

artnet

March 13, 2026

Cash-Strapped Hong Kong Arts Hub Saved — Plus a Rundown of the Latest in Asia's Art World

Art Collaboration Kyoto now has seven directors instead of one, the Centre Pompidou's Seoul branch has an opening date, and a lot more.

By Vivienne Chow and Cathy Fan

*This news rundown, **State of Play**, is part of [The Asia Pivot](#), Artnet Pro's biweekly members-only newsletter that provides mission-critical analysis, insights, and exclusive intelligence on developments in Asia's art markets, with a focus on business opportunities and challenges. Subscribe [here](#) to receive it directly to your inbox every other week.*



West Kowloon Cultural District. Courtesy of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

What do you think about [Asia's biennials](#)? We want to know. The Asia Pivot invites you to participate in its first questionnaire on the rapidly proliferating festivals.

artnet

Please fill it out [here](#) and share it with your friends and colleagues in art. The questionnaire will remain live until the end of March, and we will share our findings in April. Thank you for your support.

Art Fairs

Art Collaboration Kyoto will have a new leadership structure starting April 1: a seven-person committee, with each member is a director with a different focus, like gallery relations, VIP relations, or education. **Yukako Yamashita**, the fair's director since 2022, is stepping down this month to become chairperson of **ACK Ambassadors**, which the fair bills as "an intimate, global network of established and next-generation collectors and cultural leaders."

The new **So~Shenzhen! Art Fair** will debut on March 22 at the **Sea World Culture and Arts Center**, as part of **Shenzhen Art Week**, with an open layout and flexible presentation format. Aligning with China's hosting of the 2026 **APEC** summit, it will focus on the Asia-Pacific region's art and market.

Former **Christie's** exec **Jacky Ho** is launching a new art fair-alternative called **ArtHouse Tai Hang** during **Hong Kong Art Week**. Branded as an art and community festival in that quiet neighborhood on Hong Kong Island, which is famous for its fire dragon dance and pre-war architecture, the ticketed event runs March 20–25 (first day as VIP preview) and features a selling exhibition in vacant shop spaces across 10 houses. It will present 50 artists, primarily from across Asia, including emerging and mid-career artists represented by galleries at **Art Basel Hong Kong**. Organizers will not charge participation fees and will split sales proceeds with artists.

artnet



Leadership Committee members of Art Collaboration Kyoto: from left: Keiko Mine, Miho Doi, Hidenori Suzuki, Yoko Hattori, Wakako Tezen, Masako Ohishi, Miwa Takamura. Courtesy of ACK, photo by Yoshimi Ryo.

Galleries

Artist **Anicka Yi** has joined the roster of **Pace**, which will represent her in partnership with **Gladstone Gallery**, **47 Canal**, and **Esther Schipper**.

Chinese interdisciplinary artist **Yu Ji** will present her first solo exhibition in New York at **P.P.O.W.** The gallery will also present an exhibition of previously unseen works by **Martin Wong**, opening April 18, featuring larger-than-life motorized cutouts of the comic character Popeye.

Institutions and Biennials

J.P. Morgan will be the anchor tenant of **West Kowloon Cultural District's Artist Square Towers**, the site's landlord **Sun Hung Kai Properties** said on Friday. (The real estate firm developed them in partnership with the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority.) The financial giant signed a 10-year lease on six connected floors of the site's East and West Towers, which are targeted for completion in 2027. The deal covers 250,000 square feet. The announcement came shortly after the previously cash-strapped

artnet

Hong Kong arts hub secured a 10-year HK\$3 billion (\$383 million) [loan](#) from the partially state-owned **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China**.

The **Centre Pompidou Hanwha** will hold a press conference on May 19 in Seoul, marking the official introduction of the museum's presence in the city. The project is the result of a licensing agreement between the **Centre Pompidou** and the **Hanwha Culture Foundation**, under which the Korean conglomerate will operate the venue in the **63 Square** skyscraper, presenting exhibitions with works from the French museum's collection.

"You must change your life"—the the last line of **Rainer Maria Rilke's** poem "Archaic Torso of Apollois"—is the title of the upcoming 16th **Gwangju Biennale**. Led by Singaporean artist **Ho Tzu Nyen**, along with curators **Che Kyongfa**, **Park Gahee**, and **Brian Kuan Wood**, the show will run in the South Korean city from September 5 through November 15.

The **Seoul Museum of Art** opened its eighth branch, the **Seo-Seoul Museum of Art**, on Thursday. The latest addition to the South Korean capital's vibrant institutional landscape is dedicated to new media art.

In May, the **V&A** will present "Rising Voices: Contemporary Art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific," a major exhibition with more than 40 artists from 25 countries across the Asia-Pacific region that has been developed in partnership with the **Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art**.

artnet



Ah Xian, *China China – Bust no. 4* (1998) © Ah Xian.

Factory International will present “**Ai Weiwei: Button Up!**” at **Aviva Studios** in Manchester, England, from July 2 to September 6. The large-scale, site-specific exhibition will feature two new monumental commissions, alongside existing works, exploring the intertwined histories of British imperialism, Sino-British relations, and globalization.

The **Sharjah Art Foundation** and the **Aranya Art Center Guangzhou** will present “In Absence and in Presence: Works from the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection,” on view from March 22 to August 30. With more than 70 works from the 1950s to the present, the exhibition brings together artists from West Asia, South Asia, Africa, and their diasporas.

EMAP 2026 (Ewha Media Art Presentation), a five-day, outdoor moving-image program, will take place May 12–16 at **Ewha Womans University** in Seoul. The festival, initiated to honor **Nam June Paik**’s legacy at Ewha, coincides with the 20th anniversary of the artist’s death. Artist **Moon Kyungwon**, the dean of **Ewha’s College of Art and Design**, and former **Tate Modern** director **Frances Morris** are

artnet

overseeing this edition, which focuses on the climate crisis and the sensorial politics of water. Its curators are **John Kenneth Paranada**, **Sungah Serena Choo**, and **Sooyoung Leam**.

Auctions

Asia Week New York will return for its 17th edition from March 19 to 27, bringing together 23 international galleries, 11 museums and cultural institutions, and six major auction houses. **Bonhams** will mark the event at its newly opened New York flagship with six live auctions, including two single-owner sales dedicated to snuff-bottle and netsuke collections.

Major auction houses are staging Modern and contemporary auctions in Hong Kong toward the end of March, coinciding with Art Basel. **Christie's** will kick off its 40th-anniversary celebration in Asia with the auction debut of a 1991 **Gerhard Richter** abstract painting with presale estimates of HK\$78 million to HK\$98 million (\$10 million to \$13 million) in its 20th-/21st-century evening sale on March 27. **Sotheby's** will stage its evening auction on March 29, led by **Sanyu's** painting *Beijing Circus* (1950/1960). The work is expected to fetch HK\$28 million to HK\$40 million (\$3.64 million to \$5.2 million). Meanwhile, Bonhams will auction off a single-owner collection of works by **Yayoi Kusama**, also on March 29, including a red *Pumpkin* painting from 2000 with a presale estimate between HK\$15 million to HK\$25 million (\$1.92 million to \$3.2 million). March 29 will also see **Phillips's** evening sale and Japan's **New Art Est-Ouest Auctions** spring auction.

After announcing a merger last year, **Mainichi Auction** and **SBI Art Auction**, two of Japan's biggest houses, will stage a joint exhibition at **Seoul Auction** in the South Korean capital. Running March 20–22, it will showcase 25 Korean antiques from Mainichi's upcoming sales, as well as contemporary works by Korean and Japanese artists from both houses.

People

Oscar-winning art director and multidisciplinary artist **Tim Yip** is presenting "Mirror of the Meta: Incredible Reality" at **Asprey Studio** in London through March 30. The gallery will also present Yip's work at **Art Basel Hong Kong** as part of the **Zero10** digital-art platform.