

Sydney Contemporary

20 -22 September 2013

The inaugural Sydney Contemporary art fair will be a must-see for collectors. **Beatrice Spence** reports on who will be exhibiting at this brand new Sydney event.



Tim Etchells, founder of Art Fairs Australia, and the man behind the highly successful Hong Kong Art Fair (now Art Basel Hong Kong), may well have a crystal ball at his disposal for predicting the right time to bring an international art fair to Australia. For years Melbourne Art Fair aimed to have an international contingent but rarely had more than a few international galleries. Now that a strong art market in Asia has been established, with many premier galleries setting up shop, and with enough serious collectors to support a whole swathe of art fairs across China, Singapore, Hong Kong throughout the year, it would seem that Sydney is truly no longer under the thumb of the tyranny of distance. Rather than reaching out to galleries that are a full days travel away, and with incumbent costs to match, there are now blue-chip galleries across Asia who are a much more feasible 10 hours away, keen to establish ties with the Australian art market.

The inaugural Sydney Contemporary will be

held this September at Carriage Works. Sydney Contemporary has confirmed participation by the following galleries: China Art Projects, Beijing; China, de Sarthe Gallery, Hong Kong; Edouard Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong; Everard Read, South Africa; Nature Morte, New Delhi; Paragon, London; The Drawing Room, the Philippines. Australian galleries include Anna Schwartz, Annandale Galleries, Chalk Horse, Fehily Contemporary, Galerie pompom, Gallerysmith, Jan Murphy, Heiser Gallery, Mars Gallery, Mossgreen Gallery, Olsen Irwin, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sophie Gannon Gallery, Sullivan + Strumpf, Tolarno Galleries and Utopian Slumps. At the time of going to print, participation by other galleries was in the process of being confirmed.

de Sarthe Gallery, which has offices in Hong Kong, Beijing and the United States will be bringing out works by **Chen Zhen**, **Jenny Holzer**, **Gilbert & George**, **Lin Jing Jing**, **Richard Long**, **Mariko Mori**, **Barbara Kruger**, **Bernar Venet** and **Zhao Jinhe**.

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Gilbert & George, *Chained Up*, 2001. Photo piece in 28 units, unique work, 254 x 528 cm.

COURTESY: THE ARTISTS AND DE SARTHE GALLERY, HONG KONG

12.

Laurent Grasso, *Visibility is a trap*. Exhibited at Gwangju Biennale 2012 and the Jeu de Paume, Paris.

COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND EDOUARD MALINGUE GALLERY, HONG KONG



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Jennifer Ellis, co-director of Edouard Malingue Gallery, comments: "For Sydney Contemporary we are bringing the seminal French artist, **Laurent Grasso**, who was awarded the prestigious Marcel Duchamp Prize. We will be exhibiting his film *Uraniborg*, among other works, which have been exhibited at the Jeu de Paume in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Montreal and will be shown in his upcoming solo exhibition at the Kunsthau Baselland, Basel. Participating in Sydney Contemporary is an exciting opportunity to bring museum-quality works by this internationally-renown artist to Australia.

"Otherwise, we will be exhibiting a selection of emerging Chinese artists. As we are based in Hong Kong, we are interested in bridging the gap between Western and Asian art, and thereby work very closely with a roster of young talented Chinese painters and conceptual artists. Examples of artists we work with include Joao Vasco Paiva (Hong Kong) who has

been exhibited at the Saatchi Gallery, Yuan Yuan (Hangzhou) who was awarded the Glennfiddich artist's residency and Lee Kit (Hong Kong) who is representing Hong Kong in the upcoming Venice Biennale. There is a real interest in art coming out of China, and we hope to bring some of its freshest and most innovative talent out to Sydney."

Gow Langsford Gallery director **Gary Langsford** is delighted to be involved: "We're looking forward to getting back to exhibiting in Sydney as we haven't for a long time, not since our gallery in Danks Street. Our exhibition for Sydney Contemporary 2013 will reflect our commitment to exhibiting major international artists. The Gow Langsford Gallery stand will include work by **Damien Hirst, Thomas Ruff, Tony Cragg, Judy Millar, Max Gimblett and Dale Frank.**"

The fair also provides interstate galleries with the opportunity to exhibit in the Sydney market. **Bruce Heiser** of Heiser Gallery, Brisbane is showcasing

the work of **Arryn Snowball, Tyza Stewart, Dai Li**. He comments: "We see Sydney as an important event to be involved in, and are excited to showcase the work of three young talented Queensland artists there. We expect that they'll make an impact on the market."

Sydney Contemporary will host public programmes such as *Talks Contemporary*, this will include a range of speakers and topics such as: Australian art vs the rest of the world; is Sydney Australia's contemporary art capital?; beauty vs the anti-aesthetic in art; and explorations of crossovers between fashion and art.

Sydney Contemporary runs from 20 to 22 September 2013 at the Carriageworks in Eveleigh. *Art Collector* is an official media partner with Sydney Contemporary and has a special ticket offer for readers which can be redeemed at www.sydneycontemporary.com.au/artcollector