



Image: *Oilstone 05_Corrosion* (2019), Alex Seton (Grand Prize Winner, The 2020 Sovereign Asian Art Prize)
Image Credit: Mark Pokorny

The 2020 Sovereign Asian Art Prize: Winners Announced, Alex Seton Named Grand Prize Winner

Hong Kong – The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) today announced Australian artist Alex Seton as winner of The 2020 Sovereign Asian Art Prize and US\$30,000 for his work, *Oilstone 05_Corrosion* (2019), a chemically-transformed marble sculpture resembling a Yamaha boat engine. The Prize is the 16th edition of Asia's longest established and most prestigious award for contemporary art.

Saba Qizilbash, of Pakistan, and Made Wiguna Valasara, of Indonesia, are awarded The Vogue Hong Kong Women's Art Prize of US\$5,000, and The Public Vote Prize of US\$1,000, respectively, for their works *Inbezelment*, an installation of detailed graphite drawings on mylar paper, and *Daily parade*, a hand-stitched, embossed canvas evocative of traditional Balinese painting.

Winner Alex Seton is a multidisciplinary artist working in sculpture, photography, video and installation, but is best known for his use of marble carving: playing with, inverting and exaggerating techniques of classical statuary and monument to create works that reflect on the contemporary world. *Oilstone 05_Corrosion* (2019) presents a resolutely man-made object, rendered in white statuary marble with a geological age of 200 million years, deliberately smashed, reassembled and prematurely aged with hydrochloric acid. By accelerating the natural process of corrosion, Seton recontextualises the material's natural history, challenging its status as resolute, linear and unchangeable.

Alex was nominated into The Prize by curator, researcher, and academic, Dr Mikala Tai, Director of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art in Sydney.

Seton said of his win:

"What a brilliant surprise! Thank you to The Sovereign Art Foundation for this honour and of course an enormous thank you to the brilliant Mikala Tai for nominating me. Without curator advocates like Mikala it's almost impossible to stand out in the wonderful roar of contemporary art now. This year's field of artists have my admiration and heartfelt congratulations for their bold and sensitive works, and I'm proud to show alongside them together as artists of the Asia-Pacific region. It is after all, where all the most exciting art is being made now."



The Sovereign Art Foundation

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88 independent art professionals from across Asia Pacific nominated mid-career artists from 26 countries into the Prize, with a total of 611 entries received. The 31 finalists from 18 countries and territories were shortlisted by a judging panel including writer, curator, museum director David Elliott; Jan Dalley, Arts Editor of the Financial Times; Jiyeon Lee, art historian, curator, writer and consultant; artist and professor Miao Xiaochun; and esteemed artist Zhou Li. A Hong Kong-based panel comprised of architect, artist, collector and educator William Lim; Executive Director of Asia Society, Alice Mong; and Elaine Lin, Head of Collections at Asia Art Archive, weighed in with scores from the Finalists Exhibition, which were aggregated with those of the international panel to determine the final winners.

The Finalists Exhibition is presented at K11 HACC, K11 ATELIER King's Road in Quarry Bay from 6 June – 19 July 2020. The six-week duration, together with a [virtual tour](#), serve to make the exhibition as accessible as possible despite restrictions imposed by the spread of COVID-19.

All shortlisted artworks, except Seton's, are being auctioned online at saapauction.com, with proceeds being split evenly between the artists and SAF's charitable projects.

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The 2020 Sovereign Asian Art Prize

Presented by:	The Sovereign Art Foundation Click here for full list of participating artists.
Venue Partner:	K11 ATELIER K11 HACC
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Press Kit

[Click here](#) to view and download a full press kit with high-resolution artwork images, bios, portraits and factsheet. *All images please credit the artist and The Sovereign Art Foundation.*

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Editors Notes

The Sovereign Art Foundation

The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) is a charitable organisation that was founded in 2003 with a well-defined twin focus: to recognise the growing wealth of contemporary art talent in Asia and bring the proven benefits of expressive arts to disadvantaged children.

In the same year, SAF launched The Sovereign Asian Art Prize, now recognised as the most established and prestigious annual art award in Asia-Pacific. The Prize increases the international exposure of artists in the region, whilst raising funds by auctioning shortlisted artworks and sharing proceeds equally between the participating artists and SAF. SAF uses these proceeds to fund programmes that support disadvantaged children using expressive arts. This model has so far raised over US\$9 million for artists and charities worldwide.

In 2013, SAF launched Make It Better (MIB), an initiative that supports children from low-income backgrounds and with special educational needs in Hong Kong. MIB works in local schools and community centres to offer children a programme of expressive arts workshops designed to build self-esteem, confidence, self-awareness and interpersonal skills. SAF also supports teachers, social workers and caregivers of these children by introducing them to the therapeutic benefits of art.

SovereignArtFoundation.com