Singapore, Tuesday September 15th: The inaugural edition of Singapore Contemporary, to be held January 21st to 24th 2016 at the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, today unveiled a cross-section of the artists and artworks to be featured at the show.

Explained Show Director, Douwe Cramer: “We refer to Singapore Contemporary as ‘A World of Art’, and are delighted to be presenting a wide selection of interesting works from some of the world’s most recognized and successful contemporary artists with strong track records at auction, and a presence in museums, and notable private and public collections. Our focus carries through to emerging and mid-career artists who are achieving a following on the international scene, and many of whom represent investment potential for the future.”

Singapore Contemporary will present works by artists from Singapore, China and most other countries in Asia; many parts of Europe; North America; and Australia. The artworks will be curated in three major sections: Gallery Projects, featuring art galleries with a permanent space, a strong exhibit calendar and international exhibition experience; China Encounters, focusing on galleries presenting noted Chinese contemporary artists, in many cases exhibited internationally for the first time; and Artist Dialogues for solo exhibits by a gallery or artist, providing the opportunity for collectors to meet and engage with some diverse and talented artists.
A SELECTION OF THE ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS ON SHOW

RONALD VENTURA – THE PHILIPPINES

Perhaps the best-known and most widely reported Filipino artist of recent years, 39-year-old Ronald Ventura is enjoying remarkable success in his home country and internationally. Says Blouin Artinfo: “The artist has risen to prominence on the Asian contemporary art scene with complex, layered works that juxtapose unexpected images, often rather dark — internal organs with flowers and butterflies, or a clown and a gas mask — always rendered with exquisite draughtsmanship. He is known for mixing different styles, such as hyperrealism and Surrealism, cartoons and graffiti.”

Ventura has seen the auction prices for his recent works soar in the past few years. The 2011 “Grayground” — a large-scale graphite, oil, and acrylic painting of horses in the midst of battle — was sold that same year to a phone bidder at Sotheby’s Hong Kong for $1.1 million, the highest auction price recorded for a contemporary Southeast Asian painting at the time.

LI SHUANG – FRANCE

Li Shuang’s works have achieved excellent results on auction at Sotheby’s, Christie’s, China Guardian, Ravenel and others. Li was born into a family of intellectuals in Beijing, and began painting when she was banished to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution. Returning to Beijing in 1979, she was the only female member of the “Star’s Group” of 12 artists (including Ai Weiwei) who challenged China’s cultural and political climate. She was imprisoned in 1981 for her relationship with a French diplomat, and finally allowed to emigrate to Paris after president Francois Mitterand raised the issue with Deng Xiaoping. She has since continued to paint from her studio in Paris, achieving a popular international collector following.
DEAN REILLY – AUSTRALIA

Australian painter Dean Reilly looks forward to debuting his works in Singapore. This well regarded mid-career and highly collectable Australian artist has gallery representation in Sydney, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, where he lives and paints. Riley is currently completing the special series he is painting for Singapore. “Renaissance Man” features portraits of modern men in smart business suits, but with exotic blooms in place of their heads. He explains: “This is a romantic notion – the successful, smart and competent businessman, but with flowers in the 16th century Dutch still life style in place of a head. The subject matter is thought provoking, intriguing…..”

In 2010, Reilly was a finalist in both the Archibald Prize and the Doug Moran Portrait Prize, arguably the most prestigious art prizes in Australia. He also made the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Doug Moran finals. Reilly’s work has been shown in the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the New South Wales State Library and the German Embassy in Canberra, and is held in many prestigious private collections around the world.

MYOUNG JO JEONG – KOREA

Talented young Korean artist Myoung Jo Jeong has made a name for herself with her beautiful and detailed portraits – they are paintings of people, yet the viewer cannot see their faces. Explains the artist: “When you see someone, whether an actual person or the subject matter of a painting, you look for their face as a habit. However, if you focus on the face, you miss out on the chance to take a good look at the other parts of that person – I want my audience to fully immerse themselves in the colours and patterns of the clothes.”

Myoung was born in 1970, and has completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts and a doctoral program at Hongik University. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibition in many parts of the world, and her works have sold at auction in Korea, China and Hong Kong; and at Sotheby’s auctions in New York and other locations.
LAMPO LEONG – CHINA & USA

Lampo Leong, PhD, is an internationally acclaimed master painter, calligrapher, and multimedia artist. He utilizes traditional and modern art concepts and materials to create compelling, gripping and challenging works of art. A leading member of the contemporary art world, Professor Leong is currently the Chair of the Art Department at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has exhibited in countless solo and group exhibitions worldwide, and has won international recognition and numerous awards. His works are included in 16 museum collections around the world, and are held in hundreds of corporate and private collections.

Leong received his bachelor of Fine Arts in ink painting from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, his Master of Fine Arts in painting from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and his PhD in Art Theory and Practice from the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

LI YUELING – CHINA

Li Yueling was born in Hebei Province in 1971, and now lives and paints in Beijing. As an established and well-known Chinese contemporary artist, his works have been widely exhibited and sold at auction since the 1990s, and are featured in the “Yearbook of Chinese Contemporary Art,” “All” and “Art World.” His artworks are held in private collections in Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore and Los Angeles, and in the collection of the Standard Chartered Bank.

Children are the main focus of Li’s paintings. As the artist says: “Children are the beginning of life, and also our past, present and future. All the basic ideology and sense of value people hold later on derives from childhood.” The children in his paintings gaze at the viewers with sincerity and intensity. Li’s paintings are always vibrant, featuring uniquely strong and bold brush strokes.
TOSHINOBU ONOSATU – JAPAN

Legendary Japanese painter Toshinobu Onosatu is one of the leading names in pre- and post-war Japanese avant-garde art. Born in 1922, he studied oil painting as a young man with a Western-style painter Seifu Tsuda, and quickly developed the style for which he is renowned – works featuring almost exclusively circles and squares. The artist’s burgeoning career was disrupted by the Second World War when he was posted as a soldier to Manchuria, captured and imprisoned in Siberia, and did not return to Japan until 1948.

After returning to Japan, Onosatu resumed painting and print making at a studio in his home town of Kiryu, Gunma Prefecture. He represented Japan at the Venice Biennale in 1964 and 1966; won the Grand Prix at the Tokyo Biennale in 1964; and his works have been shows at the Guggenheim in New York, the Lousiana Museum in Copenhagen and the Metropolitan Museum in Toyko. Most prefectural museums in Japan have at least one Onosatu in their collection, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo has 100 of his works.

ANDY WARHOL – USA

Andrew Warhola (1928 - 1987), better known as Andy Warhol, was an American artist and pivotal figure in the pop-art movement. Following a career as a commercial illustrator, Warhol became a celebrated painter, an avant-garde filmmaker, a record producer, an author, and a public figure moving in diverse social circles that included bohemian street people, distinguished intellectuals, Hollywood celebrities and wealthy aristocrats. His works are held in numerous public and private collections.
EDITORS’ NOTES:

Singapore Contemporary Dates:
January 21 – 24, 2016

Venue:
Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre

Opening Hours:

VIP Program:
Private View (by invitation only)
Thursday January 21, 4pm – 5pm

Vernissage (by invitation only)
Thursday January 21, 5pm – 9pm

General Admission
Friday January 22, 12noon – 9pm
Saturday January 23, 11am – 7pm
Sunday January 24, 11am – 6pm

Follow Singapore Contemporary at:
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High-res images and information are downloadable from:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9z33v4w1b79rz0n/AADegbRQJ8iAHDARdd9l24wha?dl=0

About Singapore Contemporary
The Founders and Directors of Singapore Contemporary are three art enthusiasts with more than 25 years’ experience in the region. Viewed as pioneers in the art space, they consider the interest of artists, galleries and buyers are best served by providing vibrant fairs and online content which stimulate discovery, exploration and conversations about art. The popular Asia Contemporary Art Show, now in its 7th edition, is Hong Kong’s only art fair that takes place twice a year. And when the art fairs close, collectors and art lovers can continue to browse 24/7 and buy on Asia Contemporary Art Buyer (www.asiacontemporaryart.com).

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