



## The Sovereign Art Foundation

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www.SovereignArtFoundation.com

### 8 MARCH 2017, HONG KONG | 2017 SOVEREIGN ASIAN ART PRIZE FINALISTS REVEALED

The Sovereign Art Foundation has revealed the top 30 finalists of The 2017 Sovereign Asian Art Prize – the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Asia's most prestigious prize for contemporary artists.

A total of 66 independent art professionals from across Asia Pacific nominated nearly 300 mid-career artists into the Prize; resulting in more than 530 artworks entered from nominees around the region.

This year's judging panel comprises world-class art specialists including Alexandra A. Seno, Head of Development at [Asia Art Archive](#) in Hong Kong; noted writer and curator David Elliott; Jim Supangkat, Indonesian sculptor, art critic and curator; Michael Snelling, former Director and CEO of the National Art School, Sydney; and Chinese new-media artist Miao Xiaochun.

Nominators are typically art critics, lecturers and independent curators who work closely with artists in their respective regions. The selected artists represent the cutting edge contemporary art practice from the countries in which they work and reside. This year's shortlisted artworks span a variety of mediums and include a piece made from hand-carved jackfruit wood; a pair of intricately embroidered rugs, a steel cabinet containing seven tiers of chromed found objects and a paper work crafted using holes from over one hundred and fifty thousand individual needle piercings.

The 2017 Prize finalists are:

ARTIST	LOCATION	ARTIST	LOCATION
Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai	Vietnam	Imrana Tanveer	Pakistan
Zhou Hongbin	China	Yogie Achmad Ginanjar	Indonesia
Chan-Hyo Bae	Republic of Korea	Peng Yi-Hsuan	Taiwan
Fu Xiaotong	China	Chan Sai-lok	Hong Kong
Boo Sze Yang	Singapore	Au Sow-Yee	Malaysia
Nasim Nasr	Australia	David Chan Kian Wei	Singapore
Yoko Fukushima	Japan	Uji Handoko Eko Saputro a.k.a Hahan	Indonesia
Sarah Choo Jing	Singapore	Charwei Tsai	Taiwan
Saba Qizilbash	Pakistan	Bui Cong Khanh	Vietnam
Anniketyni Madian	Malaysia	Chan Dany	Cambodia
Sun Choi	Republic of Korea	Kay Zhang	Macau
Minho Kim	Republic of Korea	MAP Office [Gutierrez + Portefaix]	Hong Kong
Peng Yong	China	Wu Didi	China
Abdul-Rahman Abdullah	Australia	Li Yan	China
Youki Hirakawa	Japan	Li Hongbo	China

David Elliott, Chair of the judging panel, said of the 2017 finalists;

*'This year, with a record number of entries from nominated artists, the selection of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize has been a revelation. Not only has the region been covered in a more comprehensive way than before, but also a new generation of artists is starting to emerge that is impressive in the range and density of its work. This is clearly shown in the finalists in this exhibition.'*

**Executive Directors:**  
Howard Bilton (Chairman)  
Tiffany Pinkstone (Managing Director)

**Non-executive Directors:**  
Levina Li  
David Legg  
Angela Mackay  
Robert Morse  
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The **Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF)**'s portfolio of social responsibility projects include art empowerment programs geared towards Vietnam's most vulnerable children, a music and arts programme for orphaned or abandoned children in Mongolia's capital, arts healing projects for victims of human trafficking in Cambodia; and a youth-lead pilot project in rural Nepal that raises awareness of children's rights. Often the children in these programmes are victims of human trafficking, hard labour, sexual abuse, drugs or violence. The Foundation uses art as a means of rehabilitating them, building self-confidence and encouraging them to return to education.

Since 2013, SAF has focused on growing **Make It Better (MIB)**, its own initiative designed for underprivileged children living in Hong Kong. SAF recognises the harmful social impact of the extreme economic disparity that exists in Hong Kong; and works to supplement the traditional education system by offering empowering learning activities reinforced by visual and expressive arts, to teach children self-awareness and confidence, help them to build respect for themselves and others, develop stronger focus, and engage with the wider community. The MIB programme is continuously growing and is now also working with children with special educational needs.

Howard Bilton, Founder and Chairman of SAF, said;

*"We and our judges believe this selection of work is again extremely strong and original. Every year the work gets better. The artists are nominated by independent experts and then judged by independent experts. This guarantees the quality and gives our supporters the best possible chance of buying investment quality art and the next big thing... Instead of donations, we are providing an investment opportunity.*

*This year the majority of funds raised will again be applied towards our Make it Better program. In one of the richest cities in the world we continue to be surprised to find that there is such an obvious and substantial need to assist children who are in need and impoverished. We hope that our generous supporters will share our belief in this and hope that once again our charity dinner will make an even greater difference."*

From April 19 – 21, 2017 all shortlisted artworks will go on show in The James Christie Room at [Christie's](#) in Hong Kong. From April 25 – May 4, 2017 they will then exhibit at The Rotunda, [Exchange Square](#). Here the public can view the works in person and cast a vote for their favourite piece to win the Public Vote Prize (votes will also be accepted via the SAF [web gallery](#) and [Facebook page](#)). There will be a champagne opening of the exhibition at The Rotunda from 7pm on April 25, 2017 and the public are welcome to attend.

The Grand Prize and Public Vote Prize winners, who will be awarded US\$30,000 and US\$1,000 respectively, will be announced at The Sovereign Asian Art Prize Gala Dinner and Auction on May 5, 2017 at the [Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong](#). Here shortlisted artworks will be auctioned and proceeds split evenly between the artists and SAF's charitable projects.

Tickets to the Gala Dinner can be purchased through the SAF website or by contacting Mary-Jane Wong at [mary-jane@sovereignartfoundation.com](mailto:mary-jane@sovereignartfoundation.com) or +852 2542 1177. Absentee bids on finalist artworks are welcomed and interested parties can send their bids to the same contact.

- ENDS -

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### PRESS ENQUIRIES

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### Download high-resolution images of the shortlisted artworks:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fijbyk7al2cs34c/AABpAbZ5imtAbdy-X3jPwspla?dl=0>

Please contact us for image credits and full artwork details.

### EDITORS NOTES

#### The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF)

The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charity founded in 2003 in Hong Kong and is now also registered in the UK, Singapore, Guernsey and South Africa. SAF runs the annual Sovereign Asian Art Prize with the purpose of raising money to help disadvantaged children. Since its inception, SAF has raised over US\$5 million for charities and artists worldwide, funding projects using art as education, rehabilitation and therapy. The Sovereign Asian Art Prize is now in its 13th year and is the biggest and most prestigious contemporary art prize in the region.

[www.sovereignartfoundation.com](http://www.sovereignartfoundation.com)

#### The Sovereign Group

Sovereign offers corporate advisory and support services to assist companies of all sizes to understand their market opportunities, develop actionable strategies and establish business operations successfully in foreign markets. We also provide the legal structures and administrative support to maximise opportunities and achieve long-term sustainability, from full back-office outsourcing solutions to assistance with tax and regulatory compliance. Sovereign further provides individual clients with the knowledge and tools to structure their assets in the most secure, flexible and efficient way to meet their objectives. These would include facilitating cross border business, tax planning, pensions and retirement planning, wealth management and property ownership.

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