

EXHIBITIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

Chiu Chien-jen, *Life Still Continues* (2009).

PHOTO COURTESY OF A GALLERY

Homunculus (人造人) is a group exhibit by seven artists who employ painting as a medium to contemplate the changes in how people are depicted in the age of digital media.

■ A Gallery (一畫廊), 22, Alley 36, Ln 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市信義路三段147巷36弄22號). Open Mondays to Saturdays from 1pm to 9pm. Tel: (02) 2702-3327

■ Until May 30

Lu Hsien-ming, *City Bodhi* (2010).

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIN & LIN GALLERY

Painter Lu Hsien-ming (陸先銘) deconstructs the colors and shapes of contemporary city life with **Urban Memoir (城市隨筆)**. Whereas Lu's earlier work focused on monumental constructions such as overpasses or skyscrapers — as well as the machines: tractors, cement trucks and steamrollers that help give shape to a city — this series adds the people, rendered in a hyper-realist style, who inhabit and construct these environments.

■ Lin & Lin Gallery (大未來林舍畫廊), 13, Ln 252, Dunhua S Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路一段252巷13號). Open Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 7pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 7pm. Tel: (02) 2721-8488

■ Until May 30

Sakshi Gallery celebrates its first anniversary with an exhibition showcasing contemporary art from India by artists born between 1950 and 1980 and working in painting and installation. Ranbir Singh Kaleka's realist paintings depict objects in perplexing tableaux that border on the surreal. Rekha Rodwittiya's large-scale paintings of women resemble the thematic concerns of Gauguin portrayed with bold coloring and outlines reminiscent of Matisse. Sunil Gavde explores perception and reality through multimedia installations. Hema Upadhyay combines self-portraits with exotic patterns. Other artists include sculptor Jitish Kallat, whose is represented by Saatchi Gallery, and the artistic duo Thukral & Tagra, who work in video, sculpture and painting.

■ Sakshi Gallery (復可喜當代藝術), 33 Yitong Street, Taipei City (台北市伊通街33號). Open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 1:30pm to 9:30pm, Sundays from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. Tel: (02) 2516-5386

■ Until May 30

While Sakshi celebrates its first anniversary, **Cathay United Art Center** is holding a 10th Anniversary Exhibition. The group show brings together 25 emerging artists working in different genres of oil painting — realism, impressionism and abstract expressionism — and sculpture, particularly the female form.

■ Cathay United Art Center (國泰世華藝術中心), 7F, 236 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路236號7樓). Open Mondays to Saturdays from 10am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 2717-0988

■ Until June 12

Contemporary artist Emily Yang (楊世芝) continues her examination of abstract painting informed by Chinese calligraphy and landscape with **Disorderly in Order (斷變之間)**. Expanding on themes developed in her 2007 show, *Unconventional Strokes (筆墨可以橫著走)*, Yang seeks to build her frenetic paintings around a simple line.

■ IT Park Gallery (伊通公園), 2F-3F, 41 Yitong St, Taipei City (台北市伊通街41號2-3樓). Open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 1pm to 10pm. Tel: (02) 2507-7243

■ Until June 5

Travel Forever brings together four contemporary Japanese photographers who document their travels both at home and abroad. Naoki Honjo captures cities from a bird's-eye perspective while Akiko Ikeda focuses in on minute details — strangers, birds and mailboxes — that she encounters on her travels, which she then folds into three-dimensional objects. Naoya Okazaki offers a bizarre perspective on Japan's iconic Mount Fuji, while Hiroshi Ono's photos of Amsterdam offer a humorous look at the city.

■ Aki Gallery (也趣), 141 Minzu W Rd, Taipei City (台北市民族西路141號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from noon to 6:30pm. Tel: (02) 2599-1171

■ Until May 30

This is the final week of **Gold and Glory: The Wonders of Khitan From the Inner Mongolian Museum Collection (黃金旺族: 內蒙古博物院大遼文物展)**, a special exhibit at the National Palace Museum that presents intricately carved artifacts, many made from silver and gold, from the Khitan, a tribe of nomads that virtually disappeared around the 13th century. [A review of the show can be found on Page 15 of the Feb. 10, 2010, edition of the *Taipei Times*.]

■ National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院), 221, Zhishan Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市至善路二段221號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9am to 5pm, open until 8:30pm on Saturdays.

Tel: (02) 2881-2021. Admission: NT\$250 (free admission for children under 115cm)

■ Until Sunday

Chang Chiung-fang, *Monster Bi Bi Bi* (2009).

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOSEE ART

Keepin' it fresh

BY **BLAKE CARTER**
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The second edition of the Young Art Taipei hotel art fair features a new online contest won by 26-year-old Chang Chiung-fang, with a little help from mom

Chang Chiung-fang, *Green* (2008).

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOSEE ART

Frogs attack her when she sleeps. An elementary school student obsessed with dinosaurs disrupts the classes she tries to teach, and a friend's co-worker smells like dried squid when menstruating.

Chang Chiung-fang (張瓊方), winner of Taiwan's first online Young Art Award, takes as her subject matter personal experience and emotions in much the same way as better-known expressionist painters she admires, including Edward Munch, Jean Dubuffet and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Munch, Dubuffet and Basquiat dealt with issues like mortality and alienation. Chang faces problems more pertinent to a 26-year-old Taiwanese city girl, such as nightmares of giant amphibians beating her up.

"I just paint what I'm feeling," Chang said in Taipei last week after being coaxed out from behind the director of TOSEE Art gallery (吐思藝術), where she has two consecutive solo exhibitions running through June 27. "It's a record of my mood at the time, like a diary."

TOSEE will also display paintings by Chang at the second edition of Young Art Taipei, an art fair that runs from tomorrow to Sunday at the Sunworld Dynasty Hotel (台北王朝大酒店).

Taiwan Contemporary Art Link, an association of four Taipei galleries that organizes the exhibition, hopes the event will attract even more than the 4,000 people who attended last year. The artwork is limited to that made by artists under 45 years old, but older visitors are welcome and a Sunworld receptionist confirmed that all the exhibition rooms are wheelchair accessible.

Fifty-seven exhibitors — up from 42 at the fair's debut — will fill the Sunworld's ninth floor with "young, vivid and affordable" art from Taiwan, Japan and China, with three more galleries, one each from Hong Kong, South Korea and Spain. This year's chief organizer, Valen Cheng (鄭恂恂) of Aki Gallery (也趣藝術), says costs are kept low for potential buyers and for participating galleries.

"One of the characteristics and advantages of hotel art fairs is that galleries can reduce accommodation expenses by having their staff sleep in the exhibition room," Cheng said. "They just have to move the artwork off the bed when they go to sleep and move it back the next morning."

Michael Chen (陳錫文), who participated at last year's fair as a Julia Gallery (雅逸藝術中心) staff member, and then left to open TOSEE in October last year, says the fair "goes beyond selling art — it's more about attracting people with a new way of showing work."

"Last year all kinds of people you usually don't see at galleries showed up, very young people," Chen said. "It's not like the typical opening with big bosses in fancy suits ... People come in blue jeans or shorts."

Professional art sellers still need to make money, however, and organizers introduced an "800 USD Affordable Art Campaign" this year to tempt potential buyers on a budget.

The online Young Art Award is also new. Between March 20 and April 10, Chang's *Green* received 3,760 votes, beating out 52 other works.

Although online polls can be unreliable, Chang said she won fair and square.

"My parents are businesspeople and have a lot of colleagues," she said. "My mom got really into it. She made little cards showing the Internet address and the number of my painting and handed them out to everyone she works with."

And the prize?

"Nothing. They just announce, 'The winner is ...' and that's it. No money."

That said, red "sold" stickers graced five labels next to Chang's works at TOSEE as of Sunday, a week after her show opened — not bad for someone who didn't focus on painting until she was a junior at National

▶ The only Western gallery at this edition of Young Art Taipei is Galeria Adora Calvo from Salamanca, Spain, which will feature two Taiwanese expatriate artists, Lin Ming-hui (林明慧) and Yang Lun (楊倫).

Lin Ming-hui, *Lymia* (2010).

PHOTO COURTESY OF GALERIA ADORA CALVO



▶ Asia Art Center Taipei, one of the more established galleries participating in this year's fair, hopes to show that it not only represents oldies like Gao Xingjian (高行健), but is also focusing on emerging artists like Taiwan's Liao Yu-an (廖堉安), whose *The Onlooker's Plot No. 1* is pictured to the left. Liao won the 2003 Taipei Arts Award.

Liao Yu-an, *The Onlooker's Plot No. 1* (2010).

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASIA ART CENTER



▶ Tokyo's hpgr Gallery says Kanako Ohya's works such as *Polka Dot Rug*, as seen to the right, show "the beauty of imperfect" and "uneasy feelings that cohabit with youth." Ohya won the Grand Prize for Young Artists at the Gunma Biennale in 2008.

Kanako Ohya, *Polka Dot Rug* (2008).

PHOTO COURTESY OF HPGR GALLERY

EXHIBITION NOTES:

WHAT: Young Art Taipei 2009 — Contemporary Hotel Art Fair (台北國際當代藝術博覽會)

WHERE: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel Taipei (台北王朝大酒店), 100 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化北路100號)

WHEN: The opening is from 8pm to 10pm tomorrow. The fair runs Friday to Sunday from noon to 8pm

ADMISSION: NT\$150 at the door

ON THE NET: www.youngarttaipei.com

WHAT: Plastic Soul — Chang Chiung-fang Solo Exhibition

WHERE: TOSEE Art (吐思藝術) 41, Ln 100, Dunhua S Rd, Taipei City (台北市敦化南路100巷41號)

WHEN: The current show runs through May 30. A second exhibition of Chang's print work will be held from June 4 to June 27. Open Tuesdays through Sundays from noon to 8pm

Taiwan University of Arts and won't formally finish her graduate studies there until later this month.

In the meantime, she spends eight hours a week teaching art to rambunctious elementary school students and devotes the rest of her time to painting works with ominous titles like *Three in the Afternoon of the Shredded Squid*, based on the friend's story about the funky colleague. Another piece, *Monster Bi Bi Bi*, features two dinosaurs in a tribute to a pesky fourth-grader.

Though *Squid's* olfactory background story doesn't show through in the piece, the influence of painters like Basquiat is obvious in her child-like scribbling and use of everyday symbols such as smiley-faces and recurring "f" shapes.

"I like *Basquiat*. It was a great movie, not like *Klimt*," Chang said. "They turned Klimt's life into a romance ... It totally sucked."