

PHOTOFAIRS SHANGHAI

PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai's fifth anniversary boosts Asia Pacific's photography market

- The Fair cements its position as Asia Pacific's leading destination for collecting photography
- Images available from media@worldphoto.org

Shanghai, September 25, 2018: The city of Shanghai became Asia Pacific's home for photography this week with the fifth anniversary of PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai. Running September 20-23 at the Shanghai Exhibition Center, galleries and collectors praised the Fair's maturity and highlighted it as a vital platform to meet China's growing appetite for collectable photo-based artworks.

The Fair brought together leading Chinese and international artists and was embraced by the city with a week of cultural events. Shanghai's leading museums each presented significant photography exhibitions and held events around the Fair, including the **HOW Museum, OCAT Shanghai, Fosun Foundation** and **Shanghai Centre for Photography**.

The 2018 edition provided galleries with a dedicated platform to present their photographic artists in China. As **Nick Buckley Wood** from **Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac** comments: "PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai is important as we do not have a physical space in Asia and the Fair enables the gallery to keep a presence in China. We are not exclusively a photography gallery and PHOTOFAIRS allowed us to give specific focus to our photographers and gave room to show their breadth of work. We made new connections and I have seen many artwork collectors and curators at the fair who are not specifically focused on photography looking to broaden their collections. We were also able to strengthen our relationships with Shanghai museums."

Key collectors and curators in attendance at PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai included: **Martin Barnes** (Senior Curator of Photography, Victoria & Albert Museum, London), **Michael Chen Chan-wan** (art advisor, Sunpride Foundation, Taipei), **Thomas Dukes** (curator, Open Eye, Liverpool), **Stephan Erfurt** (CEO, C/O Berlin Foundation), **Lin Han & Wanwan Lei** (collectors & Co-Founders, M Woods Museum, Beijing), **Dr Oliver Hartmann** (Konsul, Goethe Institute), **Zheng Hao** (collector & Founder HOW Art Museum, Shanghai), **Wang Jun** (Collector & Founder, The Light Society, Beijing), **Jiyoon Lee** (curator & Managing Director, Suum Projects, Seoul), **Heung Shing Liu** (Founder, Shanghai Center of Photography), **Isaac Leung** (Chairman, Videotage, Hong Kong), **Mark Lubell** (Director, International Center for Photography, New York), **Marleen Molenaar** (collector, Hong Kong), **Christopher Phillips** (Independent curator, New York), **Anouska Phizacklea** (Director, Monash Gallery, Melbourne), **Lawrence Ross** (Advisory Board, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago), **Andrew Ruff** (collector & founder, 166 Space, Shanghai), **Claire Shea** (Deputy Director, Para-Site, Hong Kong), **Karen Smith** (Artistic Director, Shanghai Center of Photography / Director, OCAT Xi'an), **Douglas So** (collector & Founder, F11 Museum, Hong

Kong), **Lindsay Taylor** (curator, University of Salford Art Collection), **Jenny Jinyuan Wang** (Collector & Founder, Fosun Foundation, Shanghai), **Heiner Wemhöner** (Collector & Founder, Saamlung | Wemhöner, Berlin), **Susan Van Wyck** (Curator of Photography, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne), **Jay Xu** (Director, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco) and **Lu Xun** (Collector and Founder and Director, Sifang Museum, Nanjing).

On his experience of the fair, **Christopher Phillips** comments: “I thought the fifth edition of PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai was significant for its greater emphasis on galleries and artists from the Asia-Pacific region. For fair visitors coming from abroad, this meant a chance to see top-quality material that seldom appears in European or American fairs. There was a particularly strong presence of Japanese galleries that presented work by a wide range of established and emerging photographers. It was a concentrated display of museum-quality works that would be unlikely to be seen at any other photo fair.”

Martin Barnes adds: “PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai is a lively fair in a beautiful building in one of the world’s most dynamic cities. It is a place to immerse yourself in the cross-cultural dialogues surrounding creative photography, to discover some of the best Asian image-makers, and to make new colleagues and friends.”

PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai, with Presenting Partner Porsche, is renowned for its selection of galleries who each push the boundaries of photography. Audiences enjoyed large-scale installations, moving image and new technologies, alongside works by the masters of photography. Over 80% of the Fair’s 55 leading dealers hailed from Asia Pacific, and the support of local talent was further celebrated with a strong focus on artists from Japan and Korea across both galleries and the public program.

Georgia Griffiths, PHOTOFAIRS Group Fair Director, comments: “Since launching in 2014, we have witnessed a widening embrace of the photographic medium in China – four major museums dedicated to photography have opened and photography exhibitions in China have increased 250%. Photography is a dynamic and progressive medium and we believe it is key for the future of the Chinese art market, now the second largest market in the world. I am delighted that we have been able to offer both Chinese and international collectors a true site of discovery, and a genuine platform for Asia Pacific galleries to be seen on a global stage. I now look forward to the next five years of PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai.”

PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai will return to the Shanghai Exhibition Center September 20-22, 2019.

For further information and images please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- For full gallery list [click here.](#)
- For full Public Program details [click here.](#)

EXTRA GALLERY AND EXPERT QUOTES

AIKE (Shanghai): “PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai is a unique platform dedicated to photography in China. It proves the market value of this medium and offers a wide perspective on contemporary art collecting. The fair provides a diverse connection between local collectors and public institutions. I am thrilled to see the growth of the fair and want to explore more opportunities for Chinese artists we work with.”

rin art association (Takasaki): “This is our first time at PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai – we have met collectors we haven’t met with elsewhere and seen interesting artists and artworks. The Fair is of high quality and it is necessary to come back again to reconnect with the collectors.”

KÖNIG GALERIE (Berlin & London): “PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai is a very focused fair. It has proven to be a good place to connect with collectors who are interested in contemporary art from outside of China and want to add to their collections. We are making a concerted effort around China and Hong Kong to link up our museum and art fair strategies and it has been invaluable to show both Annette Kelm and Andreas Mühe at PHOTOFAIRS while they have museums shows in Shanghai.”

Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong): “The gallery has participated in PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai since its launch and I can sense the maturity of the fair’s audience and the overall appetite for photography in China. Previously, photography had been a niche market and hard for new collectors to access. There is a developing taste for photography in the Chinese collector circle, and the fair is doing a lot to promote the medium in China.

We were happy to see returning collectors and curators, but importantly the fair offers the opportunity to meet with different institutions from around the world each year on home ground. It is important for collectors and curators to see the work in the context of a Chinese environment, to feel the excitement and enthusiasm of the audiences and the city around the fair and photography.”

Pace Gallery (New York, Beijing, London, Hong Kong, Seoul & Geneva): “We saw many great works and had meaningful conversations with visitors. We made sales and are excited for the future possibilities for photography and video arts.”

Thomas Dukes, curator, Open Eye, Liverpool: “The fair has been a great opportunity to see work that I didn’t even know existed, I have seen colour Mapplethorpe flowers, of which there is a tiny selection. I have learnt new things and seen old series of works in new light, and I have seen works of artists that I have been wanting to work with for years.”

Pékin Fine Arts (Beijing & Hong Kong) : A perfect fair with high quality artwork. Several artworks sold out including those by Robin Meyer and Zhang Dali.

Galerie DUMONTEIL (Shanghai, Paris & New York): “This is the fifth consecutive year that Galerie DUMONTEIL has participated in PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai. As one of the few high-quality art fairs dedicated to photography and video art, this has always been a good opportunity for us to showcase works of our artists and meet new collectors. Although the photography market started late in China, it is developing very fast; the curiosity of the Chinese collectors is the driving force behind the development of the entire art market.”

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