

ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

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Takashi Murakami at
Mori Art Museum

Ai Weiwei Collecting
LEGO

Aishti Foundation
Beirut

Paris Photo

And in Other News...

Art Calendar Highlights



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Takashi Murakami at Mori Art Museum

Takashi Murakami, who is considered one of the most important Japanese artists living today, has a new exhibition at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo. Viola Raikhel-Bolot, Managing Director of 1858 Ltd attended the opening at the end of October and spoke with the artist and his gallerist Emmanuel Perrotin about the new works.

The eagerly anticipated show focuses on recent works, including Murakami's epic *The 500 Arhats* (2012), a 100-metre long painting of the 500 enlightened followers of Buddha created in response to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

Although Murakami, who coined the term "Superflat", is best-known for his character-based artworks inspired by the Japanese subculture of *otaku* (individuals obsessed with manga, anime and the Lolita complex), his new exhibition, also shows works which suggest a new artistic direction, such as the 2012 photographic work *Reborn*, where the artist is seen to be peeling an identical outside layer of himself from his own face.

For details of Viola Raikhel-Bolot's feature about the opening, please head to The Art Gorgeous. www.mori.art.museum

Ai Weiwei Collecting LEGO

Following the success of the Royal Academy's kickstarter campaign to fund the transport of Ai Weiwei's *Tree* sculptures to the UK, the Chinese artist is once again turning to the public for help.

This time, however, it's not money he is after, but Lego. As Lego refused to sell pieces in bulk to the artist for his upcoming artwork, suggesting him to acquire the famous bricks via the retail channels to avoid any unwished political controversy, Weiwei has announced that the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne will serve as the first stop in a series of international Lego collection points for the his latest project.

Initially, Weiwei wanted to create a Lego-rendered re-creation of his photographic triptych *Dropping of a Han Dynasty Urn*. However in view of the company's rejection to sell him pieces directly, Weiwei has taken the project in a new direction and has decided to make a work to defend freedom of speech and "political art".

Since the end of October, a red BMW sedan has been parked in the sculpture garden of the National Gallery and the public have been able to donate Lego pieces via the car's sunroof. The response has been overwhelming. The next collection point will be the Royal Academy in London.



Aishti Foundation Beirut

The Aishti Foundation, a 40,000 square-foot exhibition space in Jal-el-Dib, Lebanon, opened its doors to the public at the end of October. Created by Tony Salamé, the founder the Lebanese luxury department store chain Aishti, the foundation will exhibit a collection of over 2,000 pieces by around 150 artists, which Salamé and his wife, Elham, have acquired in the last 15 years, including works by Lucio Fontana, Glenn Ligon, Urs Fischer and Gerhard Richter amongst many others.

The inaugural show of 100 pieces, curated by the New Museum's Massimiliano Gioni, is called *New Skin*, after a work by the artist Alice Channer. Mr Gioni says the idea was "to look at abstraction today and to trace back the idea of information as both a theme and a technique."

As Beirut currently doesn't have a large contemporary art museum, the opening of the Aishti Foundation, designed by starchitect David Adjaye, was hugely anticipated. Mr Salamé hopes it will become a place where Lebanese art can be in dialogue with international contemporary art.

Salamé has admitted that the timing of the opening is not great as life

in Lebanon is currently strained. According to the Lebanese collector and businessman, the country has not had a president for two years, there is trash everywhere, there is no electricity and the foundation has to rely on private generators. Nevertheless, the show must go on.



Paris Photo

For its 19th Edition, Paris Photo was held in Paris earlier this month from November 12-15. The stunning Grand Palais building once again hosted galleries from around the world, presenting both historical and contemporary works. A very select group of publishers and art book dealers joined the 147 galleries from 34 different countries, providing a complete panorama of the photographic spectrum.

For the first time this year, a selection of galleries presented series and large formats in a new *Prismes* sector in the Salon d'Honneur. Moreover, the Paris-Photo Aperture Foundation PhotoBook Awards once again celebrated the photobook's contribution to the evolving narrative of photography. The exhibition included the shortlisted titles for PhotoBook of the Year, first PhotoBook and Photography Catalogue of the Year. Nominations included *Erasure* by Fazal Sheikh and *LDN EI* by Anthony Cairns.

Another highlight of this year's fair was the exhibition of Enea Righi's private collection, which included 1000 works of contemporary art from the 60s to today. A selection of works by artists such as Cy Twombly, Joan Jonas and Nan Goldin was also presented.

Given the news of the attacks in Paris, Paris Photo closed its doors two days earlier than initially planned for security reasons.



And in Other News...

- At the beginning of November, Christie's held an auction dedicated to presenting 120 lots of unique works and memorabilia from the Collection of Marie-Antoinette. Highlights included pieces by some of the most famous artists of the time, such as Maurice-Quentin de La Tour, Pierre-Philippe Thomire, Richard Mique and Claude-Louise du Châtelet.
- A photograph of the iceberg which sunk the Titanic, allegedly taken by the chief steward of Prinz Adalbert a day after the sinking of the unsinkable ship, was sold at auction for £21,000 at the end of October.
- Art Basel Hong Kong has released the names of the 231 galleries participating in its third edition. The galleries are from 37 countries with over half with spaces in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.
- A world record auction price was achieved for a piece of furniture by Jean Prouvé at the Artcurial Design Masterpieces sale this October. Prouvé's *Table Centrale* (1956) was sold to a US collector for €1,291,400.
- In February Christie's will auction works from the collection of Sting and his wife Trudie Styler. Works will include Ben Nicholson's *March 55 (amethyst)*, estimated at £300,000-500,000, Henri Matisse's 1947 *Jazz* portfolio, estimated at £250,000-350,000, and a 1949 Picasso lithograph *Le corsage à carreaux*, estimated at £30,000-50,000.
- Part of the A. Alfred Taubman Collection, one of the greatest collections of art in private hands, was sold at Sotheby's in New York. The Masterworks sale, which was held on November 4, totalled \$377,034,000 and included rare examples of Impressionist and Modern Art, such as Modigliani's *Paulette Jourdain*, which sold for \$42,810,000.

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How an 1858 advisor can help you:

- **Exclusive Access** to works of art in private collections that are not available on the market.
- **Impartial Advice** being independent of auction houses, galleries and dealers, we provide impartial advice when buying and selling on behalf of our client.
- **Time Savings** as we are able to manage all areas of the collecting process on our clients behalf, we are able to build or sell complete collections with as much or as little involvement from the client as they wish.
- **Direct Savings** due to our buying and negotiating capabilities we significantly reduce transactional charges which in turn we pass directly on to our client.

Art Calendar Highlights

Elizabeth Vigée Lebrun

23rd September 2015 to 11th January 2016

<http://www.grandpalais.fr/en/event/elisabeth-louise-vigee-le-brun->

Andrea del Sarto

Frick Collection

7th October 2015 to 10th January 2016

http://www.frick.org/exhibitions/del_sarto

Art Basel Miami Beach

3rd - 6th December 2015

<https://www.artbasel.com/miami-beach>

Biennale de Sao Paulo à Porto

Portugal, sélection d'oeuvres

2nd October 2015 to 17th January 2016

<http://www.bienal.org.br/evento.php?i=2298>

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"Text by Anne-Céline Jaeger for 1858 Limited"