

ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

MAY 2011 - Edition Twelve

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1858 Ltd International Art Advisory

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The 1858 Website is Relunched

1858 Ltd are proud to announce the relaunch of our website. The new website will feature a comprehensive Press and E Bulletin archive for reader's reference and up to date market reports of highlights in the international art market. www.1858ltd.com

Steve Cohen's Impressive Return on Vlaininck

In May of this year the art world looked towards the Impressionist and Modern sales in New York as a gauge of the market's strength for 2011. If the return that super collector and hedge fund manager Steve Cohen achieved on May 5th is anything to go by then the investment in quality art is thriving and so is the market for acclaimed and beautiful works of art.

Maurice Vlaininck's stunning Fauve work "Paysage de Banlieu" from 1905 sold at Christie's New York for \$22,482,500 (est. \$18-25 million). Steve Cohen had originally purchased the painting at Christie's New York in May 1994 for \$6,822,500. By all accounts, an impressive return.

Artist in Focus: Ai Weiwei

Born in Beijing in 1957, Ai Weiwei and his family were exiled from to the deserts of Xinjiang, far-western China because his father was deemed a dissident. Today, Ai Weiwei is the internationally recognised agent provocateur of contemporary Chinese art. Compelled by the ultimate goal of freedom of expression, thoughts and ideas, the Chinese conceptual artist, architect, photographer, and curator – loathed and loved for his human rights activism – is a courageous voice in China today. Earlier this year Ai Weiwei was arrested in China by

authorities and accused of unspecified economic crimes.

In the run up to the opening of Ai Weiwei's exhibition in London at Somerset House, on 14 April 2011 Gwyn Miles, Director of Somerset House Trust had the following to say about his detainment: "Ai Weiwei has chosen and approved the installation set up for Circle of Animals at Somerset House and the works have already been shipped to the UK. The sculptures will be installed as planned and Circle of Animals will open to the public on 12 May. We believe that more than ever, his work should be seen and appreciated by as many people as possible."

The widespread international campaign for Ai Weiwei's release can be seen on the side of London's Tate Modern reading "Release Ai Weiwei". The support for the artist is so strong among

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the artistic community and beyond that the sculptor Anish Kapoor has dedicated his latest commission at the Grand Palais in Paris to Ai Weiwei. Kapoor said "His arrest, disappearance and alleged torture are unacceptable. When governments silence artists it bears witness to their barbarity."

On Wednesday, May 11th, Ai Weiwei's 12 striking animal heads cast in bronze will be unveiled in the 18th-century courtyard of London's Somerset House. The "Circle of Animals" are monumental contemporary recreations of the Zodiac sculptures that once adorned the fountain-clock of Yuanming Yuan, an 18th-century imperial retreat outside Beijing.

Circle of Animals: Zodiac Heads, Somerset House, London, May 12-June 26. August.

Art Basel Expands to Acquire ART HK

The owners of Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach, MCH Swiss Exhibition, have announced an agreement with Asian Art Fairs to acquire a majority stake in the Hong Kong fair, ART HK. Effective 1 July, 2011, Art Basel now gains

a solid foothold in the Asian market with this purchase. In the interim, the fourth edition of ART HK will take place this month between May 26-29. As of 2012 the fair will be re positioned in the art world calendar and take place between February 2-5.

Dior at the Pushkin

Dior couture is now displayed amidst the works of Picasso, Cézanne and Modigliani at the Pushkin museum in Moscow. The exhibition Inspiration Dior is yet another link between high fashion and fine art, sharing with consumers the rich history and artistic origins of the brand.

In this unique exhibition, great masterpieces are juxtaposed against the house's 54 years of couture. Picture mannequins draped in floral gowns beside a garden painted by Bonnard.

To complement the Old Masters, French Impressionists and dazzling Dior designs, three Contemporary Russian artists have been selected to participate in the exhibition also, including Recycle, a group led by Andrey Blokhin and Georgy Kuznetsov, who have created sculptures depicting the emergence of a Dior handbag from a block of

polyurethane; and Olga Kisseleva, who has created a installation of glass vessels suspended in mid-air sparked by Dior fragrances.

Inspiration Dior is at the Pushkin museum, Moscow, until July 24. www.museum.ru

Art Calendar Highlights

Ai WeiWei

Circle of Animals: Zodiac Heads
Somerset House, London
May 12-June 26
www.somersethouse.org.uk

Ai WeiWei

Fotomuseum, Winterthur
May 28 - August 21
www.fotomuseum.ch

Monumenta 2011: Anish Kapoor

Grand Palais, Paris
May 13 - June 20
www.monumenta.com

Treasures of the Medici Family from Palazzo Pitti

Kremlin Museums, Moscow
Until 31 May
www.kremlin.museum.ru

Tracey Emin: Love is What You Want

Hayward Gallery, London
May 18 - August 29
www.haywardgallery.org.uk

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