Art Basel announces intercontinental art project to mark its 50th anniversary in 2020

In 2020, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, Art Basel will stage an ambitious contemporary art project, with individual facets unfolding at all three fairs — beginning in Hong Kong next March, continuing in Basel in June, and concluding in Miami Beach in December 2020.

The international project will be organized by an intergenerational curatorial team with different cultural backgrounds and perspectives, under the artistic direction of renowned Berlin-based curator Kasper König. Christina Li, curator of Hong Kong's presentation at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019, will curate the Hong Kong presentation; König will take the lead for the Basel intervention, where the fair was initially founded in 1970; and Hamza Walker, the Executive Director of LAXART in Los Angeles, will direct the Miami Beach edition.

In the coming months, the curators will commission international and local artists to develop interventions around the topic of the fair as a marketplace and as a historical site for exchange, trade and competition, addressing the production, circulation, mediation, and consumption of contemporary art in a global world. Further details on the project, including the artist list will be announced in the fall of 2019.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Kasper König
Kasper König has curated numerous exhibitions, among them ‘Andy Warhol’ in Stockholm, (1968), ‘Westkunst’ in the Cologne Exhibition Hall, (1981), and ‘von hier aus’ at Messe Düsseldorf (1984). He is the co-initiator of the Skulptur Projekte Münster 1977; was the director of the Städelschule in Frankfurt from 1989 to 2000; and is the founding director of the exhibition hall Portikus, Frankfurt. From 2000 to 2012 Kasper König was the director of Museum Ludwig, Cologne. In 2014 he curated Manifesta 10 in St. Petersburg. Recently, König was the artistic director of Skulptur Projekte Münster 2017.

About Christina Li
Christina Li is a curator and writer working between Hong Kong and Amsterdam. She was the Curator-at-Large at Spring Workshop, Hong Kong, where she served as the Director from 2015 to 2017. At Spring, she curated, among other projects, A ‘Collective Present’ (2017), ‘Wu Tsang: Duilian’ (2016), and ‘Wong Wai Yin: Without Trying’ (2016). Her most recent exhibition, ‘Dismantling the Scaffold’ (2018), was the inaugural exhibition at Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong. She is the curator of the forthcoming Hong Kong’s participation with Shirley Tse at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019.
About Hamza Walker
Hamza Walker is the Director of LAXART, an independent nonprofit art space in Los Angeles. From 1994 to 2016, he was the Director of Education and Associate Curator at the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, a non-collecting museum devoted to contemporary art. He recently curated the group exhibition ‘Sperm Cult’ and ‘Sol LeWitt: Page-works 1967-2007’ (both 2018).

About Art Basel
Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world’s premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel’s engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through a number of new initiatives such as Art Basel Cities, working with partner cities on bespoke cultural programs. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Partners
UBS, Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for 25 years. As Art Basel’s global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows, Art Basel Cities, and as co-publisher of the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. UBS has a long record of engagement in contemporary art with the UBS Art Collection, one of the world’s most distinguished corporate art collections with more than 30,000 works created by artists from more than 75 countries, at its core. The firm actively enables audiences to participate in contemporary art through its partnerships with leading cultural organizations around the world. For more information about UBS’s commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel’s Associate Partners include MGM Resorts International – one of the world’s leading entertainment companies with a long-standing commitment to presenting and supporting art in public spaces; Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission; and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW, who has codeveloped with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo and La Prairie. Art Basel's global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information about partnerships, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows
Basel, June 13-16, 2019
Miami Beach, December 5-8, 2019
Hong Kong, March 19-21, 2020

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Press Contacts
Art Basel, Sarah Degen
Tel. +41 58 206 27 06, press@artbasel.com
PR Representatives for Europe
Sutton, Rosie O'Reilly
Tel. +44 20 7183 3577, rosie@suttonpr.com

PR Representatives for North and South America, the Middle East and Africa
FITZ & CO., Yun Lee
Tel. +1 646 589 0920, ylee@fitzandco.ar

PR Representatives for Asia
Sutton, Erica Siu
Tel. +852 2528 0792, erica@suttonpr.com