



**FOR ARTS' SAKE:** Since its inauguration in 2008, ART HK has attracted a rich mix of international galleries, collectors, curators, and museum directors, making it the major destination art fair in Asia. This year, it will be held on May 17-20 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

## THE DISNEYLAND FOR ART LOVERS

**SUNSHINE LICHAUCO DE LEON** shares tidbits on Asia's hottest art fair.

If you love contemporary art but never seem to find the time to wander through the many art galleries of the world's major cities, then a visit to the annual Hong Kong International Art Fair (ART HK) is a dream come true.

With a record of 63,000 art lovers, collectors, gallery directors, artists, critics, and curators—from Asia, Europe, and the USA—coming to view works brought in from 260 galleries from 38 countries, ART HK 12 has secured its place as Asia's leading contemporary art fair.

By bringing together the world's most prestigious galleries and emerging artists, this five-day event offers art works of unparalleled diversity and an incredible opportunity for artists and art lovers to network. Having just finished its fourth year, ART HK 12 was recently purchased by the Swiss MCH Group,

owners of the world-famous Art Basel Miami Beach.

Last year, ART HK 11 was held on two floors of the enormous Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and was organized into three sections. The Galleries section showcased the "name brands" of the art world; Art Futures consisted of 45 of the world's best new galleries and showcased the work of emerging artists under the age of 35; and Asia One was dedicated to solo presentations by Asian galleries, from Turkey and the Middle East to Australia and Southeast Asia.

In particular, this fair is unique as it provides access to a wide array of Asian art, and 17 Filipino artists, represented by five different galleries, were among those forming a bridge to a wider world.

Milan- and Beijing-based Italian art gallery Primo Marella devoted their space solely to Ronald Ventura's painting, sculptures, and installations, whereas Korea's Arario Gallery dedicated one corner to the work of Geraldine Javier. Hong Kong's Osage Gallery has been trying to strengthen understanding of Filipino art in Hong Kong, and decided to show the work of Alvin Zafra, Poklong Anading, and Louie Cordero at its booth.

David Chan, director of Osage Gallery, has noticed an important change in the mindset of collectors,



### For Kids Too!

Children aged 5 and up can join the Colour My World program of ART HK 12 for marveling at works of local and international artists. After touring artwork hot spots, they can participate in ART Alive, a 45-minute physical immersion into the world of art.



**SHELL 'SHOCK':** The imperial purple paint used by the Romans in ancient times was made by crushing 4 million mollusks to get a pound of purple dye.





Self portrait by Yan Pei-Ming



'Don't Touch' by Liu Wei

which perhaps is fueling worldwide interest to international art fairs: "People used to just buy art from their own countries, but now more mature collectors collect whatever they like. And there are more choices out there. It's a good change because art has no boundaries and is happening everywhere."

Believing that this art fair offers an incredibly unique opportunity for the world to learn more about Filipino art, two Manila

galleries have participated in the fair since its first year.

Silverlens featured the work of Patricia Eustaquio, Mariano Ching, Elaine Navas, Nona Garcia, Luis Lorenzana, and Frankie Callaghan, and the Drawing Room featured a selection of sculpture, paintings, and installations by Alfredo Aquilizan, Diokno Pasilan, Mark Salvatus, Roderico Jose Daroy, Kawayan de Guia, Riel Hilario, and Troy Ignacio.

Many Filipino art collectors also attended ART HK 11, taking advantage of the opportunity to get exposed to what is happening in the international and regional art scenes. As Silverlens gallery owner Rachel Rillo says, "There is a big world of artists just an hour away from us. And to be able to see so many big galleries and new artists in a matter of days is wonderful. This is Disneyland for art lovers."



PAL flies between Manila and Hong Kong five times daily. Swingaround tour packages are also available. For more information, call PAL reservations office at (+632) 855 8888 or visit [www.philippineairlines.com](http://www.philippineairlines.com)



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