



## **\*\*Texas Contemporary 2016 Sees Strong Sales to Important Collectors\*\***

**Houston, TX - October 10, 2016** - Texas Contemporary opened on Thursday, September 29th to an incredible crowd of collectors, curators, museum directors, and art lovers. The fair's Opening Night Preview, produced in support of Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, kicked off a weekend of artistic celebration and significant patronage. The fair's successful sixth edition, which featured 50 top galleries from around the world, saw record crowds, top collectors, and strong sales throughout the weekend. The George R. Brown Convention Center was abuzz with important acquisitions taking place against a backdrop of dynamic performances, compelling lectures and panel discussions, exclusive tours and celebratory receptions.

### **Sales Review**

Sales were made by local, national, and international galleries alike following a strong Opening Night with momentum carrying through the weekend. Copenhagen's Gallery Poulsen sold work by Jean-Pierre Roy in the fair's opening moments. New Orleans' JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY also reported a strong start, selling sculpture by Paul Villinski and five pieces by Rachel Burch Williams. Inman Gallery placed two works by Texas Modernist Dorothy Antoinette LaSelle, and Moody Gallery sold work by Liz Ward. New York City's Michele Mariaud Gallery placed C-prints by Zhou Hongbin and paintings by Amy Goodwin. Tally Beck Contemporary sold a mixed media painting by local houston artist Penelope Ross. ArtStar placed work by photographer Ludwig Favre. Miami-based Mindy Solomon Gallery sold work by Jiha Moon and Ezra Johnson, while Sponder Gallery, also from Miami, closed sales on pieces by Jeff Koons, Donald Martiny, and Metis Atash.

This year's focus section The Other Mexico experienced an enthusiastic reception from collectors and art lovers alike. Presented by the Mexican Consulate in Houston and AtravesArte and curated by Leslie Moody Castro, the section's featured exhibitors included José García, mx, Parallel Oaxaca, Lulu, FIFI projects and Páramo Galeria. Mexico city-based gallery FIFI projects reported sales on work by Wolfgang Voegelé. Parallel Oaxaca sold a tapestry by artist Emi Winter. Páramo Galeria described their presentation for the fair as reflecting "a strong vision of some of the ideas and concepts that artists are working with in Guadalajara and Mexico at large.

Over the past five years Texas Contemporary has raised over \$150,000 for our partner Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH). The 2016 Opening Preview built on this platform of giving, with all ticket proceeds benefiting the influential institution.

In regard to the fair's sixth edition, CAMH Curator Dean Daderko commented: "I actually think this is the most fantastic version of the fair that we've had. The quality of the work is incredible, and it feels very focused. The quality of this show continues to get better and better." CAMH Director Bill Arning added, "I walked the fair with my museum's donors for six hours and there was no time at which I was not uncovering new gems."

### **Installation Highlights**

Presented by Galeria Enrique Guerrero, *The Great Tree* by Miler Lagos towered over the fair's central aisle. The tree-like structure was carefully created from over three tons of newspaper sourced from New Mexico, acting as a recovery of the materials of memory. Also monumental, Mie Olise Kjærgaard's *Coconuts, Mountain, and Waterfall*, presented by Barbara Davis Gallery, addressed the theme of dishonest constructions, dividing a canvas into horizontal layers and making worlds of different rules and strategies. In this new painting, Olise amassed the symbols with which she has worked over the last years to make a new alphabet, arranged in this work as a new system. The painting was installed into the fair as a construction itself. Ron Ulicny's *The Great Arc (Realization)*, provided fairgoers with a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction with its striking interaction of a carefully constructed arc of lacquered birch and two perpendicular planes of mirror. Viewers were met with a joyful surprise upon approaching the piece, via the simplicity of reflection and illusion, when the composition formed a perfect circle through the physics of sight and contemplative emotional response. Presented by Cindy Lisica Gallery, *The Great Arc (Realization)* points to what might be called the true essence of visual art.

### **Performances, Projects & Talks**

Texas Contemporary 2016 partnered with influential institutions including Inprint, Gulf Coast, and the Houston Ballet to present a dynamic program of special events, talks and tours, broadening the fair's reach beyond traditional artistic disciplines to engage the creativity and artistic patronage that is essential to and synonymous with the city of Houston.

The diversity of this year's program of Projects & Talks reflected a deliberate effort to engage the various facets of the Houston arts community to broaden the notion of artistic practice within the art fair context. The fair weekend began with a collaborative performance at the Opening Night Preview presented by the Houston Ballet's Oliver Halkowich and renowned artist Chris Doyle, represented by Catharine Clark Gallery. Inprint, Houston's premier literary arts nonprofit organization, presented Poetry Buskers - an interactive installation of on-demand, responsive poetry - one of the many avenues through which Inprint supports and engages local readers and writers of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Fair-goers had the unique opportunity to inspire a poem with a prompt of their choosing. A highlight of our Talks Program featured well-known restaurateur and lifelong artist Mr. Chow in conversation with Eric Shiner, former

Director of the Andy Warhol Museum. Houston's leading journal of literature, art, and critical art writing, *Gulf Coast*, engaged in a takeover of Texas Contemporary Theater to present their erudite program of artist talks, critical writing discussions, and a panel on the fair's focus section *The Other Mexico* featuring Roberto Tejada and curator Leslie Moody Castro.

### **A Selection of On-Site Events**

- *Beyond Friday: Collecting Contemporary Latin American Art in the 21st Century*. A lecture led by Anna Di Stasi that examined the rapid growth experienced by the contemporary Latin American art market
- *Gulf Coast Critical Art Writing Panel*. A dynamic discussion that focused on critical art writing in the contemporary world.
- *In Conversation with Mr. Chow and Eric Shiner*. Michael Chow, the founder of global restaurant kingdom 'Mr. Chow' spoke to Eric Shiner, former Warhol director and now the Sotheby's Senior VP, Fine Art Division.
- *Gulf Coast Reading, Saturday*. The publication *Gulf Coast* presented a reading by local Houston writers including Julia Brown, BJ Love, and Jonathan Moody.
- *Texas Biennial Preview*. To close the Texas Contemporary, the Texas Biennial--an independent survey of contemporary art in Texas--hosted a panel discussion exploring the roles that geography and interconnectivity play in the Texas art scene.

### **On-Site Installations**

- Jun Kaneko, *Untitled Head Form Pair*. Kaneko, considered one of the world's greatest ceramic sculptors, embodies the notion of becoming one with the material. The two forms are mysterious and enticing, causing the distance between object and viewer to shrink and dissolve.
- Jan Huling, *Das Bug*. Huling's *Das Bug* is a grand example of her meticulous nature and commitment to craft; every surface is tightly refined with czech glass seed beads.
- Miler Lagos, *The Great Tree*. Standing at over 14 feet tall, this tree-like structure was carefully created from over three tons of local newspaper from New Mexico; it acts as a recovery of materials of memory.
- Ron Ulicny, *The Great Arc (Realization)*. Ulicny's sculpture utilizes physics and visual strategy to create a striking interaction. The carefully constructed arc and two perpendicular planes of mirrors create a visual surprise for the viewer.
- Mie Olise Kjærsgaard, *Coconuts, Mountain, and Waterfall*. Kjærsgaard investigates modern ruins and how these ruins are often deserted and then re-occupied later. Ruins can also be indicative of societal structures--another topic that Kjærsgaard explores in this work.
- Gina Phillips, *Fort Dirt Hole*. Phillips has created a mixed media piece that incorporates paint, fabric, and thread. The work's narrative captures some of the artist's early memories while her sewn work and painting blend elements of two and three dimensionality.
- *Poetry Buskers*. The Inprint Poetry Buskers spread the joy of poetry by writing poems on demand throughout the Houston area. These talented poets, using typewriters and their

skill and wits, tap into the muse of immediate inspiration and write poems for people based on themes given to them on the spot. Poems were offered free of charge for all fair visitors.

### **Texas Contemporary VIP Program**

Texas Contemporary 2016 marked the launch of the Texas Contemporary VIP System, an online tool allowing the fair's VIP guests to register for special events and manage their fair participation on a unified and user-friendly platform.

### **Partners**

Texas Contemporary partnered with Houston's top cultural institutions and patrons, including a new collaboration with Gensler, the designer of this year's VIP lounge and cafe. Texas Contemporary renewed longstanding partnerships with MFAH, The Asia Society, Lawndale Art Center, Houston Center for Photography, FotoFest, and DiverseWorks, among others. The fair also collaborated with Gracie Cavnar's foundation Recipe for Success. The Texas Contemporary opening night Preview benefitted partner Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH).

### **ABOUT ART MARKET PRODUCTIONS**

Art Market Productions is a Brooklyn-based production firm owned and operated by Max Fishko and Jeffrey Wainhouse. Working in concert with a talented and passionate network of dealers, curators, and arts professionals, Art Market Productions is proud to present forward thinking, progressive, and successful events across the country.

For more information about Texas Contemporary and Art Market Productions, please visit [www.txcontemporary.com](http://www.txcontemporary.com)

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