

For Immediate Release

**ART TAIPEI 2016 kicks off its four-day public exhibit today.
Heaving crowds of visitors descend on the show floor on the first day to
witness the US\$10 million Picasso's oil on canvas
Appearances by explosives artist Cai Guo-Qiang and renowned Japanese
sculptor Katsura Funakoshi attract massive fans**

The highly anticipated annual arts festival ART TAIPEI officially kicked off its four-day public exhibit today to a large number of visitors. The preview on November 11 featured the motif of the magnificent mountains of Taiwan, where collectors at home and abroad relished in the elegant atmosphere to savor the art works and place order to their heart's content. Galleries from different countries reported continued sales success. Galleries in the APAGA (Asia-Pacific Art Galleries Alliance), the highlight of this year's showcase, had a fruitful first day, with many sought-after works already found buyers. In the presence of masterpieces which are true collector's items, Mizoe Art Gallery brought with it an ultra-rare Picasso painting, with an estimated selling price at over US\$10 million. Three oil-on-canvas paintings from Chagall, the father of surrealism, were presented at ART TAIPEI, with one estimated to sell over US\$4 million. Seeing no sign of abating, mega-million works were prized amongst collectors, demonstrating Taiwan's taste for the fine aesthetics and purchasing power.

As the premier art fair in the Asia Pacific, ART TAIPEI is no doubt a must-visit paradise for art enthusiasts. Many famous personalities and socialites in the art circle graced the preview yesterday, including Wang Shaw-lan, publisher of the United Daily News; show business mogul Wang Wei-chung; Beatrice Hsieh, former Taipei Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner; celebrated architect Kris Yao; renowned choreographer Cheng Tsung-lung; fashion designer Sophie Hong; makeup artist Roger Cheng; fashion designer Jamei Chen; veteran collector Wang Dingqian and young collector Li Huina hailing from Shanghai. The distinguished guests were pleased with ART TAIPEI, lauding its diverse and multi-faceted programs and selection. The likes of curator Magdalena Magiera from Center for Contemporary Art (CAA), Singapore and Stephanie Britton, the founding

Executive Editor of Artlink magazine in Australia, were drawn to ART TAIPEI to learn about its long-standing success.

VIP Preview Day sees APAGA galleries and galleries from South East Asia enjoy sales success

APAGA galleries posted strong sales during the VIP preview, as a testament to the promising potential of the art market in the Asia Pacific. Among them, *To The Sea 16* by KOW LEONG KIANG from Malaysia's G13 Gallery was sold to a collector from China. Opera Gallery from Singapore sold three art works on the first day, while Art Factory from Korean sold two. Gallery Tsubaki from Japan sold *season revolution-Halloween # 2*, an acrylic work by Hiroshi MORI. In the Frontier themed exhibition area, Vin Gallery from Vietnam also sold two art works. Meanwhile, S.A.C Gallery Bangkok from Thailand presented mix-media art pieces by young artists, attracting collectors' attention.

Philippe Staib Gallery from Shanghai sold two pieces by French female sculptor VAL, including one large-scale sculpture *Attraction II* that went for NT\$ 6 million. Lidong Art Co. sold five works on the first day, with sales totaling over NT\$5 million. Galleries from China—Triumph Art Space, Longmen Art Projects, Phoenix Art Center, among others—also performed well, enjoying overall sales momentum. Galleria Continua from Beijing brought over iconic works by A-list artists, such as Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley, and Kiwon Park. Anish Kapoor's work was priced at £1.3 million, magnetizing collectors all over.

Taiwan's major galleries perform just as well, with Voice of Image becoming a new favorite

Taiwan's galleries did not disappoint, either. New works by Kan HO and LEE Kuang-Yu presented by the Chini Gallery were sold, with total sales at NT\$5 million. Apollo Gallery sold several pieces on Preview Day, including the works of Sieur TZEN, Zhen-Jin FAN and Ling-Shen LIN. Liang Gallery also sold a number of art works, with sales amounting to NT\$3.2 million—the highest being CHU KO's *Counting* at NT\$1.02 million. From Aki Gallery, two acrylic paintings by Yang Tsung FAN—*Glimpse of the Pool between the Leaves* and *Shining Drop of Water 2*—found buyers on the VIP preview day. Loftyart Gallery sold

Chinese Landscape no.1, *Chinese Landscape no.2*, and *Listening to Waterfall* to a doctor collector for NT\$2 million. On the other hand, YIRI ARTS, Soka Gallery, Dynasty Gallery, and Asia Art Center also performed splendidly. Voice of Image debuting this year also sparked the interests of many collectors. Gallery Momo from Japan sold TOMOYASU MURATA's puppet animes to collectors from the United States and Japan.

Meet the masters: explosives artist Cai Guo-Qiang and Japanese sculptor Katsura Funakoshi make an appearance at ART TAIPEI

ART TAIPEI is more than an annual art pilgrimage, as it offers a chance for visitors to get up and personal with the artists who created these masterpieces. As an exclusive partner to Netflix's new documentary *Sky Ladder: The Art of Cai Guo-Qiang*, ART TAIPEI secured Taiwan's one and only public screening rights to play the story of Cai on the big screen. Witness Cai's persevering journey in his art making over the past 20 years, culminating in the sky ladder rising towards the skies, like fireworks celebrating his hard-earned achievements. And much to fans' delight, internationally renowned explosives artist Cai came to Taipei in person to participate in the artist talk after the premiere screening. Registration was full in minutes.

Having often shied away from public events, legendary Japanese sculptor Katsura Funakoshi made his first visit to Taiwan, bringing with him his latest creation to ART TAIPEI. His *Curious Forest* exhibited at the Aki Gallery in 2014 was a great demand among collectors, with an estimated selling price of NT\$15 million. Katsura Funakoshi took part in a collector's forum today and spoke about his creative philosophy with popular songwriter Yao Chien. He later attended an art salon that drew exciting fans to catch a glimpse of the master sculptor.

Full-day forum delves into art restoration and scientific authentication; art lecture on architectural aesthetics present new perspectives

ART TAIPEI provides much more than an artistic platform, but serves as a source of inspiration for the arts and humanities and a pioneering outpost of industry trends. Complete with forums and lectures, ART TAIPEI brings together the latest evolution in the pulsating art industry and channels for in-depth dialogues. ART TAIPEI 2016's Art Forum

was staged today with the topic on "Art and Authentication". Working in collaboration with Cheng Shiu University Conservation Center, the forum examined the various aspects of the scientific authentication of art works—from restoration techniques to the construction and application of scientific resume, from conservation science and restoration ethics of artwork to legal issues stemming from artwork authenticity. Today's art lecture "Muses-in-Residence - Exhibition and Performing Arts Architecture in Taiwan" invited well-known architects and architecture scholars in Taiwan to dissect the aesthetics of architecture from an artistic point of view.