

# Top Exhibitions in Asia in June 2016

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Opening operatic performance of Tianzhuo Chen's "Trayastrima" at chi K11 art museum  
(Courtesy chi K11 art museum)

As the global art world descends on Basel next week, what can art lovers in Asia look forward to seeing this month? BLOUIN ARTINFO presents a list of top ten exhibitions in June at museums and galleries spanning Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo.

**(/artists/fernando-botero-59) (/artists/fernando-botero-59) (/artists/fernando-botero-59) Fernando Botero (/artists/fernando-botero-59), "Botero in Hong Kong," Central Harbourfront, Hong Kong, through August 14, 2016**

Organized by Parkview Art Hong Kong and Central Venue Management (CVM), this outdoor installation of nine monumental bronze sculptures by the Colombian master, created between 1982 and 2003, are currently on display through August 14 at Hong Kong's Central Harbourfront. The exhibition is part of SummerFest, a three-month pop-up program of art, design,

sports, and community events organized by CVM. Hong Kong is the third and last stop of this touring exhibition, after two “Botero in China” exhibitions held at the National Museum of China in Beijing and the China Art Museum in Shanghai.

**Tianzhuo Chen, “Trayastrima,” chi K11 art museum, Shanghai, through June 30, 2016**

Born in 1985, Chen moves fluidly and promiscuously between painting, installation, performance, and video. He’s known for his voracious appetite for incorporating a variety of icons, symbols, and talismans from both religions and youth subcultures — which end up appearing as essentially similar manifestations of the same tribal herd instincts and exercises in group identity formation in contemporary society. The artist was last seen in summer 2015 at a high-profile solo exhibition at Paris’ Palais de Tokyo, with which the K11 Art Foundation is partnering for a much talked-about ongoing three-year collaboration. Curated by Khairuddin Hori, this exhibition brings together a motley crew of grotesque characters including butoh-inspired acrobats and dancers, lithe and androgynous albino-like figures, and gangster rappers, as well as the centerpiece performance “Trayastrima,” which builds on the “ADAHA II” performance that featured at Chen’s Palais de Tokyo outing last year.

**(/artists/3960-gabriel-orozco) (/artists/3960-gabriel-orozco) (/artists/3960-gabriel-orozco) Gabriel Orozco (/artists/3960-gabriel-orozco), “Suisai: Tokyo Strokes,” White Cube, Hong Kong, through August 20, 2016**

Curated by Briony Fer, Professor of History of Art at University College London, this exhibition offers insights into some of the most recent developments in Orozco’s work, set against the backdrop of Tokyo — where he has been based for the last year. Featuring a body of entirely new works, “Suisai: Tokyo Strokes” consists of watercolors on gold card, propped up against the wall or set quietly against shelves arranged throughout the gallery. All the materials used in this new series were sourced from art supply stores in central Tokyo, in keeping with Orozco’s commitment to working with locally sourced materials.

**Bae Bien-U, “PART:MEET,” Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong, through July 16, 2016**

Bae’s first solo show in Hong Kong features a series of haunting black-and-white images shot at a pine forest near Gyeongju, South Korea, which Bae has been assiduously photographing for three decades. Bae has called this forest his “sacred wood,” a phrase chosen for the title of a 2009 book collection of his work. Similar to his earliest forays into the subject, the works at this show were shot on six-inch square-format film. The use of this type of film represents a return for Bae, who had moved away from square format and toward panoramic film.

**(/artists/robert-rauschenberg-37) (/artists/robert-rauschenberg-37) (/artists/robert-rauschenberg-37) Robert Rauschenberg (/artists/robert-rauschenberg-37),  
“Rauschenberg in China,” Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing, through  
August 21, 2016**

Rather fittingly, the American master’s first major retrospective in Asia in more than three decades, hosted by Beijing’s UCCA, showcases photographs that he took during a trip to China in 1982. “Studies for Chinese Summerhall” is a series in which Rauschenberg tried to capture candid aspects of the country during its pre-reform era. One of the rare occasions on which the artist produced a suite of fine art color photographs, “Chinese Summerhall” is a testament to Rauschenberg’s fascination with an ancient, foreign civilization on the historical cusp of greatness, but also a celebration of the quotidian. As Rauschenberg once said, “my work is simply the result of where I’ve been.

**“Wu Jian'an: Ten Thousand Things,” Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, through July 3, 2016**

A skeleton made of shells and an army of terracotta bricks are among the works on display at this exhibition of new works by Wu Jian’an — the fifth that the Chinese artist is having with Chambers. Taking its title from a book by German art historian Lothar Ledderose, writing at the dawn of the 21st century, Wu’s show is an exploration into how a multitude of individual components can come together to create a collectivity, and a tribute to Ledderose’s investigation into the mass production techniques that drove the creation of the artistic masterpieces of Asian antiquity. Highlights include “Shallow Mountain,” 2016, where Wu invokes an army of terracotta figures through an installation of hand-carved bricks, and “Big Skeleton,” 2016, a six-meter tall skeleton constructed out of conch shells.

**Mao Lizi, “A Dream of Idleness,” Pekin Fine Arts, Hong Kong, through August 10, 2016**

A founding member of the Chinese avant-garde Stars group, Mao Lizi first became known for his protests against the lack of official recognition for artists who found themselves outside the state system. Subsequently, he studied oil painting at Beijing’s Central Academy of Fine Arts before moving to Paris, where he lived for nearly a decade. This latest body of work is representative of Mao’s longstanding explorations into the language of traditional Chinese painting, combining ink wash and ink dry-brush techniques with oil and canvas, all the while restricting himself to a limited, deceptively simple-looking subject repertoire of flowers, landscapes, and water.

**“Transformation and Color: (/artists/anthony-poon-1412952) (/artists/anthony-poon-1412952) (/artists/anthony-poon-1412952) Anthony Poon (/artists/anthony-poon-1412952), Pioneer of Singapore Abstraction,” Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Singapore,  
through July 10, 2016**

This showcase of rarely seen works by (</artists/anthony-poon-1412952>) (</artists/anthony-poon-1412952>) (</artists/anthony-poon-1412952>) **Anthony Poon** (</artists/anthony-poon-1412952>) (1945-2006), painstakingly assembled with the blessing of the artist's estate, is a timely look back at the conceptually and structurally rigorous practice of one of Singapore's most acclaimed abstractionists. Many works are being seen for the first time here since Poon's 2009 retrospective at the National Gallery Singapore, highlighting his vibrant use of color and lines that drew liberally from the Op Art and geometric abstraction movements that were sweeping Europe in the 1970s. Although his popular "Wave" paintings demonstrated a formal exuberance that borrowed its aesthetic motifs from the curvilinear form of frequency waves, it is Poon's relief paintings from the 1980s, made using aluminum strips on stretched canvas, that steal the show.

**(</artists/52288-heri-dono>) (</artists/52288-heri-dono>) (</artists/52288-heri-dono>) **Heri Dono** (</artists/52288-heri-dono>), "Zaman Edan (The Age of Crazyness)," STPI, Singapore, through June 25, 2016**

The Indonesian veteran's latest exhibition features 40 works created during a residency at STPI. While his usual iconography of fantastical hybrid creatures and pop culture motifs is omnipresent, there are also plenty of subtle new developments in the work — from the use of bright color to the creation of screen prints on canvas against photographs — to surprise visitors. The results of his latest batik experiments, now on view at STPI, have led to more colorful artworks, with the use of pink, purple, and orange — hues not usually associated with his practice. Also included are two large mixed-media installations: one is a herd of flying horses made with papier-mâché and painted with pulp paper using a spoon, while the other features a motley crew of gangster-like puppets in copper, brass, stainless steel, and papier-mâché.

**Joshua Nathanson, "Make Memories with the Bunny," Kaikai Kiki Gallery, Tokyo, through June 23, 2016**

A former student of art world luminaries such as Mike Kelley, Christopher Williams, Liz Larner, Haim Steinbeck, and Marilyn Minter, Joshua Nathanson's exhibition features over ten paintings inspired by the sometimes exhilarating, mostly blasé experience of shopping. The series began as a set of quick sketches that Nathanson made at various malls in Los Angeles, including vintage-retro classics like the Glendale Galleria in downtown LA. A recent favorite of Takashi Murakami, who first discovered the artist through collector Liz Goldman's Instagram account, Nathanson's first solo show in Tokyo calls to mind the work of certain younger faux-naive artists like Hiroyuki Nisougi.

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## RECOMMENDED



[\(/photo-galleries/fernando-botero-in-hong-kong\)](/photo-galleries/fernando-botero-in-hong-kong)  
[\(/news/story/1416091/fernando-boteros-daughter-on-curating-his-work-in-hong-kong\)](/news/story/1416091/fernando-boteros-daughter-on-curating-his-work-in-hong-kong)

FEATURES

### Fernando Botero's Daughter on Curating His Work in Hong Kong



[\(/news/story/1417455/ucca-to-showcase-rauschenbergs-rare-color-art-photographs\)](/news/story/1417455/ucca-to-showcase-rauschenbergs-rare-color-art-photographs)

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### UCCA to Showcase Rauschenberg's Rare Color Art Photographs [\(/news/story/1417455/ucca-to-showcase-rauschenbergs-rare-color-art-photographs\)](/news/story/1417455/ucca-to-showcase-rauschenbergs-rare-color-art-photographs)



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### Interview: Decoding Heri Dono's Craziness

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- 2** Checklist: Anton Kern Gallery to Move to Midtown, and More  
(<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1418440/anton-kern-gallery-to-move-to-midtown-new-york-parks>)
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