

mabuhay

March 2018

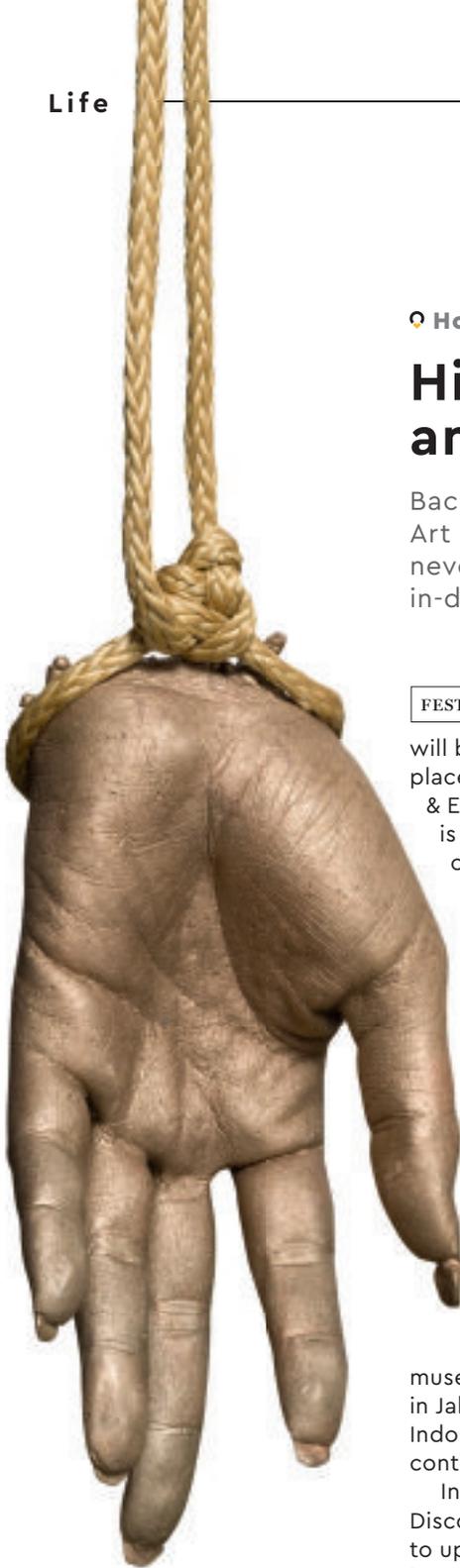
PARADISE FOUND

Fashion entrepreneur
Paloma Urquijo Zobel seeks
inspiration in Puerto Princesa

Indonesian flavors win back
Bali's fine-dining scene

The modern reinvention of
Sydney's old industrial buildings

Coral reef preservation takes
top priority in Guam



📍 Hong Kong

High-brow and high-tech

Back for another year, Art Basel and Art Central prove that Asian art has never been more diverse and in-demand than it is now

FESTIVAL Everything from black-and-white ink drawings to virtual reality will be part of Art Basel Hong Kong, taking place from March 29 to 31 at the Convention & Exhibition Center in Wan Chai. "The fair is going to be an interesting cross-section of works that are slow and handmade and installations that run solely on WiFi and electricity," says Adeline Ooi, the Director Asia of Art Basel.

Whichever end of the spectrum you gravitate towards, you can probably expect your fellow fair-goers to be paying attention to Asian art, a trend Ooi has observed over the past six years. "In the past, Asian art was just Chinese or Japanese," says Ooi, who is originally from Malaysia. She ascribes these past preferences to language barriers and a general lack of knowledge about art from other parts of the continent.

But events such as the inaugural Kuala Lumpur Biennale and recent museum openings like the Museum MACAN in Jakarta – which situates contemporary Indonesian art within an international context – are changing this.

Indian galleries dominate this year's Discoveries, a section in Art Basel devoted to up-and-coming young artists. Mumbai-based TARQ will show Vishwa Shroff's cut-and-paste collages and drawings



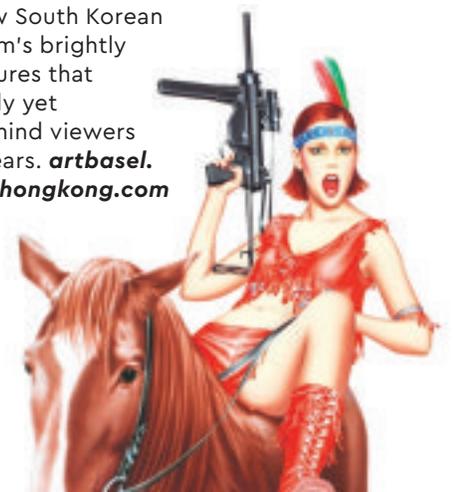
that question the concept of space, while Bangalore- and New Delhi-based GALLERYSKYE will show four high-tech works that reflect on the theme of power relations.

Other artists combine old and new media. Joss paper, normally part of ancestor worship, is used by Zhang Xu Zhan of Taipei's Project Fulfill Art Space alongside sound and video installations to tell a nostalgic tale of lost crafts.

Similar overlaps are a big theme at Art Central Hong Kong as well, happening from March 27 to April 1. Three-quarters of the galleries joining are from Asia.

Here, visitors can learn how to sell, rather than buy, art when they stop by Yogyakarta-based artist Hahan's interactive "auction booth". In a similar vein, Kuala Lumpur gallery Richard Koh Fine Art will display Anne Samat's re-interpretation of the *songket* (Malay ceremonial clothing), as well as works that consist of colorful threads tied to metal rings and bicycle parts – a comment on industrialization.

Other booths promise to be more futuristic. Taipei's Metaphysical Art Gallery will show South Korean artist Choe U-ram's brightly lit kinetic sculptures that move disjointedly yet gracefully to remind viewers of their primal fears. **artbasel.com; artcentralhongkong.com** – Dana Ter



A FRESH CANVAS

Scheduled to open this spring in Queen's Road Central, H Queen's will be a one-stop art and lifestyle experience with floors that house art galleries, luxury brands and dining options. H Queen's tenants will include the Hong Kong debut for both David Zwirner and Hauser & Wirth. Pearl Lam Galleries will also be opening new branches in H Queen's, alongside Pace Gallery, which has outposts across North America, Europe and Asia. **hqueens.com.hk**