



Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACA AW)

Thursday, September 8 - Friday, November 18, 2016

Expanding beyond its usual format through a full season-long platform to capture the momentous energy of the field, **Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACA AW) kicks off its 11th edition on September 8, 2016** with over 200 artists, cutting-edge exhibitions, performances, public programs & other evening festivities **across New York City thru November 18**

The season culminates with ACA AW's annual signature forum, **FIELD MEETING: *Thinking Practice* on November 11 & 12**, hosted at **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum & Asia Society**

The **11th edition of ACA AW** comprises a broad scope of content—from comprehensive surveys on major mid-20th Century artists previously unobserved in the United States, to timely symposiums, performances and discussions contextualizing major solo and group exhibitions for established, emerging and diasporic artists of China, India, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon and other countries of the Middle East, South and Southeast Asian regions. Beyond an interlacing of broad cross-cultural aesthetic and conceptual inquiries, works in this year's ACA AW echo the present anxious state of the world, concentrating on socio-political issues such as war, terrorism, environmental deprivations, inequality, and immigration. This year also marks important milestones in the history of Asian art in the United States—with the 60th anniversary of Asia Society, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Asian galleries turning 100.



Solomon R. Guggenheim, *Public Movement, Museum Operations, Performance*. Saturday, September 24 & Sunday, September 25 Time TBA. Image: *National Collection*, 2015. Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Photo: Kfir Bolotin. Courtesy of the museum.

A non-profit curatorial and educational platform, **Asia Contemporary Art Week** brings leading New York and Asia-based museums and galleries—**Asia Contemporary Art Consortium Partners**—to join together with a mission to heighten the awareness and visibility of contemporary art practices from Asia within the United States, Asia, and beyond. **ACA AW Director Leeza Ahmady** who has led this unique platform for over a decade states:

“ Each ACA AW edition provides a concentrated, critical examination and contextualization of the ever-expanding discourses and cultural production coming out of Asia through collaborative initiatives and curated programs. By presenting artists’ projects and programs in a more timely, less-mediated fashion, we address institutional limitations and fill gaps in the field, providing audiences with direct access to artists through annual programs such as FIELD MEETING.”

Not-to-be-Missed Exhibitions at Consortium Partner Museums & Galleries

* dates in parenthesis indicate exhibition opening reception or event/public program date.

Made in China – An Unprecedented Look at Contemporary Chinese Art in New York this Fall

Fall 2016 showcases some of the most major and historic exhibitions of Chinese contemporary art to hit New York City in a single season, considering Chinese diaspora artists, as well as an exciting blend of emerging and established talent working within the country today. In September, ACA AW season kicks off (on Sep 8th) with an exhibition of new works by the prolific artist **Wu Jian'an** exploring the boundless materiality of Chinese paper at Chambers Fine Art in Chelsea. At Asia Society Museum, a half-day



Chambers Fine Art, *Ten Thousand Things: New Works by Wu Jian'an*, Opening Reception Thursday, September 8, 6-8pm. Image: *Shallow Mountain*, 2016, Set of 1184 bricks, dimensions variable Courtesy of the artist and gallery.

symposium, organized in collaboration with artist **Cai Guo-Qiang**, focuses on creativity, artistic expression and methodology (Sept 9th), followed by the museum's opening of the first-ever retrospective of Chinese-French artist **Zao Wou-Ki's** paintings and works on paper in the United States (Sept 12th). Wou-ki's significant contributions to the international abstraction movement of the mid-20th century will be deliberated on in a dedicated symposium, *Asian Abstractions/Global Contexts*, (on Nov 18th) at Asia Society, as the closing event for ACAW 2016. In November, Lisson Gallery in Chelsea opens its first exhibition dedicated to the internationally renowned artist-activist **Ai Weiwei** (Nov 4th) while the second exhibition of The *Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chinese Art Initiative*, *Tales of Our Time* opens on the same day at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, with newly commissioned, large-scale works by artists hailing from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, to explore tensions between individual narratives and the constructions of mainstream history. Artists include Chia-En Jao, Kan Xuan, Sun Xun, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Tsang Kin-Wah, Yangjiang Group, Zhou Tao. Accompanied by an afternoon symposium with diverse practitioners (Nov 4th).

Making Space – Solo Exhibitions Dedicated to Major Women Artists

Three globe-trotting women artists are especially recognized this season through solo exhibitions in New York — **Arahmaiani** at Tyler Rollins Fine Art in September with an **opening-night-only-performance** by the artist (Sept 15th), whose new projects in Indonesia, Germany, and Tibet are just the latest in her relentless probing into socio-political issues of gender, spirituality and ecology. At Queens Museum, the final show organized by now-New York City Department of Cultural Affairs commissioner, Tom Finkelpearl, is a comprehensive overview of five decades of work by the pioneer of feminist performance art, **Mierle Laderman Ukeles** (Sept 18th). Ukeles transformed notions of public art on a global scale, creating public sculptures with waste materials in Japan and Korea, as well as land reclamation projects in Tel Aviv, Israel. Known for her remarkable projects in Afghanistan, **Mariam Ghani's** latest work at Ryan Lee Gallery (Sept 10th) is inspired by China Miéville's sci-fi noir novel; depicting two cities that are geographically intertwined yet so economically and politically divided that they become separate countries. In addition, two large-scale installations at MoMA (The Museum of Modern Art), *The Mapping Journey Project*, by Moroccan-French artist **Bouchra Khalili** and *Woven Chronicle*, by Indian artist **Reena Saini Kallat** (Oct 1st), represent complex networks of migration and forced displacement.

Meditations & Re-remembrances East Asia & South Asia on Equal Footing

Scattered throughout the three months are gallery exhibitions and installations at major art museums by contemporary South Asian artists that reflect on the need for peace and tolerance amid chaos and acts of violence. In Philadelphia, the latest series of drawings by **Amina Ahmed** at Twelve Gates Arts (Sept 2nd), display her exercises in geometry to invoke grace and hope; at Philadelphia Museum of Art, Mumbai-based artist **Jitish Kallat** debuts an immersive installation of the historical correspondence written by Mahatma Gandhi to Adolf Hitler in 1939 (Nov 13th). In New York, Rubin Museum of Art commissions an eighteen-channel audio installation by **Soundwalk Collective** to transport visitors to sacred sites in the high Himalayas for a meditative experience (Nov 11th). Aicon Gallery presents the works of the Pakistani, London-based minimalist icon **Rasheed Araeen** (Sept 20th), while Sundaram Tagore opens a new show of works by artist, poet and Tantric guru, **Sohan Qadri** (Sept 15th). DAG Modern's group exhibition, *Memory and Identity: Indian Artists Abroad* considers 15 seminal artists such as **S H Raza**, **V Viswanadhan**, **Zarina Hashmi** and **Krishna Reddy**, who have opted to live overseas, and how memory and identity play into their processes (Sept 14th). At Sundaram Tagore Gallery, an exhibition of new works by Filipino Brisbane-based husband-and-wife artists **Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan**, explores



Tyler Rollins Fine Art, **Arahmaiani**, Opening Reception, Thursday, September 15, 6-8pm. Performance, 7pm. Image: *Shadow of the Past*, performance, 2015. Courtesy of the artist and gallery.



DAG Modern, *Memory and Identity: Indian Artists Abroad*, Opening Reception Wednesday, September 14, 6-9pm. S H Raza, *Bharatiya Samagrah*, 1988, Acrylic on canvas, 59" x 59", Courtesy of the gallery.

displacement, change, memory and community (Oct 13th). Artists based in Japan presenting during ACAW 2016 also reflect on the current social climate in distinct ways. At [Ronin Gallery](#), an exhibition dedicated to “the ambassador of *kawaii* culture,” **Sebastian Masuda**, extols the artist’s message of ‘colorful rebellion’ against a climate entrenched in disharmony (Oct 27th). At [Sundaram Tagore](#), a solo exhibition for internationally renowned artist **Hiroshi Senju** displays his sublime, monumental waterfall images that bestow viewers with a sense of tranquility (Nov 10th). Transcultural (and – temporal) exhibitions presented this year during ACAW 2016 include *At Twilight* by **Simon Starling** at [Japan Society](#), who found inspiration in W.B Yeats and other early 20th-century artists to create his expansive Noh theater installation (Oct 14th); and an exhibition at [Owen James Gallery](#), revolving around a collaboration between the Singaporean art collective **Phunk** and renowned post-war Japanese pop artist **Keiichi Tanaami** (Sept 16).



[Aicon Gallery](#), **Anila Quayyum Agha**, Thursday October 20, 6-8pm, Opening Reception. Image: *All the Flowers Are for Me* (Installation View, BAM, New York, 2016), 2015. Laser-cut stainless steel & bulb, 60 x 60 x 60 in. Courtesy of the gallery



[Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#), **Hiroshi Senju**, Opening Reception, Thursday, November 10, 6-8pm. Image: *Ryujin II*, 2014. Acrylic and fluorescent pigments on Japanese mulberry paper, 7.9 x 37.4 feet/2.4 x 11 meters. Courtesy of the gallery.

At [Sylvia Wald & Po Kim Gallery](#), light installations and other work by six emerging and established Korean artists, including Hyong Nam Ahn, Dong Chul Ha, Han Ho, Moha Ahn, Yunwoo Choi and Choong Sup Lim, comment on the physical and spiritual dimensions of their environments (Sept 28). [Doosan Gallery](#) presents three solo exhibitions for artists based in Korea this fall, exploring internal worlds and taboo subjects (Sept 8th, Oct 13th, and Nov 17th). [Art Projects International](#) celebrates Korean-American contemporary artist **Il Lee**’s 40 years in New York City, contextualizing the range of gestures and movements he has developed in his ballpoint works over the last four decades (Sept 22nd).

[ACAW 2016 Signature Forum + Curated Collaborations & Special Initiatives](#)

In addition to underscoring the breadth of Asian contemporary art around New York City this fall, ACAW is delighted to co-present curated programs in collaboration with its Consortium Partners, concentrating around the work of a single artist and zeitgeists of the near past or present. Highlights this year include projects by artists working in the realm of decolonization and space. In October, a conversation between artists and architects **Sandi Hilal** and **Alessandro Petti**, co-presented with [ArteEast](#) (Oct 22nd, venue TBA), reflect on their experiences working with refugees and exploring ways of creating different social, political and spatial relationships between people, state and territory beyond the liberal notion of citizenship.

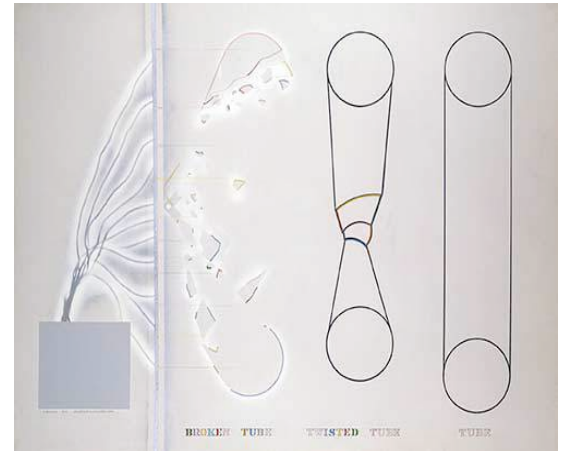
Also considering the intersections between art and architecture is a special program co-presented with [Reversible Destiny Foundation](#) and hosted at [artnet](#) (Oct 12th)— a panel discussion on the legacy of Japanese artist **Shusaku Arakawa**’s progressive activities and contributions to New York City’s art scene in the 1960s-70s, namely the transition from Abstract



[ArteEast + ACAW](#) (venue TBA). *An Evening with Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti: Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency*, Thursday, October 22, 4-6pm, Artists Talk / Conversation. Image: Concrete Tent, Photo by Anna Sara/Campus in Camps. Courtesy of ArteEast.

Expressionism to Minimalism and Conceptual art movements. **Beatrice Glow** celebrates the kickoff of her residency at A/P/A Institute at NYU with a performative tree planting and a new lecture-performance (Sept 27th), based on her research of the social history of plants via spice routes and the historical and contemporary relationship between Rhun (present-day Indonesia) and Manaháhtaan. On another spectrum, newly joining ACAW Consortium Partner Roya Khadjavi Projects organizes a special collection of abstract and minimalist works by emerging artists living in Iran and in the Iranian diaspora, **Dana Nehdaran, Masoume Moghadam, Maryam Khosrovani** at EWA Gallery (Oct 25th).

In **October**, ACAW launches a semi-annual online journal **FIELD REVIEW** to offer discursive opportunities for writers, curators, and art-historians as an extension of **FIELD MEETING** art forum. The first issue **FIELD REVIEW: South Asia** in collaboration with ACAW Consortium Partner **Exhibit320** (New Delhi), commissions six essays to consider “Abstraction” through broad local historical lenses, as well as inquires into parallel practices and exchanges between visual artists and other cultural producers, both in recent, and within 20th century timelines.



Reversible Destiny Foundation + ACAW (hosted at artnet). *Points of Convergence: Arakawa & the Art of 1960s–70s*, Wednesday, October 12, 6:30-8:30pm, Image: Shusaku Arakawa, *Tubes*, 1965, oil and acrylic on canvas, 50" x 67", 2016 Estate of Madeline Gins. Reproduced with permission of the Estate of Madeline Gins & Reversible Destiny Foundation.

ACAW's annual signature forum, **FIELD MEETING Take 4: Thinking Practice**

Full throttle, two days of back-to-back performances, lecture-performances, and lively discussions by over 30 of today's most compelling creative minds from Asia and beyond
Scheduled Friday, November 11 & Saturday, November 12

Day 1 (10 AM – 6 PM) hosted at **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum**, Peter B. Lewis Theater. Followed by a reception & special exhibition viewing.

Day 2 (10 AM – 6 PM) hosted at **Asia Society**, The Lila Acheson Wallace Auditorium. Followed by a celebratory private dinner reception in celebration of the institution's 60th anniversary.

Conceived and curated by Leeza Ahmady, Independent Curator and Director of ACAW, **FIELD MEETING** emulates the experience of a studio visit on a communal scale, bringing together 30 of today's most compelling artists & arts professionals from Asia and beyond to present to an exclusive audience of over 300 US curators, scholars, and museum directors. The program transcends conventional educational symposia to stage a showcasing of creative minds, their ideas, research, and significant activities, whereby new materials and projects are tested and reflected upon collectively.



FIELD MEETING Take 4: Thinking Practice, November 11 & 12, 2016. Image: Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, *And Yet My Mask Is Powerful*, 2016 (still). Single-channel HD video, 2-channel sound. Courtesy of the artists.

Taking place just days after the United States presidential elections, **FIELD MEETING: Thinking Practice** addresses strategies that allow art practitioners to maintain sovereignty over their own voice as world citizens and commentators amidst the pervasively hostile political climates and marginalizing forces of conservatism around the globe; in addition to contending with art world prescriptions, cultural impositions and shifting market demands. **Thinking Practice** is therefore an inquiry into ongoing processes, research-based practices and methodologies, spanning multiple mediums and disciplines to explore individual and collective artistic experience with much greater nuance. Through its roster of invited presenters, which also reflects the great flux of often-overlooked programmatic achievements and institutional efforts both inside and outside of Asia, the forum facilitates further meaningful exchanges, while sparking lasting relationships and future collaborations between US and Asia based artists, arts professionals and institutions.

With newly conceived performances & lecture-performances & lively discussions by:

Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme (Ramallah & New York) / **Amina Ahmed** (Tehran, London & New York)
Heba Y. Amin (Cairo & Berlin) / **Xyza Cruz Bacani** (Hong Kong & Bambang) / **Wafaa Bilal** (Najaf & New York)
Stephanie Bailey (London, Athens & Hong Kong) / **T-Yong Chung** (Tae-Gu, Milan & Venice) / **Mary Ellen Carroll**
(Houston & New York) / **Shezad Dawood** (London) **Erin Gleeson** (Phnom Penh & London) / **Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige** (Beirut) / **Ho Rui An** (Singapore) / **Ho Tzu Nyen** (Singapore & Berlin) / **Chia-En Jao** (Taipei) / **Michael Joo**
(New York) / **Anthony Lee** (New York) / **Loo Zihan** (Singapore) / **Jennifer Wen Ma** (Beijing & New York)
Umashankar Manthravadi (Bangalore) / **Yasmin Jahan Nupur** (Dhaka) / **Sarah Rifky** (Cairo & Boston)
Mithu Sen (New Delhi) / **Mami Kataoka** (Tokyo) / **Raha Raissnia** (Tehran & New York) / **Rashid Rana** (Lahore)
Nora Razian (Beirut) / **Jonas Staal** (Amsterdam) / **Ye Funa** (Beijing) / among others

For Presenting Artists & Curators' Profiles visit http://www.acaw.info/?page_id=24584

Space is limited & advance registration is required at field-meeting-thinking-practice.eventbrite.com

Consortium Partners & Participating Institutions:

Asia Society Museum • ArteEast • Asia Art Archive in America • Japan Society • The Metropolitan Museum of Art
MoMA | Museum of Modern Art • Queens Museum • Reversible Destiny Foundation • Rubin Museum of Art
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum • Sylvia Wald & Po Kim Gallery • +91 Foundation • Twelve Gates Arts • Aicon Gallery
Art Projects International • Chambers Fine Art • DAG Modern • Doosan Gallery • Lisson Gallery • Owen James Gallery
Ronin Gallery • Roya Khadjavi Projects • Ryan Lee Gallery • Sundaram Tagore Gallery • Tyler Rollins Fine Art
Kadist Art Foundation • A/P/A Institute at NYU • Philadelphia Museum of Art • Sotheby's • Ab/Abnar Gallery (Tehran)
Alserkal Avenue (Dubai) • Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong) • Exhibit320 (New Delhi) • Galeri Zilberman (Istanbul)
Ink Studio (Beijing) • Mori Art Museum (Tokyo) • National Arts Council Singapore • Otto Zoo Gallery (Milan) • Richard
Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur) • Space Station (Beijing) • Sa Sa Bassac (Phnom Penh) • The Third Line Gallery (Dubai)

For full agenda of ACAW 2016 exhibitions & programs plus FIELD MEETING updates, visit: www.acaw.info

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