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Press release

Asia NOW 2023 | 9th edition From 20th to 22nd October 2023

Preview on October 19th, 2023 (by invitation)
during Art Week in Paris and Paris + by Art Basel
Monnaie de Paris
11 Quai de Conti | Paris 6

Guest curators, the artists' collective Slavs and Tatars
Focus on Central Asia and Textiles and Fabric Arts
Diasporas
A selection of participating galleries
New NOW ON section

“Asia is where all the excitement is” — Nadia Samdani, Samdani Art Foundation

Since its inception, Asia NOW has put forward a selection of the most important international galleries in the Asian art market, pursuing its annual mission to explore the perimeter put forth by the Asia Society, which stretches from Japan to Iran, from Central Asia to Asia Pacific, across West, South and South-East Asia.

A committed fair, Asia NOW is interested inasmuch in so-called "peripheral" areas as in those identified as centers of power, culture and influence.

Asia NOW aims to **showcase emerging and established contemporary practices** from Asia's art scenes, and continues to act as a sounding board for the wealth and variety of the **artistic creation of these territories and their diasporas**.

Guest Curators

The artist collective Slavs And Tatars will be the Guest Curator of Asia NOW 2023's curated platform. Their exhibition is dedicated to Textiles

and Fabrics in Central Asian contemporary art. This project serves as a means of better understanding the **questions of crafts, identity and information** arising from this practice.

Slavs and Tatars is an internationally renowned art collective devoted to an area East of the former Berlin Wall and West of the Great Wall of China. Since its inception in 2006, the collective has shown a keen grasp of polemical issues in society, clearing new paths for contemporary discourse via a wholly idiosyncratic form of knowledge production: this includes popular culture, spiritual and esoteric traditions, oral histories, modern myths, as well as scholarly research.

Their work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions across the globe, including the Vienna Secession; MoMA, New York; Salt, Istanbul; and Albertinum Dresden, amongst others. Their practice is based on three activities: exhibitions, publications, and lecture-performances. The collective has published more than twelve books to date, including most recently *Лук Бук* (Look Book) with Distanz Verlag. **The collective's regional focus and capacious practice make them a fitting choice for the fair's emphasis on Asia and its multiplicity.**

Slavs and Tatars' interventions will unfold across various stations, like a **parcours, through the iconic Monnaie de Paris**, the world's oldest continuously running minting institution. The Cour d'Honneur will feature a *Chaikhaneh*, or tea salon, designed by the artists to offer visitors a choice of steeped black or green tea and housed in a top-of-the-range yurt created by Yourta in Kyrgyzstan,. For the occasion, Slavs and Tatars will also conceive a Reading Room, a Eurasian salon with literature on the arts of the region, with the aim of fostering encounters and exchange with others.

The centerpiece of the programme--an exhibition of contemporary artists curated by Slavs and Tatars--will explore the role of textiles in the practices of Central Asia.

The weaving of ikats, a vernacular textile, is often referred to as *abr-bandi*, a term of Persian origin meaning 'to tie clouds.' Seen from the perch of the early 21st century, in the thick of the information age, the cloud-tying of ikats suggests another horizon: that of data and digitalization, as much as that of dyes and fabric.

The artists on show are: Askhat Akhmedyarov, Said Atabekov, Alibay Bapanov, Nazy Beglari, Medina Bazarğali, Saule Dyussenbina, Madina Joldybek, Dilyara Kaipova, Kubra Khademi, Almagul Menlibayeva, Gulnur Mukazhanova, Nazilya Nagimova, Aziza Shadenova, Guzel Zakir.

The Slavs and Tatars exhibition is made possible thanks to the kind support of Sisley, leading partner of our guest curatorial platform.

With the help of the **Goethe Institut Paris and of Yourta**.

A Content-Based Art Fair

As a committed fair, Asia NOW continues to assert its awareness of and contribution to tackling the issues affecting our world.

Its programme, which is redefined each year, features exacting artistic proposals aimed at professionals and well-informed collectors.

This year again, Asia NOW will bring particular attention to the notions of sharing, of transmission and of welcoming an amateur audience, receiving it into the majestic patrimonial site of Monnaie de Paris.

Asia NOW will deploy a **conversation platform** developed and moderated by **Thanks for Nothing/ArtReview** for a third time this year, as well as a program of artistic performances.

The parcours through Monnaie de Paris will be punctuated by a host of special projects. These will be influenced by a desire to share, the aspiration of living together, and the promotion of collaborative and collective practices.

Textiles and Fabrics

Contemporary artistic practices have been enriched by so-called traditional or local know-how, by combining these with the challenges stemming from modernity.

Moreover, **the dualism and hierarchy between art and craftsmanship do not exist in many cultures.**

Of all the crafts that employ organic materials, it is **textiles, in its diverse artistic forms**, that Asia NOW 2023 has chosen to showcase, as was the case for ceramics in 2022.

Falling under the umbrella of textiles, are the notions of lines and threads, weft and warp, sewing, weaving and embroidery, as performed by artists. In a broader sense, the relationship between art and ornament will emerge naturally from the works displayed.

Galleries

For this second edition of Asia NOW at Monnaie de Paris, **Asia NOW has chosen to grant larger exhibition spaces to a smaller number of galleries.**

A new feature of this year's show is the **NOW ON section**, which will be showcasing around ten galleries, each less than 6 years old. These **young galleries from around the world will all present solo or duo projects.** This new section will include THE SHOPHOUSE (Hong Kong), Inna Art Space (Hangzhou and NY), and Galerie BAQ (Paris), among others.

In keeping with important underlying trends, American galleries (New York) will take part in this 9th edition, as well as some of the most prominent West Asian galleries, including from Dubai. 2023 will also mark the return of Chinese galleries, following several years' absence.

This year, we welcome around 70 galleries, including Perrotin which will present a solo exhibition d'ob, curated by Takashi Murakami, KÖNIG GALERIE (Berlin), MadeIn Gallery (Shanghai), Gana Art (Séoul), Ab Anbar (London), P21 (Séoul). These will also be joined by new, fascinating participants. We will be receiving the Peter Kilchmann Gallery (Zurich) with a personal exhibition by Leiko Ikemura, Fragment (New York) with the Korean artist Young-Jun TAK, the Eric Mouchet Gallery with a personal exhibition by Kubra Khademi, Harper's Gallery (New York), The Third Line (Dubai), Tabari Artspace (Dubai), among others.

Additionally, we have a section of fascinating video projects which includes Roh Projects with Tromarama, Nova Contemporary which will present a video installation and performance by Moe State, and a sound and visual work by Liu Wa x Bao Yang.

We are excited to share the complete lineup of galleries exhibiting at Asia NOW 2023, as well as the complete program of special projects, performances, and conversations which will make up this 9th edition of Asia NOW.

Monnaie de Paris mints the French euro coins in circulation. Monnaie de Paris has reinvented itself around multiple activities to promote its high-level industrial skills and expertise. Its Museum offers a unique experience, combining permanent exhibition rooms with views of its workshops.

Asia NOW is under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture.

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