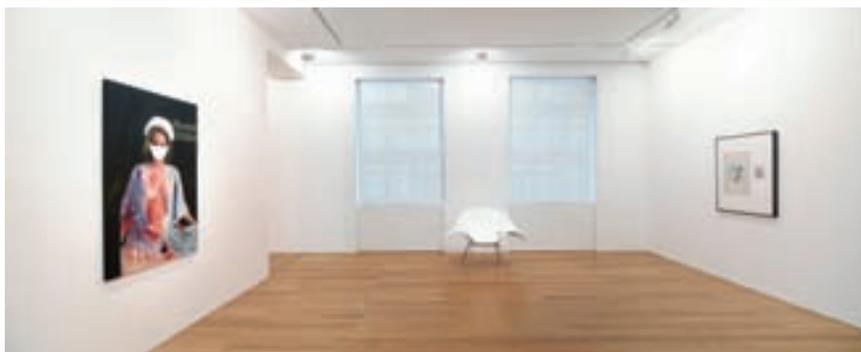




CLOCKWISE: Damien Hirst's "Forgotten Promises"; Takashi Murakami's "Tiger Club"; The interiors of Gagosian Gallery



HONG KONG ART SCENE:

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

SUNSHINE LICHAUCO DE LEON visits the worldwide art gallery's first outlet in Asia.

Art lovers visiting Hong Kong now have a new place to indulge their quest for top artworks. New York's Gagosian Gallery, known for representing many of the world's most important modern and contemporary artists, has opened its newest gallery in the heart of the city's Central district. Gagosian represents almost 100 artists—including Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol—whom they show on rotation across their network

of galleries in London, Beverly Hills, Paris, Rome, Athens, and Geneva.

Nick Simunovic, the gallery's Managing Director, explains Hong Kong is the perfect location: "As the gateway to Asia, it offers an ideal platform to work with collectors across a fast developing region. Hong Kong is the third largest art market after NY and London, and the city's liberal tax regime is of benefit to collectors."

The gallery is located in the pre war Pedder building—in a 480-square-meter, light-filled space boasting four-meter-high ceilings that is ideal for showcasing artwork. Since opening in January 2011, the Hong Kong space has already presented the first ever solo exhibitions in Asia of English artist Damien Hirst and American painter-photographer Richard Prince.

Simunovic says, "In general I would be pleased to see more Asian artists represented by Gagosian. Over all, we hope to achieve a healthy balance of exhibiting artists who are both established and emerging, across a range of media, and across a variety of price points." Gagosian Gallery is located at 7/F Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong. Call (+852) 2151 0555 or visit www.gagosian.com.

