

# ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

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## 1858 LTD ART ADVISORY

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### Art Basel Hong Kong

Art Basel held its second fair in Hong Kong this May presenting the artworks of over 3,000 artists to over 65,000 visitors in five days. This year's edition has been hailed a major success with the general consensus agreeing that it has become "the" art fair to attend in Asia each year.

The 245 galleries, from 39 countries were applauded for presenting a more balanced offering of Asian and Western art than last year. Although there was a much larger offering of top quality western Modern Art with Picassos, Renoirs and Matisses on show, the same was true for their Asian counterparts, albeit mostly those with western links, such as Zao Wou-Ki and Chu Teh Chun. In fact, much of the art by western artists had an Asian slant giving the fair a more regional flavour. For example the neon works of American conceptual artist Jenny Holzer were all in Chinese, proving so popular that one, 'Pearl's Truisms & Survival', sold immediately on opening for \$180,000.

The even mix of top quality blue chip art with that of emerging artists from the region made the fair a perfect venue for so many collectors both in terms of adding to their collections but also for educating themselves in the latest from the region's art scene. A higher attendance of western, particularly American, collectors was noted as well as a new generation of young Asian collectors. In fact, there were so many new Asian buyers, many of them inexperienced in the art world that the fair handed out a "New to Buying Art" guide filled with advice on engaging with dealers and the nature of negotiating when buying art.

The professional feel of the fair was down to its Art Basel takeover further fine tuned in its second edition. This year, in a bid to better

engage the local community, a special section dedicated to film was set up, tapping into Hong Kong's long established film industry. In addition, aside from the fair there were some hundred cultural events taking place in Hong Kong at the same time. However, for some there were disadvantages to the more upmarket feel the fair had this year, with some visitors lamenting its homogenisation. It seems many of the Asian galleries were quick to learn and this year presented in a far more sleek and elegant style similar to that of the major western galleries in the hope of increasing their appeal.

Regardless of any changes the number of visitors increased by 8% compared with last year and many galleries were pleased at successfully developing new relationships and



maintaining ones started in previous years' fairs with buyers from the region and in particular from China. They were also pleased at the sales taking place, noting that collectors were more in a mood to buy this year than last. Amongst others, some notable sales included a large acrylic by acclaimed Indonesian artist I Nyoman Masriadi which sold for \$380,000. It was the first time in three years that the artist had a new work, 'Spares' (2014) (pictured below) on offer at an art fair. 'Red' (2013) by contemporary Chinese landscape painter Hong Ling sold through Soka Art for \$600,000. Meanwhile the Galleria d'Arte Maggiore from Bologna reported good sales of works by Giorgio Morandi and Giorgio de Chirico with a work by the latter selling for €300,000 and the White Cube gallery selling an Antony Gormley iron cast 'Rest II' with a £250,000 asking price.

With its more mature feel, happy collectors and dealers, many are already looking forward to next year's fairs. However, the 2015 edition is already the cause of some uncertainty due to changing dates and calendar clashes. In a bid by organisers to spread out the three Art Basel fairs the Hong Kong edition has been brought forward to March. This will see it clash with TEFAF in Maastricht, Asia Week in New York and Asian auctions. But that will be a worry for next year - right now the art world is gearing up for the next Art Basel. The 45th edition of the founding fair is taking place in Basel from 19th– 22nd June.

## Art Detective



Art Detective is a new scheme launched by the UK's Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) which hopes to improve knowledge of the country's publicly owned art. The UK's public art collection is housed across the country in a wide range of institutions from major

museums such as the British Museum in London to small institutions such as the Scottish Police College in Kincardine-on-Forth. Of the 210,000 paintings currently listed on the PCF's database many are not on show to the public despite their public ownership. The PCF's database was a first step in making them available to the public but Art Detective now makes the collection further accessible by allowing anyone to contribute to discussions identifying artworks' subjects, who painted them and when.

Often, those housing the artworks do not have the necessary resources to acquire specialist knowledge on the art, be it a resident curator or funds for research. Instead, they can now launch a discussion online via Art Detective. Initially, it will be reviewed by specialists who will attempt to solve the mystery at hand themselves, but if that fails it will be made public on the PCF's website, where anyone can participate. Launched in March of this year, the scheme has already achieved a few discoveries. French scholar Francois Marandet attributed a painting at the Wellcome Library to Baroque painter Louis Chéron. An oil on canvas by Robert Boyce Powter depicting back gardens in Wandsworth has been more precisely located thanks to a public user who investigated where specifically the artist had lived and visited the location to see whether it matched up with the painting which it did. And, 'A Terrible Shipwreck' housed at Compton Verney House has been attributed, dated and located. Together, specialists and members of the public were able to

discover that the artist was Thomas Longley Mourilyan and that the shipwreck happened at Kingsdown near the artist's birthplace of Deal on 12th February 1870.

Currently the Art Detective website, [www.thepcf.org.uk/artdetective/](http://www.thepcf.org.uk/artdetective/), has 29 active conversations. Could you solve one of Britain's art mysteries?

## World Cup Art

Football association FIFA has launched 'The Official Art Print Edition 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil'. Following the success of the art editions which accompanied their World Cup games in Germany in 2006 and South Africa in 2010, this third edition comprises of 23 prints by Brazilian and Latin American artists as well as a few international artists, with only 2,014 copies of each one available.

The limited edition prints embrace a whole host of themes but mainly they hope to celebrate football and Brazil - the game, the country, its culture and people. As the 2014 World Cup approaches, they also look at themes of celebration and anticipation. Giving an insight into the fast growing contemporary art scenes of those countries, the edition shows the host country presented from an inside and outside perspective. It also takes viewers on a journey into the world of football and its place in Brazilian culture.

This art edition has added an extra dimension to this year's World Cup games, with art again being used to reach new audiences and communicate louder messages. Whilst art is increasingly being used by industries such as that of luxury and fashion, here the world of sport is also taking advantage of art's universal language. The artworks are wide ranging from emerging Brazilian artists such as street artist Nunca who painted a Brazilian street football scene, to established international artists such as Keith Haring whose print (title image) is a vision of paradise where figures interact in play. Other artists featured



include Vik Muniz, Gabriel Orozco, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jeff Koons, Fernand Léger and Alfredo Volpi amongst others. The variety of styles ensures that the prints will have a wide appeal and will provide a lasting souvenir of this major sporting event.

Check <https://www.artbrasil2014.com> for more information.

## Artist in Focus: Ryan McNamara



Ryan McNamara is an American performance artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He studied photography and combined media but he prefers to describe himself as a visual artist.

His work incorporates dance and theatre and tends to be site and situation-specific. His move away from photography and towards

performance was the result of a strong interest in art audiences - people coming together to a specific place to see something. Feeling that photography could be just as well exposed in a book or a gallery, he wanted to exploit the audiences that gathered to see his artworks. Performances allow him to interact with an audience in a particular space at a specific moment.

His interest in audiences is also the result of his interest in the internet. He disagrees with today's media who claim that the internet generation are losing their ability to pay attention. Instead he believes they have a multi-dimensional, 360 degree attention and it is focus that they have lost. So his motto is to keep working hard to hold this attention. He is also fascinated at how we have adapted to the internet and much of his work explores this, the architecture of the internet and how it affects the human body. Why is his brain no different to his teenage brother's (he was born in 1979, his brother turned on a computer before he could speak)?

Dealing with this exact topic is his most famous work, 'Meem: A Story Ballet about the Internet' which won him the prestigious Performa 13 Malcolm McLaren award at New York's performance art biennial in 2013. The piece explored "our sense of what we do when we copy, steal, appropriate, create, repeat, plagiarize, mine or tweet" and saw audience members moved around the stage on dollies whilst ballet dancers performed around them.

Most recently he staged 'Score', his first performance in Asia. Commissioned by Hong Kong philanthropists Yana and Stephen Peel, the performance was held in Hong Kong's emerging art district Chai Wan during the Art Basel fair. In the midst of a party, 20 performers arrived in a rubbish truck and throwing down pedestals proceeded to perform 20 one minute performances, each dictated by a series of instructions varying from 'disappear' to 'beyonce while rihanna, rihanna while beyonce'. Again exploring how our ability to pay attention is changing, McNamara described the performance as being overwhelming for both the audience and the performers, saying by the fifth one the first had been forgotten.

McNamara has held performances in America, Europe and now Asia. His work is also in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. However as museums are dedicating increasing amounts of space to performance art as audiences

seek to be more actively involved, we are likely to see much more of him.

## Nazi Art Sagas Continue

The latest story in the ever-continuing saga of Nazi looted art has seen Marei von Saher's lawsuit revived. The daughter-in-law and only heir of Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker, she is laying claim to Renaissance artist Cranach the Elder's 'Adam' and 'Eve'.

The case had originally been dismissed in March 2012 on the basis that it could interfere with U.S. foreign policy, which states that the restitution protocols of other countries' are to be respected in the case of Nazi loot cases. However it seems that the two panels in dispute were never part of the settlement agreed between the Dutch government and Goudstikker's widow. The paintings, which are believed to have been forcibly sold during the Second World War, and at one point belonged to Nazi Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring were returned to the Dutch by the Monuments Men at the end of the war. However, the Dutch returned the panels to George Stroganoff-Scherbatoff who claimed they belonged to his Russian family and had been stolen from them by the Soviet government before they were ever in Goudstikker's possession. Stronganoff-Scherbatoff then sold the panels in 1971 to Norton Simon, who has displayed them in his namesake museum since it opened in 1975.

The paintings' complicated history certainly does not make resolving such a case any easier. Judge Dorothy Nelson noted that von Saher was "just the sort of heir" encouraged to come forward by international conventions governing property looted by the Nazis. The appeals panel also noted that the United States had twice signed international agreements, which aimed to remove obstacles in the recovery of Nazi stolen goods.

Whilst the Norton Simon Art Foundation "remains confident that it holds complete and proper title to Adam and Eve", von Saher believes "that after all this time and all this litigation, the museum should, as many museums are, finally do the right thing". The case will resume in Los Angeles district court.



# I858 Ltd Art Advisory

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## How an I858 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 to our clients
- **Reducing Risk** by undertaking thorough due diligence on all transactional decision, we ensure that potentially costly mistakes are avoided and the client has complete confidence in the decision made.

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Images, in the order in which they appear, courtesy of:  
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[www.news.artnet.com](http://www.news.artnet.com); [www.thepcf.org.uk](http://www.thepcf.org.uk); 'Made in Brazil', 2012,  
Eduardo Recife, [www.artbrasil2014.com](http://www.artbrasil2014.com); [www.ocula.com](http://www.ocula.com);  
[www.ocula.com](http://www.ocula.com);

## Art Calendar Highlights

Serpentine Pavilion 2014  
Serpentine Gallery, London  
26<sup>th</sup> June - 19<sup>th</sup> October  
[www.serpentinegalleries.org](http://www.serpentinegalleries.org)

Art Basel  
Basel, Switzerland  
19<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
[www.artbasel.com](http://www.artbasel.com)

Masterpiece Fair  
Chelsea Embankment, London  
26<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
[www.masterpiecefair.com](http://www.masterpiecefair.com)

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition  
Royal Academy of Art, London  
9<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> August  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

Lucio Fontana Retrospective  
Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> August  
[www.mam.paris.fr](http://www.mam.paris.fr)

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