

ART HK: A walking tour of the Hong Kong Art Fair

We've picked out a few highlights within the ART HK megashow, to help get you through the 155 participating galleries and thousands of art works without losing your way

By Han Yan Yuen 28 May, 2010



Michael Wolf's Architecture of Density series.

It would be easy to get lost at this year's huge ART HK fair, not just within the works but navigating your way through them too. We've come up with a list of 10 pieces we think you should hunt down, if only because they give your day out a plan to follow.

Treat these works as orienteering points and freely wander from one to another. You will have walked through the entire fair by the end of the tour.



A cross between painting and cinema, The Creek is a multi-media installation of a contemporary tragedy.

1. Special Project: The Creek (Booth 9)

Walk down the hall of this dimly lit chapel-like room. Instead of a stained-glass window at the end of the aisle, you will find an oil painting of a contemporary tragedy. The story unfolds before you as different parts of the painting are lit in sequence.

The work references the religious painting of Caravaggio and is the brainchild of filmmaker Baz Luhrmann (director of "Romeo + Juliet" and "Moulin Rouge!") and painter Vincent Fantauzzo.



Sohei Nishino created this montage from the thousands of pictures he took of Hong Kong.

2. Diorama Map of Hong Kong/ Michael Hoppen Gallery (Booth B04)

Take a close look at this photo montage of Hong Kong and you might be able to spot your favorite local hangout.

Twenty-eight year-old Japanese artist Sohei Nishino walked all over Hong Kong, taking thousands of pictures (over 200 a day) then pasted them together to re-create the city from his memory.



A variation of Nam June Paik's 1974 classic TV Buddha.

3. Nam June Paik's classic TV Buddha/ James Cohan Gallery (Booth D06)

A Buddha sits facing its own image on a TV screen -- is he reflecting on himself or watching TV? A contrast of East and West, tradition and technology, this variation of video art pioneer Nam June Paik's 1974 classic "TV Buddha" is still relevant today.



The Inescapable Truth, Damien Hirst.

4. Damien Hirst's Formaldehyde/ White Cube (Booth D01)

Now you have the chance to see one of the formaldehyde works that made Damien Hirst's name and turned him into an auction house darling.

The Inescapable Truth, like many of Hirst's past works, deals with life and death. Instead of a dead shark or a pickled sheep though, we see a skull and a flying dove frozen in motion.



Sculptures of financial buildings made out of computer cooling systems.

5. Over-heated Towers/ acb Gallery (Booth F12)

Hungarian artist Péter Tamás Halász constructed a replica of the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building from computer cooling systems. The sculptures are heated from the bottom by electric hot plates.

These financial buildings overheat and cool off, overheat and cool off -- all turning into quite pointless operations.



Hidden images are revealed from this lighted square only when you move your head about.

6. Bob Your Head to See a Vision/ Input/ Output (Booth F09)

You will see a lot of people bobbing their heads in front of this booth. No kidding. Artist Teddy Lo uses LED lights and digital programming to play tricks with your brain so that you can control what you want to see. The piece is aptly titled, Positive Void.



Learn about contemporary Chinese art from 1980-1990.

7. Contemporary Chinese Art from 1980-1990/ Asia Art Archive (G01)

The boom in contemporary Chinese art mirrored the rapid economic growth of the country. Learn this history in the replica of a 1980s artist studio from the pleasant guides at the Asia Art Archive booth.



Photograph of life-size doll of mother and child by Turkish photographer Lale Tara.

8. Surrogate Mother & Child/ X-ist (H12)

Turkish photographer Lale Tara is known for taking pictures of life-size dolls modeled after herself. She sees these dolls as her ghostly doubles and sets them up in surroundings that include deserted houses, dilapidated churches and an abortion clinic.

Her latest series, Innocent Surrogates, focuses on the portrayal of Madonna and Child.



Neo-realist landscape painting by Chinese painter Huang min.

9. Classic Chinese Realism/ Michael Schultz Gallery (Booth K08)

This 12-metre long painting by Huang Min portrays the many faces of Chinese tourism: porters, tour groups, backpackers and local villagers.

Chinese contemporary art established itself on realistic portraits like this one. They often delve into socio-political issues with an ironic touch and are therefore branded 'Cynical Realism'.



Architecture of Density by Michael Wolf.

10. Hong Kong's High-rises at Its Most Lyrical / m97 (Booth M08)

In this Architecture of Density series, Hong Kong based photographer Michael Wolf finds poetry even in the most mundane and rigid architectural forms, portraying intimate details of its inhabitants.

Even for those who have seen his previous works in Hong Kong, check out these blown-up prints. They create quite a different impression.

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