



# Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAOW)

**Thursday, October 5 - Thursday, October 26, 2017**

We are pleased to announce the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of **Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAOW)** planned for **October 5 through October 26, 2017**, with over 30 cutting-edge exhibitions, public programs & other evening festivities across ACAOW Consortium Partner museums and galleries in **New York City**.

Exhibition highlights at ACAW Consortium Partners include the largest survey of Chinese contemporary art in North America, retrospectives of major performance and photography works by artists from US, China, and India, along with timely symposiums, performances and discussions contextualizing significant solo and group exhibitions by artists living in China, India, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey, and other countries of the Middle East, South and Southeast Asian regions. Working with cross-cultural aesthetic and conceptual inquiries, presented works reflect on today’s unstable climate through examining the role of religion, philosophy, popular culture, and political territories and history, with a special focus on socio-political issues such as colonialism, social and national movements, immigration, and inequality. This year ACAW Consortium Partner Japan Society is celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, marking an important milestone in the history of Japanese art in the United States.



Asia Society, *After Darkness: Southeast Asian Art in the Wake of History*. FX Harsono. *Victim—Destruction I*, 1997. Performance at the Alun-alun Selatan (Southern Square) during the opening for the exhibition “Slot in the Box” at Cemeti Art House, 1997. Image courtesy of Cemeti Art House.

## Not-to-be-Missed ACAW Curated Signature Programs: An Invitation to Think Together

Center stage to this year’s edition, two ambitious signature programs curated by ACAW director Leeza Ahmady contextualize the rich layers of content presented at ACAW Consortium museums and galleries as well as addressing some of the missing gaps. The experimental and theatrically inclined annual forum for arts professionals **FIELD MEETING Take 5**, will once again bring hundreds of US based curators, museum directors, and scholars to gather around two full days (10am-6pm) of back to back performances, lecture-performances and discussions by over 25 of today’s best of the best creative minds from regions of Asia and beyond **on October 14 hosted at Asia Society Museum, and on October 15 hosted at SVA**



ACAOW THINKING PROJECTS at Chambers Fine Art. Opening Reception Saturday October 21 3-6pm. Guo Hongwei, *The Illustration Book of Natural Forms* (on going), Water color. Courtesy of the artist and Chambers Fine Art



Simon Fujiwara, *Frozen*, 2010, Mixed media installation, performance, Ausstellungsansicht Kunstverein Braunschweig, Courtesy Prada Foundation, Foto: Bernd Borchardt

Trump administration declares a travel ban against six majority Muslim countries while intimating entry-denials to dozens of other nationalities in the guise of a “project of national security,” it urgently calls for a reexamination of the word’s more soberly usage in the world today.

To this end, FIELD MEETING keynote speaker artist **Simon Fujiwara (Berlin)** will take the attending audience on a tour of his most ambitious project to-date, a full-scale replica of Anne Frank’s house as an investigation of ideologies that underpin the hyper-capitalist logic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Scholar **Nancy Adajania (Bombay)** provides a glimpse into the research process of her recent book on the Indian artist Navjot Altaf while recalibrating the received histories of Marxism, feminism and collaborative art. **Abdullah M.I. Syed (Karachi & Sydney)**’s performance “Flesh and Blood” uses the rose, an important element in celebratory and burial ceremonies in South Asian cultures, to directly reflect on the current state of demonization of Islam in America. Editor of WTD Magazine **Meitha Al Mazrooei (Dubai)** traces the cultural and physical evolution of the border of the Emirates and questions how specific languages of design, art and development manifest in the periphery.



Tiffany Chung. *flotsam and jetsam* (installation detail) 2015-2016, watercolor on paper 30 x 42 cm (11 ¾ x 16 ½ in.)

The full list of FIELD MEETING presenting artists, curators and arts professionals includes: **Nancy Adajania (Bombay)**, **Meitha Al Mazrooei (Dubai)**, **Marw Arsanios (Beirut)**, **Nadiyah Bamadhaj (Jogjakarta)**, **Laura Barlow (Doha)**, **Hera Chan (Hong Kong & Montreal)**, **Yin-Ju Chen (Taipei)**, **Tiffany Chung (Ho Chi Minh City & Houston)**, **Dai Guangyu (Beijing)**, **Simon Fujiwara (Berlin)**, **Joyce Ho (Taipei)**, **Hu Weiyi (Shanghai)**, **Taus Makhacheva (Makhachkala & Moscow)**, **Kingsley Ng (Hong Kong)**, **Bruce Quek (Singapore)**, **Suhanya Raffel (Hong Kong)**, **Marat Raiymkulov (Bishkek)**, **Yuliya Sorokina (Almaty)**, **Abdullah M.I. Syed (Karachi & Sydney)**, **Philip Tinari (Beijing)**, **Hajra Waheed (Montreal)**, **Adrian Wong (Hong Kong & Los Angeles)**, **Brian Kuan Wood (New York)**, among others.

For Presenting Artists & Curators’ Profiles visit [http://www.acaw.info/?page\\_id=31631](http://www.acaw.info/?page_id=31631)

**Theatre.** The second layer of ACAW 2017’s curatorial presentation: **THINKING PROJECTS** is a series of solo pop-up exhibitions highlighting long-term process oriented artistic endeavors opening at 8 participating venues including a special co-presentation of *Eating the City* by the acclaimed Beijing-based artist **Song Dong**, an installation built from thousands of edible biscuits, crackers, and sweets to be unveiled for public feasting on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at **Mana Contemporary**.

Under the proposition “Thinking Projects”, ACAW 2017 signature programs aim to decipher the various associations and meanings of “project”, a term that has come to define the art world today that is more globally interconnected than ever, with artists passionately pursuing endless array of projects across localities and regions that ultimately define the parameters of their personal and professional biographies. Yet when the

Space is limited & advance registration is required at <https://field-meeting-thinking-projects-artsprofessionals.eventbrite.com>



ACAW THINKING PROJECTS at Chambers Fine Art. Opening Reception Saturday October 21 3-6pm. Judy Blum Reddy, **India**, 1998, Ink on paper, sixty units, Courtesy of the artist

The full array of **THINKING PROJECTS pop-ups** includes drawings, paintings, and multimedia installations by **Nadiah Bamadhaj (Yogyakarta)**, **Irfan Önürmen (Istanbul)**, and **Sumakshi Singh (Delhi)**, chronicling significant inquiries about obscure cultural, socio-psychological and sacred vernaculars of their respective localities; hosted at **C24 Gallery** opening on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. **Guo Hongwei (Beijing)**'s new water-color paintings and **Judy Blum-Reddy (New York)**'s drawings at **Chambers Fine Art** opening on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3-6pm meticulously trace and archive the growth pattern of minerals and names of various natural/manmade entities in India respectively. Yang Xin (Beijing)'s fascination with microbiology is exceptionally illustrated through a series of multimedia works at **Klein Sun Gallery** opening on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.

These pop-up exhibitions also highlight the vibrancy of ACAW's growing community of Asia-based consortium partners, including a special co-presentation of projects by **Song Dong (Beijing)**, **Yu Fan (Beijing)**, and **Li Jun (Shanghai)** as part of **Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF)** inaugural **Creative China Festival** in New York. At **Mana Contemporary**, internationally recognized artist **Song Dong** invites the public to view and feast on his ongoing world travelled project installation: *Eating the City* built from thousands of edible biscuits, crackers, and sweets, alongside Li Jun's community conscious *Zi Jie at East Lake* (2010) addressing issues of urbanization & gentrification in Central China. Following his month-long residency at School of Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts (Boston), Yu Fan exhibits a new body of sculptural works at **Sundaram Tagore Gallery**.



ACAW THINKING PROJECTS at Mana Contemporary, Opening Reception on October 15, 6-8pm. Song Dong, *Eating the City* in Beijing, 2003, installation view, ©Song Dong, courtesy of Pace Beijing

#### About Creative China Festival

Organized by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF), supported by the Chinese Ministry of Culture, the festival aspires to highlight the depth of creativity and talent that contemporary China has to offer through a series of film screenings, forums, residencies, music performances, and art and fashion exhibitions in New York, Boston & Los Angeles.

## Summary of Exhibitions & Public Programs at ACAW Consortium Partner Museums & Galleries

### ***The Beginning- A Rare Survey of Contemporary Chinese Art in New York this October***

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

This October showcases some of the largest systematic survey exhibitions of Chinese contemporary art ever held in New York City, with equal attention devoted to both avant-garde art movements and decades-long artistic practice of individual artists. ACAW kicks off (on Oct. 5) with the opening of **Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World**, the largest survey exhibition in North America of Chinese contemporary art from 1989 – 2008 at the Guggenheim Museum. Curated by **Hou Hanru, Alexandra Munroe, and Philip Tinari**, the exhibition explores experimental approaches by over 35 artists and collectives during one of the most transformative periods in recent Chinese history. Narratives by Chinese filmmakers are captured through the public film program “**Turn It On: China on Film, 2000-2016**” starting Oct. 13, with screenings on every Fridays and Saturdays at the museum. At Asia Society, a film screening of **The Chinese Lives of Uli Sigg** on Oct. 10 further contextualizes the role of the Swiss diplomat and leading Chinese contemporary art collector in witnessing the history of China’s recent opening to the West, followed by a discussion with the collector himself.



Guggenheim Museum, Theater of the World. Chen Zhen *Fu Dao/Fu Dao, Upside-Down Buddha/Arrival at Good Fortune*, 1997, Steel, bamboo, resin Buddha statues, washing machine, computer monitor, tires, bicycle, fan, chair, household appliances, other found objects, and string, approximately 350 x 800 x 550 cm overall Courtesy Galleria Continua, San Gimignano/Beijing/Les Moulins/Havana

ACAW Asia-based Consortium Partner Ink Studio will host two artist talks by **Yang Jiechang (Oct 7)** and **Dai Guangyu (Oct 22)** in its Soho location, and a pop-up exhibition of **Zheng Chongbin** at Sundaram Tagore Gallery (Madison location) in NYC. In conjunction with his participation in Guggenheim Museum’s exhibition, Yang will discuss his works in the context of the ’85 New Wave movement and the larger trajectory of contemporary Chinese art development, while Dai will probe into his engagement with the ecological and public art movement in Chengdu in 1990s and his perception of performance art in China. On Oct 11, Asia Art Archive’s senior researcher Anthony Yung will present a selection of AAA’s key projects in China, highlighting the dynamism of contemporary art practice from the late 1970s to the present. At Chambers Fine Art, the solo exhibition **Yang Jiechang: The Whip** (through Oct 17) takes viewer back to the artist’s personal interest of calligraphy that sees him reinventing the medium to refer to Buddhist iconography and even English messages.

### ***Politics of Place– Revisiting Social and Cultural History of East Asia, Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and the US today***

Across the three weeks in October are a number of exhibitions that reflect on issues pertaining to the politics of a place, from religious dogmas, colonialism, social movements, cultural support, protests to the recent travel ban imposed by Trump’s administration. On Oct 5 is solo exhibition of Delhi-based artist **G.R. Iranna** at Aicon Gallery, whose paintings question the relation between social frameworks and free-thought and themes of forced developments. At Twelve Gates Arts (Oct 6) in Philadelphia is **Back to the Future: History and Contemporary Art in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia**, a major group exhibition of artists from Middle East, North Africa, and South



Aicon Gallery, G. R. Iranna, Opening Reception Thursday October 5, G.R. Iranna, *Psychic Sound*, 2016, Acrylic on tarpaulin, 60 x 122 in.

Asia to address the history in formerly colonized areas and enduring of past rulers in contemporary times. Artists include: **Risham Syed, Hasnat Mehmood, Susan Hefuna, and Ali Cherri**. In commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of martial law in Taiwan, Taipei Cultural Center organizes **History's Shadows and Light** (through Oct 12), a group exhibition of documentary films and photographs capturing the political and social movements in Taiwan from 1986 – 1990. Artists include: **Liu Chen-hsiang, Hsu Po-hsin, Huang Tzu-ming, The Green Team.**



Tyler Rollins Fine Art, Ronald Ventura, Opening Reception Thursday October 26, 6-8pm, Ronald Ventura, *Party Animal*, 2017, oil on canvas, 144 x 96 in. (366 x 244 cm) Courtesy of Tyler Rollins Fine Art

of refugees from Vietnam respectively. The leading Filipino artist Ventura's new body of paintings and sculptures investigates current socio-political conflicts today. On view at DAG Modern is **India Rockefeller's Artists**, looking at how the Rockefeller grant has contributed to the growing community of Indian artists who were able to travel to the US and survey American art. Artists include: **Krishen Khanna, VS Gaitonde, Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee, Natvar Bhavsar, Bal Chhabda, Jyoti Bhatt, K G Subramanyan, A M Davierwala, Avinash Chandra, Arun Bose, Paritosh Sen, Ram Kumar and K S Kulkarni, and Vinod Dave, Bhupen Khakhar and Rekha Rodwittiya**

Ever more relevant to the recent US political developments are **Stephanie Syjuco's** solo exhibition **Citizens** at Ryan Lee Gallery, which probes philosophic and historic definitions of what it means to be a "citizen" in terms of national belonging, civic engagement, and radical responsibility, and the symposium **Immigration policies, ban and the effect on the artists practices and discourse** (Oct 22) organized by Roya Khadjavi Projects, directly striking the heart of Trump's travel ban and its effect on the Iranian arts and cultural community. On Oct 12 at Sundaram Tagore Gallery is **Heads or Tails? (Or, The Other**



DAG Modern, India Rockefeller's Artists, Avinash Chandra, *Untitled*, 1967, Water colour & Sketch pen on paper, 38.7 x 95.5 in. (98.3 x 242.6 cm) courtesy DAG Modern, New York

**Side of the Coin): Contemporary Art from Thailand**, curated by Loredana Pazzini-Paracciani, which highlights the divergent notions of present-day Thailand from six influential Thai artists. Artists include: **Tawatchai Puntusawasdi, Thasnai Sethaseree, Mit Jai Inn, Angkrit Ajcharyasophon, Tawan Wattuya and Sanitas Pradittasnee**. whose new projects in Indonesia, Germany, and Tibet are just the latest in her relentless probing into sociopolitical issues of gender, spirituality and ecology. The major fall exhibition at Asia Society is **After Darkness: Southeast Asian Art in the Wake of History** (through Jan 21), exploring the cultural repercussions of political ruptures through sculpture, photography, video, and mixed-media installations by seven contemporary artists and one artist group from three Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The exhibition is accompanied by a symposium and performance by **Dinh Q. Le and Tintin Wulia** on Oct 20.

Known for his photojournalism career that bridged Western modernism and South Asian mode of perception, Indian street photographer **Raghubir Singh** (1942–1999)'s retrospective exhibition **Modernism on the Ganges** will open at The Met Breuer on Oct 11. Korean artist **JangPa** will showcase a series of installations and sculptures either based on keen investigation of ordinary readymade objects or the artist family's experience in physical labor at Doosan Gallery (Oct 12), revealing the subtle sentiments of the Korean culture. At Tyler Rollins Fine Art are solo exhibitions of **Tiffany Chung** (through Oct 21) and **Ronald Ventura** (Oct 26). Chung's continual exploration of urban progress and cultural memory culminates in **The Syrian Project** and **The Vietnam Exodus Project**, which deal with the current crisis in Syria and the post-1976 dispersal

## ***Journey through Time- A Reflection of the Self and the World***

A selection of solo and group exhibitions at galleries and museums highlights the notion of self-practice and its connection to the outer world. At Sylvia Wald & Po Kim Gallery is **Intrinsic Void** (Oct 5), displaying **Young R. Kwon, Raphaela Shirley, Hoo Chang Lee and Sylvia Wald**'s works that explore the relationship between temporal experience and true existence. Japanese professional woodblock printmaker **Takuji Hamanaka** will show his works at Owen James Gallery (through Oct 8), highlighting his use of thin Gampi paper and repeated Chine Collé process to create distinct forms and patterns with a balance of precision and spontaneity. At Queens Museum is renowned artist **Patty Chang's**



Queens Museum, *The Wandering Lake*. Patty Chang, Still from *Invocation for a Wandering Lake, Part II (Boat)*, 2016, HD video projection on cardboard panels, no sound

**The Wandering Lake**, her most ambitious project to-date that comprises a narrative meditation on mourning, caregiving, geopolitics and landscape, accompanied by an artist walkthrough and book launch on Oct 8. The Japanese duo **Ushio and Noriko Shinohara** faces their own struggle with the demons of art in the exhibition **Wrestling the Demon** (Oct 11) at Ronin Gallery, showcasing Noriko's famed Cutie paintings and prints and Ushio's notorious boxing painting. On Oct 16 is film screening of **Arakawa's** 1969 Experimental Film **Why Not: A Serenade of Eschatological Ecology**, presented by Reversible Destiny Foundation & Dillon + Lee & National Sawdust, offering a rare opportunity to see the late artist's experimental approach to filmmaking. Celebrating the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan Society, highly regarded Japanese artist Hiroshi Sugimoto presents his latest work in **Hiroshi Sugimoto: Gates of Paradise**, unraveling the forgotten links between Japan and the West in the 16<sup>th</sup> century through monumental photographs. Followed by a lecture on Oct 20 by Dr. Monsignor Timothy Verdon on the Sugimoto's novel interpretation of Ghiberti's "Gates".



## **Announcement of FIELD REVIEW: MIDDLE EAST**

ACAW is pleased to collaborate with Consortium Partner ArteEast and guest editor **Osman Can Yerebakan** for the second issue of its online journal **FIELD REVIEW** to be published October 2017. Spotlighting Middle East and North Africa, essays by **Ruba Katrib, Lara Baladi, Maymanah Farhat, Yasaman Alipour, Chayma Drira, f-architect, and Osman Can Yerebakan** will highlight case studies about current manifold creative threads woven in the MENA region.

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### **Consortium Partners / Participants:**

Asia Society Museum / ArteEast / Asia Art Archive in America / Japan Society / Metropolitan Museum of Art / MoMA / Queens Museum / Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) & New York City Department of Cultural Affairs / SVA MA Curatorial Practice / Solomon R. Guggenheim / Taipei Cultural Center / Twelve Gates Arts / +91 Foundation / Reversible Destiny Foundation / Sylvia Wald & Po Kim Art Gallery / Aicon

Gallery / C24 Gallery / Chambers Fine Art / Christie's / DAG Modern / Doosan Gallery / Klein Sun Gallery / Mana Contemporary / Owen James Gallery / Ronin Gallery / Roya Khadjavi Projects / Ryan Lee Gallery / Sundaram Tagore Gallery / Tyler Rollins Fine Art / Ab/Anbar (Tehran) / Alserkal Avenue (Dubai) / Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation / Exhibit320 (New Delhi) / Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong) / Ink Studio (Beijing) / M+ (Hong Kong) / Richard Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur) / Space Station (Beijing)

**For ACAW 2017 full agenda and FIELD MEETING updates, visit [acaw.info](http://acaw.info).**

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