the opportunity to see works that transcend the traditional art fair stands. Encounters presents these works in prominent locations throughout the exhibition halls by galleries also exhibiting in the Galleries, Insights or Discoveries sectors of the fair.

Magazines

Art publications from around the world display their magazines in single-magazine stands or the collective booth. Editors and publishers are often present at the show and many magazines contribute presentations to our Salon series, a schedule of presentations, lectures, and discussions by a range of speakers.

Film

Art Basel's Film sector in Hong Kong will comprise a 3-day program by and about artists. The screenings will take place in the agnès b. CINEMA at the nearby Hong Kong Arts Centre. The program will be presented by Beijing- and Zurich- based curator, multi-media artist and producer Li Zhenhua.

Art | Basel

Hong Kong

CURATORS OF SHOW SECTORS IN HONG KONG

Art Basel invites internationally recognized experts in particular spheres of the art world to curate the Encounters, Film and Conversations sectors in Hong Kong.

ENCOUNTERS

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 throughout her career, Alexie Glass-Kantor has held programming and curatorial roles at organizations including SITE Santa Fe Biennial, New Mexico; Magazzino D'arte Moderna, Rome; National University of Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; 12th Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Adelaide; Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne; Iberia Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and the Melbourne International Arts Festival and MONA/FOMA, Melbourne.

FILM

Li Zhenhua

Since 1996, Li Zhenhua has been active as a multi-media artist, curator and producer for international and Chinese contemporary culture. He is the founder and director of Beijing Art Lab, a virtual and physical platform for art, research, and exchange. Since 2010 he has been the nominator for the Summer Academy at the Zentrum Paul Klee Bern (Switzerland), as well as for The Prix Pictet (Switzerland). Li Zhenhua is a member of the international advisory board for the exhibition 'Digital Revolution' to be held at the Barbican Centre in the United Kingdom in 2014. As artistic director, he recently curated 'The 3rd Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale' and oversaw the opening exhibition of A4 Art Museum in Chengdu (China) in April 2017.

CONVERSATIONS

Stephanie Bailey

Stephanie Bailey is a writer and editor from Hong Kong. She is the Editor-in-Chief of Ocula Magazine, a contributing editor to Art Papers and LEAP, and a member of the Naked Punch editorial committee. She writes regularly for Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art and was formerly Senior Editor of Ibraaz, a publishing platform focused on visual culture in and around North Africa and the Middle East.

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Hong Kong

SELECTION COMMITTEE IN HONG KONG

Each Art Basel show has its own selection committee, a panel consisting of esteemed international gallerists. During a very intensive process, each applicant is thoroughly reviewed by the relevant selection committee according to strict standards for excellence established by Art Basel. Each year is a new opportunity for galleries to participate; every applicant undergoes the identical review process and is given the same consideration, whether they have previously applied or shown at Art Basel, or not.

New committee members are appointed by Art Basel's Director. Although there is no set term, they generally serve for five to ten years.

The Selection Committee in Hong Kong consists of:

Massimo De Carlo, Massimo De Carlo, Milan, London, Hong Kong
Emi Eu, STPI, Singapore
David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, Seoul
Urs Meile, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Beijing
Atsuko Ninagawa, Take Ninagawa, Tokyo
Bo Young Song, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, Busan
Zhang Wei, Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou, Beijing

The Selection Committee in Hong Kong is supported by a team of experts advising on individual sectors.

Experts for the Discoveries and Insights sector:

Jun Tirtadji, ROH Projects, Jakarta
Simon Wang, Antenna Space, Shanghai
Vanessa Carlos, Carlos/Ishikawa, London