

FAIRS

Who Sold What at Art Stage Singapore 2014

by Nicholas Forrest 21/01/14 12:32 AM EST

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Jitish Kallat's Circadian Rhyme-4 from ARNDT Gallery (ARNDT Gallery)

Art Stage Singapore 2014 finished on a high note with reports of strong sales from participating galleries as well as a reported increase in overall visitors to 45,700 from 40,500 in 2013.

“We are especially humbled by the overwhelming response we received at our fair previous Vernissage which saw a total of 14,600 visitors. I would like to thank all our local partners, Singaporean public as well as regional and international visitors for their continued support of Art Stage Singapore,” says **Lorenzo Rudolf**, founder and fair director, Art Stage Singapore.

According to an Art Stage Singapore spokesperson, some of the most noteworthy sales included a **Gerhard Richter** sold by **Michael Schultz Gallery** for EUR580,000, a **Zao Wou-Ki** sold by **Lin & Lin Gallery** to a local collector for US\$1.2 million, and Donald

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Sultan's "Navy Blue March 13," (2006) which was sold by **Sundaram Tagore Gallery** for \$402,000.

The reported sales reveal that Indonesian artists were particularly popular with investors and collectors, as were works by contemporary Japanese, Chinese, and Singaporean artists. In terms of price and medium, large-scale paintings and photographs in the region of SG\$20,000 to SG\$60,000 captured the attention of visitors to the fair.



BLOUIN ARTINFO caught up with a number of the participating galleries at the end of the fair and can report the following sales.

– The internationally renowned **Opera Gallery Group** had a very successful fair, selling works by Pierre Matter, Andre Brasilier, Lita Cabellut, and **Fernando Botero** totaling close to SG\$1,000,000. “Although there was a great demand for contemporary works across the fair, we received a lot of interest in the Chagall and Monet paintings we had on display,” revealed an Opera Gallery spokesperson. “With such a great turn out both locally and internationally it proves that the fair is growing in strength from year to year.”

– Matthias Arndt of **Arndt Berlin and Arndt** Singapore has reported a very successful start to the fair selling an Eko Nugroho embroidery for \$30,000, two large paintings by Indonesian artist Jumaldi Alfi, a Fendry Ekel painting for \$28,000, an Entang Wiharso sculpture for \$22,000, two Rodel Tapaya paintings for \$20,000 and \$23,000, and the entire solo show of seven paintings by Filipino artist Jigger Cruz (\$8,000 to \$18,000) within the first 10 minutes of the fair. Arndt has also sold four works by German artist Stephan Balkenhol from the exhibition at his Gilman Barracks gallery space.

– **Galerie Mark Hachem** of Paris sold four works by Egyptian-born artist Yves Hayat for an average price of EUR10,000, one painting by Palestinian artist Laila Shawa for EUR30,000, two paintings by Algerian-born Paris-based artist Nacer for EUR12,000 each, and one Polles sculpture for EUR5,000. The gallery also reports plenty of interest in other works.

– **Rossi & Rossi** of London presented a solo exhibition by Heri Dono, one of Indonesia's most influential artists, consisting of seven paintings and one sculpture. Gallery director, Martin Clist, reports the sale of a painting at the opening to a local Singaporean husband and wife for \$25,000. Titled “Big Brother,” the 1.5 x 2 meter work depicts a crazed dictator-like figure grasping at various figures set on a chess board-like stage framed by sweeping red curtains, according to Clist, who also says that gallery has serious reserves on four other works that they hope to conclude in the next few days.

“Our impression of the fair is that it still has a lot of work to do to rival Art Basel Hong Kong – there are too many make-weight galleries included – but if the pending sales come off we shall be happy,” says Clist.

– **Sundaram Tagore** Galleries of New York, Hong Kong and Singapore sold “Mount Edziza Provincial Park #1, Northern British Columbia, Canada, 2012,” by renowned photographer Edward Burtynsky for \$27,820, “Iceberg between the Paulet Island and the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica,” 2005, by Brazilian-born Paris-based photographer Sebastião Salgado for \$38,734, two pieces by Indian-born Copenhagen-based poet, artist, and Tantric guru Sohan Qadri, each selling for \$63,130, and “50 Faces” by Singaporean artist Jane Lee For \$66,000.

– Fred Scholle of **Galerie du Monde** Hong Kong says that he was very pleased with the Vernissage, that the fair is a comfortable size with nicely laid out booths, and the right quality of

collectors at the opening. Scholle reports sales of four paintings by Chinese artist Zhu Yiyong on the opening day, all from his “Memories of China” series. Three 90 x 90cm paintings sold for \$49,000 each and one 170x100cm sold for \$80,000.

– Mr Hidenori Ota, founder of **Ota Fine Arts** Japan/Singapore, says he has observed that the Singaporean art scene is developing. “This year at Art Stage we welcomed visitors from all over Asia – from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Indonesia, Malaysia – all were there,” says Ota. “It was a similar crowd to that of Art Basel in Hong Kong, and it is evidence that there is circulation in the market.”

Ota Fine Arts reports having sold **Yayoi Kusama**’s flower sculpture “Flowers That Bloom Tomorrow” to a reputable European collection for \$500,000 and sold three paintings by Kusama to Southeast Asian collectors for a total exceeding \$1.5 million.

Indonesian artist Ay Tjoe Christine also proved popular for the gallery which reports having a long waiting list for the work that they have brought by the artist (“Big Portion Only For the Red”). Ota fine arts are also excited to represent her as her mother gallery this year.

Ten works by emerging Japanese painter Tomoko Kashiki were sold to a number of young international collectors. The works were priced at \$3,500 for a pencil drawing, to \$40,000 for a painting.

Mr Ota also reports that he has opened a new, larger space at 7 Lock Road with a preview of “Tomoko Kashiki” – a solo exhibition of the talented young Japanese painter. “Several paintings have already been sold to people of various countries,” says Mr Ota. “It’s a terrific season for us and we have high hopes for the market here!”

– Curator and gallerist Ernst Hilger of **Galerie Ernst Hilger**, Vienna, Austria, is presenting a solo show of Japanese-American artist Ai Kijima at Art Stage Singapore and reports having sold one work by the artist for SG\$14,000. Hilger says that he has received lots of requests from museums and curators, and believes he will sell all the artist’s work by the end of the fair.

– Arina Abu Bakar from **Gajah Gallery** reports selling four works by Indonesian artist Yunizar. Three of the works are the artist’s most recent bronze creations, in editions of three, which were realized during his time at the Gajah Gallery’s Yogya Art Lab in Indonesia. “This is the first time he has ever done 3D works so they were very popular,” says Abu Bakar. Two of the bronze sculptures sold for SG\$29,000 and one sold for SG\$27,000. The fourth work by Yunizar that was sold by the gallery is a painting entitled “Silver Sun,” which is true to his classic style of acrylic paintings, according to the gallery. This work sold for SGD\$63,000.

Gajah Gallery also sold three works by contemporary Chinese artist Li Jin whose works were very well received, and were bought quite early on during the VIP preview with collectors expressing interest in them even after they had been sold.

– **Chan Hampe Galleries**, which is presenting a solo exhibition of work by Singapore painter Ruben Pang, reports SG\$50,000 worth of sales in the first hour of the VIP preview. A short time after the opening all nine works by the artist were sold.

– **Edouard Malingue Gallery** had a very busy first day selling several paintings by Chinese artist Yuan Yuan and an installation by Hong Kong-based installation and media artist Joao Vasco Paiva.

– Singapore’s **Galerie Sogan & Art** sold their entire stock of five photographs by Singapore-based emerging multidisciplinary artist Sarah Choo, which were exhibited as part of the Southeast Asia Platform, for a total of SG\$32,500, as well as three multimedia video installations by the artist for SG\$8000 each. Three works by Singapore artist Jolene Lai were also sold for a total of SG\$37,500. Galerie Sogan & Art’s main Alfredo Esquillo Jr. solo exhibition was a near sellout with all but one work selling for a total of SG\$128,000

– Rahmat, director of **Galeri Apik Indonesia**, reports selling two works by contemporary Indonesian artist Yarno that were created especially for Art Stage Singapore. “Night Forest” was sold for SG\$ 30,000 to a Taiwanese collectors and “The Growth” for SG\$24,000 to a Malaysian collector. Rahmat also says that he has experienced interest in other works and that negotiations are currently ongoing.

“We are quite surprised to see that collectors are not more eager to ask for overall information of the artists displayed including their plan for the future,” says Rahmat. “We think that in the future collectors will be keener to collect artists who are focused, determined and resilient in achieving their artistic ambition.”

– Pascal de Sarthe of **de Sarthe Gallery** in Hong Kong sold a work by Zhou Wendou for \$3,500 and a work by Weng Guofeng for \$30,000. Guofeng’s “2012, No.1,” 2013 – a 300 x 642 cm Giclée print exhibited by de Sarthe Gallery as part of the China Platform – was sold to the Long Museum in Shanghai.

– **Helen Gory Galerie** of Melbourne, Australia is getting a fantastic response from their exhibition of works by Australian artist Abbey McCulloch which range in price from SG\$8,000 - \$10,000. “It’s exciting to be showing her internationally and rewarding to see how positively her work is being received,” says Nicola Stein, director of the gallery. “We think the fair is going from strength to strength and establishing itself as a highly regarded fair in the international calendar.”

– Tokyo, Japan-based **Frantic Gallery** has sold three works from their solo show of Japanese artist Cousteau Tazuke, including “The work with acrylic resin surface 2013.10.21” for EUR9,000, “The work with acrylic resin surface 2012.10.10” for EUR18,000, and “The work with acrylic resin surface 2012.03.22” for EUR3,000.

– Israel’s **Zemack Contemporary Art** had a fantastic start to the fair, selling three works by the New York-based hyperrealist painter Yigal Ozeri for SG\$50,000 each. In addition the gallery sold an oil on canvas by French artist Philippe Pasqua for SG\$120,000. Pasqua was the highlight of the 2013 Art Stage Singapore presentation of Zemack Contemporary Art which presented a 3 meter statue by the artist at the entrance to the fair and had a 300 square meter booth dedicated to his work.

– Singapore-based **Equator Art Projects** reports selling a number of works with interest in several more. According to a gallery spokesperson, “We are very pleased with the response to Sherman Sam’s solo booth, Nikki Luna’s lightbox installation at the Southeast Asia platform, and to Awiki. We look forward to more people visiting our Gallery Booth (E7a) to have their portrait painted by Awiki.”

– **Scream** London sold a significant work by Beijing-based artist Ye Hongxing for SGD\$24,000 during the opening of the fair.

– Romain Degoul, founder of **Galerie Paris Beijing** says that Art Stage has a lot to offer during the weekend and that last year his gallery achieved its most significant sales on the Sunday. “For us, as usual, Art Stage already met our expectations,” says Degoul. “We’ve sold one of the biggest piece of our booth to a significant Singaporean collector (a video by Yang Yongliang priced at \$100,000), we sold many photographs by Chinese performer Liu Bolin at around \$20,000 each, and a painting by young Chinese painter Ma Sibao at \$25,000.”

Near the end of the fair Degoul sold two important works by Korean light artist Chul Hyun Ahn made for a prominent Singaporean collection who was present at the opening for \$120,000.

– Singapore’s **7Adam Gallery** reports selling nine bronze sculptures by Singaporean artist Kumari Nahappan ranging in price from SGD\$672 to SGD\$13,200.

– China’s **Shangh Art** sold works by Tang Maohong, Sun Xun, and Yang Fudong. All three

works by Sun Xun sold for RMB500,000 each.

– **CUC Gallery** is the first gallery from Vietnam to participate in Art Stage Singapore. Ms. Pham Phuong Cuc, founder of CUC Gallery, says that she has sold two works by Vietnamese artist Ly Tran Quynh Giang for SG\$11,000 each. She also reports plenty of interest in a triptych by Nguyen Trung as well as works by Do Hoang Tuong.

– Participating in Art Stage for the third time, **Whitespace Gallery** Bangkok has two works by Manit Kantasak in the Southeast Asia Platform. “Our impression of the fair is very good,” says gallery supporter Alex Zeeh. “Feedback we received from other visitors is that the fair is noticeably better and more interesting than last year.”

– The renowned Singapore **Tyler Print Institute’s** (STPI) Art Stage Singapore presentation focused on pioneer Singapore artists, coinciding with the opening of their exhibition of works by leading Singapore sculptor Han Sai Por, who reinvigorated her 50-year practice by making new breakthrough works using print and paper.

Sales included “Topography Landscape,” (2013) and “Tropical Leaf 7,” (2013) by Han Sai Por, “Where The Seasons Are,” 2002 by Chua Ek Kay, “Dancing Stripe,” 2006 by Goh Beng Kwan, and “Replacing Myself 10,” 2013 by Eko Nugroho. Works at the STPI booth ranged in price from SG\$2,500 to SG\$72,000.

According to Nor Jumaiyah, head, communications and projects at STPI, “We noticed young collectors were buying works by renowned Singaporean artists, and it’s great to see this development of new generation of collectors.”

– **Yone Arts**, representing emerging, contemporary Myanmar art, sold two paintings from Burma (Myanmar)-born artist Sandar Khine’s “Nude Camera” series to a U.S. collector and a Singapore collector. According to the Founder of Yone Arts, Paula Tin Nyo, “Yone Arts has had several requests about the remaining two paintings in the series, which are historically significant as censored nudes and, at the same, are playful contemporary pieces that empower the position of women.”

The gallery also sold Soe Naing’s painting “No. 1” to a U.S. collector and received significant interest in both of the artist’s large scale paintings that were part of the Yone Arts presentation.

After the panel discussion at the Southeast Asian platform, moderated by Roger Nelson of the Asia Institute, quite a few attendees expressed their own intrigue with the “Intermission” installation piece and the connection it provided for them with the effects of the junta’s isolationist years on the cultural community within Myanmar. According to Tin Nyo, “The ‘Intermission’ installation has accrued historical significance as a symbol of Myanmar’s emergence into the world sphere. We are entertaining the placement of Soe Naing’s “Intermission” in a collection or museum that would conserve both the ten thousand diary sketches and the black box itself as an entire piece.

“In sum, on the eve of the final day of the fair, Yone Arts is grateful for the enormously warm response from so many individuals who have approached our team with stories of their support and anticipation of great things to come for Myanmar and its artists. We look forward to establishing our base in Southeast Asia within this year, after completing our partnership phase.”

– Munich, Germany-based **Micheko Galerie** sold old eight works by emerging Japanese woodblock cut artist Kenichi Yokono for a total of SG\$30,000. According to Micheko Galerie co-founder Michele Vitucci, “We have been visiting Art Stage since its first edition and it has developed into a world class art fair at the speed of light! We consider it better and more courageous than any of the Art Basel fairs. The art of the future will come predominantly from Asia and Art Stage has positioned itself as the art fair to be.

– **Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art** of Sydney, Australia sold a majority of the works from their Joanna Lamb exhibition, including eight “LaminexInterior” works priced at AU\$4,500 each, two editions of the neon works for AU\$8,000 and AU\$11,000, and a painting entitled “Exterior with Pool” for AU\$13,500.

“Overall the fair, though slow to start, picked up on the weekend, with good numbers through,” says Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art co-founder Joanna Strumpf. “We reconnected with many of the collectors we had met at Art Stage in previous years, and met and sold to new collectors as well.”

– **Yufuku Gallery** Tokyo sold 90% of their exhibit, including a porcelain sculpture by Sueharu Fukami for US\$65,000 and a painting by Takafumi Asakura for US\$50,000. According to Wahei Aoyama, director, Yufuku Gallery Tokyo, two works were acquired by institutions, with a private French museum acquiring a Shigeki Hayashi porcelain sculpture, while the Spencer Museum acquired a stoneware sculpture by Ken Mihara.

“Although it was our first time exhibiting at the show, we are satisfied and happy with our results and the high-quality clientele. We will definitely return next year,” says Aoyama.

– Art Stage Singapore was the first international fair for Australia’s **Art Collective WA**. A large painting by Perth, Western Australia-based artist Penny Coss was sold AU\$9,200 to a local Singaporean and a further two works by the artist were put on reserve.

– Singapore’s **Art Plural Gallery** had a very successful fair, selling a photograph by local artist Sherman ONG for SGD\$3,500 and a **Fernando Botero** painting at the gallery for \$480,000 USD. A wooden bench by Pablo Reinoso was put on reserve as well as the new series by Chinese artists Li Tianbing and Fu Lei.

– Participating in Art Stage Singapore for the third time, Singapore-based **2902 Gallery** presented a tightly curated showcase entitled “Revisit Colonial Narratives” featuring works by Adytama Pranada Charda, Robert Zhao Renhui, and Dow Wasiksiri. The gallery sold eight photo works by Dow Wasiksiri for SG\$36,000 and one photo work by Robert Zhao Renhui for SG\$28,000.

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