

THE CULTUREMAKERS

Forget the artists—these days, the people who sell and curate art are the *real* stars. We picked ten art-world insiders from some of Asia's most compelling emerging and established contemporary art scenes and asked them for their take on the artists you need to know now . . . as well as where to eat and drink after all that gallery hopping. (Not all of our insiders are from places on our Grand Tour of Asia—but hey, it just means you'll have to go back a second time.)

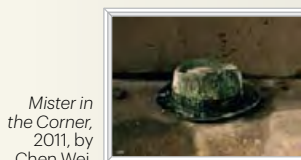
BY RACHEL WOLFF



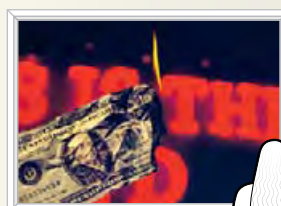
yf, 2012, by Miki Mochizuka.



Stripe, Face in Mirror, Stripe, 2012, by Shimon Minamikawa.



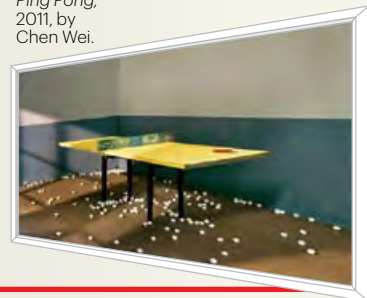
Mister in the Corner, 2011, by Chen Wei.



Still of an Unknown Film, 2008, by Cheng Ran.



Ping Pong, 2011, by Chen Wei.



EAST ASIA



JEFFREY ROSEN

LOCATION Tokyo.

CREDENTIALS Co-owner with his wife, Misako, of **Misako & Rosen**, an influential young gallery (Kita-otsuka 3-27-6, Toshima-ku; 81-3-6276-1452).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "In Tokyo, galleries still bear the brunt of the responsibility for introducing new art in Japan, but a younger generation of museum curators means that's

changing. One example of someone doing really interesting work is Koko Okano, who runs [the Hiroshi Sugimoto-designed] **Izu Photo Museum**. It's a day-trip from Tokyo—only 45 minutes away by bullet train [347-1 Clematis no Oka, Higashino, Nagaizumi-cho, Shizuoka; 81-55-989-8780]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Miki Mochizuka, because his whimsical abstracted landscapes have prompted Rosen to dub him "the most interesting young painter" in Japan; Shimon Minamikawa, because his stark and illustrative "sensitivity is really representative of

Tokyo over the past decade."

LOCAL PICKS "In the Shinjuku district, there's a bar called **Eagle**, which is owned by Suntory, the whiskey producers. It's incredibly cheap, and its basement looks like it hasn't changed a bit since the sixties [1-8 Yotsuya, Sunjuku-Ku]. And in the Otsuka neighborhood, there's **Bongo**, a restaurant that specializes in *onigiri* [rice balls]. It's the size of a closet and has been around forever. It's an incredible meal—the ingredients are like those at a high-end sushi restaurant in the United States [2-26-3 Kitaotsuka, Toshima; 81-3-3910-5617; *onigiri* from \$9]."

LEO XU

LOCATION Shanghai.

CREDENTIALS Owner of the two-year-old **Leo Xu**

Projects, a gallery specializing in emerging Chinese artists (Lane 49, Bldg. 3, Fuxing Xi Rd.; 86-21-3461-1245); curator and writer.

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "Shanghai has a much more open attitude than Beijing, where artists are more inclined to deal with the political. **ShanghART** is the gallery you must visit—it represents Chinese contemporary art from the past 20 years [Bldg. 16, 50 Moganshan Rd.; 86-21-6359-3923]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Chen Wei, because with his moody staged photographs, he's on track to become China's answer to Gregory Crewdson; Cheng Ran, because his video works are "honest reflections of the relationship between younger artists in China and the [local] bootleg culture."

LOCAL PICKS "Jinxian Road is a very small street that has at least four stunning restaurants, all tiny. My favorite is **Spring**. The owner is this fantastic woman who doesn't give you a menu—she just asks you questions like 'What's on your mind?' and comes up with courses that seem custom-made for your palate [124 Jinxian Rd.; 86-21-6256-0301; entrées from \$5]."

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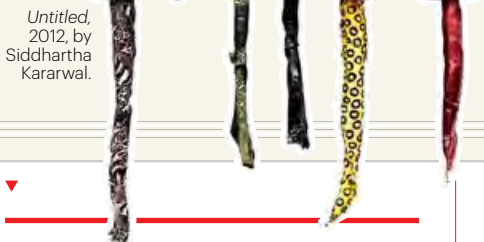
THE
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Yog Raj Chitrakar:
Memory Drawing
V Part 2, 2010, by
Nikhil Chopra.



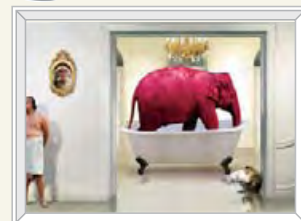
Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing
IV, 2010, by Nikhil Chopra.



Untitled,
2012, by
Siddhartha
Kararwal.



12 Small
Lies, 2010,
by
Manjunath
Kamath.



Pink Elephant
in Bathtub,
2011, by
Manjunath
Kamath.

Kazi in Nomansland,
2008 (detail), by
Naeem Mohaiemen.



INDIA



MORTIMER CHATTERJEE

LOCATION Mumbai.

CREDENTIALS Co-owner with his wife, Tara Lal, of **Chatterjee & Lal** (01/18 Kamal Mansion Floor 1, Arthur Bunder Rd., Colaba; 91-22-2202-3787).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "In the early 2000s, there were precious few art spaces in Mumbai that showed more challenging work. Today the most respected galleries are **Chemould Prescott Road** [Queens Mansion, Third Floor, G. Talwarkar Marg Fort; 91-22-2200-0211] and **Gallery Maskara** [6/7 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba; 91-22-2202-3056]. A lot of artist-run spaces have also opened, including **Cona**, which was founded by four local artists [4B, 1989 Panorama, Hrishvan, Borivali; 91-98-2000-8682]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Nikhil Chopra, because he might be, per Chatterjee, "the most important performance-based artist in the country"; Hemali Bhuta, because the sculptor and draftsman is poised for a breakthrough after an outing at Frieze London.

LOCAL PICKS "The Table is a restaurant frequented by gallerists and collectors and run by a San Francisco chef [Kalapesi Trust Bldg., Apollo Bunder Marg, Colaba; 91-22-2282-5000; entrées from \$10]. The artists themselves hang out at the **Bay View**, a fantastic little rooftop bar at the Hotel Harbour View, overlooking the water."



BHAVNA KAKAR

LOCATION New Delhi.

CREDENTIALS Founder of **Latitude 28**, a gallery specializing in contemporary Indian art (F208 GF, Lado Sarai; 91-11-4679-1111); editor and publisher of *Take on Art*, a local art journal.

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "There is a huge number of galleries here today, as well as non-profits like **Kohj**, which hosts exhibitions [S-17, Khirkee Extension; 91-11-6565-5873], and private collections you can view, such as the **Devi Art Foundation** [Spir House, Sector 44, Plot 39, Gurgaon]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Manjunath Kamath, because his narrative-driven paintings, drawings, and sculptures were recently acquired by Korea's

Gwangju Museum of Art; Siddhartha Kararwal, because he uses everyday materials to craft surrealist sculptures and he nabbed a special commission at the 2013 India Art Fair.

LOCAL PICKS "Southern Delhi is made of neighborhoods we call villages. Latitude 28 is based out of an urban village called Lado Sarai, an up-and-coming art district. But Hauz Khas village is the place with the coolest hangouts. There's **Out of the Box**, a late-night bar that overlooks the lake [9-A Hauz Khas Village]; **The Rose**, a French-run boutique hotel with live music and a garden [T-40 Hauz Khas Village]; and **Diva Piccola**, which has great food by Ritu Dalmia, an Italian-Indian chef [First Floor, 30 Hauz Khas Village; 91-11-4053-6001; entrées from \$6]."



PRATEEK RAJA

LOCATION Kolkata.

CREDENTIALS Co-owner with his wife, Priyanka, of **Experimenter**, which represents emerging and mid-career artists from throughout the region (2/1 Hindustan Rd.; 91-33-4001-2289).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "There's been talk of a Kolkata Museum of Modern Art—Herzog & de Meuron even drew designs for the space. For now, however, there's the **Indian Museum**, which is one of the oldest museums in the world [27 Jawaharlal Nehru Rd.; 91-33-2286-1702]. Two galleries also do a good job with modern Indian masters: **Akar Prakar** [P 238 Hindustan Park; 91-33-2464-2617] and **CIMA** [43 Ashutosh Chowdhury Ave.; 91-33-2485-8717]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW On-the-cusp Bangladeshi artist Naeem Mohaiemen, because his photos of the region's politically active youth were recently acquired by the British Museum; Rathin Barman, because his highly collectible brick sculptures show the tension between rural and urban life.

LOCAL PICKS "Kolkata has a huge colonial hangover. For example: There's a place on Park Street called **Flurys**, a tea shop that's five generations old. It's where people catch up on politics, philosophy, culture, Derrida, Marx [18 Park St.]. Kolkata is metropolitan but not cosmopolitan. It's an amazing city in that sense."



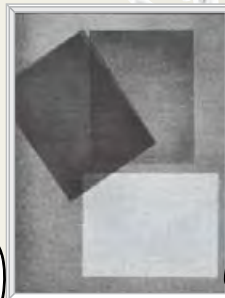
Portrait of Uno, 2012, by Nadia Haji Omar.



Ironoclast (Steeped in the Myth and Lore of the Creature), 2012, by Dina Gadia.



Devotion, 2013, by Mika Tennekoon.



U.S. Letter Painting #6, 2013, by Maria Taniguchi.



Keep My Planet Clean, 2013, by Nguyen Manh Hung.



Lightning in U Minh Forest 2, 2011, by Hoang Duong Cam.

SOUTH/ SOUTHEAST ASIA



SASKIA FERNANDO

LOCATION Colombo.

CREDENTIALS Owner of

the **Saskia Fernando Gallery**, which supports contemporary Sri Lankan artists living at home and abroad (61 Dharmapala Mawatha; 94-11-742-9010).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "Sri Lanka's art scene was always energetic, even during the war. People are finally discovering it. The most important artist-run nonprofit now is the **Theera International Artists Collective**, which hosts exhibits and workshops [36 A Baddegana Rd. S.; 94-11-286-5900]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Mika Tennekoon, whose whimsical illustrations and folkloric paintings on vintage suitcases are "getting attention from collectors"; Nadia Haji Omar, an inventive painter (whose style lies between Amy Sillman and Dana Schutz) who will debut at the gallery as soon as she finishes her master's degree in New York.

LOCAL PICKS "Barefoot" was founded by an artist years ago. A gallery, bookshop, and café, it's where artists, writers, and photographers congregate. It has a wide selection of books and lots of colorful hand-loom products [706 Galle Rd.; 94-11-258-9305]."



ISA LORENZO

LOCATION Manila.

CREDENTIALS Founder and director of **Silverlens** (2FYMC Bldg. 11, 2320 Don Chino Rocas Ave. Extension, Makati City; 63-2-816-0044); photographer.

THE ART SCENE SCOOP

"The art scene here is very grassroots, very DIY, and openings last until the wee hours. Happily, the museums have finally started getting attention from the government after 26 years of being pretty much starved. So things are looking up at the **National Museum of the Philippines** [63-2-527-1209] and the **Metropolitan Museum of Manila** [63-2-708-7829]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Maria Taniguchi, because her minimalist prints, paintings, and video works "stand out in a

contemporary scene where there's so much maximalist figuration going on—I'll be showing her work at Art Basel Hong Kong [May 23–26]; Dina Gadia, because her neo-pop paintings and collages riff on vintage Filipino mass media, B movie posters, and pulp.

LOCAL PICKS "Manila is a megacity made up of pockets. A lot of artists live in the old area called Malate, which is rich with bars and restaurants. There's a bar called **Bar@1951** (formerly the Penguin Café), which used to be an artist-run space [1951 Adriatico St.]. For cocktails, I go to the **Blind Pig** in Makati City, the central business district. There's no name on the door—it's like a speakeasy [227 Salcedo St.]. For Filipino food, try **Abe**. The bamboo rice and crispy pork knuckles are delicious [Serendra Plaza, Fort Bonifacio; 63-2-856-0526; entrées from \$10]."



QUYNH PHAM

LOCATION Ho Chi Minh City.

CREDENTIALS Owner of the internationally recognized **Galerie Quynh** (65 De Tham St.; 84-8-3836-8019).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "I left Vietnam as a refugee at the end of the war and was educated in the West. The scene here is very small, and we all want to make Vietnamese art more visible and work together to build an infrastructure, which is challenging in a Communist country. The museums are run by government officials, which means that in theory, all our exhibitions need to be sanctioned. But we love challenges and obstacles—it keeps us sharp."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Nguyen Manh Hung, because the local sculptor is gaining traction internationally for his riffs on urban Vietnamese life (his debut show at Galerie Quynh this year featured a towering, sandbag-laden model of the Soviet-style apartment blocks where he grew up); Hoang Duong Cam, because his most recent paintings—dark, abstract renderings based on a 1970s photo essay—could position him as the Luc Tuymans of Vietnam.

LOCAL PICKS "Bar's Bar is a really cool hole-in-the-wall, and they play old jazz [2F, 47 Phan Chu Trinh St., Ben Thanh Ward]. When I have visiting collectors, I take them to **Restaurant Bobby Chinn**. He's a celebrity chef and has beautiful food and good artwork on the walls [39 Le Duan St.; 84-8-6291-7788; entrées from \$8]."

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FOR A DEEPER LOOK AT SHANGHAI'S
AND TOKYO'S GALLERY SCENES, HEAD
TO [CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/](http://CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/GRANDTOUROFASIA)
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*Tournament
Installation, 2012,
by Ade
Darmawan.*

*Volvox
Globator,
2012, by Ade
Darmawan.*

*Fly for Me,
Paris, 2004,
by Yian Huang.*

*Enjoy
Napalm, 2013,
by SBTG.*

SOUTH/SOUTHEAST ASIA CONTINUED



ALIA SWASTIKA

LOCATION Jakarta.

CREDENTIALS Program director of **Ark Galerie** (Senopati Raya 92; 62-21-725-4934).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "Jakarta doesn't have a contemporary art museum, so the role of the gallery becomes important as a platform for the artists. There is also a strong independent art

space called **Ruangrupa**, where artists can show experimental projects—sound installations, performance, video—to the public [Jalan Tebet Timur Dalam 6; 62-21-830-4220]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Ruangrupa director Ade Darmawan, whose last show at Ark turned fastidious research on Indonesia's growing middle class into elegant infographics on canvas; Arya Panjalu, whose bird-man alter ego is a frequent subject in his unexpectedly poignant photographs.

LOCAL PICKS "The owner of our gallery, Ronald Akili, has a restaurant called **Potato Head**. It's very famous for its Drake Mojito, and he just opened a second location in Bali [Pacific Place Mall, G 51A; 62-21-5797-3322; entrées from \$10]. For real Indonesian food in Jakarta, I recommend **Seribu Rasa** for the oxtail soup [Jalan Haji Agus Salim 128; 62-21-392-8892; entrées from \$7], followed by **Lucy in the Sky** for rooftop drinks [Jalan Jendral Sudirman, Lot. 14, Kav. 52-53]."



STEPHANIE THAM

LOCATION Singapore.

CREDENTIALS Owner of **Galerie Steph**, a young gallery focusing on international contemporary art (39 Keppel Rd., 1-5; 65-9176-8641).

THE ART SCENE SCOOP "I moved back here from New York four years ago—at just the right time. So many more art galleries have opened, especially in Gillman Barracks, a huge government-propelled gallery enclave. The New York-based **Sundaram Tagore** has an outpost there [5 Lock Rd., 1-5; 65-6694-3378], as do Berlin-based **Michael Janssen** [9 Lock Rd., 2-21; 65-9021-0872] and Tokyo-based **Ota Fine Arts** [47 Malan Rd., 1-23; 65-6694-3071]. I'm located in a smaller art hub called Artspace. The **Singapore Art Museum** is an invaluable resource. It focuses on Southeast Asian art [65-6332-3222]."

ARTISTS TO BUY NOW Yian Huang, because, Tham says, "he has great technique and his photographs capture that intimate moment when the barrier between subject and photographer vanishes"; SBTG, a.k.a. Mark Ong, a popular local street artist and sneaker designer, because he is focusing more intently on his neo-pop art.

LOCAL PICKS "When my artists fly in from out of town, I take them to have the tasting menu at the great, eclectic **Majestic Restaurant** at the New Majestic Hotel [65-6511-4718; tasting menus from \$55]. Bar-wise, I like the **Velvet Underground** at **Zouk**, which has works by Takashi Murakami and Keith Haring on the walls [17 Jiak Kim St.]."