

PARIS *Art Fairs Galore*

Three important art fairs will take place in Paris this month, ensuring the City of Light is firmly on the calendars of art lovers. “From the point of view of a European or international collector, these events are complementary in quite an interesting way, especially for those who are invited for the Art Paris Art Fair special VIP programme of events. It is a good reason to come to Paris at the end of March,” said Guillaume Piens, director of the Art Paris Art Fair, the largest of the three fairs.

This year, the Art Paris Art Fair brings together 140 galleries, continuing its focus on a geographic theme. After Russia in 2013 and China in 2014, the 15-year-old event, running from March 26-29, continues to look to Asia with Singapore and Southeast Asia guests of honor for the 2015 edition. The special platform will bring together a dozen Singapore-based galleries including Art Seasons Gallery, Chan Hampe Galleries, Element Art Space, Yeo Workshop, iPreciation, and Sundaram Tagore Gallery to present the rising talent of the region directed by Lola Lenzi, a Southeast Asia art specialist and curator.

“Singapore is both a springboard and at the crossroads of a booming and increasingly influential



art scene emerging from South East Asia,” said Piens, adding he personally likes the conceptual and critical approach to art of Southeast Asian artist that reflect both social and political concerns. “I am also interested in the way they refer to and use traditional techniques and materials, revisit them and create new artistic forms. Finally, there is their use of performance as a way of interacting with the public and raising awareness,” he said.

The fair will also include in its main section other galleries or artists from Southeast Asia including Thai artist Navin Rawanchaikul at Adler Subhashok Gallery, Burma’s Aung Ko at Primo Marella, Vietnam’s Dinh Q. Le and Bui Cong Khanh at 10 Chancery Lane, and from the Philippines, Manuel Ocampo at Nathalie Obadia and Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan at Hélène Bailly. Piens said the fair is quite “attached to the concept of being a generalist

fair that shows both modern and contemporary art.” The work of a lot of contemporary artists contains remixes and references to the modernist movements of the 20th Century, he said. This year, quite a few contemporary galleries are presenting work by some emblematic historical figures: there are solo shows of work by Paul Neagu at Allegra Nomad Gallery, Gérard Fromanger at Caroline Smulders and Mohamed Melehi at Loft Art Gallery.

Meanwhile, Drawing Now Paris — a fair primarily dedicated to drawing as a medium — has 80 participating galleries this year and for this 9th edition, running March 25-29, the fair will continue to include plenty of artworks by old masters, a field that has made the Salon’s reputation, with the Parisian Galerie Tarantino offering drawings by Italian artists from the 16th and 17th centuries, while the London-based Aktis Gallery will offer works of

exiled Chinese and Russian artists active in Paris during the second half of the 20th century. Also present will be the prestigious London gallery Marlborough Fine art, and Galerie Thessa Herold (Paris), which will feature the works of avant-garde artists from 1920 to 1960.

Concurrently, PAD (Paris Art + Design), which turns 19 this year, is bringing its usual eclectic mix fit for a Cabinet d’Amateur with contemporary design, modern art, tribal art, and curios, contemporary jewelry, ceramics, and glassware. With some 75 galleries exhibiting, emphasis is on quality and some of the highlights already announced include a 1920s Poul Henningsen lamp for Louis Poulsen (Modernity Gallery), a Picasso still life dated 1945 (Opera Gallery), and a “Sorcerer’s mirror” made by Robert Goossens for Coco Chanel in the 1970s (88 Gallery).

For the past three years, the fair has presented a new face to the world: it is a European fair that focusses on discovery, the links between different art forms and the relationships between East and West.

— S.K.J.

March 26-29; Art Paris Art Fair, Grand Palais.

March 25-29; Drawing Now Paris, Carreau du Temple.

March 26-29; PAD, Esplanade des Feuillants, The Tuileries.