

29 ARTS IN PROGRESS gallery



THE STRAITS TIMES

HUANG LIJIE RECOMMENDS



FROZEN

This theatre production is not a stage version of the hit Disney movie of the same name. Instead, the work by British playwright Bryony Lavery delves into deeper, darker realms.

Nancy, the grieving mother of a murdered 10-year-old girl; Agnetha, a psychiatrist who studies serial killers; and Ralph, a loner, cross paths in the provocative play.

While different in tenor from the popular movie, the 1998 play has

similarly won plaudits and accolades – it was nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Play. The actors headlining this performance, Karen Tan (left), Janice Koh (right) and Adrian Pang (background), are heavyweights in Singapore's theatre scene.

Where: Esplanade Theatre Studio **MRT:** Esplanade

When: Till Nov 9, 8pm (Tue - Fri), 3 & 8pm (weekend) **Admission:** \$35 - \$40 from Sistic

(go to www.sistic.com.sg or call 6348-5555)

Info: For 16 years & above – there are mature themes & coarse language

ARTIFICIAL LOVE

At first glance, the paintings by artist Guo Yixiu, such as *Attachments To The Ideal* (right), depict familiar buildings in the concrete, consumerist jungle of Singapore. But draw closer and the images of banal objects such as outmoded mobile phones and toilet plungers, which compose the paintings, come into focus.

The force of attraction that holds the everyday and familiar together in the artist's world is an uneasy love for a man-made environment and its display in the heart of Singapore's financial district, amid skyscrapers, is all the more poignant. The show ends today.

Where: OCBC Art Space, 65 Chulia Street, OCBC Centre **MRT:** Raffles Place **When:** Today, 9.30am - 4.30pm **Admission:** Free



MILAN IMAGE ART AND DESIGN FAIR

This art and design fair will have something for every art lover.

Keen collectors of photography art can look forward to works by famed photographers such as Canadian artist Edward Burtynsky, known for his large-format landscape photographs, and American photojournalist Steve McCurry, who photographed the famed "Afghan Girl" cover for National Geographic magazine in 1985. Italian photographer Gian Paolo Barbieri's work *Tatiana Savialora For Valentino* (left) will also be on show.

The design section of the fair features collectible furniture and objects from various galleries, including a limited-edition teak desk by French designer Sam Baron and a limited-edition rocker by Singapore-Italian studio Lanzavecchia + Wai.

Where: Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre **MRT:** Bayfront **When:** Today noon - 8pm, tomorrow, 11am - 8pm, Sun, 11am - 6pm **Admission:** \$27 for a single-day pass, \$37 for a two-day pass, valid for any two days of the exhibition

arts picks



DOUBLE BILL: TEN LAYERS OF FRILLS/BREAKING SILENCE

This double bill of dance performances is presented by the Singapore-based flamenco group, Flamenco Sin Fronteras, as part of the Singapore Flamenco Festival.

Ten Layers Of Frills is an experimental piece that marries flamenco, drama and sound to explore issues such as beauty, body image and social stigmas.

Breaking Silence (above) is another multi-disciplinary piece with dancers from various disciplines including flamenco, contemporary dance and butoh. It is produced in collaboration with the Singapore Association for Mental Health and incorporates material drawn from interviews with the association's clients on the experience of those who suffer from mental illness, as well as the challenges their caregivers face.

There will also be a special performance by clients of the association, developed during an earlier eight-week workshop held by Flamenco Sin Fronteras.

Where: Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road, Black Box **MRT:** Mountbatten **When:** Today, 8.15pm, & tomorrow, 3pm **Admission:** \$28 from www.ticketmash.sg/o/td

Below: David Bramante's photo American Eagle and Gian Paolo Barbieri's work Tatiana Savialora For Valentino will be showcased at MIA&D Fair. Bottom: Lennard Ong's sculptural works from the series Filament Forest and (right) Mersuka Dopazo's painting We Are Family will be on display at the Affordable Art Fair. (Below right) Singapore artist Danielle Tay's collage will be exhibited at Spot Art



A VERITABLE ART FEAST

Four art fairs are taking place within a span of five weeks. In such a crowded market, will they be able to find buyers, even though each has its own niche? BY HELMI YUSOF

Eyeing novice collectors

MILAN IMAGE ART & DESIGN FAIR (MIA&D)

► Oct 24 - 26 | Marina Bay Sands

Forté: Photography, video and design for novice art collectors and home decor hounds

PHOTOGRAPHY buffs have never had it better. In conjunction with the Singapore International Photography Fair, the Milan Image Art Fair is coming to Singapore and launching its first international edition. The fair here is different from the original one in Milan in that it has the added "Design" element. It is thus renamed Milan Image Art & Design Fair (MIA&D).

MIA&D will feature 50 international art galleries and 120 artists spanning 30 countries. Among the heavyweights are Sundaram Tagore Gallery selling the photographic works of celeb shutterbugs such as Annie Leibovitz and Sebastiao Salgado, the local 2902 Gallery with homegrown stars Robert Zhao and John Clang, and France's Little Birds Gallery with Thierry Konarzewski.

On the design front, there are Secondme Gallery from Rome with its sleek collection of furniture and homewares, and Design Gallery Milano featuring designs by the famous Andrea Branzi.

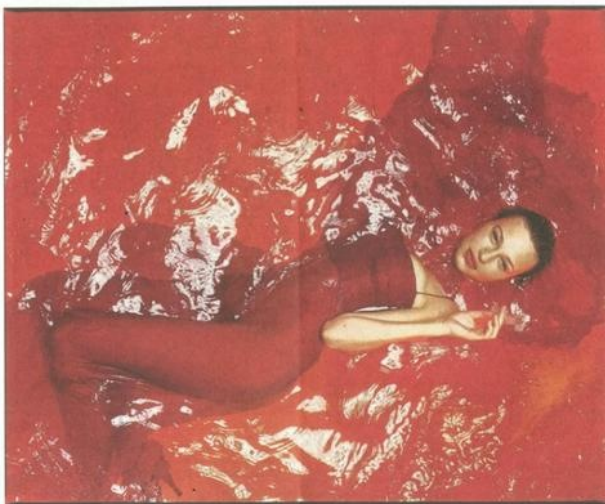
Lorenza Castell, organisation director of MIA&D Fair, says the fair organisation chose Singapore as its first international outpost because "Singapore is a gateway between West and East, which fits perfectly with our proposal. The Singapore audience also consists of globetrotters who are open-minded and keen on discovering art."

While its four-year-old fair in Milan showcases mostly Western galleries, the Singapore edition will have a 50-50 split between Asian and Western galleries, a formula that's similar to the incredibly popular Art HK (or Hong Kong International Art Fair).

Ms Castell says the fair in Milan draws mostly novice European collectors in their 40s who are keen to collect art and turn to photography because of its lower price point compared to paintings and sculptures. She expects the demographic to be similar in Singapore, where starting prices are around S\$3,000.

She says: "Photography is the fastest growing language in contemporary art that can be approached by young collectors thanks to a lower price range. The European collectors tend to appreciate more vintage black-and-white images. In Asia, collectors seem more attracted to contemporary photography that represents contemporary culture."

Ms Castell, who is the daughter of well-known Italian businessman and art collector Fabio Castell, says the organisers decided to add the "Design" element to the fair because "design is one of the symbols of Italian creativity that, we note, is very much appreciated in the Asian culture."



"Singapore is a gateway between West and East, which fits perfectly with our proposal. We also realise that the Singapore audience consists of globetrotters who are open-minded and keen on discovering art."

Lorenza Castell, organisation director of MIA&D Fair



Still going strong

AFFORDABLE ART FAIR (AAF)
► Nov 20 - 23 | F1 PH Building

Forté: Paintings, photography and sculptures priced under S\$10,000

NOW in its fifth year, Affordable Art Fair has become the most popular art fair in the country. Its warm and friendly vibe, and wide range of artworks from the arguably kitschy to the indisputably solid are among the factors contributing to its success.

The numbers alone tell an exhilarating story: In its 2011 edition, it sold S\$3 million worth of artworks; in 2012, S\$4 million; and in 2013, S\$4.9 million.

From this year on, AAF is holding two fairs annually, in May and one in November - making Singapore one of only three cities in the world where AAF takes place biannually. (The other two cities are London and New York, the art epicentres of the world.) The total sales figure for the two fairs in 2014 is expected to easily surpass S\$8 million.

Despite there now being three art fairs in November, fair director Camilla Hewitson is confident that AAF can bring in the visitors: "There's still room to reach out to more people who are new to the fair - even though most of our visitors are seasoned fair goers who have visited us since we started in 2010."

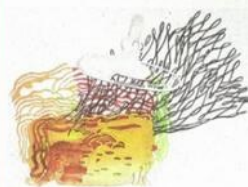
AAF has traditionally been one of the places to look for strong young artists on the cusp of their professional careers. Its Young Talent Programme, carried out in collaboration with ION Art, spots exciting emerging artists and showcases their works at ION Art Gallery and a booth at AAF.

This year, its three selected artists under the age of 30 - namely Lennard Ong, Noor Iskandar and Hlmi Johandi - have already garnered strong critical notices.

AAF, however, is also not sitting on its laurels. Ms signed to take an in-depth look at three media - photography, sculpture and watercolour. Experts from the Sculpture Society, the Singapore Watercolour Society and Objectifs (Centre of Photography and Filmmaking) will come together to offer live demonstrations, hands-on workshops and visual experiments, taking visitors behind the process of how art in these mediums are made.

"We've also got something new for the kids," she says. "The Children's Art Studio will offer an interactive workshop where the kids and their parents can create their own drawings based on their observations of wild plants and nature."

"Our core objective is to constantly reach out to existing and new collectors, and break down the perceived barriers to collecting contemporary art."



Spotlight on young talent

SPOT ART

► Nov 20 - 25 | Artrium@MCI
Old Hill Street Police Station

Forté: Emerging art from South-east Asia priced from S\$500 to S\$6,000

SPOT Art positions itself as a non-profit exhibition that gathers some of the best works by Asian artists under the age of 30 for a five-day showcase. It's the smallest and least glamorous of the four art events, with only 150 works by 48 artists from 12 countries. It is held at the modest Old Hill Street Police Station, whose space and lighting are perhaps less than ideal for viewing and buying art.

Nonetheless, if you have a good eye for spotting emerging talent, you might find some strong works here priced within the S\$500 and S\$6,000 bracket. Its debut event last year saw works that ranged from the promising to the poor, but more than 40 per cent of them was snapped up by local and international collectors.

Spot Art doesn't call itself a fair because of its registered charity status. Much of the overhead costs are covered by founders Jerry Gunn and Mary Pan, husband-and-wife art consultants who moved from New York to Singapore four years ago to launch the platform.

Mr Gunn says: "Our mission is really to unite contemporary art students and young artists based in Asia who are passionate about their practice into a cohesive exhibition that provides its participants with the highest quality art experience."