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September 2014



ARTWAVE

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South Island Cultural District's gallerists strike a pose on the Butchers Club Doll rooftop in Wong Chuk Hang.

With the South Island Cultural District holding its first open day this month, Evie Burrows-Taylor checks out the art. Photo by Cherrie Yu and Evy Cheung

When Art Basel, the world's premier contemporary art fair, made Hong Kong an annual stopover in 2013 the city secured its position on the international art map. The fanfare surrounding the show drew gallerists and artists from around the globe. In its wake, the city's art scene has been developing rapidly, coalescing around little hubs of creativity. One of them is the South Island Cultural District (SICD), based in the neighbourhoods around Aberdeen.

While the first galleries opened in the area more than a decade before Art Basel showed up, SICD is growing rapidly. The MTR is due to pull in sometime in 2016, but that's not the only draw. The area's other big attraction is space: as the factories move out, creative types are reimagining the high-ceilinged, wide-windowed industrial buildings as galleries and studios.

The Hong Kong Art Development Council (HKADC) is also doing its part, investing in artist studios for the area, which aspires to be known as somewhere art is made as well as sold.

Already there's a thriving scene of about 20 galleries and studios in Wong Chuk Hang, Ap Lei Chau and Tin Wan. And on September 27, they are throwing open their doors to the public for the first SICD open day.

Organised by the SICD Committee, which represents the area's artistic community, the day promises to be wonderfully diverse. Current exhibitions include Tibetan sculpture, Japanese paintings and contemporary Chinese art, and there will be artist performances and children's activities on the day.

"The quality of galleries and artists in this area is very high," says committee chairman Dominique Perregaux, founder of Wong Chuk Hang gallery Art Statements. "It's exciting to be one of the first here, watching it change. The arrival of the MTR will bring more commercial enterprises and when people come here to shop and eat, they'll also come to the galleries."

With so many galleries to choose from, it's hard to know where to start. We've done the legwork for you.

Dominique Perregaux

founder of
**Wong Chuk Hang gallery,
Art Statements**

“

I look after around 15 artists, some of whom are established in the West,” he says. “Recently, people have started looking at Hong Kong as an art hub, but one still very much in its naissance.

”



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Wong Chuk Hang

Galleries
3812

3812 was one of the area's first galleries when it was founded in 2003 by Calvin Hui. He is a great example of SICD's thriving community spirit. This month, he is helping to promote Hong Kong art internationally by holding an exhibition of work by SICD artist Chloe Ho in New York. And in Hong Kong, 3812 will be showing work by Chinese artists Liu Guofu and Lin Guocheng.

"The Hong Kong art scene has been developing quickly over the past three years," Hui says. "There are a lot more opportunities for artists to work and exhibit here. There are also more collectors interested in Hong Kong art. This will go some way to creating an ecology in the city's art scene."

Open Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm. 10/F, Heung Wah Industrial Building, 12 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2153 3812.

Aishonanzuka

The Hong Kong collaboration of two Japanese galleries, Aisho Miura Arts and Nanazuka, Aishonanzuka launched last year. In August,



From left: Art Statements, Rossi & Rossi and Pékín Fine Arts.

It held an exhibition by Japanese artist Shuhei Yamada "X", known for using a variety of media in his Impressors of Japanese society and national power.

13A, Regency Centre Phase 1, 39 Wong Chuk Hang Road.

Art Statements

After opening a successful gallery in Tokyo, Perregaux introduced Art Statements to Hong Kong in 2003. Work by young Japanese artist Takeru Amaro currently fills its large rooms. The space is liberating – the artwork has room to breathe, and visitors can give each piece its due

attention. Brought up by passionate collectors, Perregaux's interest in art started at a young age and eventually led him to leave banking to become a dealer.

Art Statements, 8/F, Gee Chang Hong Centre, 65 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2696 2300.

Blindspot Gallery

Focusing on photography, Blindspot's name acknowledges photography's status as the most neglected art medium in Hong Kong. It's an oversight the gallery is determined to correct, with exhibitions by contemporary photographers and artists from Asia and around the world. It has



a smaller space on Aberdeen Street, Central 15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2517 6238.

Pékín Fine Arts

Launched in Beijing in 2005 and Hong Kong in 2012, Pékín Fine Arts exhibits work mainly from southern China, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. This summer, the gallery showed work by John Clang, an acclaimed Singaporean artist living in New York.

"More galleries will open, more museums will open, more university art programmes will be developed," owner Meg Magglio says. "This is an



exciting moment for Hong Kong artists to rethink their practices amidst a rapid need for new works to fill exhibit space."

16/F, Union Industrial Building, 48 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2177 6190.

Plum Blossoms Gallery

Established in 1997, Plum Blossoms Gallery houses an enviable collection of ancient textiles, early Chinese porcelain, Chinese and Tibetan furniture and Sino-Tibetan sculpture.

Plum Blossoms Gallery, 14/F, Cheung Tak Industrial Building, 30 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2521 2188.

Rossi & Rossi and Yalay Gallery

International gallery Rossi & Rossi exhibits under-the-radar artists from places such as Kazakhstan, Cambodia and Pakistan. Owner Fabio Rossi is very much part of the international art establishment, attending the School of Oriental and African Studies in London before going to work for his mother's gallery there. He shares his space in Hong Kong with Yalay Gallery, which focuses on Asian and Middle Eastern art, and the two hold complementary exhibitions.

3C, Yalay Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat Street, 3575 9417.

Artist studios

Go straight to the source and visit some of SICD's artists in residence. Hongkonger Chloe Ho produces sketches and oil on canvas with pieces in private collections in Paris, London, Singapore and Hong Kong. Other artists' studios in the SICD, include Kirsteen Pieterse, Phil Akashi, Emma Fordham and Caroline Chiu. Sculptor Richard X. Zawitz is featured exclusively at Infinity Gallery and Studio. ▶

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Open
Day

20 September
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Chloe Ho, Room 17A, Regency Centre I, 39 Wong Chuk Hang Road, 2518 8202.
 Kirsteen Pieterse, 88, 8/F, Tin Fung Industrial Mansion, 63 Wong Chuk Hang Road.
 Phil Akashi Studio, 7E, Derrick Industrial Building, 49 Wong Chuk Hang Road.
 Emma Fordham Studio, 9B, Block 1, Kingley Industrial Building, 35 Yip Kan Street.
 Caroline Chiu, 8A, Shui Ki Industrial Building, 18 Wong Chuk Hang Road.
 Infinity Gallery and Studio, 3B, Yally Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat Street, 3426 9726.

Ap Lei Chau

toof (contemporary)

toof (contemporary) has found a niche by focusing on Latin American art, with an international outlook. Exhibiting work across all forms, including conceptual, urban, installation and photography, the gallery brings together artists and dealers from around the world.
 3/F Canteen, Harbour Industrial Centre, 10 Lee Hing Street, 9684 9964.

Tin Wan

KORU Contemporary Art

Based in Hong Kong since 2001, KORU specialises in sculpture. If you're on a quest to find the next Rodin or Moore, KORU's the place for you.

16/F, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, 2590 5922

Gallery EXIT

Gallery EXIT promotes the work of Asian conceptual artists, working in different media and exploring contemporary life in East Asia.
 Southside, 3/F, Blue Box Factory Building, 25 Hing Wo Street, 2541 1299. 



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