

07 Apr 2013

PoNdly

The Weight on One's Shoulders – Pentateuque by Fabien Merelle' by Hyathiz

Link: <http://www.pondly.com/2013/04/the-weight-on-ones-shoulders-pentateuque-by-fabien-merelle/>

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The Weight On One's Shoulders - Pentateuque by Fabien Merelle

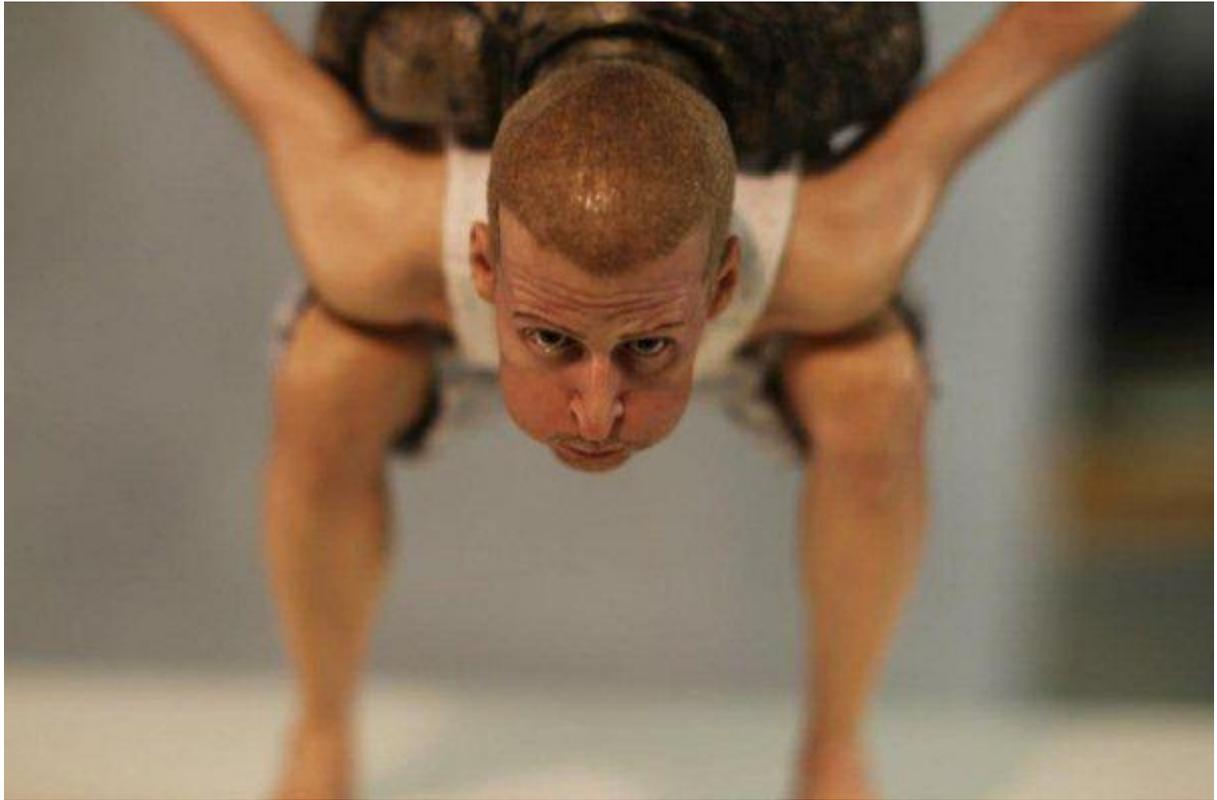
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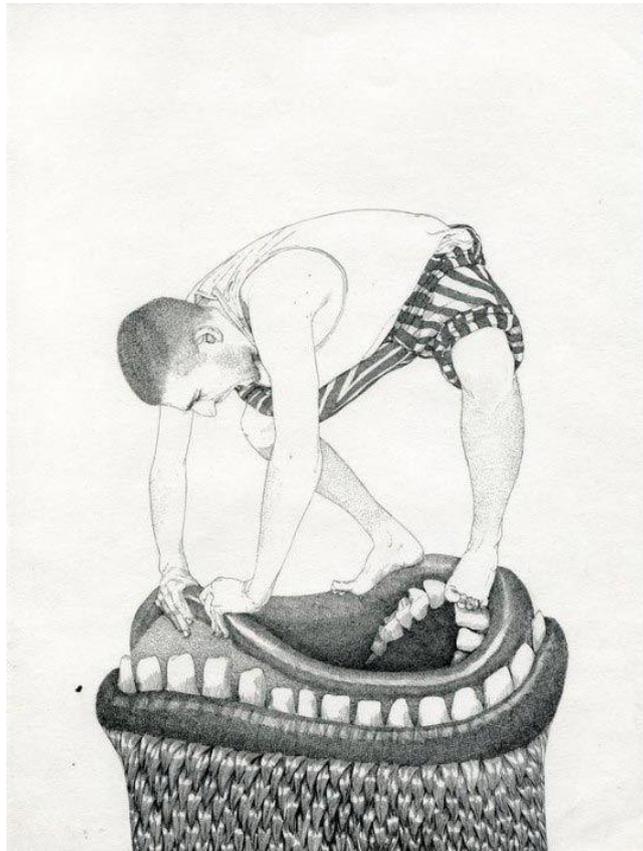


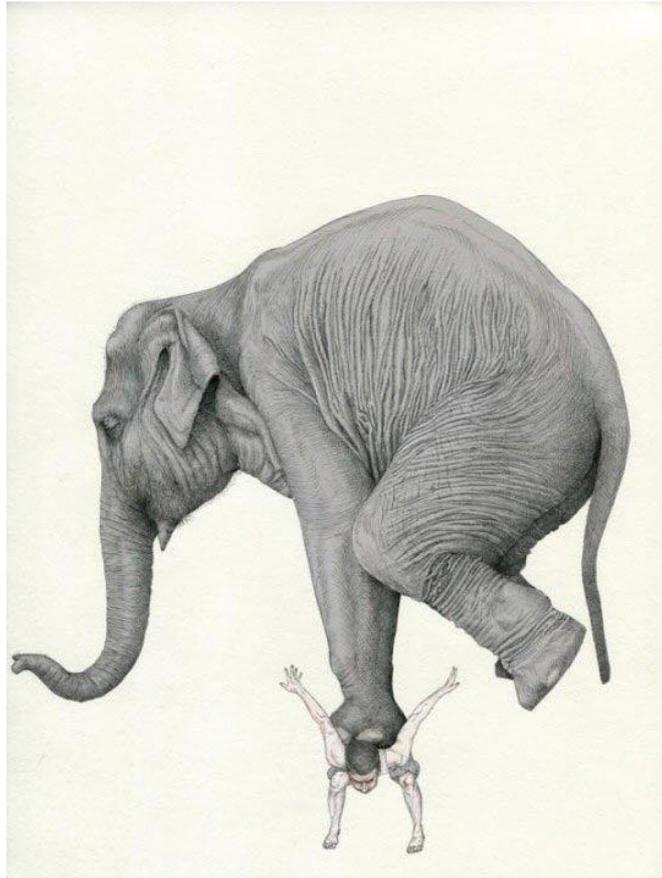
Fabien Merelle graduated from the Beaux-Arts. He is also a former resident of the prestigious Casa Vélásquez in Madrid. 'Pentateuque' is part of the 2013 Art Stage Singapore exhibition at the Marina Bay Sands. It's a lighthearted attempt to translate the maxim 'to have the weight on one's shoulders' into a sculpture. Fabien loves using whimsy, humor, and storytelling to direct the spirit of his pieces. The man in pajamas found in most of Fabien's work is actually a sort of self-portrait, a man who lives in his dreams out to wear appropriate garb after all.













Have a look at his website.

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Tags: body, drawings, humor, man, Marina Bay Sands, portrait, sculpture, self portrait, Singapore, style, world

About The Author



Hyathiz

I love my dogs, reading books, and taking great pictures with my battered but still functional digital camera. Taking great pictures with a high end camera is almost too easy, producing fantastic images with an outdated one is an accomplishment by itself.

07 Apr 2013

Empty Kingdom

Link: <http://www.emptykingdom.com/featured/fabien-merelle/>

EMPTY KINGDOM[★]



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Fabien Mérelle

by Konahrtist Published on April 7, 2013

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Fabien Mérelle is an artist and sculptor hailing from France. Enjoy your Sunday with some of Mérelle's work, and hopefully, I get to go outside for my single hour of outdoor exercise in the EK backlot.

23 Apr 2013
Blouin Artinfo

'Fabien Merelle's Life-size "Pentateuque Coming to Statue Square Garden' by Zoe Li

Link: http://hk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/894091/fabien-merelles-life-size-pentateuque-coming-to-statue-square?qt-article_detail_popular=0

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Fabien Mérelle's Life-size "Pentateuque" Coming to Statue Square Garden

BY ZOE LI | APRIL 23, 2013



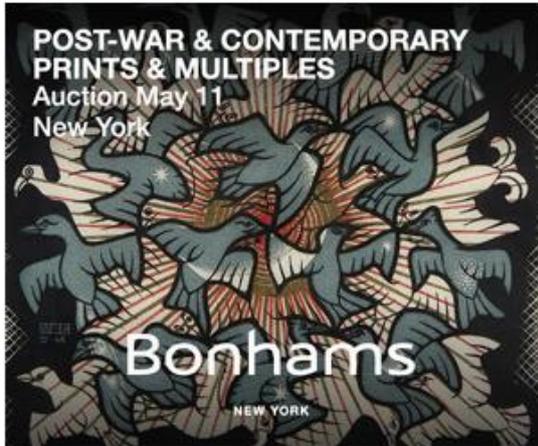
Small-scale model of Fabien Mérelle's "Pentateuque" (2012).
(Courtesy Fabien Mérelle and Edouard Malingue Gallery)



Fabien Mérelle "Portee" (2012)
ink and watercolor on paper, 46 x 62cm.

HONG KONG – The life-size version of **Fabien Mérelle's** "Pentateuque" will be exhibited in Hong Kong's Statue Square Garden beginning May 21 to July 6.

Presented by **Edouard Malingue Gallery**, the five-meter-tall statue made of resin and fiberglass depicts an elephant balanced on the back of a man. The male figure was cast from the body of the artist himself, while the elephant is modeled after one at the Singapore zoo.



“The work brings to real life Mérelle’s imaginary world, which lies between a dream and the existent,” says Jennifer Caroline Ellis from Edouard Malingue Gallery. “It’s implausible, yet, one comes to question whether it’s conceivable.”

“Pentateuque” refers to the first five books of the bible and the sculpture humorously alludes to the human propensity for

carrying the weight of the world on one’s shoulders, metaphorically bending over under the burden of religion, culture, and society’s expectations.

The small-scale model of the work was last exhibited at Marina Bay Sands as part of [Art Stage Singapore](#) 2013. The life-sized version of the sculpture is part of Mérelle’s first solo show in Hong Kong, “Elles et moi,” that’s timed to coincide with [Art Basel Hong Kong](#). As well as the outdoor public exhibition of the sculpture, Edouard Malingue Gallery will show Mérelle’s ink and watercolor works inside their gallery space.



Visual Arts Contemporary Arts Fabien Mérelle Art Basel Hong Kong 2013 Edouard Malingue Gallery contemporary arts

21 May 2013

Reuters TV

Link: <http://uk.reuters.com/video/2013/05/21/elephant-carrying-man-on-show-in-hong-ko?videoid=242926742>

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Elephant-carrying man on show in Hong Kong (1:28)

May 21 - A life-size sculpture of an elephant balancing on a man by French artist Fabien Merelle is unveiled in Hong Kong's financial district. Tara Cleary reports. (Transcript)

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21 May 2013

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May 21, 2013

A passerby looks at a 16-foot high sculpture "Pentateuque," by contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle, being displayed in Statue Square at Hong Kong's financial district. The artwork depicts an average man balancing a gigantic elephant atop his back.

Bobby Yip / Reuters

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21 May 2013

The Huffington Post

Link: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/05/20/pictures-of-the-day-21st-may-2013_n_3306878.html

(21:10) – 21/05/2013

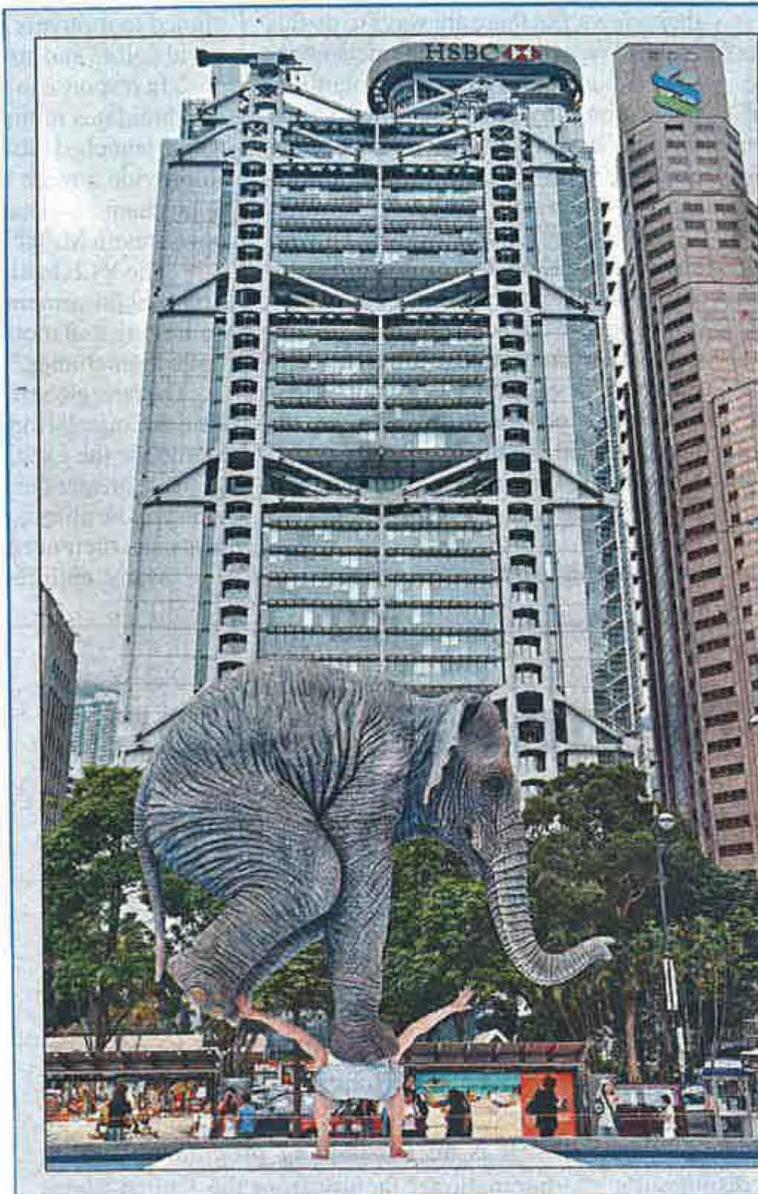
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Now That's Magic



A five meters high sculpture "Pentateuque," created by Contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle, is displayed in Central, business district of Hong Kong, Tuesday, May 21, 2013. The artwork brings to real life the fantastical and seemingly impossible act of an average man balancing a gigantic elephant. The elephant and the man are modeled on one at the Singapore Zoo and on the artist himself.

21 May 2013
The Standard
'Big Balance at the Bank' by Jackie Lo

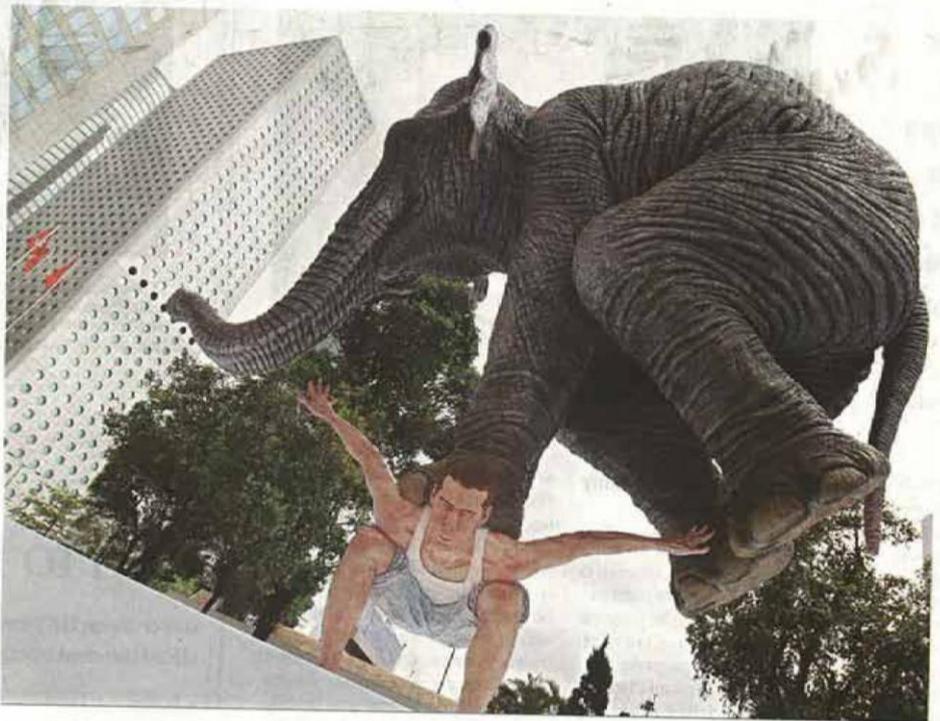


BIG BALANCE AT THE BANK

They go together perfectly – French artist Fabien Merelle's latest animated sculpture, *Pentateuque*, and the headquarters of the bank known as the 'Big Elephant.' Inspired by a circus act in Singapore, where this artistic record of the balancing act was unveiled recently, the overall height of the elephant riding a man is five meters and is made of resin, hair, fabric and paint, of course. The unique depiction of partnership is in Statue Square until June 15, offering time for conjecture on what Merelle was thinking when he shaped this act. He is said to blend humor, good yarns and an appreciation of the whimsical in his works. But there would appear to be more to the name of this one. *Pentateuque* comes from ancient Greek, meaning five and a secure place to arrange things. It now means the first five books of the Bible. JACKIE LO

21 May 2013
South China Morning Post
'He ain't heavy'

He ain't heavy



A silicone life-size sculpture of French artist Fabien Merelle's fantastical drawing, *Penateuque*, stands in Statue Square Gardens in Central. The public installation, which exudes

humour and absurdity, is presented by the Edouard Malingue Gallery, and is part of Merelle's first solo exhibition in the city. Photo: Nora Tam

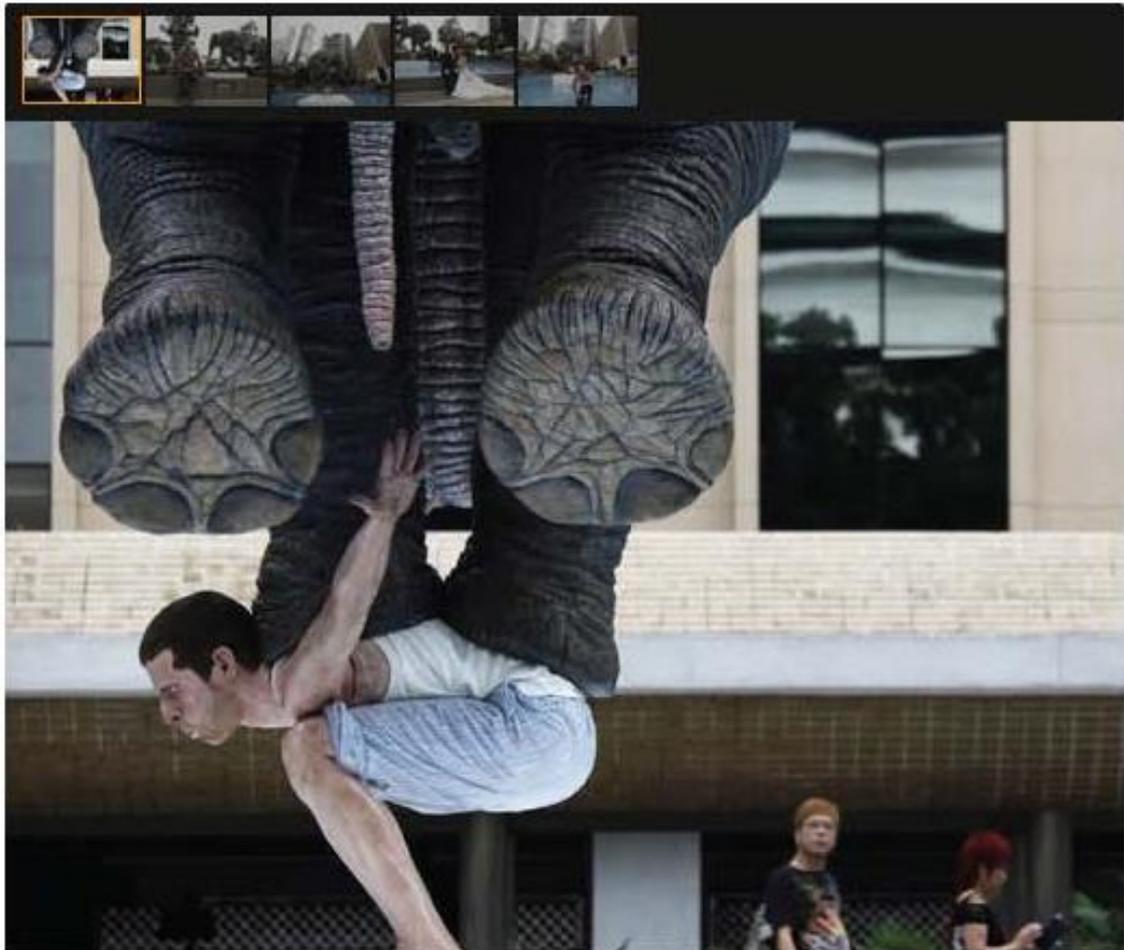
21 May 2013

TERRA

Link: <http://diversao.terra.com.br/arte-e-cultura/artista-cria-escultura-dele-mesmo-erguendo-elefante-em-hong-kong.29ac3cda187ce310VgnVCM20000099cceb0aRCRD.html>

21 de Maio de 2013 • 11h35 • atualizado às 11h54

Artista cria escultura dele mesmo erguendo elefante em Hong Kong



O artista francês Fabian Merelle criou uma escultura de cinco metros de altura em que sua representação equilibra um elefante de tamanho real nas costas.

A obra de arte está exposta no centro comercial de Hong Kong e o animal foi modelado do elefante de Cingapura.

A estátua é chamada de *Pentateuque* (Pentateuco, em tradução livre, que significa os cinco primeiros livros da Bíblia).

22 May 2013

French.china.org.cn

'L'artiste français Fabien Mérelle présente la statue « Pentateuque » à Hong Kong'

Link: http://french.china.org.cn/travel/txt/2013-05/22/content_28900664.htm

L'artiste français Fabien Mérelle présente la statue « Pentateuque » à Hong Kong

Par : Vivienne | Mots clés : Hong Kong, artiste français, Fabien Mérelle
French.china.org.cn | Mis à jour le 22-05-2013



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Du 21 mai au 15 juin, la sculpture géante de 5 mètres de haut baptisée « Pentateuque », trônera au cœur de Statue Square dans le district financier de Central à Hong Kong. Il s'agit de la première internationale de cette œuvre impressionnante de l'artiste contemporain Fabien Mérelle.



22 May 2013

Carbonated.tv

'Elephant-Carrying Man On Show In Hong Kong (Video)'

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Elephant-Carrying Man On Show In Hong Kong (Video)



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A life-size sculpture of an elephant balancing on a man by French artist Fabien Merelleis unveiled in Hong Kong's financial district.

This incredibly life-like work of art called "Pentateuque" has a phenomenal story behind it as well.

Fabien Merelle says the work represents the first five books of the Bible and how for some, religion and societal expectations can be a great burden.

Merelle says his inspiration came when he and his girlfriend faced opposition to them marrying.

He is Catholic and she is Jewish, yet both faiths share the five religious books.

"I respect these beautiful five books, I respect that. And you know, for me, it's like a beautiful elephant. A little bit old with a lot of weight. So, this is my story. But I think everyone can imagine something because everybody has a pressure or something like that in his back and tries to continue in the life," he says.

The life-size work, made of resin and fiber glass, is part of 'French May', a month-long celebration of French culture in the former British colony and will be displayed in Hong Kong until mid-June 2013.

Carbonated.TV

22 May 2013

Bloomberg Business

'Jolie Gems, Warhol, Wine Lure Billionaires to Hong Kong' by Frederik Balfour

Link: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-05-21/jolie-gems-warhol-wine-lure-billionaires-to-hong-kong>



A sculpture by French artist Fabien Merelle at the Hong Kong Statue Square. It sold for 250,000 euros to a Southeast Asian collector. Photographer: Frederik Balfour/Bloomberg

Bloomberg News

Jolie Gems, Warhol, Wine Lure Billionaires to Hong Kong

By Frederik Balfour

May 22, 2013



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Balancing Act

Earlier, Galerie Malingue put on show in Hong Kong's Statue Square a larger-than-life statue by Fabien Merelle. The French sculptor portrays himself balancing an elephant on his back. Numbered one in a series of three, it has already been sold to a private Southeast Asian collector for 250,000 euros (\$322,770).

Wendi Deng Murdoch is hosting a party tonight at the Asia Society to promote her art website Artsy, while New World Development scion Adrian Cheng is holding a party at the swimming pool of the Grand Hyatt hotel(owned by his family) in honor of his K11 Art Foundation.

Ground zero for the week's selling extravaganza is Art Basel Hong itself which opened its doors to VIPs at noon.

Rebranded this year as Art Basel Hong Kong, the fair formerly known as Hong Kong International Art Fair, is trying to maintain its distinctly regional flavor, with more than 50 percent of the 245 exhibitors coming from Asia and Asia-Pacific while focusing more attention on deep-pocketed visitors.

22 May 2013

ecns.cn

'Giant Sculpture 'Pentateuque' displayed in HK (1/2)' by Su Jie

Link: <http://www.ecns.cn/visual/hd/2013/05-22/19708.shtml>

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Giant sculpture 'Pentateuque' displayed in HK (1/2)

2013-05-22 14:51 Ecns.cn Web Editor:Su Jie



A 5-meter-high sculpture is on display in Statue Square, Hong Kong, May 21, 2013. The artwork "Fentateuque," brings to real life the fantastical and seemingly impossible act of an average man balancing a gigantic elephant, modelled on one at the Singapore Zoo, atop his back, which is actually a cast of the artist himself. [Photo: CNS/Hong Shaokui]

22 May 2013

China Daily Asia

'Giant sculpture 'Pentateuque' on display in HK' by Agencies

Link: http://www.chinadailyasia.com/photo/2013-05/22/content_15074588.html

Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 10:45

Giant sculpture 'Pentateuque' on display in HK

By Agencies



Contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle poses with his five-metre-high sculpture "Pentateuque", which is on display in Statue Square, at Hong Kong's financial Central district May 21, 2013. The artwork brings to real life the fantastical and seemingly impossible act of an average man balancing a gigantic elephant, modeled on one at the Singapore Zoo, atop his back, which is actually a cast of the artist himself.



A five-metre-high sculpture "Pentateuque" by contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle is displayed in Statue Square at Hong Kong's financial Central district May 21, 2013.



A passerby looks at a five-metre-high sculpture "Pentateuque" by contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle being displayed in Statue Square at Hong Kong's financial Central district May 21, 2013.



A wedding couple pose in front of a five-metre-high sculpture "Pentateuque" by contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle being displayed in Statue Square at Hong Kong's financial Central district May 21, 2013.

22 May 2013
Sky News Australia
'Life-sized fiberglass elephant'

Life-sized fibreglass elephant

Updated: 13:20, Wednesday May 22, 2013



A life-sized sculpture of an elephant balancing on a man has made its world debut in the middle of Hong Kong's financial district.

The five-metre high work, made of resin and fibreglass, was created by French artist Fabien Merelle.

The sculptor says the elephant is inspired by one at Singapore zoo.

The work, which has already been used by some as picture opportunity, will be exhibited in Hong Kong until mid-June.

22 May 2013

New Yang Dynasty Television

'Elephant-Carrying Man on Show in Hong Kong'

Link: <http://www.ntd.tv/en/news/world/asia-pacific/20130522/79451-elephantcarrying-man-on-show-in-hong-kong.html>

Elephant-Carrying Man on Show in Hong Kong

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It's incredibly life-like, though unrealistic ... and it's turning heads in Hong Kong's financial district.

"Pentateuque" is the creation of French artist, Fabien Merelle.

He says the work represents the first five books of the Bible and how for some, religion and societal expectations can be a great burden.

Merelle says his inspiration came when he and his girlfriend faced opposition to them marrying.

He is Catholic and she is Jewish, yet both faiths share the five religious books.

[Fabien Merelle, Artist]:

"I respect these beautiful five books, I respect that. And you know, for me, it's like a beautiful elephant. A little bit old with a lot of weight. So, this is my story. But I think everyone can imagine something because everybody has a pressure or something like that in his back and tries to continue in the life."

The life-size work, made of resin and fibre glass, is part of 'French May', a month-long celebration of French culture in the former British colony.

[Marcus Tam, Malaysian Tourist and Art Collector]:

"Oh, I think this is something special for Hong Kong. They've never seen something like this before."

[Betty Tam, Hong Kong]:

"I think Hong Kong really needs more things like this!"

The sculpture will be displayed in Hong Kong until mid-June - providing plenty of time for photo opportunities.

22 May 2013

New York Daily News

Link: <http://www.nydailynews.com/photos>

Photos of the day from around the world: May 21

1 of 10

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PUBLISHED: 05/21/2013 4:02:57

KIN CHEUNG/AP

A five meters high sculpture "Pentateuque," created by Contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle, is displayed in Central, business district of Hong Kong, Tuesday, May 21, 2013. The artwork brings to real life the fantastical and seemingly impossible act of an average man balancing a gigantic elephant. The elephant and the man are modeled on one at the Singapore Zoo and on the artist himself.

22 May 2013

Les Echos

'A Hongkong: La Culture Pour Faire de L'argent' by Judith Benhamou

Link: <http://blogs.lesechos.fr/judith-benhamou-huet/a-hongkong-la-culture-pour-faire-de-l-argent-a12970.html>

A HONGKONG : LA CULTURE POUR FAIRE DE L'ARGENT

Par JUDITH BENHAMOU | 22/05/2013 | 05:49 | Lu 1319 fois



Hongkong est la ville du business par excellence et il y a longtemps été mal vu de chercher à s'intéresser en quoi que ce soit à la culture. Pearl Lam, aujourd'hui galeriste et membre d'une éminente famille prospère de Hongkong raconte que dans sa jeunesse c'était presque vulgaire de vouloir faire autre chose que de chercher à gagner et faire fructifier son argent. Mais les temps changent et aujourd'hui l'art contemporain,

particulièrement pour certains esprits agiles, peut être une source incontestable de plus-values. Dans certains cas l'appât du gain a même largement dépassé le plaisir que peut procurer simplement la vision d'une œuvre d'art.

Mais pour revenir à Hongkong c'est aujourd'hui qu'ouvre pour la première fois la foire Art/ Basel Hongkong. Autrement dit la branche asiatique de la foire suisse leader après l'annonce de son rachat il y a près de deux ans. L'opération engendre dans la ville pluvieuse un tas d'événements collatéraux.

En 2017 devrait ouvrir ici, sous l'égide de la municipalité un « West Kooowloon cultural district » dont le fleuron sera un musée des arts visuels. En attendant, les chargés du projet communiquent à ce propos. Hongkong a donc l'ambition de devenir une ville plus culturelle. L'impulsion du gouvernement chinois continental qui soutient et sollicite les initiatives artistiques doit y être pour quelque chose. La mode mondiale pour la culture – la concurrente Singapour est animée du même genre d'ambitions- aussi. Les choses commencent bien même si jusque là l'opération ressemblait à une arlésienne, vue la lenteur de la mise en forme de l'opération.

A la tête du projet a été nommé, Lars Nittve, ancien patron de la Tate Modern. Et puisqu'à HK il est toujours question d'argent le budget lui aussi est conséquent : 2, 1 milliards d'euros pour l'intégral du district culturel et 100, 7 millions d'euros pour les acquisitions du musée d'art visuel.



Et puis comme les choses commencent très très bien, le collectionneur suisse Ulli Sigg -dont j'ai fait le portrait il y a une éternité dans les Echos- le plus gros collectionneur au monde d'art chinois contemporain, vient de donner 1500 œuvres à la West Kooowloon cultural authority en vue de l'ouverture du musée. Estimation de l'ensemble par Sotheby's : 160 millions de dollars. Ulli Sigg garde tout de même 600 œuvres. Cet ancien ambassadeur en Chine a très tôt compris que la mémoire de l'art chinois contemporain allait s'envoler et il a commencé à collectionner dans un esprit muséale dès le début des années 90. Ulli est très suisse, très rigoureux, très moral. Il s'était promis de donner un jour l'ensemble à la Chine. Il raconte qu'il a négocié la

question pendant trois ans avec Shanghai, Pékin et HK. « C'était une décision très politique. La question tient à la censure. J'accepte la censure mais je voulais savoir ce qui pourrait être montré ou pas. Conserver ce qui ne le serait pas. A HK il n'y a pas de censure. Simplement la problématique de l'art et de ce qu'on montre est une question complètement nouvelle » explique l'ancien ambassadeur.



Il me raconte cela alors que nous sommes dans un vaste espace quasi à l'abandon sur lequel devrait être érigé le musée en 2017. Des flaques, de la boue, les traces de la dernière averse... En attendant Lars Nittve et son équipe on mis en place une installation temporaire constituée d'œuvres gonflables. « C'est un premier test excellent » explique Sigg. En effet face à nous se dresse un énorme caca gonflé signé de McCarthy l'américain. « L'œuvre a suscité beaucoup de

débats sur le net. Est ce de l'art ou pas ?... C'est le début » raconte le généreux donateur.



A coté, un artiste de HK, Tam Wai Ping, a installé deux structures gonflables noires. L'une représente un cafard géant, l'autre des jambes de femmes : les deux caractéristiques de la ville selon lui. Déplaisir, crasse et plaisir...



A HK les marchands de petites et grandes tailles affluent. Mathieu Ticolat français et "Private dealer" comme on dit ici, installé longtemps à Tokyo a transféré ses activités ici il y a un an. « Le marché est en pleine puberté » résume t-il. " En devenir". Dans son espace il expose des dessins de Basquiat. Non loin de là dans Pedder Building un bâtiment qui a longtemps servi de point de ralliement des boutiques de dégriffés, s'installent des galeries haut de gamme. C'est la qu'est présente la multinationale Gagolian qui fait une démonstration de force avec 15 peintures de Basquiat (la semaine dernière record pour Basquiat à près de 48 millions de dollars à NY). Pearl Lam expose un artiste chinois abstrait qui peint en très très épais : Zhu Jinshi.

Intéressant.



Dans un autre bâtiment Emmanuel Perrotin montre son blockbuster Takashi Murakami accompagné du français Xavier Veilhan avec des mobiles géants mais harmonieux accrochés dans l'espace.



Edouard Malingue, un autre marchand d'art français, marque chaque année le paysage par une installation spectaculaire. Cette année elle est signée Fabien Merelle qui a été aidé du spécialiste des effets spéciaux pour le cinéma, Pascal Molina. Un énorme éléphant est supporté par un petit homme, autoportrait de l'artiste. La sculpture trône en plein centre de la ville et les passants se délectent à la photographier toute la journée.

Dehors le tonnerre n'arrête pas de gronder. Dans le Convention Center la foire ouvre. La frénésie commence...



ARTS

Edited by Sean Hebert
shebert@asia-city.com.hk



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HK Cultural Centre	2734-2009	LCSD Theatre Office	2268-7323

ONGOING

Fabien Mérelle: Elles et Moi

Drop by Central's Statue Square Gardens anytime through July 6th and you'll definitely spot the eye-catching, to-scale sculpture of an elephant balancing itself on the back of a squatting man. The nifty installation is inspired by a sketch—"Pentateuque"—from acclaimed French artist Fabien Mérelle, whose first solo exhibition in Hong Kong debuts just in time for the city's biggest week for art lovers. Trained in both France and China (by masters Chen Guoyang and Wang Chan, no less), the young artist uses both watercolor and ink to express his unique, funky worldview. Vultures eating a mildly inconvenienced tree-dude! Yes, please. Through Jul 6, [Edouard Malingue Gallery](#), 1/F, 8 Queen's Rd. Central, 2810-0317.



24 May 2013

Stuff.co.nz

'Travel pics of the week'

Link: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/8713462/Travel-pics-of-the-week>

Travel pics of the week



Last updated 13:18 24/05/2013



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A sculpture titled 'Pentateuque' representing an elephant balancing on the back of a man by French artist Fabien Merelle in Statue Square in Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

Getty Images

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24 May 2013
The Spokesman Review

Huckleberries Online

Cutline Contest — 5.24.13

Posted by DFO

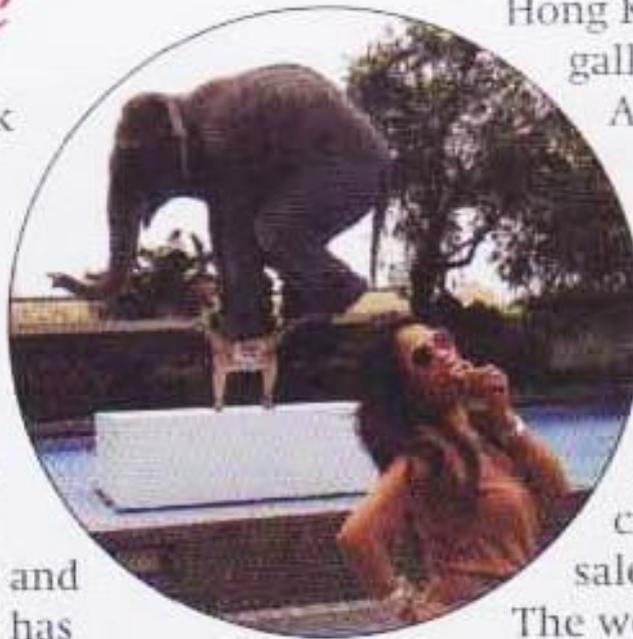
May 24, 2013 4:30 p.m. • 10 comments



Contemporary French artist Fabien Merelle poses for photos in front of his creation in five meters high sculpture "Pentateuque" in Central, business district of Hong Kong, Tuesday. The artwork brings to real life the fantastical and seemingly impossible act of an average man balancing a gigantic elephant. You write the cutline. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Elephant man finds new home

You would think that a €250,000 life-size sculpture of a man balancing an elephant was a tough sell, but the Hong Kong dealer Edouard Malingue (3D20 and Encounters, E2) has defied expectations. He has offloaded Fabien Mérelle's monumental *Pentateuque*, 2012 (above), currently wowing the crowds in Statue Square Gardens in the Central district. The piece was sold to a Malaysian collector, in town for Art Basel Hong Kong, who plans to put the work on the roof



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26 May 2013

Mediapart

'Une journée particulière' by Claude Hudelot

Link: <http://blogs.mediapart.fr/blog/claude-hudelot/260513/une-journee-particuliere>



Oui, ce fut vraiment une journée particulière, partagée le plus souvent avec Rosa Maria Falvo, "International Commissions Editor" chez SKIRA, venue à Hong Kong pour le lancement du formidable livre de Thomas Fuesser, *Short Cuts*, j'y reviendrai, qui a photographié sans désespérer certains des artistes qui comptent le plus en Chine. Les meilleurs.

Fille de Calabrais émigrés en Australie, Rosa Maria Falvo, par ailleurs Asia Pacific Publications & Projects Manager (!) aime notre MAO. Et rêve avec moi d'un 毛主席万岁 *Mao Zhuxi Wansui* encore plus décapant, avec la vraie couverture du Petit Livre Rouge ornée d'un profil doré gaufré en relief, un Gros Livre Rouge prêt pour le 120^{ème} anniversaire de la naissance du Grand Timonier...Et pourquoi pas, dans la foulée, un II Mao??? Veramente, la Cina è vicina!

Revenons à cette journée particulière. En vrac: nos retrouvailles épiques, chaleureuses, fraternelles avec René Burri et Clotilde, sur le stand de celui-ci, à la galerie Atlas (Londres) tenue par le sympathique Ben Burdett.

La découverte de quelques perles: ce beau tableau de Zao Wouki, déchirure bleue et blanche, ombre et lumière, petit par la taille (80 x 70 cm), grande inspiration, grand *qi*. Et grand prix: 9.800.000 HK\$. (Environ 980.000 €).

Chez Hadrien de Montferrand, qui à Pékin s'est fait une spécialité de présenter des oeuvres sur papier, un ensemble de travaux de Huang Rui et Ma Desheng destinés à la revue qu'ils créèrent à l'époque des "Etoiles".

Ceux de Ma Desheng se situent dans la droite ligne des bois gravés très corrosifs produits dans les années 30 et 40 par l'avant-garde artistique chinoise, très impliquée dans la critique sociale et politique. Ses portraits d'hommes d'affaires ou de pouvoir sont tout aussi grinçants.

Vu aussi chez Hadrien de Montferrand un dessin au charbon de Yang Jiechang, "Untitled 2", représentant une femme et un homme fornicant à qui mieux mieux. 40 x 50 cm, qui suffissent pour arracher!

Cette année, l'Indonésie fait sa grande entrée à la Art Basel HK. C'est ainsi que la NadiGallery (Jakarta) présente Samsul Arifin: mixture réussie, en deux ou trois dimensions de chameaux improbables, de *e.t* et autres personnages masqués tombés d'une autre planète.

Je n'ai rien vu de Nyoman Masriadi, né à Bali, coqueluche de toutes les ventes de la région. A l'évidence, c'est l'homme à suivre. Son univers? Très exactement celui des personnages peints en Afrique pour décorer et illustrer les salons de coiffure, peintures sur bois, fixés sous verre, qui défrayèrent la chronique il y a une vingtaine d'années.

Mêmes aplats, mêmes coiffures style Barbès, mêmes mimiques théâtrales, même humour, même bulles, ici le plus souvent en indonésien, parfois en anglais. Il y a du Dubout aussi chez Masriadi.

Qu'un Chinois – Wang Zineng, hier *free lance*, aujourd'hui chez Christie's – l'est découvert n'est guère surprenant.

Un autre grand maître de l'humour et d'une narration où explose un imaginaire à la Jules Verne, c'est Sun Xun.

Je le tiens pour l'artiste le plus doué de sa génération – il est né en 1980 – créateur de films animés noir et blanc qui le propulsent très, très haut.

J'ai rêvé un temps qu'il puisse investir, selon sa méthode habituelle, un haut lieu de l'art à Paris, non loin des Tuileries. Las, le message n'est pas passé. "Trop jeune" me dit-on. "Pas assez connu".

Lorenz Helbling (Shanghart) ne s'est pas trompé, lui, en le soutenant et en présentant ses films et ses travaux préparatoires depuis plusieurs années. Et en le mettant en première ligne très bientôt à Bâle. Retenez son nom: Sun Xun.

Et retenez aussi celui de Fabien Mérelle, présenté avec bonheur par la Edouard Malingue Gallery, 8 Queen's Road East, où se jeune artiste (1981) a une exposition personnelle composée de dessins d'un rendu remarquable oscillant entre réalisme au pied léger et onirisme.

Fabien Mérelle, est me semble-t-il un artiste Icare, défiant toutes les lois, de la pesanteur, de la représentation, homme oiseau, homme-insecte, homme-bête portant sa fille bien-aimée, qu'il tient entre ses dents par le pan de sa robe. Un homme quoi, un vrai. Et quel dessinateur aussi.

Sur *Statue Square*, à deux pas de là, au coeur de *Central*, chacun peut admirer une sculpture géante intitulée "Pentateuque". (Voir photo dans le fichier attaché).

C'est vraiment le bouquet. Résine, fibre de verre, cheveux, acier. 4,8 x 3 x 2,6 mètres. (2013).

Chez Mérelle, ce ne sont qu'autoportraits.

Avec « Pentateuque », il s'apprête à plonger dans un bassin d'eau, une position olympienne, tout en portant sur ses épaules un éléphant grandeur nature !

Cet équilibre improbable, magique, sonne comme un écho lointain à un autre artifice, ces enfants suspendus dans les airs à la grande fête annuelle de Cheung Chau, fête et défilé qui viennent de se dérouler l'autre semaine. (voir texte « Cheung Chau » sur mon blog). La foule ce jour-là était au rendez-vous, attentive, médusée, heureuse. Nous aussi.

26 May 2013

Les Echos

'Hong Kong celebre la culture et l'art de vivre francais Durant le French May' by Martine Robert

Link: http://www.lesechos.fr/23/05/2013/lesechos.fr/0202780566294_hong-kong-celebre-la-culture-et-l-art-de-vivre-francais-durant-le-french-may.htm

Hong Kong célèbre la culture et l'art de vivre français durant le French May

Par *Martine Robert* | 23/05 | 18:35 | mis à jour à 18:40

Ce festival créé il y a 21 ans propose 130 évènements durant deux mois et demi. Après les entreprises françaises, les tycoons chinois s'approprient ce must de notre diplomatie culturelle.



« C'est avec fierté que nous participons pour la première fois au French May, moment de célébration de l'art français à Hong Kong » commente Laurence Vauclair, à la tête de cette galerie éponyme, spécialisée dans les céramiques, habituée des salons d'envergure comme la Biennale des Antiquaires à Paris ou Masterpiece à Londres. Le French May est un festival artistique pluridisciplinaire organisé par le Consulat français, avec l'Alliance française, depuis 21 ans. Compte tenu de son succès, il a étendu progressivement sa durée (du 17 avril au 23 juin cette année) et son rayonnement, de Hong Kong à Macao, de la culture à la mode, la gastronomie, ou aux arts de la table. « Il y a un vrai engouement ici pour ce que les médias nomment « french flavor » observe Agnès Humruzian, numéro deux du consulat. L'un des temps forts de cette édition est justement une exposition sur les arts de la table du XVIIIème à nos jours, mettant en scène des pièces historiques en cristal, porcelaine, orfèvrerie : de l'un des premiers services créé pour La Pompadour en 1753 par Sèvres, jusqu'aux pièces contemporaines imaginées pour l'Elysée, en passant par ce légumier insolite dessiné pour l'actrice Sarah Bernhardt, ou cette terrine zoomorphe réalisée pour Gien, tous deux prêtés par la galerie Vauclair.



D.R.

Pour Douglas So, directeur des « Charities » au Hong Kong Jockey Club, partenaire majeur du French May puisque favorisant la découverte des ses expositions et spectacles à 10.000 jeunes, « ce festival est devenu une institution incontournable en Chine, d'autant qu'il irrigue toutes sortes de lieux sur le territoire et atteint un large public ». « Il existe très peu d'institutions culturelles à Hong Kong, même s'il y existe des projets ambitieux sur 44 hectares gagnés sur la mer à West Kowloon à horizon 2017, notamment un grand musée dédié aux arts asiatiques contemporains. Alors nous occupons le terrain et la population, les entreprises, les autorités locales, apprécient cette offre largement gratuite » souligne Gilles Bonnevalle, le conseiller culture et éducation au consulat, chargé de l'évènement. Ce must de notre diplomatie culturelle extérieure, dont le budget - 5 à 6 millions d'euros - est quasi-exclusivement apporté par du mécénat et du sponsoring, commence à être copié en Chine continentale et en Thaïlande.

Le French May mêle une trentaine d'expositions, une cinquantaine de films et autant de spectacles vivants : d'Offenbach à Poulenc, de Cocteau à Xavier Veilhan, du cabaret des Années Folles aux Tambours du Bronx... Depuis l'an dernier, il est soutenu autant par des firmes françaises présentes sur l'île ou souhaitant s'y implanter (groupes de luxe, de cosmétiques, de spiritueux, banques, et même France Galop qui y organise deux journées de courses), que par des sociétés chinoises, preuve que la greffe a pris : du développeur **immobilier** Henderson Land Group au centre commercial tel Land mark, du tycoon Hutchinson Whampoa à la Bank of East Asia, de la fondation caritative Tung au producteur de cinéma China Vision... « Rares sont les secteurs non représentés car nous élaborons avec eux des collaborations sur-mesure, vecteurs d'image dans leurs stratégies marketing » poursuit Gilles Bonnevalle.

Si l'édition des vingt ans du festival a été exceptionnelle l'an dernier, « le French May de 2013 l'est aussi, porté par l'effervescence de la foire Art Basel Hong Kong », constate Guy Boyer, directeur de la rédaction de Connaissance des Arts qui consacre pour la première fois un numéro spécial en anglais sur ce dynamisme de la scène française sur l'île. Nombre de galeries d'art chinoises ou françaises y participent comme Kway Fung, Opera Gallery, Emmanuel Perrotin ou Edouard Malingue qui a passé commande d'une œuvre monumentale à Fabien Merelle, artiste qui a étudié les Beaux Arts à Paris et en Chine. Alors que le Syndicat National des Antiquaires songe pour sa part à organiser une manifestation à Hong Kong et que le salon Maison & Objet s'y exportera en mars 2014, le French May devrait avoir de beaux jours devant lui...

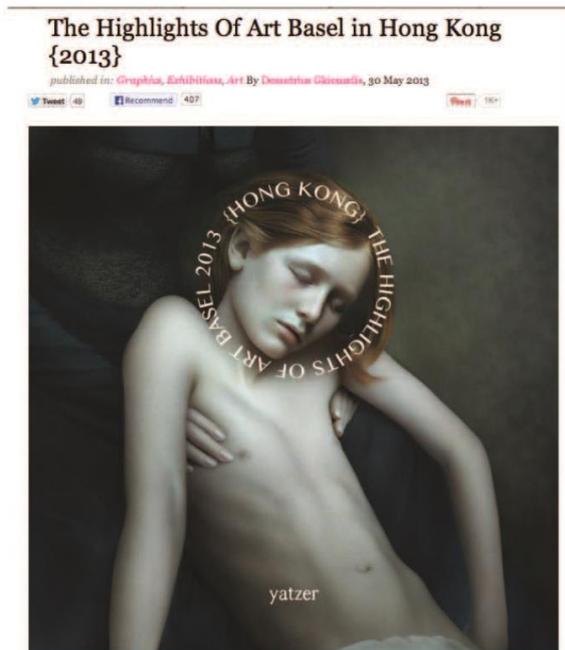
Martine Robert

30 May 2013

Yatzer

The Highlights of Art Basel in Hong Kong {2013}'

Link: <http://www.yatzer.com/highlights-art-basel-hong-kong-2013>



{ABHK2013 Highlights by Costas Vignatzis & Demetris Ghionzella}

Last week marked the much-anticipated Asian debut of the world's premier international art fair, **Art Basel**. The renowned art fair, already a prominent annual event in its namesake home city in Switzerland as well as Miami, has now branched out to **Hong Kong**, establishing a dialogue between art collectors, artists, dealers, curators, critics and art lovers from an Asian perspective for the first time.

From May 23-26, 2013 the global art establishment flooded the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) that played host to the first Art Basel event in the city. Attended by over 60,000 people, the fair attracted directors, curators and trustees, as well as patrons from the Tate in London, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and major U.S. museums. Also in attendance were prominent art-world figures, including the Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich and his partner Dasha Zhukova, the American dealer Larry Gagosian, the artists Fernando Botero and Takashi Murakami, as well as established and emerging private collectors from across the world.

Art fever hit the entire city by storm, with a large number of outside events, exhibitions and shows concurrently taking place during what is informally known as **Hong Kong Art Week**. The **'Chai Wan Mei Art & Design Weekend'** featured open studios showcasing the best of the Chai Wan creative community, an important district within the Hong Kong arts scene. The **Gonville-Institute HongKong** presented a survey of the city's uninhabited spaces in a solo exhibition from Hong Kong-based artist Joëlle Vaess Palva entitled **'Subjects Everywhere'**. And then there was the widely talked about **'Mobile 360: Indefinition'** outdoor exhibit (which runs until June 9th, 2013) at the site of the planned **SI-Museum** in the West Kowloon Cultural District, that playfully introduced contemporary art into the public sphere through gigantic **inflatable** sculptures.



Insook Kim
Auction II, 2013
C-print, diasec
250 x 150 cm
Courtesy of the artist and **g11 Art Project**.

The **'Discoveries'** sector presented 171 of the world's leading Modern and contemporary art galleries, ranging from Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa. **'Highlights'** exclusively showcased contextual and thematic projects developed specifically for the Hong Kong show by galleries and artists from the Asia or the Asia-Pacific region. Giving a global platform to emerging contemporary artists from all over the world, the **'Discoveries'** sector showcased work by the next generation of talent at an early stage in their careers. However, **one of the highlights of the fair was without doubt the 'Encounters' sector** that showcased large-scale sculpture and installation works by leading artists from around the world. Curated by **Yoko Hasegawa**, an internationally renowned specialist in large-scale pieces and Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, as well as Curator of the recent **Sharjah Biennial 11**, 'Encounters' offered visitors the chance to see works that transcend the traditional art fair stands presented in prominent locations throughout the exhibition halls. In addition to these, the fair's **'Conversations and Salons'** series offered a stimulating program of presentations, lectures and panel discussions by a range of speakers, allowing audiences to deepen their knowledge of artistic practice, the international art world and the art market.

Although galleries may have noticed a slower pace of purchasing compared to the two Art Basel fairs in the West, at the closing of the fair strong sales were reported across all five days. Melbourne's **Dianne Tanzer Gallery + Projects** sold out its entire booth by the end of the day on Friday, with the eight pieces by **Juan José** on display selling for a total of **\$150,000**. LA-based gallery **Ruum & Poe**'s booth showcasing Takashi Murakami's **'Pom & Me: On the Red Mound of the Dead'** (2013) was particularly popular and sold quickly for **\$400,000**. The fair's biggest sale however, went to **Tina Keng Gallery**, which has spaces in Taipei and Beijing, whose large-scale painting **'Chinese Emperor - I'** (2008-2013) by **Wang Huisi** sold for **\$2.6 million**.



Fabien Mérelle

Pentateuque, 2013

Resin, Fiberglass, Hair, Steel

4.8 (h) x 3 (l) x 2.6 (w) m

Courtesy of the artist and **Edouard Malingue Gallery**.

The life-size 'Pentateuque' was unveiled during ABHK 2013 and it was positioned at Statue Square Gardens in Central Hong Kong.

It was quite a gamble, 21 years ago, setting up an ambitious programme of French cultural events, shows and performances at a time when Hong Kong's French population numbered roughly 2,000. Now it's about five times that number, and Le French May has likewise flourished into one of the city's most important cultural festivals. Last year's main event was Hong Kong's largest ever Picasso exhibition, while this year's headline attractions feature a groundbreaking display of Napoleonic furniture and decorative arts; a startling five-metre high resin sculpture of a man carrying an elephant by artist Fabien Mérelle; and an exhibition of more than 150 art works by early 20th-century cultural polymath Jean Cocteau.

The Cocteau exhibition reflects the theme of this year's festival, the 1920s, with other '20s-inspired events including a musical tribute to the work of composer Francis Poulenc, and an extensive programme of films both from the time period and about the decade.

Le French May's diversity is what sets it apart from other festivals. Not only does it stretch the boundaries with a range of art forms from music and dance performances to visual art exhibitions – all while taking in the quintessential French (and Hong Kong) obsessions of food and fashion – but it also features an intriguing blend of the traditional and the avant-garde, along with a healthy dash of collaboration with Hong Kong artists and performers.

"We're really reaching out and trying to attract the widest possible audience," says Arnaud Barthélémy, Consul General of France in

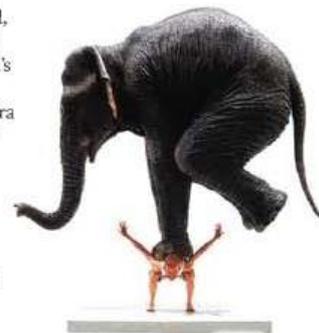
Hong Kong and Macau since 2011. "Of course I'd been briefed about this festival," he adds, "but it was a surprise – a very pleasant one – both how big it was and that it has become such a Hong Kong cultural institution."

The French May catalogue is a weighty read, and among events to look out for within it are everything from a co-production of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* by Opéra de Monte-Carlo, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and the Opera Hong Kong Chorus; to a selection of works by classic fashion photographers the Séeberger brothers; and exhibitions of select works by Rodin and Chagall.

Here are some of the main events at this year's Le French May, with a few thoughts about why they're worth seeing from prominent members of Hong Kong's French cultural community.

**A FINE
BALANCE
BELOW**

One of the artistic highlights of Le French May is a five-metre high resin sculpture of a man carrying an elephant by artist Fabien Mérelle.



May 2013
South China Morning Post – Style

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STYLE

THE NEW VOICE OF AVANT-GARDE ASIA



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IN ASIA

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HOME MOVIE
EXPERIENCE
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HK\$10 MILLION

TSAI MING-LIANG
MAY BOW OUT
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STYLE

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COVER

French artist Fabien Mèreille's installation entitled *Pentateuque*, courtesy of Edouard Malingue Gallery

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Fernando Botero's Card Players

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HER

CHRISTIAN DIOR
Dress HK\$40,000

SAINT LAURENT
Shoes HK\$7,250

GIORGIO ARMANI
Headpiece, Price on request

HIM

BOTTEGA VENETA
Jacket HK\$27,300
Trousers HK\$5,700

FENDI
Shirt, Price on request

BURBERRY
Shoes HK\$4,900

FRONT ROW



ART

STORY VIVIAN CHEN

ATTACK

WHETHER THROUGH A GALLERY OR AN AUCTION, THE HOBBY IS GAINING MOMENTUM IN ASIA

ASIAN CLIENTS ARE BUYING ART FOR ITS BEAUTY AND CULTURE

GIOVANNA BERTAZZONI, CHRISTIE'S LONDON

Christie's Chang says: "Auction experts curate a selection that has resale value. So even if you don't have an in-depth knowledge of a certain piece, you won't be too far off."

Chak, for example, is still a regular at auctions, even though he's able to acquire pieces from different sources.

"Having too many choices can be overwhelming. Before I go to the auction, I always shortlist about five pieces and prioritise so I know my target and expectations," he says.

Another option is to go straight to the artists, dealers, galleries and art fairs.

Art Basel Hong Kong, for example, has been the city's biggest annual art event since 2007. The 2013 edition opens on May 23 and will bring together more than 250 galleries representing 35 countries, which are in town to showcase their artists.

The impressive line-up includes famous galleries, such as Galerie Gmurzynska, Gagosian

Gallery and Galerie Perrotin. Galleries also break up their exhibition line-ups outside of the fair venue at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in the wake of the four-day fair, such as the one-night exhibition of Keith Haring works in Grand Plaza and up-and-coming French artist Fabien Marcelle's large-scale installation titled *Pentapopie* at Statue Square Gardens. "It's a great opportunity to see a huge number of galleries and lots of art in a short period of time," says Magnus Renfrew, the Asia director for Art Basel.

Unlike auction houses, which focus on the secondary market – which deals with the resale of pieces, galleries are heavy on the primary market and predominantly represent emerging artists. In these cases, experts advise caution and patience.

"Even if you like [their work] now, wait for at least three years and see how the artist matures," Beautiful Mind's Chang says. She's not all talk either. She herself waited three years before buying a small sculpture created by Fumio Yamazaki, an emerging Japanese artist she discovered a few years ago in Osaka.

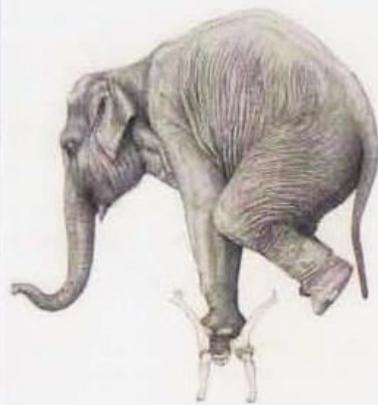
Once you start building your collection, experts at galleries and auction houses can provide services catered to your specific likings. Through private sales, auction houses can offer a more tailor-made service, which has proven popular among collectors. Relying on their vast connections and databases, auction firms are able to match an artwork with a potential client and track down specific pieces for interested buyers, a process done with the utmost discretion.

"[Art] is at the top tier of luxury goods. We are dedicated to finding the product for you, which is not simply a watch, a pair of shoes but a Picasso," says Giovanna Bertazzoni, head of Impressionist and Modern art at Christie's London.

This process is well worth the effort, as it is extremely lucrative for the auction house. It is also beneficial for the collector because even though in



MAY



ELLES ET MOI BY FABIEN MÉRELLE
EDOUARD MALINGUE GALLERY, HONG KONG
21 MAY - 6 JULY

Mérelle's intricate and anatomically precise drawings might appear realistic at first glance; yet this young French artist's black ink and watercolour renderings in fact portray dream-like scenarios and other-worldly situations. Some are absurd and humorous, while others are unsettling, such as *Pentateuque* (2012), in which a man performs the impossible task of balancing a fully-grown elephant on his back. 法國年輕藝術家Mérelle細膩精準的筆觸畫功藝術畫去會令人信以為真，但原來這些筆墨和水彩畫所描繪的是夢幻似的情境，以及其他俗世情況。部分抽象幽默；部分令人不安，如*Pentateuque* (2012) 中的男人表演如何以背部平衡一隻成年大象。 www.edouardmalingue.com

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May 2013
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Interview | 012-013

Words by Cecilia Leung | Photography by

Pentateuque, Drawing, 2012



Fabien Mérelle

Carrying a Weight on One's Shoulders

The first solo exhibition of highly acclaimed French artist Fabien Mérelle provides an intimate opportunity to peer into his fantastical world. Each drawing, created in black ink and watercolour, delineates detailed tales and personal narratives.

While the exhibition is named *Elles et moi*, the "elles" refer to the women that surround the artist, including his daughter, wife, and mother. But this "elles" is generic. It encompasses several feminine terms in the French language that Mérelle has recently been interrogating. There is the creation that isolates him, as if he were an island. There is fatherhood. There is nature.

Animals, nature and human beings are often combined in Mérelle's drawings. The artist states that, "man belongs to the animal kingdom; he seems to have forgotten that. Combining the two is an attempt to re-establish contact, and beyond that, to place the human being in his real context." Interestingly rather than resulting in the humanization of the subject some of his drawings portray the opposite effect. The artist continues, "I was speaking to you about this position that Man took before Nature. My character dissolves himself into his environment." By animalising him or even giving him a vegetal aspect, the artist is trying to rebuild severed ties. He suggests that, "our veins are similar to those one can see on the back of a leaf from a tree; what one calls hair is not very far from what one calls fur. Sometimes we are thinking beings, forgetting even that we have a body; sometimes we are beasts, instinctive and organic. That is what my work attempts to remind us."

At one point Mérelle makes witty reference to his drawing *Pentateuque* (2012), carrying a weight on one's shoulders. Relating it to the personal and social context, he shares the following opinion, "for me, *Pentateuque*, is the weight of Jewish-Christian traditions in the West, the weight of religions that can be a break to the union between two beings. That is what I see in this elephant. Each person can nonetheless recognize his or her own burden."

In the spring of 2006, Mérelle went to Xi'an China where he was taught by Chinese masters Chen Guoyang and Wang Chan and learned the skills of Chinese landscape paintings by carefully looking at Nature. Carefully speaking, Nature instead of the imagined seems to be the subject of his drawings. "Nature is a character, a subject that I effectively see to put her at the service of a cause that I wish to defend. I can draw from this diversity to emphasize this or that idea; the elephant, as you said, is the weight. A character that's alone in a gigantic landscape - that can be solitude." □



DATA

Elles et moi

May 21 - July 6, 2013

Edouard Malingue Gallery

1/F, 8 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong

31 Oct 2013

Hong Kong Tatler

Arts: 'Interview: Fabien Merelle' by Joanne Chan

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ARTS

Interview: Fabien Merelle

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By Joanne Chan



Turning a location into a destination is no easy feat. But Hong Kong did it organically by being known the world over as the City of Trade. With trade comes money and with money comes art. For the last few years, Hong Kong has steadily increased its art offerings with the likes of Art Basel Hong Kong, the Andy Warhol exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Opening of Oil in North Point, the Rodin exhibition at de Sartre gallery (one of the sculptures the size of a palm was valued at USD7 million), the amazing curation of the Christie's exhibition, and Le French May just to name a few. But what may have been the most excitable and buzz-worthy exhibits to come to town were those outdoors – from the *inflatable poop* at the West Kowloon Cultural District to the *Rubber Duck* anchored outside Harbour City and *Pentateuque* in Statue Square.



Pentateuque by Fabien Merelle, Courtesy of Edouard Malingue Gallery

Over a dinner hosted by gallerist Edouard Malingue, I had the pleasure of meeting the mastermind behind Pentateuque, Fabien Merelle, who spoke to me about his life, his work and his inspirations.

Joanne Chan: Tell me about yourself.

FM: I grew up near Paris and had a very pleasant childhood. I always had a fascination with drawing growing up. As a child, I kept a drawing diary as my way of expressing myself. I never wait for inspiration to come to me, I just continue working and practicing – drawing is like a sport to me. On a regular day, I work at my desk for 10 hours.

JC: How did you go into art?

FM: I love art and decided to pursue a degree at L'école des Beaux Arts in Paris. It happened very naturally. Even if I had not pursued a career as an artist, I would still be drawing. I have a need to draw. Many people think that the pleasure comes from doing exhibitions, but for most artists it actually comes from creating our works.

JC: How did your parents react to your decision to enter into L'école des Beaux Arts?

FM: My father was pretty happy when I got accepted but my mother was worried. She did not know what being an artist would entail and where it was going to lead me. Luckily, she did not strongly object my decision.

JC: Where do you find inspiration?

FM: I am very a curious person to begin with and find daily life very rich and full of inspirations.

JC: How did you start working with galleries?

FM: When I finished my studies in Paris, I received my diploma without distinction or honours, so I didn't get any offers from commercial galleries immediately. The director of the school believed in me and proposed my works to a non-profit organisation called "Premier Regard" that promotes young artists to the general public. On the night of the vernissage to the public, as luck would have it, many of those who attended were big collectors and all my works were sold. After that, I received offers to work with galleries and to produce commissions, etc.

JC: Can you describe your education at L'ecole des Beaux Arts?

FM: At L'école des Beaux Arts in France, they do not teach you technique, they teach you to work continuously and learn by trial and error. Going to art school also means constant judgment. It is very easy to become discouraged and if you do not receive a distinction and you wish to become an artist, it takes incredible determination and confidence to continue to draw, create and remain in the industry.

JC: You spent six months at the Beaux Arts School in Xi'an in China. How was that experience?

FM: China is the complete opposite of France and students did not work autonomously. At the Xi'an Beaux Arts School, the professor would demonstrate stroke by stroke how something is being drawn in the beginning of the week. For the rest of the week, we copy. The closer your painting resembles that of your professor, the 'better' your artwork is supposed to be. The professors teach you a technique and students need to know the technique by heart. It was both a positive and negative experience for me. Positive because you know what needs to be done. Negative because if you can't achieve what's expected, you lost hope.

JC: What make you tick?

FM: Holidays! I have a very young daughter and holidays mean I get to spend more time with her. It is rare that I have moments when I am not working.

JC: I wish ...

FM: That at the end of my life, I can look at my works without blushing too much.



