

Top 50 Asian Artists From a curators point of view

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Analysis of Artifact.Net and artprice.com

Although the list of record breaking artist in auction results symbolizes preference of collectors, we could compare it with other aspects of evaluating Asian artists' standard to make a comprehensive understanding of contemporary Asian artists.

Below: Yang Fudong, *Seven Intellectuals in Bamboo Forest Part 1*, 2003, Courtesy of Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, ©Yang Fudong, 2007.
Facing Page Top: Cao Fei, *China Tracy*, 2007, Courtesy of 52nd Venice Biennale.
Below: Nikki S. Lee, *Paris (202)*, 2004, Courtesy of Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt/Main/GAK Bremen.

With auctions and art fairs boom amid soaring prices, Chinese contemporary art works continue record breaking day after day in major sales. Some experts estimate that the average price of Chinese contemporary art is overestimated in past few years and thus, when we reevaluate their works from now on, the price would remain steady for next few years and possibly even decline by the beginning of the next year.

Contrary to the collectors taste, it seems that Japanese, Australian, Korean or other Asian artists are working actively for the exhibitions and shows in global art world showing various concern and interest of the curator, critic or public. Not only Chinese best selling artists, but also many of contemporary Asian artists in international art world are taking a significant part in the field. It means that the artists list of highest record can not tell us inclusive standpoints of contempo-

rary Asian art. Then, how can we consider and evaluate Asian artists with broaden sense and what standards would be proper for it?

From a curators point of view

When looking at the overall Artist Ranking weve to realize that the Asian Top 50 are a young and dynamic group of artist with a great perspective. The top number one is Nam June Paik, the Korean-born video artist who passed away last year.

The youngest artist is with 29 years Cao Fei born 1978 from China. She is ranked 32 in Asia and 742 over all. The average age of the Asia Top 50 is 47 years and the 100 is 39 years. 26% of all Top 50 Asians artist are under 40 years old and of all Top 100 Asians artist, 41% are under 40 years old. The Top 10 Asian are composed of 1 Australian, 1 Chinese, 1 Indonesian, 5 Japanese, 2 Koreans. Where Yang Fu-Dong from China is with 36 years the youngest artist in the group. When evaluating the participation on biennials, we've found that the video artist Yang Fu-Dong is the most shown artist in Europe and America. In the Asia Top 50 shows proportion of 21 Japanese, 16 Chinese, 6 Korean, 3 Australian and 4 others. In the Asia Top 100 by Rank we see a great number of Chinese artists followed by Japan and Australia: 10 Australians, 38 Chinese, 2 Hong Kong (China), 2 Indonesia, 3 India, 26 Japan, 9 Korea, 3 New Zealand, 1 Philippines, 1 Pakistan, 1 Singapore, 2 Taiwan (China), 1 Vietnam. The Chinese auction art market is sky rocking and Asian collectors are very self-confident buyers and want to push there preferred artists to the top of the global art league.

The most dynamic artist can be measured by the growth rate. The highest growth in Artist Ranks has Terence Koh (born in 1977) who was born in Beijing and raised in Canada. He jumped 894





over all ranks in 2007. The highest growth in Points with 10285.43 has Yoko Ono (born in 1933) from Japan, followed by the Shanghai video and installation artist Yang Fu-Dong (born in 1971) with 9148.29 Points.

The top number 10 of the world is Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Bruce Nauman, Gerhard Richter, Paul Klee, Joseph Beuys, Cindy Sherman, Herni Matisse, Robert Rauschenberg and Sol Lewitt.

The rank has been updated and recalculated on 22th October, 2007.

Artfacts.Net artist ranking background

Artfacts.Net has developed a new concept to evaluate an artist in nowadays market context. Artfacts.Net has created an on-line portal in order to get detailed facts about artists, exhibitions and art-relevant institutions. We respond to the ques-

	Artists	Birth	Country	Rank 2007	Points
1	Nam June Paik	1932-2006	KR	64	74157,11
2	Yoko Ono	1933 (74)	JP	73	71038,52
3	Hiroshi Sugimoto	1948 (59)	JP	107	61093,77
4	Yayoi Kusama	1929 (78)	JP	155	53461,56
5	Anish Kapoor	1954 (53)	IN	163	51296,18
6	Takashi Murakami	1962 (45)	JP	168	49778,74
7	Tracey Moffatt	1960 (47)	AU	184	47299,43
8	On Kawara	1933 (74)	JP	200	44242,81
9	Kimsooja	1957 (50)	KR	203	43870,95
10	Yang Fu-Dong	1971 (36)	CN	247	38611,15
11	Yasumasa Morimura	1951 (56)	JP	255	38096,16
12	Mariko Mori	1967 (40)	JP	256	38070,10
13	Nobuyoshi Araki	1940 (67)	JP	284	36103,82
14	Zhang Huan	1965 (42)	CN	330	32217,10
15	Cai Guo-Qiang	1957 (50)	CN	351	30910,48
16	Yoshitomo Nara	1959 (48)	JP	414	26336,31
17	Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba	1968 (39)	JP	450	24729,73
18	Tatsuo Miyajima	1957 (50)	JP	457	24643,96
19	Huang Yong Ping	1954 (53)	CN	462	24443,74
20	Leiko Ikemura	1951 (56)	JP	502	22950,53
21	Jeong-A Koo	1967 (40)	KR	536	21795,50
22	Yan Pei Ming	1960 (47)	CN	550	21346,18
23	Lee Bul	1964 (43)	KR	555	21169,93
24	Ron Mueck	1958 (49)	AU	575	20735,11
25	Paul Chan	1973 (34)	HK	578	20643,44
26	Yutaka Sone	1965 (42)	JP	622	19483,51
27	Zhang Peili	1957 (50)	CN	627	19378,07
28	Chen Zhen	1955-2000	CN	679	18318,16
29	Noritoshi Hirakawa	1960 (47)	JP	685	18241,45
30	Yang Zhenzhong	1968 (39)	CN	695	18054,51
31	Do-Ho Suh	1962 (45)	KR	713	17884,87
32	Cao Fei	1978 (29)	CN	742	17367,26
33	Wang Du	1956 (51)	CN	753	17122,28
34	Miwa Yanagi	1967 (40)	JP	755	17100,31
35	Naoya Hatakeyama	1958 (49)	JP	793	16388,87
36	Tsuyoshi Ozawa	1965 (42)	JP	813	16164,68
37	Shahzia Sikander	1969 (38)	PK	823	15997,60
38	Shimabuku	1969 (38)	JP	850	15614,54
39	Xu Bing	1955 (52)	CN	867	15466,92
40	Takehito Koganezawa	1974 (33)	JP	897	15137,22
41	Xu Zhen	1977 (30)	CN	901	15100,14
42	Daido Moriyama	1938 (69)	JP	905	15070,06
43	Simryn Gill	1959 (48)	SG	936	14707,44
44	Michael Lin	1964 (43)	JP	939	14586,30
45	Fang Lijun	1963 (44)	CN	946	14483,87
46	Toba Khedoori	1964 (43)	AU	969	14215,32
47	Liu Wei	1972 (35)	CN	994	13829,09
48	Ai Weiwei	1957 (50)	CN	1036	13340,95
49	Jun Yang	1975 (32)	CN	1055	13229,92
50	Nikki S. Lee	1970 (37)	KR	1063	13175,52



Above: Zeng Fanzhi, *Mask Series No.25*, Courtesy of Sotheby's; Below: Hiroshi Sugimoto *Los Altos Drive-In, Lakewood*, 1993, Courtesy of Kunsthalle Bielefeld, ©Hiroshi Sugimoto; Bottom: Liu Ye, *The End of Baroque*, Courtesy of Sotheby's.

Facing Page Top: Yoshitomo Nara, *I think therefore I am a dog* (in 5 parts), Courtesy of Sotheby's; Bottom Left: Nam June Paik, *Robot Circus-Ring Master*, 2004, Courtesy of Gallery Hyundai; Right: Takashi Murakami, *Monogram*, Courtesy of Sotheby's.



	Artists	Birth	Country	Rank2007	Auction sales turnover(unit: €)
1	ZHANG Xiaogang	1958(49)	CN	3	36,136,819
2	YUE Minjun	1962(45)	CN	5	14,897,861
3	ZENG Fanzhi	1964(43)	CN	7	11,751,576
4	CHEN Yifei	1946-2005	CN	12	7,590,651
5	ZHOU Chunya	1955(52)	CN	13	7,364,656
6	WANG Guangyi	1957(50)	CN	14	6,990,529
7	SUGIMOTO Hiroshi	1948(59)	JP	15	6,955,169
8	KAPOOR Anish	1954(53)	IN	16	6,440,150
9	YAN Pei-Ming	1960(47)	CN	18	6,107,770
10	NARA Yoshitomo	1959(48)	JP	21	5,395,588
11	LIU Xiaodong	1963(44)	CN	22	5,293,050
12	FANG Lijun	1963(44)	CN	23	5,241,931
13	WANG Yidong	1955(52)	CN	25	5,033,629
14	LIY Ye	1964(43)	CN	28	4,455,699
15	AI Xuan	1947(60)	CN	32	3,490,773
16	YANG Feiyun	1954(53)	CN	35	3,059,175
17	TANG Zhigang	1959(48)	CN	37	2,790,782
18	LENG Jun	1953(54)	CN	43	2,493,030
19	CHEN Danqing	1953(54)	CN	44	2,322,314
20	LIU Wei	1965(42)	CN	47	2,035,822
21	MURAKAMI Takashi	1962(45)	JP	50	1,994,420
22	LUO Zhongli	1948(59)	CN	53	1,946,760
23	ZHANG Huan	1965(42)	CN	58	1,711,038
24	FENG Zhengjie	1968(39)	CN	62	1,668,396
25	CAI Guoqiang	1957(50)	CN	64	1,654,944
26	MAO Xuhui	1958(51)	CN	68	1,597,535
27	QI Zhilong	1962(45)	CN	70	1,502,802
28	MAO Yan	1968(39)	CN	71	1,396,952
29	JI Dachun	1968(39)	CN	74	1,294,049
30	YIN Zhaoyang	1970(37)	CN	85	1,045,594
31	MEESE Jonathan	1977(30)	JP	89	1,025,322
32	CHENG Conglin	1954(53)	CN	90	1,016,428
33	GUO Wei	1960(47)	CN	91	1,010,867
34	CHEN Yanning	1945(62)	CN	95	969,032
35	XIN Dongwang	1963(44)	CN	98	940,888
36	HE Duoling	1948(59)	CN	101	924,591
37	NEWSON Marc	1963(44)	AU	106	886,365
38	CHEN Zhen	1955-2000	CN	107	886,032
39	GUPTA Subodh	1964(43)	IN	110	851,677
40	WANG Qingsong	1966(41)	CN	112	819,418
41	SU Xiping	1960(47)	CN	113	816,567
42	GUO Jin	1964(43)	CN	115	809,550
43	TAL R	1967(40)	IL	116	787,868
44	XU Bing	1955(52)	CN	120	767,914
45	ARKLEY Howard	1951-1999	AU	121	765,003
46	WANG Keping	1949(58)	CN	124	737,894
47	CHAO Ge	1957(50)	CN	125	736,894
48	LONG Liyou	1958(49)	CN	126	732,622
49	HE Sen	1968(39)	CN	129	696,013
50	LING Jian	1963(44)	CN	133	667,990

The Top 10 Asian are composed of 1 Australian, 1 Chinese, 1 Indonesian, 5 Japanese, 2 Koreans. In the Asia Top 100 by Rank we see a great number of Chinese artists followed by Japan and Korea.

tion of the market value of an artist in the field of visual art by referring to his cultural importance, to certain econometric methods and statistical facts. The criteria to value the rank of an artist are amongst others the representation through private galleries, the collection through public institutions, the number and quality of exhibitions and the time the artists is active in the art world.

The idea of the artist ranking is based on Georg Franck's theory 'economy of attention' and Willi Bongard's 'Kunstkompass' and the google.com PageRank. Franck assumes that, in the cultural world, attention represents an economic factor following the dynamics of capitalism. According to Franck, the curator acts the role of the investor who places his network as capital, at the disposal of the artist, that he expects to attract more attention and thus to turn out to be profitable. Willi Bongard was in 1970 actually the first one creating a ranking system based on the exhibitions in museums and cover stories in art magazines. The 'Kunstkompass' have had a wide impact on scientist working with econometrics in the art market. The PageRank was developed in 1995 at Stanford University by Larry Page and Sergey Brin as part of a research project about a new kind of search engine. The PageRank algorithm analyses the quality and quantity of links

that point to a page.

On Artfacts.Net the chart shows the exhibition activities of an artist in relation to other artists. The ranking originates from a list where each artist is displayed in a descending order of points. The artist with the highest points in a particular year will be at the top of the list. This position is recently taken by Andy Warhol, followed by Pablo Picasso.

From a view of auction price

According to the artprice's Annual Report: 'Contemporary art market 2006/2007' the prices of contemporary art works have steadily risen for the last decade. Between September, 2001 and July, 2007, the world economy grew 152%, and for the same period, the indices for prices of contemporary art works rose 233%. The fine art markets began to be recovered on a full scale since 2002. From this turning point to June, 2007, prices of contemporary fine art works had approximately doubled on average. The prices for the fine art works traded on auctions recently were about 18% higher than those in 1990 in overall terms.

Artprice presented an analysis of sales at auction for the generation of artists born after 1945. Artprice made a ranking of 'The top 500 artprice 2006/2007' based on sales from July 1st 2006 to



June 30 2007. Following analysis of Artprice's 'The Rising Stars' and 'Chinese contemporary art', China ranked 4th in the global market in 2006 and not only for Sotheby's and Christies, but also for the auction houses in Europe like Koller, Bonhams or Artcurial are organizing a number of large sales of Chinese contemporary art.

Among Asian artist who was born after 1945, the top 10 Asian are composed with 7 Chinese, 2 Japanese, 1 Indian. In the Asia Top 50 artists based on auction results shows proportion of 21 Japanese, 16 Chinese, 6 Korean, 3 Australian and 4 others.

Zhang Xiaogang have achieved top position among Asian artists and the 3rd among worldwide. For the international top artists ranking, the top was Jean-Michel Basquiat and the second was Damien Hirst. Artists born after 1945, the top 10 Asian are composed with 7 Chinese, 2 Japanese, 1 Indian. In May 2007, at China Guardian, Beijing, Chen Yifei's Eulogy of the Yellow River was sold for \$4,694,400 and one month later, Yue Minjun's The Pope was sold for \$3,782,140.

The last paragraph is written by art in ASIA editorial department

