



The Sovereign Art Foundation

8/F, 299 QRC, 287-299 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

T: +852 2542 1177 SovereignArtFoundation.com

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The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Shortlist and Charity Sale Announced



Image: *Lovers and A Lantern*, Dipali Gupta (Finalist, The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize)
Courtesy of the artist and The Sovereign Art Foundation

Hong Kong – The Sovereign Art Foundation (SAF) today announces names of the shortlisted finalists for The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, the 18th edition of Asia's most prestigious prize for contemporary artists.

Finalists in the running for this year's Prize hail from 16 countries and regions across Asia-Pacific, of which Hong Kong has the strongest representation with 5 artists shortlisted. Amongst the finalists, 27 artists have been shortlisted for the first time.

This year, The Prize received 419 entries from 27 countries and regions in Asia-Pacific. A total of 76 independent arts professionals – 11 of them new to the nominating board for 2022 and comprising curators and academics who work closely with artists in their respective regions – nominated 278 artists into The Prize. The 30 finalists were shortlisted by a panel of four world-class art specialists, namely: writer, curator, and museum director, **David Elliott**; artist, curator, and actress, **Karena Lam**; artist and winner of The 2021 Sovereign Asian Art Prize, **Li Binyuan**; and Senior Curator, Digital and Heritage at Tai Kwun, **Ying Kwok**. An additional artwork was also selected as a special inclusion for the exhibition resulting in a total of 31 artists on display this year.

Launched in 2003, SAF is a charitable organisation that raises funds for programmes that support disadvantaged children through expressive arts. In tandem with SAF's year-round fundraising initiatives,

Executive Directors
Non-executive Directors

Howard Bilton [Chairman], Tiffany Pinkstone, Amy Cadman
Angela Mackay, David Legg, Esther Heer, Levina Li, Peter Siembab, Tony Tyler



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The Prize is recognised as one of the most coveted annual awards in the region with a Grand Prize of US\$30,000. Nurturing talent from across Asia-Pacific, The Prize has acted as a springboard to help artists go on to achieve record prices as well as gain invaluable exposure to wider audiences. The winner of the **Grand Prize**, along with the winners of the **Public Vote Prize** of US\$1,000 (determined through public votes [online](#) and at exhibition) and the **Vogue Hong Kong Women's Art Prize** of US\$5,000 (awarded to the highest scoring female finalist), will be announced in May 2022.

The finalists' artworks will be presented to the public at [Art Central](#), held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 26 – 29 May 2022. Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to cast a vote for their favourite artist to win the Public Vote Prize.

The shortlisted artworks will be available to purchase via sale online on [our website](#) and by visiting in person at Art Central. All proceeds will be split evenly between the artists and charitable programmes for disadvantaged children in Asia. Please stay tuned to our website or social media channels for the launch of artwork sales.

Chair Judge David Elliott commented on this year's shortlist:

"When judging this year's entries, as always, I've looked for good, non-flashy work powered by a sense of honesty and necessity. I like this year's shortlisted artists. There are a large number who are new to me from a wide range of different countries and regions. In some of these works I can sense a feeling of urgency - a critique of our times that on occasion approaches emotions of disgust and horror but never despair. In this realisation, art has an important role to play in culture at large.

To any artists considering entering The Prize in the future, who perhaps missed out on the shortlist this year, I would advise them to continue to work hard, to be curious, to be sceptical and (self-)critical. Most of all, to enjoy yourself by satisfying yourself through art, even when you get stuck in the mire."

Howard Bilton, Founder and Chairman of SAF, said:

"This is yet another extremely strong group of artworks from some of the very best artists working across Asia-Pacific today. Entry to The Prize is strictly by nomination by our panel of independent experts who have no commercial interest in the work. Then the best works are chosen by our world-renowned judges. Nowhere else in the world is possible to see such a rigorous selection process which guarantees the quality of the artworks. By offering the works for sale we give our supporters the opportunity to buy investment-quality art, whilst raising money for charity. Funds raised from the sale of these artworks will be equally shared between the artists and charitable programmes for disadvantaged children, in particular, our locally-based Make It Better (MIB) programme, an initiative that supports children from low-income backgrounds and with special educational needs in Hong Kong.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and amplified the huge wealth disparity that exists in Hong Kong. It's shocking to hear that almost a quarter of our city's population would have fallen below the poverty line last year without government aid. Strict social distancing rules have isolated many of Hong Kong's poorest and burdened them with increased levels of stress, anxiety and depression. As a result, these most vulnerable populations are approaching a mental health crisis and effective interventions are urgently needed to support their wellbeing. We hope that our generous supporters will once again help us raise enough to make a difference in their lives."

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The 2022 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists Exhibition

Presented by: The Sovereign Art Foundation
See next page for full list of participating artists.

Exhibition Partner: Art Central Hong Kong
Women's Art Prize Partner: VOGUE Hong Kong
Cultural Partner: Sutton
Media Partner: CoBo Social
Media Partner: Ocula
Media Partner: The Artling
Media Partner: Art & Market

Visiting Information

Venue: Art Central, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre,
1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Press Preview: 25 May 2022
Exhibition period: 26 – 29 May 2022
Opening hours: Thursday, 2 – 8pm
Friday and Saturday, 11am – 7pm
Sunday, 11am – 6pm
Exhibition admission: Tickets required, [click here](#) for more information

Press Enquiries

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Press Kit

Please see overleaf for full list of 2022 finalists, artworks and nominators.

[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.*

Facebook: SovereignAsianArtPrize

Instagram: @sovereignasianartprize

#SovereignArtFoundation #SAAP2022



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| Shortlisted Artist | Artwork Title | Country/Region | Nominator |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|------------------------------|
| Ahn Jun | <i>Self-Portrait</i> | South Korea | Gun Soo Choi |
| Alvin Ong | <i>Staycation</i> | Singapore | Lisa Botos |
| Ashfika Rahman | <i>Redeem (Oraon/ওরাওঁ)</i> | Bangladesh | Rajeeb Samdani |
| Atefe Namavar | <i>Birdhead</i> | Iran | Maryam Kuhestani |
| Atsuko Yamagata | <i>mutualism</i> | Japan | Victoria 'Boots' Herrera |
| Ayessha Quraishi | <i>The day could not pen what the night painted.</i> | Pakistan | Amra Ali |
| Azin Zolfaghari | <i>Density</i> | Iran | Maryam Kuhestani |
| Boo Sze Yang | <i>We Didn't Start the Fire</i> | Singapore | Suzzana Chew |
| Cai Yaling | <i>Goddess</i> | China | Gary Mok |
| Chan Wai Lap | <i>Pure Speculation - Tin Ka Ping</i> | Hong Kong | Kurt Chan |
| Chiu Chen-Hung | <i>Daylighting</i> | Taiwan | Chia-Wei Hsu |
| Cyrus Tang | <i>Carriage</i> | Australia | Claire Richardson |
| Dilyara Kaipova | <i>Yellow Steppe Danger Signs</i> | Uzbekistan | Lisa Botos |
| Dipali Gupta | <i>Lovers and A Lantern</i> | India | Milenko Prvacki |
| Faezeh Baharloo | <i>Untitled 1</i> | Iran | Maryam Kuhestani |
| h0nh1m (Chris Cheung) | <i>The Book of Ashes</i> | Hong Kong | May Fung |
| IV Chan | <i>Another Hangover of Adam</i> | Hong Kong | Kurt Chan |
| James Geurts | <i>Time Zero: International Dateline</i> | Australia | Daryl Goh |
| Jel Suarez | <i>Folding a Landscape</i> | Philippines | Victoria 'Boots' Herrera |
| Kurt Tong | <i>Is Life Worth Living?</i> | Hong Kong | Lisa Botos |
| Kyaw Htoo Bala | <i>The Reader</i> | Myanmar | Aung Myat Htay |
| Lai Kwan Ting | <i>Draw Something</i> | Hong Kong | Leona Yu |
| Le Thuy | <i>Garden of Eden</i> | Vietnam | Le Ngoc Thanh and Le Duc Hai |
| Marium Agha | <i>HEAR HEAR</i> | Pakistan | Amra Ali |
| Nguyễn Văn Đủ | <i>Today's landscape (The Land of Holes) No.01</i> | Vietnam | Le Ngoc Thanh and Le Duc Hai |
| Pham Huy Thong | <i>Reincarnation Wheel 1</i> | Vietnam | Le Ngoc Thanh and Le Duc Hai |
| Robert Zhao Renhui | <i>And A Great Sign Appeared (Things from the Heat)</i> | Singapore | Tanya Amador |
| Sarah Choo Jing | <i>156 Emerald Hill</i> | Singapore | Tanya Amador |
| Xue Ruozhe | <i>Like</i> | China | Gary Mok |
| Zhang Zhao Ying | <i>Myth Party</i> | China | Lü Peng |
| Zulkifli Lee | <i>Peripaduan</i> | Malaysia | Beverly Yong |



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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 US\$10 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

Sovereign

Sovereign began in Gibraltar in 1987 and has since grown into one of the largest independent corporate and trust service providers in the world. Sovereign currently manages over 20,000 clients that include companies, entrepreneurs, private investors or high net worth individuals and their families and have assets under administration in excess of US\$10 billion.

Sovereign Corporate Services – offers company formation and management across all major jurisdictions, together with the necessary support to assist companies of all sizes to establish and sustain operations successfully.

Sovereign Private Client Services – provides trustee services, wealth management and succession planning to internationally mobile families and entrepreneurs.

Sovereign Retirement Planning – devises and administers individual and corporate international pension schemes that offer choice, transparency and portability across multiple jurisdictions.

Sovereign Insurance Services – offers bespoke corporate and personal insurance services for our clients, wherever they are domiciled.

Sovereign has established a network of offices or agents in all major international finance centres, allowing clients to access a global service from a local point of delivery and holds appropriate authorisations in all jurisdictions that require it to be licensed.

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