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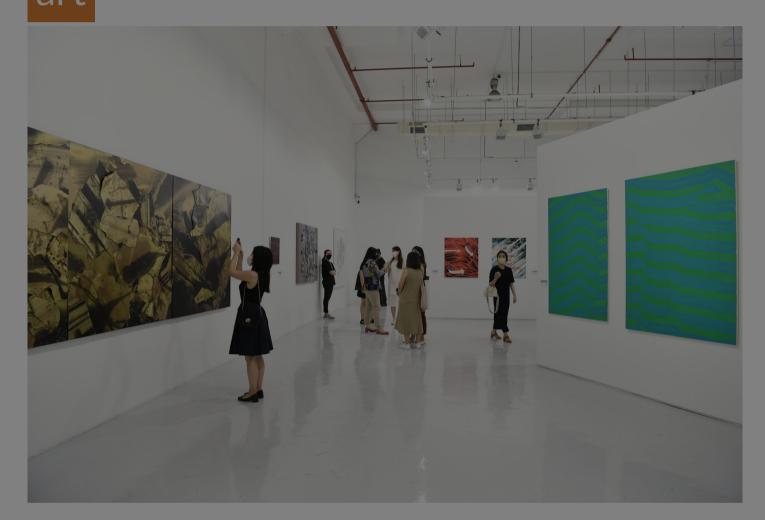
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## Singapore as a hub for Southeast Asian



There were two events in Singapore in January that had people talking about its role as a regional arts hub – the **inaugural edition of ART SG** and **S.E.A. Focus**, a local boutique art fair initiated by STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery and the National Arts Council (and in partnership with Art Basel).

Reporting on the event, <u>ARTnews</u> explains that S.E.A. Focus, in its 5th year, presents mostly galleries from Singapore and Southeast Asia. Often described as a **platform rather than an art fair**, S.E.A. Focus originally launched in 2019 as an alternative to Art Stage Singapore. It moved to its current location, during the pandemic and adapted a booth-less exhibition format with a curatorial theme for each edition.

Emi Eu, executive director of STPI and project director of S.E.A. Focus, told *ARTnews*, "It is great to finally have more **international dialogue on Singapore's role in the global art market and as a hub for Southeast Asia**. We hope that this will translate to stimulating the region's art market, and in turn catapult Singapore's standing as a global art market player."

The latest edition of the smaller fair also includes the launch of the SAM S.E.A. Focus Art Fund, a new programme involving a jury selection of outstanding works at the fair which will be donated to the Singapore Art Museum's collection. The inaugural works acquired through the fund are a series of 13 works by Indonesian artist Agung Kurniawan presented by Jakarta-based gallery ROH Projects; and Mercurial Inscription (2022), a video work by Malaysian artist Tan Zi Hao, presented by Kuala Lumpur-based gallery A+ Works of Art

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ART SG fair has also been making waves as a much-anticipated event in the region. More than 160 local and international galleries were present at the city's iconic Marina Bay Sands convention centre. As reported in *Artsy*, a strong contingent of collectors from neighbouring **Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia**, **Malaysia**, **and Thailand** flew in for the event, as well as buyers from **Australia**, **mainland China**, **Taiwan**, **Korea**, **Hong Kong**, **and Europe**. Having recently gathered at Frieze Seoul, many collectors saw Art SG – which is organised by international fair conglomerate The Art Assembly – as a complementary destination for contemporary art in Asia.

Read the full review of <u>S.E.A. Focus here</u> and an overview of the best booths at <u>ART SG here</u>.

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