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Asian Artists Hold Solo Shows in New York



Mary Boone Gallery, New York

Liu Xiaodong's 'H's Family,' (290 cm by 259 cm), oil on canvas, 2009

Among the many art gallery shows going on now in New York's Chelsea District, two stand out. They are solo exhibits for important Asian artists whose work has not been exhibited on this scale in the U.S. in recent years. But they represent different ends of the fame and price spectrum in Asian art: One, Liu Xiaodong, is a star of the internationally trendy Chinese contemporary scene; the other, Manuel Ocampo, is an established yet overlooked figure from the currently less fashionable Southeast Asian art market.

If you're in that part of the world, the shows are worth a visit. Here's the who and why:

Liu Xiaodong at the [Mary Boone Gallery](#)

New York: Sept. 11 to Oct. 23

Mary Boone Gallery, one of New York's premier contemporary art galleries, presents an exhibit of work by the Chinese artist Liu Xiaodong. The exhibit, called "Yan, Guan Town," has sparked interest world-wide partly because of its subject matter: paintings of Muslims and Christian families the artist met in Gansu, China, in 2009. But the show has had many in the Asian art world a-twitter because a photo of the price list was surreptitiously posted by a blogger (LINK: <http://joannemattera.blogspot.com/2010/10/so-recession-is-over.html>). Galleries are not in the custom of publicizing prices, and the list revealed sky-high levels not seen since before the credit-crunch days.

Mr. Liu, a teacher at the prestigious Chinese Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, is considered by many to be one of the country's leading figurative painters. At auction, his works command top dollar (and Chinese yuan). In 1998, an Asian buyer set a record for Mr. Liu's works, paying over \$7.9 million for "The Eighteen Arhats," a set of portraits depicting soldiers on both sides of the tense Taiwan Strait. In early October in Hong Kong, Sotheby's sold a Liu Xiaodong oil painting, "The valley of the demon no. 1," for almost \$312,000, including the buyer's premium.

At Mary Boone, all of Mr. Liu's paintings have sold — for between \$75,000 and \$800,000 — but they will be on display through Oct. 23.

Manuel Ocampo at [Tyler Rollins Fine Art](#)

New York: Sept. 16 to Oct. 30

Manuel Ocampo was born in Manila in 1965 and trained as an artist in the U.S.; he now lives and works in the Philippines and Germany. His art has been shown at key art events like Documenta IX (1992) and the Venice Biennale (1993). Now with the show at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, called "An Arcane Recipe Involving Ingredients Cannibalized from the Reliquaries of Some Profane Illumination" — a verbose title that befits a complex artist known for his subversion of Christian iconography — Mr. Ocampo presents his large-format paintings at the well-regarded Tyler Rollins gallery, which specializes in Southeast Asian art. His works are priced between \$1,500 for a small oil-on-paper work to \$22,000 for a large oil and mixed-media on canvas.