



PICTET

THE 2016  
SOVEREIGN  
ASIAN ART  
PRIZE

ARTWORKS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



The James Christie Room, Christie's Hong Kong,  
22/F Floor, Alexandra House, Central, Hong Kong  
**Exhibition: 9th - 12th May 2016**

The Rotunda, One Exchange Square,  
8 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong  
**Exhibition: 21st - 31st May 2016**

Artworks will be up for auction on June 3rd 2016  
at the Four Seasons Hotel with proceeds going to charity

# THE 2016 SOVEREIGN ASIAN ART PRIZE

Artworks for Children in Need



*Expedition #43 by Zhao Renhui, 2012 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalist*

## THE ART OF TAX PLANNING

The Sovereign Group is proud to be sponsoring The Sovereign Art Foundation for the 13th consecutive year - helping to make the world a better and more artistic place.

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# Message from The Sovereign Art Foundation

Welcome to the 30 finalists of The 2016 Sovereign Asian Art Prize.

I hope many of you have seen our new video called "Paper Plane" which was shot last year, under some pressure, by Mark Cumming and Suitcase Marshall based upon an idea originally conceived by Craig Leeson. With that in mind we are taking as this year's theme the concept of "hope takes flight".

We have seen over the last year what a transformational effect on young people's lives a art and art therapy can have. We have assisted many thousands of children around the world and many hundreds of children in Hong Kong to get their lives back on track and improve their quality of life. Art does make it better, lots better.

We are also firmly of the opinion that recent social unrest is caused at least in part due to the disparity of wealth in Hong Kong and the receding hopes and aspirations of the younger generations. If we wish to continue enjoying our rather luxurious lifestyles we need that gap to narrow and we need to do something about local poverty... and we need to do it now. Our programmes are part of the solution but not all of it.

This year S&F will again focus on developing and expanding its Make It Better project - an arts project that works specifically with children living in the sub-divided or "caged" homes of Sham Shui Po and other neglected areas around Hong Kong. We are developing this and other similar programmes to empower more young, underprivileged members of our society through art. Underpinning the effort is an innovative collaboration between Hong Kong University, our highly experienced partner charities, and a diverse group of professionals and practitioners who with the backing of S&F are intent on creating the leading 'healing through art' programme in Hong

Kong. We will also continue to support our existing arts programmes in Cambodia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Nepal and Sri Lanka. All these programmes assist children who are the victims of sex or drug abuse, orphaned or otherwise in desperate need, by using art to rehabilitate, educate and heal.

The Sovereign Group and our generous patrons cover all the costs of the Foundation which means that none of the money you spend on art is swallowed up in overheads.

The pieces you see here have been selected by two levels of independent experts who have no commercial interest in the art. Artists must first be proposed by our board of nominators and then selected by our judges. Both panels are without doubt some of the world's leading art experts.

The finalists are typically well-known in their own country but not internationally. In previous years many of our finalists have swiftly achieved greater fame and fortune - as well as record prices. We would argue that this auction is the best chance of making a great investment in art. And you are helping disadvantaged children. So please bid generously. This is not a donation, it's an investment in art, children and the future of Hong Kong!

Thank you for your support.



Howard Bilton  
Founder and Chairman  
The Sovereign Art Foundation  
& Sovereign Group

# Message from Pictet & Cie

Pictet is proud to be the sponsor of The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF).

This year SAF will again focus on developing and expanding its Make It Better project, in order to empower more underprivileged members of our society through art. This is an aim that Pictet enthusiastically supports. Pictet has a longstanding tradition of philanthropy as old as the Bank itself, and over the years, culture and social causes have been major areas of our managing partners' contributions.

The Pictet Group Charitable Foundation, established in 2009, now provides a corporate framework for the Group's philanthropic activities. The Foundation aims to improve the living conditions of those in need, providing financial support to charitable organisations and public-interest projects in Switzerland and abroad. In Switzerland, it focuses on causes our managing partners have historically supported, notably health and medicine - research into cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and HIV - as well as culture. Outside Switzerland, it contributes to many projects that help disadvantaged communities in developing countries, in particular in the

fields of humanitarian aid, youth work and education.

As with philanthropy, art has long been integral to Pictet's identity. We believe that art provides a way of remaining alert to a changing world, and have forged a cultural heritage grounded in an art collection that reflects our founding values. Our collection both embodies and accompanies an evolution that was inaugurated in 1805 and is now turned to the future. We also find that our close collaboration with artists helps to inform and enrich our own passion for excellence.

We are delighted to offer our continued support for SAF, and we very much hope that you will enjoy the evening.

Thank you for your support.



Claude Haberer  
Chief Executive Officer, Asia-Pacific  
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**PICTET**  
1805

## *Attempts to contain, 2015*

150 x 150 x 5cm – ten photographs  
on archival paper

Estimate: USD 4,000

**Nominated by Brian Curtin**

# Baptist Coelho

India

Born in India in 1977, Baptist Coelho frequently merges personal research with collaborations from various cultures, geographies and histories. In 2006, Baptist received his Masters of Arts from the Birmingham Institute of Art & Design (BIAD), UK.

Since April 13, 1984, the endless conflict between India and Pakistan over the ownership of the Siachen Glacier has been fought at an altitude of around 18,000 feet, which is the highest battlefield on earth. Bitter cold temperatures reaching -60° Celsius make living conditions unbearable for the soldiers. In *Attempts to contain, 2015*, Baptist explores how the body responds to the physical and psychological need to protect by forming a mesh of interlocking body parts. The body of a soldier can be safeguarded by clothing and armour, but beneath the fabrics there is always vulnerable human flesh. Here, the artist illustrates the trajectory of various attempts at weaving and intertwining the

human body in order to provide its own layer of protection. The work draws similarities to the act of weaving, which involves interlinking the warp, a set of vertical threads, with the weft, a set of horizontal threads, to form fabric. Creating textiles is a fundamental human interaction and one of the oldest surviving crafts.

Baptist has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows since 2006, both domestically and internationally. He was awarded the 'Façade Video Award' (2011) by Art Today Association, Plovdiv-Bulgaria; 'Promising Artist Award' (2007) by Art India & India Habitat Centre, Delhi-India and 'Johnson Prize Fund' (2006) by BIAD, UK. Solo Exhibitions include, Project 88, Mumbai-India (2015); Ladakh Arts and Media Organization in Leh-India (2015); Pump House Gallery, London-UK (2012); Grand Palais, Bern-Switzerland (2009); Project 88, Mumbai-India (2009); Visual Arts Gallery, Delhi-India (2009) and BIAD, UK (2006).





# The Sovereign Asian Art Prize Judges

The Sovereign Asian Art Prize has a first class judging panel consisting of some of the world's most important and influential independent art professionals. This judging panel is a critical element to the success of the prize and reflects the significance of The Sovereign Asian Art Prize within the region.

## David Elliott

Writer and curator, Chairman of Triangle Network, UK

David Elliott is a curator, writer, broadcaster and museum director primarily concerned with modern and contemporary art. Elliott was Director of the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford, England from 1976-96, Director of Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden from 1996-2001, the founding Director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, Japan from 2001-06 and in 2007, the first

Director of Istanbul Modern, Turkey. From 1998-2004, he was President of CIMAM (the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Modern Art) and in 2008, he was the Rudolf Arnheim Guest Professor of Art History at Humboldt University, Berlin. Since 2010 he has been Chairman of the Board of the Triangle Network at Gasworks in London.

# Song Dong

Artist, China

Beijing-based artist Song Dong emerged from a strong Chinese avant-garde performing arts community and developed into a significant contemporary art figure in the progression of Chinese conceptual art. Song has exhibited around the world. Highlights include MoMA, New York, The 5th Moscow Biennale in 2013, dOCUMENTA 13 in 2012, The 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, The 6th Liverpool Biennial in 2010, Gwangju

Biennale in 2006, 2002 and 1995, The 26th Sao Paulo Biennale in 2004 and The 8th Istanbul Biennale in 2003. His accolades include both the Power 100 of Chinese Contemporary Art: Artist of the Year and The First Kiev International Biennale Award in 2012, as well as the 2011 San Francisco Certificate of Honour. In 2010 he won Artist of the Year (Video and Installation) at the Artron Art China (AAC) Awards. Song Dong is represented by Pace Beijing.

# Asmudjo Irianto

Independent Curator, Indonesia

Asmudjo Irianto is an independent curator, having held positions in Indonesia as the Executive Director and Curator for Soemardja Gallery (1999-2001) and Curator Board Member at National Gallery (2002). His curatorial projects include Yogyakarta Biennial VI (1998), CP Biennale I (2003), CP Biennale II (2005) and 1001 Doors: Reinterpreting Traditions at Ciputra Marketing Gallery, Jakarta (2011). He

has been a lecturer in the Faculty of Art and Design at the Bandung Institute of Technology since 1992. Also well known as an artist, he has exhibited in numerous group shows as well as his own solo shows, including the recent Unoriginal Sin II; Art In The Expired Field (2014). In 2002 he established Fabriek Gallery, an alternative space in Bandung, Indonesia. He currently lives and works in Bandung, Indonesia.

# Michael Lin

Artist, Taiwan

Michael Lin is a Taiwanese artist, born in Tokyo, Japan. Using patterns and designs appropriated from traditional Taiwanese textiles his works have been exhibited in major institutions and international Biennials around the world, such as The Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2007, UCCA, Beijing, 2008, The Lyon Biennial 2009, The Vancouver Art Gallery, 2010, and most recently at the Singapore Biennial and the Towada Art Center.

He has exhibited in solo exhibitions globally, including *The Colour Is Bright The Beauty Is Generous*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy and Vancouver, Canada (both 2010), *Between the Lines*, Leo Xu project, Frieze, London, UK (2014) and *Clockwise*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA, USA (2015) to name but a few. He is currently living and working in Taipei, Shanghai, and Brussels.

# Alexandra A. Seno

Head of Development, Asia Art Archive

Alexandra A. Seno serves as Head of Development at the Asia Art Archive, and is based in Hong Kong. She is also an adviser to Spring Workshop, a Board Member at Para Site Hong Kong, and is on the Executive Committee of the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong. A commentator on culture in Asia, her writing has been published by Newsweek Magazine, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Art Newspaper, Monocle Magazine, among other outlets.

# THANKS TO OUR 2016 NOMINATORS

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# François Curiel

Chairman of Christie's Asia Pacific



*Many  
thanks  
to our  
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auctioneer*

Born in France in 1948, François Curiel began his career at Christie's as a jewelry specialist in London in 1969.

After working in Madrid, Paris and Geneva, he moved to New York in 1977 to launch the jewellery department there.

In 1989, he returned to Europe as Managing Director and worldwide Head of Jewellery.

In 1998, he was appointed Chairman of Christie's Europe and in 2001, he took over the reins of Christie's France.

In 2010, he became President of Christie's in Asia, based in Hong Kong, and one of the seven executives to lead the Group International Management Team.

He launched Christie's first sales in China in September 2013 and was promoted to international head of the firm's Luxury division the following year.

In 1996, the Diamond High Council in Belgium awarded François Curiel the prestigious Antwerp Diamond Career Award, given to fewer than ten personalities in the world.

From 2001 to 2009, he was nominated by the French Minister of Justice to the French Market Auction Authority, the regulatory body overseeing the French auction system, and in 2009, he received France's most prestigious distinction when he was promoted Officer of the Legion of Honor.

Often described in the press as one of the greatest auctioneers of our time, he regularly holds the hammer for sales in Europe, Asia and America.



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