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## **ART TAIPEI 2016 Grand Opening on November 11th "Asia-Pacific Art Converge in Taipei"—A Fresh Perspective Arises from the Shift of the Global Focus of Arts to the Oriental**

Exhibition design inspired by mountains in Taiwan presents the continuous, majestic landscape of art.

Technology offers the most unique interaction experience with artworks.

With the art world emphasizing more on the Oriental and benefiting from the location of Taiwan as the crossroad of Asia-Pacific region, ART TAIPEI is doubtless the leading art event in the region. ART TAIPEI 2016 holds opening ceremony and starts officially today (Nov. 11) at the Exhibition Hall 1 of Taipei World Trade Center. Esteemed representatives of two organizers, the Minister of Culture, Mdm. Li-Chiun CHENG, and the chairman of Taiwan Art Gallery Association (TAGA), Rick WANG, inaugurate the opening ceremony and reveal this year's exhibition theme—"Asia-Pacific Art Converge in Taipei." This year, ART TAIPEI collaborates with Asia-Pacific Art Gallery Alliance (APAGA) to present the most colorful aspect of Asia-Pacific art. The leaders of the members of APAGA also attended the ceremony along with envoys of foreign countries, and foreign and domestic artists. Committee members of the Legislative Yuan's Education and Culture Committee, director of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Mr. Tsung-Huang HSIAO, also grace the opening with their presence.

The chairman of APAGA and TAGA Rick Wang comments, "As we receive lots of supports from art industry, the government, and the academic circle, ART TAIPEI has created outstanding achievements. Marking its way to the 23rd edition this year, ART TAIPEI 2016 collaborates with APAGA to integrate artworks of the Asia-Pacific region to not only consolidate the role of Taiwan in the international art market but also vitalize communication of art world in the Asia-Pacific region."

As the most enduring art fair in the Asia-Pacific region, ART TAIPEI will open to the public from Nov. 12 to 15. The exhibition presents five themes, including *Galleries*, *Frontier*, *Future*, *Public Art*, and *Voice of Image*. 150 leading art galleries will present more than 700 artists and nearly 3000 artworks. In addition, ART TAIPEI also includes a special exhibition of Austronesian arts, titled *Deft Hands. Indigenous Insights*, which displays the artworks of seven artists that have won the Pulima Art Award. This special exhibition is supervised by the Council of Indigenous Peoples, organized by the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Center, and executed by TICA Art Gallery. It offers a precious opportunity for the world to see Taiwan's diverse and unique indigenous contemporary art. A series of art lectures and art salons will be held during the weekend, guiding visitors through a wide range of artistic topics and perspectives. These great activities have already generated quite a buzz on the online registration system, and will definitely be worthwhile of your time!

**A unique design of the exhibition hall inspired by Taiwanese mountains encompasses the art scenes of 4 continents, 17 regions, and 32 cities.**

The design of ART TAIPEI's exhibition hall presents another important trait. This year, the art fair starts from Taiwan to encapsulate the best artworks in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and the US. Therefore, characteristic Taiwanese landscape is cleverly integrated into the spatial design of the exhibition hall. Inspired by the Taiwanese mountains, the exhibition hall is outlined with the silhouettes of exceptional mountain ridges and beautiful rivers. Soaring mountain ranges and profound valleys with precipitous peaks form the unique mountainous landscape of Taiwan, and the extending mountainous ridges in the exhibition hall introduce the panorama of different artist generations in Taiwan. The landscape encompasses the art scenes of 4 continents, 17 regions, and 32 cities, making the process of viewing the exhibition an artistic mountain excursion. There will be masterpieces of Picasso and Chagall, diverse artworks by renowned foreign and Taiwanese contemporary artists, and works by artists with potential. Professional collectors and novices in art can discover precious artworks of their own in ART TAIPEI.

**The most important international stage for emerging artists in Taiwan, and the key to unlock the potential art market of Southeast Asian arts**

Expanding international artistic vision, ART TAIPEI has continued to nurture and support artistic talents in Taiwan. The Ministry of Culture collaborates with the TAGA to discover a new generation of artists by creating a special section, titled "Made in Taiwan—New Taiwanese Artists." On the day of the opening, the Minister of Culture, Mdm. Li-Chiun CHENG, visits this section to experience the innovation and passion of emerging Taiwanese artists. Eight promising artists have interpreted the limitless possibility of contemporary art through their new media works. According to the Minister, she is delighted to see that many extraordinary young artists get more chance to make art and enter the art market through the art galleries.

Furthermore, ART TAIPEI is reaching to the Southeast Asian art market with striking potential. Through the collaboration with APAGA, 11 Southeast Asian art galleries from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore will attend the art fair. They map out the artistic scenes and values of countries in Southeast Asia. The vast range of Southeast Asian arts portrays the cultural and artistic differences among regions, and have become a newly rising force that is transforming the Asian art market with growing attention from all over the world. Through ART TAIPEI, the connection between the art industries of Taiwan and Southeast Asia will be stronger.

**Technology initiates the dialogue between viewers and art.**

In the digital era, art and technology are closely connected and have collectively created more diversified expression and interaction. This year, ART TAIPEI integrates technology and art by employing mobile devices to increase interaction with the public. It shortens the distance between artworks and visitors by engaging them in the art fair. Artist, Jiun-Ting LIN, introduces his interactive work, Word to World, which allows audience to see poetic images through writing Chinese characters. Japanese artist, Youki HIRAKAWA, presents his video installation, Shadow of Film, which transforms the story of nitrate films to conjure up ghosts of a cinematic past. Asian fashion director and artist, TimmWU, uses projection and diverse designs enabled by audio-visual software to re-conceptualize technology through fashion and humanistic thinking. His work, You Create Your Own Reality, engages audience in a creative process which provides them a

unique audio-visual experience. These artworks respectively introduce innovative forms and languages of art with technological products, offering visitors a profound artistic experience.

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