

Art Out Loud

The inaugural Art Macao Festival has splashed the city with color and filled many of its corners with creativity. Here are some of the artists and exhibitions worth checking out. BY JULIANA LOH

FROM BIG-NAME HOTELS to leafy public spaces, sprinkled throughout a city known for its cross-cultural history, the six-month-long Art Macao festival celebrates contemporary artists—those from Macau, Hong Kong and Mainland China in particular, but also international stars—and immerses art connoisseurs and casual spectators alike in a diverse range of creativity. These days, the city is your gallery.

“Art evokes empathy while culture links people,” explains Dr. Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of Macao, who also coordinated on the massive project scattered around 48 sites with the consulates of Hungary, Italy, Japan and Belgium. “Our intention of Art Macao is to enrich the spiritual life of our residents and to enhance the cultural experience of our visitors. Relying upon the richness of the east-meets-west legacy in Macao, we hope to elevate the aesthetic taste of our city and to shape the cultural spirit of our people.”

Local Macau architecture-design duo João Ó and Rita Machado created *Sanctuary*, an outdoor installation (until August 25) on the top of a hill on Mount Fortress, the historic former military center of Macau that offers a panoramic view of the city and, in the distance, the Mainland. In line with its name, the large bamboo structure has hammocks, offering visitors respite in a shaded canopy.

An exhibition put on by the Consulate General of Japan in Hong Kong in collaboration with Toppan Printing is focused on graphic design and print expression, featuring posters of Japanese culture and performing arts. Belgian duo Benoit + Bo has taken over Parça de Jorge Alvares with their outdoor installation: cheerful and unmissable giant lanterns titled *Happy Heads* (until September 15).

Highlights at the six participating hotels and integrated resorts include “Unexpected Encounters” (until October 31) at Morpheus featuring *Good Intentions* by American KAWS,

ARTISTS TO LOOK OUT FOR:



EDOARDO TRESOLDI
Italy

Tresoldi plays with the balance of time, space and dimensions referencing Renaissance masters and classical architecture. *Forbes* named him one of the 30 Most Influential European Artists Under 30 in 2017.



JOÃO Ó & RITA MACHADO
Macau

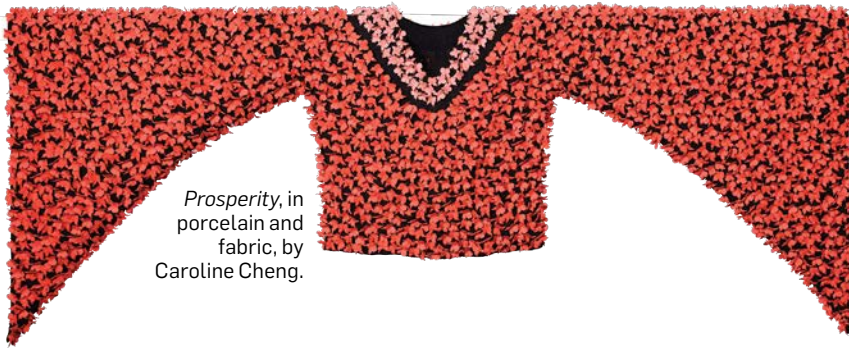
Their multi-disciplinary studio Impromptu Projects focuses on ephemeral structures and their social relevance. They represented Macau at the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale.



JENNIFER STEINKAMP
USA

Steinkamp works with video and new media producing computer-generated 3-D animations that transform architectural spaces with light and construct hyper-real environments with organic forms.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF YANG YONGLIANG; COURTESY OF EDOARDO TRESOLDI; COURTESY OF JOÃO Ó & RITA MACHADO; COURTESY OF JENNIFER STEINKAMP



Prosperity, in porcelain and fabric, by Caroline Cheng.

known for his cartoonish figures, and *Fat Convertible* by Erwin Wurm. Wynn Palace has “Garden of Earthly Delights” (until October 6) featuring *Sacral*, an ethereal wire-mesh installation by Italian Edoardo Tresoldi; digitally projected organic forms by Jennifer Steinkamp called *Silence Dogood*; and Turkish artist Refik Anadol’s LED media for his shape-shifting *Macau Currents: Data Paintings* and *Melting Memories*.

MGM is taken over by large-scale installations: *Hua Yuan: A Metamorphosis: No End to End* by Jennifer Wen Ma (until September 3) is a sublime multimedia ink art garden; and Yang Yongliang’s *Journey to the Dark II* (until August 3) offers a surreal look at the topography of Macau with images layered with Song dynasty landscape ink paintings of Chinese mountains, the technology giving a twist to traditional Chinese art.

Ceramics are another major Chinese contribution to the world, and this fact inspired Sands China to invite renowned ceramic artist Caroline Cheng to curate more than 90 masterpieces for their “All That’s Gold Does Glitter” exhibition (until October 9), including the artist’s “Prosperity” series. At Galaxy integrated resort, “Grace Kelly: From Hollywood to Monaco - Artists’ Tributes” (until August 28) features iconic pieces, including her Warhol and a custom-made 1.7-meter-tall Hermes eponymous Kelly bag.

The party wraps up with the 2019! Outloud Street Art festival, where an international group of street artists will be arriving in Macau to add their colorful creative touch to the city with a large, graffiti wall-painting sessions. There will be workshops with the artists, along with music, dancing and plenty to eat. Call it a celebration for all senses. +



Happy Heads by Benoit+Bo.

ARTISTS TO LOOK OUT FOR:



BENOIT + BO Belgium

Benoit is French, Bo is Chinese and their contemporary works blend the two cultures. Their oeuvre ranges from photos and paintings to installations, to video and digital art.



CAROLINE CHENG Hong Kong

An American National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts’ Outstanding Achievement

Award-winner, Cheng is a global light in her field and has exhibited all over the world.



YANG YONGLIANG China

Yang’s Postmodern works bridge traditional Chinese art with modern digital techniques. He is in the collections of public institutes such as the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF CAROLINE CHENG; COURTESY OF BENOIT+BO; COURTESY OF YANG YONGLIANG; COURTESY OF BENOIT+BO