

EXHIBITIONS



CowParade returns to Taipei with an auction for charity.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PILOT MARKETING

HIGHLIGHT

After touring the island, CowParade has made its way back to Taipei for **Cow for Charity!** Forty-two of the 108 iconic fiberglass cows created for CowParade Taipei will be auctioned off on Sept. 6. Proceeds from the auction will go to support four local organizations that promote art education for children: Quanta Culture & Education Foundation (廣達文教基金會), Children's Art Education Foundation (兒童藝術基金會), Love Life and Da-Yu-Huang Children's Theatrical Company (黃大漁兒童劇團). Opening bids for the bovines (in three poses — standing, grazing and reclining) range from NT\$200,000 to NT\$400,000, depending on the pedigree of the artist who created each and the materials used. Taipei is the second Asian city to host the public art exhibit, after Tokyo. Over the past decade, CowParade has seen more than 5,000 beasts designed by roughly 10,000 artists attract half a billion viewers at five dozen exhibitions throughout the globe's major cities. According to its Web site, CowParade has raised more than US\$20 million through charitable organizations and the auction of the cows since its inception as a public art event in 1999.

■ Huashan Culture Park (華山文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號). On the Net: www.cowparade-taipei.com
■ Sept. 6. The auction begins at 2pm

Timed to coincide with Taiwan Designer's Week, **Hacking IKEA 2009** is a group exhibit that seeks to add creativity to standardized and mass-produced objects. Designers from Taiwan, France, Germany and the Netherlands will exhibit commercial products tinged with artistic resonance as a means of offering a different approach to design. Hacking IKEA also seeks to introduce global design concepts and trends to Taiwan and create a platform for designers to show off and share their ideas.

■ Huashan Culture Park (華山文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號). Open daily from 10am to 9:30pm. For more information call Sasson Kung (龔維德) at 0928-616-424 or Lin Yu-chuan (林育全) at 0989-009-617. On the Net: www.hackingikea.info
■ Friday to Sept. 6

The Fragmentized Illusion (片段的幻象) is a group exhibition of contemporary photography by some of Taiwan's top photographers, including Mei Dean-E (梅丁衍), Wu Tien-chang (吳天章), Chen Shun-chu (陳順欒) and Yao Jui-chang (姚瑞中).
■ Galerie Grand Siecle (新苑藝術), 17, Alley 51, Ln 12, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段12巷51弄17號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 1pm to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2578-5630
■ Until Sept. 20

American sculptor and ceramicist **Kenneth Baskin** explores the integration of actual and abstracted machine parts in a solo exhibition that is part of Yingge Ceramics Museum's 20th Century Artifacts Series. Objects resembling cogwheels and pinions fired in sea blues, metallic grays and earthy browns serve as metaphors for the relationships of balance and stability, tension and ease and opposition and compromise.

■ Yingge Ceramics Museum (鶯歌陶瓷博物館), 200 Wenhua Rd, Yingge Township, Taipei County (北縣鶯歌鎮文化路200號). Open Tuesdays to Fridays from 9:30am to 5pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 8677-2727
■ Until Oct. 18

Abandoned operating rooms, gas mask-wearing humans in vibrant landscapes and centaurs rummaging through vehicles are among the surreal scenes depicted in a solo exhibition of oil paintings by Chinese artist **Jia Aili (賈麗力)**.

■ Michael Ku Gallery (谷公館), 4F-2, 21, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段21號4樓之2). Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11am to 8pm. Tel: (02) 2577-5601
■ Until Sept. 20

The Simple Art of Parody is a group exhibition by artists from Russia, India, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan that explores the theme of parody — and related ideas such as satire, irony and humor — through installation art, photography, painting and sculpture as a means of revealing the contradictions in contemporary society.

■ Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA, Taipei), 39 Chang'an W Rd, Taipei City (台北市長安西路39號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2552-3721. On the Net: www.mocataipei.org.tw
■ Until Oct. 25

The fair must go on

Organizers of Art Taipei say Typhoon Morakot and the global financial crisis may keep the general public and investors away from Taiwan's biggest art fair, but collectors will probably still be tempted to purchase art

BY NOAH BUCHAN
STAFF REPORTER

There was little talk about art at a press conference held last week to promote this year's Art Taipei. Rather than focus all their attention on the art fair, which begins on Friday, the assembled speakers competed in offering sympathy to the victims of Typhoon Morakot. The event reached a kind of denouement when Art Taipei CEO York Hsiao (蕭耀) presented an oversized check for NT\$1 million to help victims of the disaster.

And the giving won't stop there. Art Taipei organizers have pledged that the proceeds from tickets sold at the door will go to helping victims of the catastrophe.

"Last year [ticket sales] amounted to NT\$2 million," said Joanne Chen (陳章晴), marketing director for Art Taipei. "We expect this number to increase to NT\$3 million this year."

Art Taipei will also hold a "charity bazaar" on Sept. 5 and Sept. 6 at a location that has yet to be determined. Chen said they expect galleries throughout Taiwan to collectively donate around 100 works of art. Proceeds from both events will go to The Red Cross Society of the Republic of China (中華民國紅十字會).

In its 16th year, Art Taipei is Taiwan's preeminent art fair. Forty-one galleries from Taiwan and 38 galleries from abroad will converge on the Taipei World Trade Center for five days where they will barter with potential buyers over paintings, sculpture, video and photography. This year's theme is "Environment and Art" — fitting, perhaps, in light of accusations that lax enforcement of environmental regulations may have played a role in the Morakot disaster.

The fair also features a number of lectures by art professionals on topics ranging from the Asian art market to the future of contemporary art and investing in the current economic climate. Seating is limited to the first 100 applicants. For details of speakers and registration, go to www.art-taipei.com/2009aaef.

Hsiao told the *Taipei Times* it is clear that the financial crisis still resonates with galleries both at home and abroad, with the number of participants dropping from 111 in 2008 to 78 this year. It is a reality, he said, that forced Art Taipei to focus on better galleries.



Top: KEA's *Plant of the Apes Series*. Above: Hua Chien-chiang's *Weightless Generation-Zhi Hong*. Above right: Chen Chieh-jen's *Military Court and Prison-Glass Cabinet*.

Right: Yasushi Yamauchi's *Missile Across the Japanese Archipelago*.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PILOT MARKETING

"We spent more time evaluating the galleries and we even rejected some. So the quality is better," he said.

Hsiao, himself an artist and owner of Capital Art Gallery (首都藝術中心), added that although there are fewer participating galleries from Taiwan, there has been an increase in the number of galleries from Japan.

"Japanese galleries sold out all the work they brought with them last year. This news circulated among other galleries, which explains why there has been an increase in the number of Japanese galleries participating this year," he said.

He added that no galleries have pulled out in the past few weeks — a sign that Typhoon Morakot isn't having the kind of influence that the 921 Earthquake and SARS did.

Art Taipei was cancelled in 1999 because of the 921 Earthquake and stopped for three years



after SARS struck in 2002.

Organizers expressed concern that the general public might avoid this year's art fair.

"A lot of people might ... [be] doing charity work on the weekend for those in the south," Chen said. But she was optimistic that donating ticket sales to the Red Cross may be an added incentive for art enthusiasts to check out the fair.

She said that professional buyers, on the other hand, wouldn't be influenced.

"Although the economic crisis is affecting the art market, professional collectors are still buying work and looking for young artists. If they see some great work they absolutely must have it. That's why international galleries like to come to Taiwan because there are many collectors. It's totally different from investors who will avoid purchases when the economy is poor," she said.

It's a sentiment echoed by Yeh Ming-hsun (葉銘勳), owner of Main Trend Gallery (大趨勢畫廊), the gallery with the largest booth this year.

Urban Nomad

Ice cream, sprinkles and chocolate syrup: not the sort of snacks normally associated with underground film or the highbrow world of fine art. But these are some of the nibbles that Urban Nomad will serve up this Saturday afternoon at its Ice Cream Party, part of Art Taipei 2009.

As numerous international galleries descend on Taipei's World Trade Center this weekend to display paintings, sculpture and photography by established and up-and-coming

artists, Urban Nomad will screen independent and animated short films from Taiwan, China and the US in the Art Lecture Room, located behind booth B14 in Area A of the Taipei World Trade Center (台北世貿中心).

"[Artists] who wouldn't ordinarily be associated with an event like [Art Taipei] can now get in," said Urban Nomad co-founder Sean Scanlan in a telephone interview earlier this week. "We'll show video art from students who wouldn't probably be represented by galleries."

But Urban Nomad does more than present the work of unknown artists in a venue billed as Taiwan's top art fair. Additionally, the participating artists document aspects of society often ignored by traditional art mediums.

Highlights include Mia Chen's (陳明秀) three short documentaries about Cosplay on Friday, Chinese artist Bu Hua's (卜樺) wild and surreal Flash animation films (www.buhua.com) on Saturday and never before seen outtakes by "culture-jamming activists"

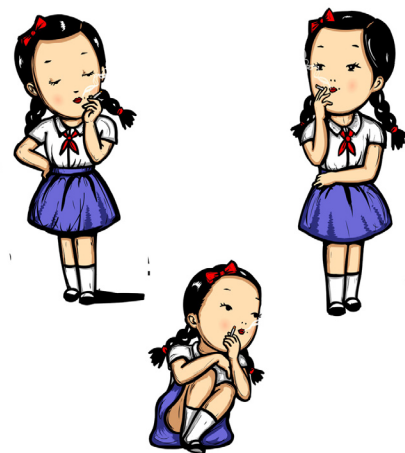
The Yes Men (www.theyesmen.org) on Sunday.

More information on Urban Nomad films and participating artists can be found at urbannomadfilmfest.blogspot.com.

The festival's organizers ask people planning to attend Saturday's Ice Cream Party to RSVP on Urban Nomad's Facebook page.

"We've got many more people than we expected so I've had to buy extra supplies," Scanlan said.

— Noah Buchan



The protagonist in Chinese artist Bu Hua's Flash animations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF URBAN NOMAD