

PRESS RELEASE

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Art Paris Art Fair 2015: Singapore and Southeast Asia Guests of honour

Singapore, March 2015 - As one of the representatives of the guest of honour this year, Art Plural Gallery attends Art Paris Art Fair 2015 presenting local talent Sherman Ong and the late Kim Lim at Booth F10 of the Singapore Platform and international artists Fabienne Verdier, Chun Kwang Young, Fu Lei, Jedd Novatt, Pablo Reinoso, Dane Patterson, Doug and Mike Starn, Armen Agop and Nan Qi at Booth E14 of the General Fair. Art Paris Art Fair runs from **26 to 29 March 2015** at the **Grand Palais, Paris**.

Art Paris Art Fair returns again as the most anticipated event of springtime in Paris this year bringing together 140 galleries from 20 countries. The contemporary and modern art fair directed by Guillaume Piens since 2012, has an international flair and a strong focus on discovery. After Russia and China, Singapore and Southeast Asia are the guests of honour for the 2015 edition, celebrating their thriving and diverse art scenes.

Art Plural Gallery exhibits works by Sherman Ong, filmmaker, photographer and visual artist based in Singapore. Born in Malaysia, Ong develops a wide corpus on various themes linked by his photographic and fragile, moving aesthetics. The gallery features three of Ong's photographic series, *HanoiHaiku*, *Monsoon* and *Spurious Landscapes*, as well as the short film, *Tickets*, which first debuted at the Singapore Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2009. Also at the Singapore platform, works of the late Singaporean sculptor and printmaker Kim Lim are unveiled for the first time. The widely travelled and perceptive artist's ability to erode volume, especially crafting a weightless-looking state, is worthy of remembering.



Sherman Ong, *Peacock*, 2006, Digital print on archival photo paper, 75 x 150 cm

At its main booth, Art Plural Gallery presents new works by French artist Fabienne Verdier, whose abstract paintings are inspired by 10 years of training in traditional Chinese calligraphy. Verdier's work is rooted in traditional Chinese Ink painting and influenced at the same time by the Flemish masters as well as Abstract Expressionism. In addition, the latest works from

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the *Aggregation* series of renowned Korean artist Chun Kwang Young are one of the highlights of the show. Famed for his intricately built complex assemblages of traditional Korean mulberry paper (*hanji*) wrapped in polystyrene foam, his recent works are created in a bold palette of bright pinks, deep oranges, warming yellows and evocative blues.

Art Plural Gallery showcases the most recent work of Chinese artist Fu Lei. He confronts society's excessive physical and psychological desires and absurdity in a witty Baroque style.

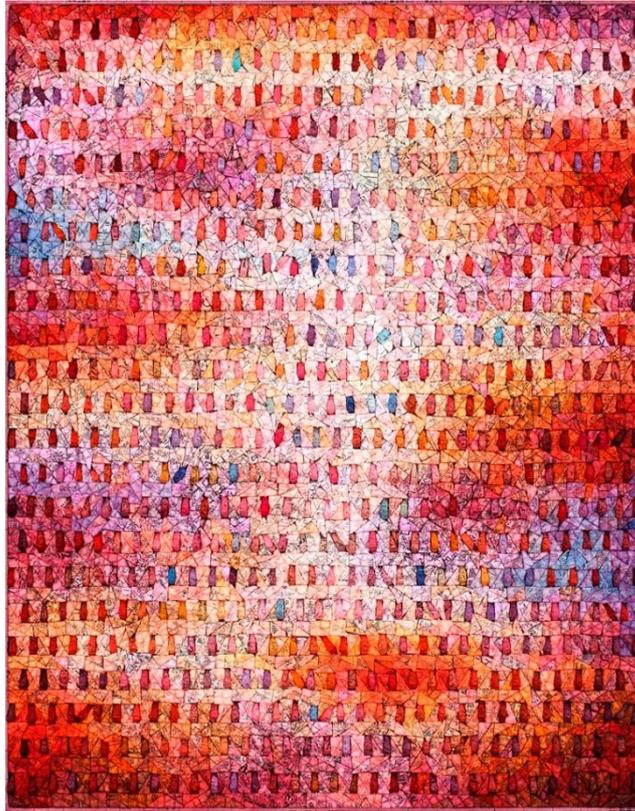


Fabienne Verdier, *Nuées du soir*, 2015, Mixed media on canvas, 135 x 254 cm

American sculptor Jedd Novatt unveils his sculpture *Chaos Construcción*. Known for his structural works, the monumental sculptures of the *Chaos* series pave the grounds of indoor and outdoor sites across the globe. *Chaos Construcción* is an illustration of Novatt's artistic research on gravity, weight and balance. In addition, a series of wooden frames by artist, designer and researcher Pablo Reinoso, who was brought up in both Argentina and France, is exhibited. Using his organic evolution of conventional design, Reinoso challenges expectations of functionality and plays with the boundaries of sculpture and design.

American twin brothers Doug & Mike Starn's inspiration is based on the following philosophy: "the only thing that is consistent is change". Their use of light as a metaphor for thought, knowledge, cognition and intelligence, as well as it being a symbol for enlightenment brings us to a state of reflection in *Structure of Thought*. Also from America, Dane Patterson's drawings composed of graphite on paper give a textured appearance to his meticulously staged disarray of everyday common objects. He once again attains photorealism precision with his elaborate compositions.

Egyptian-Armenian artist Armen Agop's granite sculptures complete the selection. Having been called futuristic, other-worldly UFOs, his sculptures convey at the same time an ancient, spiritual and meditative quality. Finally, the works by Chinese artist Nan Qi, "the master of ink dots", known for his unconventional pointillist technique with traditional Chinese ink on rice paper are displayed at Art Paris 2015.



Chun Kwang Young, *Aggregation 15 – JA003 (Dream 2)*, 2015, Mixed media with Korean mulberry paper, 118 x 920cm

“Singapore is the Guest-of-Honour of this year’s edition of Art Paris, so it is the perfect timing for Art Plural Gallery to participate. We are very keen to reconnect with the European art scene after 6 years in Singapore and introduce to the French public a selection of artists we have discovered in Asia.” – Frédéric de Senarclens, Founder and Director of Art Plural Gallery

From **26 to 29 March 2015**, Art Plural Gallery will exhibit at booth **F10** of the Singapore Platform and main booth **E14** within the fair at Art Paris 2015 that will be held in the **Grand Palais**. For more information about these artists or artworks, please visit www.artpluralgallery.com.

Acknowledgements

Art Paris Art Fair Singapore-Southeast Asia Platform is organised by **Art Galleries Association of Singapore** as a Partner Event of ***Singapour en France – le festival***.

The Festival is presented by Institut français, the National Heritage Board (Singapore) and the National Arts Council (Singapore), and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (France), Ministry of Culture and Communication (France), the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (Singapore) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Singapore) to celebrate 50 years of Singapore-France diplomatic relations and Singapore’s Golden Jubilee.

Artist Biographies

Armen AGOP (b. 1969)

Agop's artistic presence springs from his cross-cultural philosophy. Born in Cairo of Armenian descent, his sculptures use black granite and basalt as main mediums of expression. Agop has revived old sculpture techniques, adopting skills to his stonework from hundreds of years back in a perpetual quest for the purest form. His work has often been described as "Contrasting Art" where the contemporary and the ancient meet; the strength of the heritage within these materials responds to a certain sensuality of form that emanates from the future holding an essence of its own.

CHUN Kwang Young (b.1944)

Born in Seoul and educated in the USA, Chun Kwang Young was deeply influenced by American and European abstract expressionism, initially practicing in painting. Chun shifted to his now preferred medium Korean mulberry paper in 1995. His multicultural background is increasingly apparent within his work, suggestive of a bridge between East and Western influences. With a career spanning almost 50 years, Chun has shown his works extensively around the world in galleries and museums.

FU Lei (b. 1958)

Fu Lei's early works assimilated a lot of vivid colours and decorative delights from Chinese folk art. In 1998 he began to use ironic plump figures to unearth the indolence and ambiguousness of human nature. He gradually turns to a sketchable and classical approach and confronts the economic times in a unique language of absurdity and morbid criticism. Fu Lei is an artist who creates art with his soul, and he believes the way of expression in art should be decided by the artist's sincerity.

Kim LIM (b. 1936)

Singaporean artist Kim Lim developed a strong reputation both for her iconic sculpture and for her long career in printmaking that stemmed back to her training in Slade in the late 50s. Her early print works explored modulations of blocks and lines, which also transpired into wood sculpture using basic linear patterns. She then later explored more natural forms by taking inspiration from the visual culture of various archaic civilisations, such as ancient Greece, ancient China and ancient South Asia. Prior to her passing in 1997, Kim Lim worked primarily in stone while also continuing to create prints.

NAN Qi (b. 1960)

Unlike most Chinese artists, Nan Qi was trained as a painter in the army at People's Liberation Army Fine Arts Academy, Beijing. Nan Qi made oil and acrylic paintings before deciding to focus on ink. His themes reflect on contemporary China, focusing on authority, power and desire. He is now considered by many throughout China and the world as "The master of ink dots". The constant evolution in his technique and narration makes him a singular artist whose use of ink is on par with 3D technology.

Jedd NOVATT (b. 1958)

American artist Jedd Novatt is a sculptor of international renown. Playing with gravity, weight and balance, Novatt seizes the raw qualities of materials, such as steel or bronze, to magnify their own notions of purity, power, permanence or stoicism. Instability and irregularity engagingly give rhythm to the cubic matrixes liberated from geometry as the latter is

deconstructed, dislocated and emptied. The complexity of the structure defying physics and human apprehension sets new hypothesis in the history of abstract sculpture placing doubt in the centre of the artistic quest.

Sherman ONG (b. 1971)

Filmmaker, photographer and visual artist based in Singapore, Sherman Ong develops a wide corpus on various themes linked by his photographic fragile and moving aesthetics. Human figures evolving in disrupted public places and overwhelmed by the changing nature of space – affected by the monsoon, the wildness or the bundling up of urban sites, seem to be looking for a localized identity. Is space escaping or are humans running away from it? Sherman Ong patterns and unfolds this recurrent question structured by the paradoxical human quest and suspicion to infrastructures.

Dane PATTERSON (b. 1978)

Dane Patterson uses photo-realistic details to depict meticulously staged disarray in his drawings. He takes inspiration from objects and begins his creating process by photographing models precariously and playfully covered in random objects. His works, with amazing contrast and textures by his talented skills using graphite on paper, represent the reality of specific people, objects and situations yet defy both time and balance.

Pablo REINOSO (b. 1955)

Inspired by a multicultural upbringing in both Argentina and France, Pablo Reinoso is an artist, designer and researcher. He plays with sculpture and hones his craftsmanship using wood, slate, brass, marble and steel. Reinoso focuses his search on the entity, its transference, and the unconscious, using space and time as an environment. Today, the material object in Reinoso's work is just a vector to convey his inspiration and thought. The actual study of functionality is illustrated through the mutation of mirrors, chairs, benches and garments along with the chaos of the unknown using our five senses.

Doug and Mike STARN (b.1961)

For identical American twins Doug and Mike Starn "The only thing that is consistent is change". They use unified material in sculptures, photography, and installations as a way to convey the transformation of life whether physical or psychological. Mankind through the senses processes this endless restructuring of its perception of time. The Starn brothers work with visual perception using light as a metaphor for thought, knowledge, cognitive, intelligence but also as a symbol for enlightenment.

Fabienne VERDIER (b. 1962)

French artist, Fabienne Verdier's relationship with traditional Chinese ink painting is enveloping and profound. Verdier cultivates this inherently complex spirit of power, restraint and release in her striking paintings, nodding to tradition but always meditating on the future. Ten years in China working with masters in traditional ink painting and a lifetime of inspiration through the icons of art history, have led the artist's innate East-West spirit to be driven by the quest of oneness with the universe.

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About Art Plural Gallery

Founded by Swiss art dealer Frédéric de Senarclens in 2011, Art Plural Gallery is a unique contemporary art gallery located in the heart of Singapore's cultural district. The gallery encompasses an expansive 12,000 square feet spread across 4 levels of exhibition space, housed within an Art Deco heritage building. Art Plural Gallery presents a dynamic programme of solo and group exhibitions by leading artists from East and West, creating a dialogue between cultures. In 2013, Art Plural Gallery was named by Blouin Artinfo as one of the Best New Galleries in the World. Today the gallery is known as a significant destination for art collectors from all over the world.

Exhibition Details

Art Plural Gallery at Art Paris 2015

Booth No.: F10 (Singapore Platform) & E14 (General Fair)
25 to 29 March 2015
Grand Palais, Paris

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