

For Immediate Release

## **Art frenzy hits Taiwan as tens of thousands flock to ART TAIPEI to witness incredible masterpieces**

### **Art feast over the weekend: from art lectures to art guide tour**

ART TAIPEI 2016 entered its second day at the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall 1, welcoming endless stream of weekend visitors to get an eyeful of contemporary masterworks from around the world. A good number of cultural luminaries graced the show yesterday, including literary icon CHIANG Hsun, Taipei Fine Arts Museum director LIN Ping, Digital Domain CEO Daniel SEAH, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts director Yulin LEE, and Bamboo Curtain Studio (BCS) founder Margaret SHIU. Collectors from all over also came to ART TAIPEI to cherry pick art pieces to add to their growing collection, including seasoned collector Melanie Setiawan from Indonesia, established collector Leo Shih, and Justine Alexandri, deputy director of Yuz Museum (Shanghai).

ART TAIPEI's annual art lectures, art salons and programs have always been warmly received by the public. Today's lecture on "Corporation Collection and Art Sponsorship" discussed using real cases on how corporations are making art a part of their corporate image, and the rise in the interplay between art and corporations. Another lecture talked about the recent growth of privately founded art museums in the past five years, inviting Brian Sweeney, founder of Artlab21 Foundation (ESMoA), and Magnus Renfrew, former director Asia of Art Basel, one of world's premier art shows to share their insights on the operating models, current states, and future prospects for private contemporary art museums. To top things off, a series of art salons were organized throughout Sunday afternoon, featuring six fascinating topics to give the public a golden opportunity to converse with artists.

The first day of ART TAIPEI public opening was a great success for overseas galleries. Turner Galleries from Australia, a first-timer in ART TAIPEI, sold two works by Gregory PRYOR. Pontone Gallery from the UK also delivered, selling three paintings of Matteo MASSAGRANDE yesterday, with *Four Seasons* going for NT\$2.1 million. Korea's Eugene Gallery sold several pieces of the *Donut* series by Jae Yong KIM. Debuting in Taiwan to the delight of discerning collectors, it also presented *SLOW*, *SAME#672*, the brainchild of Moon Beom, whose works have been collected by the Swiss bank UBS AG and featured in the auction rooms at Christie's. German photographer Wolfgang TILLMANS, a Turner Prize winner, held a solo

exhibition at the show, catching the eye of many collectors to buy five photographs yesterday. Works by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama were eagerly purchased by collectors. Whitestone Gallery sold one of her 2012 acrylic paintings, while Soka Gallery presented a range of her large installation art works, with selling prices estimated at US\$700,000. Korea's Pyo Gallery featured the Korean mulberry paper creations of CHUN Kwang Young, as well as monochrome paintings of LEE Ufan, all of which were very popular. Coming to Taiwan for the first time, Galerie EIGEN + ART from Germany presented several oeuvres by mid-career artists. Among them, the bronze artwork *Fortune* by Stella Hamberg had been purchased by an international collector at €480,000. Participating in the show for the first time through APAGA, Edwin's Gallery and TONYRAKA Art Gallery from Indonesia also attracted many patrons.

On the domestic front, galleries in Taiwan also turned in a great report card. Cloud Gallery had a fabulous day, with a two-day turnover of nearly NT\$3 million. Apollo Art Gallery was not far behind with a two-day total turnover of NT\$ 2.5 million. The collection department from the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts also visited Liang Gallery to purchase four pieces of work, including installation art and oil paintings; the most notable would be the extension of HSU Chia-Wei's *Wenqu Daoist Temple*, an audiovisual creation. Claudia Chen, director of Liang Gallery, noted that aside from museums, two thirds of the art pieces were purchased by private collectors, saying she's extremely confident about the collection market for local art works. Meanwhile, "Made in Taiwan Young Artist Discovery" featured eight up-and-coming Taiwanese artists through collaboration with galleries and achieved excellent sales results. Among them, H-I PENG's mix-media *Cuddle* and *Moving* were favored by collectors, and sold for NT\$350,000 and NT\$300,000 respectively, setting off a good start for the rookies' debut. Yun CHEN's *Thy.I Series - To Mourn* was purchased by a collector for NT\$120,000. Having a knack for collages and mix-media installation arts, Chienyi WU's *Jixiang Village-Idle Time 2* and *Window View Series-Taichung Qingshui 9* were sold for NT\$40,000, and NT\$20,000, respectively, as the perfect items for first-time collectors.

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